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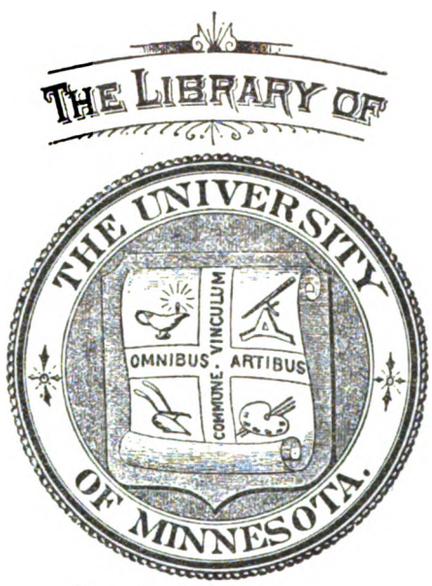

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THE NEAR EAST.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 235.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The debate in the House of Commons last Tuesday on the conduct of the war tore away the few remaining tatters of the veil which the Press Censorship has been laboriously holding up before the operations at the Dardanelles. "I will not attempt at this moment," said the Prime Minister, "to attach either praise or blame to this man or that, to this unit or that, but I will say this for myself, that in the whole course of the war, with its ups and downs, I have never sustained a keener disappointment than in the failure of this operation." Lord Charles Beresford was more candid. He recalled statements made by members of the Government about an impending victory on Gallipoli, and added that those who made them "now knew that we should never get through the Dardanelles."

Mr. Asquith's statement regarding the initiation of the Dardanelles campaign was of some interest in view of the belief hitherto current that the responsibility for this ill-starred venture rested almost exclusively on Mr. Churchill. The attack, he declared, "was most carefully considered and developed in consultation between the Admiral on the spot and the War Staff of the Admiralty here. . . . The matter was carefully reviewed over and over again in the War Council . . . and before any shot was fired or any actual step taken it was communicated to and approved by the Cabinet." These revelations distribute the blame more evenly, but make the collective failure to appreciate the true facts of the position only more glaring. When it was shown that the naval expedition had no chance of forcing the Straits alone, it was decided to undertake a joint naval and military attack. In regard to this stage Mr. Asquith had nothing to say about any "full investigation and consultation" which preceded the launching of the combined attack. Sir Ian Hamilton reported that the Vice-Admiral and he were in agreement that a joint naval and military attack was necessary, and "the actual plan of operations was left to the judgment of the commanders on the spot." We know now how much that judgment was at fault, and that one reason was the failure to obtain accurate knowledge of the conditions with which troops on Gallipoli Peninsula would be confronted.

If the blame for the Dardanelles fiasco rests with the naval and military authorities concerned, the Cabinet cannot be exonerated from responsibility for the decision to prolong the fatal venture. Mr. Asquith appealed to the House of Commons, in passing judgment, to consider what would have happened if the renewed attack of last August had not been undertaken. "It is at least probable," he said, "that the Russians, who were then already beginning to retreat before the Germans in Poland, might have had a serious set-back in the Caucasus. In all probability a great attack by the Turks might have been organised against us in Egypt. The Mesopotamia Expedition might have been swept out of existence, and Bulgaria would almost certainly have allied herself with the Central Powers months before the time when she actually did. And during the whole of this time and up to the present moment, do not forget that our force in the Gallipoli Peninsula has held up and is holding up a force of something like 200,000 Turks, and preventing them from doing incalculable mischief in other parts of the Eastern theatre." Even if the only alternative to a suicidal and ill-planned attack on the Dardanelles had been entire inaction on the part of the Allies in the Eastern theatre, we should still be unconvinced by the Prime Minister's rhetoric. As a matter of fact, there were other ways open to the Allies of dealing with both the Turks and the Central Powers without running their heads against a brick wall. If the ignorance of the Allied Governments of conditions in the Balkans and their indifference to the potentialities of the Balkan peoples had not surpassed the ignorance of the military authorities in regard to Gallipoli Peninsula, they would not now be wondering whether the help to be dispatched to Serbia will arrive too late to save that unhappy country.

But to follow Mr. Asquith in his apologia for the failure of British diplomacy is to pass in review the history of the Balkans not only for the last fifteen months, but for many years. Speaking on behalf of the British and Allied Governments, he said that ever since the beginning of the war they had not ceased or slackened in their efforts to promote united action among the Balkan States and Roumania. "The efforts of diplomacy ever since August and September last in that direction have been ceaseless and untiring." The

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reference to the feverish activity of the Allies' diplomacy during the last two or three months serves to enhance the criminal folly of previous indifference. If efforts were made earlier in the war to promote united action among the Balkan States and Roumania, they failed because they were based on ignorance and were entrusted to incompetent hands. It argued neither knowledge nor common sense to promise Roumania for her neutrality as much as we were able to offer her for her active participation in the war: it did not make for united action among the Balkan States to promise Greece in return for paltry assistance at the Dardanelles a reward large enough to threaten the balance of power in the Balkans and to arouse the jealousy and misgivings of every other State. In a word, the efforts of the Allied Governments were directed along the lines best calculated to produce exactly the opposite results to those desired.

Here we may leave the story of past mistakes and derive what consolation we can from the Government's fresh resolve to make good to Serbia all that she has had to endure. For this decision we have the French Government to thank. From Sir Edward Carson's remarks it has to be inferred that the immediate effect of Greece's defection was to prompt the British Government once more to adopt the policy of "wait and see." General Monro was to be sent to the eastern waters "to try to find out what the situation was as regards the Dardanelles and Egypt and Serbia and all the other parts in the eastern theatre of the war." If the German Press, which has a knack of finding out some of the Allies' intentions, is to be believed, there was at one time a thought of relieving Serbia by means of an advance on Constantinople from Asia Minor—a combined movement on the part of the Mesopotamia Force and a new expedition to be landed at Alexandretta. The degree of relief that such a movement would bring to the hard-pressed Serbian Army can be learned from a glance at the map. If such a scheme were entertained anywhere for a moment, it was not likely to survive General Joffre's visit to London. Long before the Asia Minor expedition could have been under way, the whole of Serbia must have been overrun by the enemy, with results far more disastrous to the Serbian nation than the Belgians have suffered in similar circumstances. As things are to-day, thanks to the wonderful vitality and élan of the Serbians, they are able to derive no little encouragement from the presence of even a small Allied force on the southern frontier. That force is now in process of being strengthened, and its advance must tend to rob the Bulgarians of some of the confidence they would otherwise derive from their rapid progress in Serbian territory.

So far the invading forces of the Central Powers and the Bulgarians have experienced few, if any, effective checks. Nearly everywhere their advance has been stubbornly contested, but the only course open to the Serbians in the face of superior numbers has been to carry out a steady withdrawal, while inflicting as heavy losses as possible on the enemy. In some cases, notably at the capture of Kragujevatz, the punishment inflicted by the Serbians has been particularly severe. The fight for that town is said to have lasted four days, and the Austro-German forces were only able to advance to a general attack when they had received considerable reinforcements. But the heroism of the Serbian soldier has not succeeded in relieving the pressure on the main army, which, it must be inferred, is now distributed between Kragujevatz and Nish. Any slowness in the Austro-German advance from the north is compensated by the rapid movements of the western force, which is reported to have occupied Tchatchak on the railway bearing that name, and must now form the right wing of the Austro-German line. The main Bulgarian advance approaches nearer and nearer to Nish from the east and south, and the abandonment of that town will mean that the enemy are in possession of through railway communication to Constantinople, save for such parts of the line as the Serbians have destroyed. From Uskub the Bulgarians have turned south towards Monastir; but it is difficult to believe that this force will be able to effect much, if adequate reinforcements reach the Franco-British troops now in the Vardar valley near Krivolak.

Until the effect of the operations now decided upon by the French and British Governments has had time to make itself felt, the fate of the Serbians will be followed in this country with increasing anxiety from day to day. Nothing in Mr. Asquith's statement to the House of Commons justified the hope that the military authorities counted upon being able to arrest the enemy's advance before the greater part of Serbia had passed into their hands. The new pledge given to the Serbians brackets their cause with that of the Belgians, and they have the assurance that no peace will be ratified which does not make provision for the restoration of the whole of their country. If the bombardment of the southern and eastern coasts is to be followed up in a practical manner, we shall hope to hear that before many wagon-loads of German munitions have passed through Bulgaria to Constantinople the Allied forces have been able to isolate Turkey from Bulgaria. But from that stage to the freeing of Serbian soil from the enemy's presence may prove a long step, and it requires no effort of the imagination to depict the sufferings of the unhappy people who may have been unable to find safety in flight.

In a graphic account of the final exodus from Belgrade our Correspondent in Serbia tells of the early horrors that overtook the population, the fire of the Austro-German artillery being directed by aeroplanes on to the masses of fugitives thronging the roads leading from the town. Statements from other sources confirm what was only to be expected, that neither the Austro-Germans nor the Bulgarian forces are showing much mercy to the inhabitants of the districts they capture. It is, therefore, probably no exaggeration to say, as the appeal of the Southern Slav Committee to the British nation states, that "the plain purpose of the invasion of Serbia by German, Austrian, Magyar, and Bulgarian troops is to destroy and remove her from the face of the earth as a State and as a nation." But that purpose will not be fulfilled.

The section of the Greek Press which seeks to justify Greece's action at the present time is doing no service to the country or the Cabinet. King Constantine's attitude was not heroic, but it could be defended from one point of view. It was a frank avowal of fear, based on the contention that the Greek army was no match for the Bulgarians, even with the support that the Serbians might detach from the forces engaged with the enemy on the north and west. This view was probably sound, and King Constantine, rather than risk his popularity with his people by suffering a reverse at the hands of the Bulgarians, preferred to follow a course which, he argued, would not trouble his people over much. As a matter of fact his abandonment of Serbia has proved a bitter blow to many of his subjects in Greece and to all Greeks domiciled abroad. But as the army shares the view of its Commander-in-Chief, the party headed by M. Venizelos finds itself powerless to reverse the decision which the King has imposed upon his Government. It continues to urge intervention, and waits for the turn of the tide in the military situation which will remove the fears of the Greek General Staff.

When, however, part of the Press undertakes to show that Greece is acting according to the highest principles, it is soon out of its depth. It is contended that the Treaty of Alliance with Serbia was rendered null and void owing to the willingness of the Serbian Government to cede territory which it had promised Greece that it would not surrender to a third party. But for a long time the main reason that prevented Serbia from acceding to the appeal of the Entente Powers to see

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that justice was done to Bulgaria was her resolve to do nothing that would jeopardise the alliance with Greece. When finally she agreed to part with the territory in question it was clearly on the understanding that Greece herself would be a party to the transfer. Much is made also of the determination of the Allied Powers to cede Greek territory to Bulgaria. But the Greek Press finds it difficult to support the betrayal of Serbia without running the risk of seeming to hold a brief for Bulgaria and Turkey, and at this point it abruptly abandons the line of argument and generally takes refuge in the glorification of King Constantine, who can be relied upon to gain the victory for "a policy exclusively Hellenic." The phrase may attain a notoriety which the author did not intend.

In the course of an interesting and forceful letter on the duty of the Entente Powers to Serbia (see page 10), Sir Arthur Evans records what he rightly terms an illuminating fact regarding Greece's "unqualifiable desertion." While the question of Bulgarian mobilization, with all its consequences, was still in the balance, he states, the German envoy, Baron von Falkenhayn, arrived at Sofia from Athens with the assurance that no counter-mobilization would take place in Greece, and that if such were attempted the services of M. Venizelos would be dispensed with. M. Venizelos proved strong enought to defeat the first part of this calculation, and the decree of mobilization was signed by King Constantine. Tsar Ferdinand indeed bitterly complained that he had been deceived by his German advisers. But the enforced resignation of M. Venizelos followed. The Germans, after all, had reckoned rightly on their Athenian tools. If the facts are as Sir Arthur Evans records them, they point to carefully arranged collusion between King Constantine and Germany. On the whole, however, in view of the freedom with which the Allies are allowed to land in Greece, it seems more probable that the German envoy was lucky in one out of two assertions intended to bluff King Ferdinand of Bulgaria. King Constantine can hardly persuade himself that his particular form of neutrality is altogether pleasing to the Germans. He may even be contemplating an ultimate declaration in favour of the Quadruple Entente, but in the meantime remains indifferent to the opinion formed of him by the world at large, so long as he does not have to face his subjects after a military reverse. On a vote of confidence the Zaimis Cabinet has now been defeated, but it is impossible at the moment of going to press to say whether the King will once more call M. Venizelos to power or will trust to his being defeated at a fresh general election.

In the course of his laudatory remarks on the Mesopotamia campaign, Mr. Asquith stated that General Nixon's force was now "within a measurable distance of Baghdad." Until more definite information is forthcoming we shall perhaps do well not to strain the Premier's phrase unduly. The last rout of the Turks took place at a spot some two hundred miles by river from Baghdad and only about half that distance as the crow flies. There was no place for the fleeing enemy to attempt to stand between there and Baghdad, and there was no reason why the British force should not press on after them. Some anxiety has been felt lest the occupation of Baghdad by our troops should offend Mohammedan religious sentiment. In a letter to *The Times* Sir Thomas Holdich challenges this view. In India, he points out, only the frontier tribesman under the immediate influence of his Mullah is likely to regard the Turk as "holy." To the Moslems of Mesopotamia and Persia the occupation would be welcome, as Baghdad is an important centre on the pilgrim route to Kerbela and Mecca, and it is to their interest to see the present Turkish régime replaced by the law and order attending British administration.

Sir Thomas Holdich's opinion finds support in the fact that an improvement in the situation in Persia coincides with the approach of the British expedition to Baghdad. There is probably no direct connection between the two incidents; but if the occupation of Baghdad were likely to cause anything approaching widespread resentment in the Mohammedan world, some use would be made of it in order to work upon the feelings of the Persians. But both from northern and southern Persia more favourable reports have been received. The presence of large numbers of Russian troops at Kazvin is said to have exercized a good effect, and from the fact that the British occupation of Bushire is reported to be at an end we may infer that similar results have ensued from the landing of an Anglo-Indian force at that port. "As the Persian Government has now taken steps to ensure the security of British interests and the maintenance of order, the occupation was terminated by mutual consent on October 16." The wording of the announcement argues more rapid movement on Persia's part than might have been expected from the conditions of the country at any time during the last few years, and we must hope that the progress indicated will be maintained.

Any optimism regarding conditions in Persia which may be felt in British or Russian circles has not prevented the Petrograd Government from sending a significant warning to Teheran. The Persian Government has been informed that, if the rumours of the conclusion of a special agreement between Persia on the one hand and Germany and Turkey on the other are confirmed, the Anglo-Russian Convention, which is based on the principle of the maintenance of the integrity and independence of Persia, will at once lapse. The warning is, no doubt, needed; but it will be more effective if it is supported by such personal advice and help on the part of the British and Russian representatives at Teheran as will enable the Persian Government to withstand and counter German intrigues. The Allied Governments have in the history of the Balkans a warning of the consequences arising from the failure to establish sympathetic connection between a Minister and the Government to which he is accredited. There will be no excuse for allowing the mistake to be repeated in Persia.

Egypt is to have another conspiracy trial; but the fact, in spite of the fond beliefs of the German Press, does not imply any deep-seated or widespread uneasiness among the people. It will be difficult to eradicate, either by education or by other means, the material on which Turkish and German agents batten in Egypt, and so long as the latter consider it worth while to compromise a few foolish people, these trials must be expected. A point, however, has been reached when it may be worth while considering whether leniency in dealing with these agents' victims is not a mistaken policy. On the ground that the real culprits are the principals and that all the others have been led away for the most part without realizing their position, the Administration has been inclined to let the latter off lightly. Not improbably the principals have made use of this fact to extend their machinations by pointing out that the danger incurred is insignificant.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 19.

"Our Day" in Egypt.

The High Commissioner, accompanied by the Residency staff, returned to Cairo for the winter season on Friday last. His departure from Alexandria and arrival in the capital were quite unofficial, but there was a representative gathering of higher Government officials and notables at the station here to greet his Excellency.

The day before he left Alexandria Sir Henry McMahon presided over a great public meeting held for the purpose of considering Lord Lansdowne's appeal for funds in aid of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John. The greatest enthusiasm was displayed at the meeting, and on the High Commissioner's suggestion it was decided to fix "Our Day" for the 30th inst. instead of the 21st inst., as at Home, the reason for the alteration being that the earlier date falls in the middle of the Biaram feast. In addition, as so many Egypto-Syrian residents had asked to be allowed to help in the arrangements and contribute to the funds, it was agreed that the appeal should be extended to the whole of Egypt instead of being limited to the British community. The most extensive arrangements are being made to ensure the success of the appeal. The programme for Alexandria and other centres has not been published yet, but that for Cairo includes a special concert at the Saidieh Red Cross Hospital, a choral matinée by an Italian choir, and a gala performance at the Kursaal, 50 per cent. of the receipts of which will go to the Fund. In addition, subscription lists and collecting boxes will be exhibited at the clubs and the principal hotels and shops. The various communities have in the past always generously collaborated in all the charitable undertakings that have been organised in the country, and judging by what one hears on all sides, "Our Day" in Egypt should prove to be a splendid success.

The Legislative Assembly.

It appears that, for various reasons, the Legislative Assembly is at present very much in the mind of the powers that be. In the first place, according to the new Organic Law, promulgated in 1913, the Assembly has to meet annually on November 1. Owing to the political situation no meeting has been held since the close of the first session in June, 1914. The suspension of the law in this respect has been effected by special decrees, and if the re-assembly of this body is again to be postponed, as it undoubtedly should be, a fresh decree will have to be promulgated before the end of this month.

There is, however, one point that makes the position somewhat different from that of a year ago. According to the above-mentioned Organic Law, the mandate of one-third of the members expires in January, 1916, when new elections have to take place. The selection of the out-going delegates has to be made by lot in full session, and since no valid decision can be taken by it unless two-thirds at least of its members, excluding those regularly on leave, are present, it follows that no meeting can be held until the lottery formality and the new elections have been accomplished. It is suggested that the Assembly should be convoked for one meeting to permit of the formal drawing of lots, and then be indefinitely prorogued. The objection to this is that the present is not the time when electoral campaigns should be undertaken. But, whilst theoretically this may be correct, in reality little inconvenience would result therefrom, and if it can be arranged, as suggested, for the elections to take place at the legal date, then as soon as the abnormal situation created by the war is at an end the Legislative Assembly will be able to resume its functions, without having to wait until the position of a proportion of its members has been regularised in accordance with the Organic Law.

Payment of Members.

Another question which has arisen is that of the continuation of the payment of the salaries of the members. A year ago (November 6, 1914) I drew attention to this, and expressed the opinion that in view of the necessity in which the Government found itself to curtail its expenditure and of the fact that the Assembly had done no work for seven months "this would appear to be a golden opportunity for the delegates, the majority of whom are well-to-do merchants and landowners, to show their patriotism by renouncing their claim to all or part of their remuneration." As far is is known, none of the delegates has seized this opportunity. One and all have continued to draw their salaries, although they have not done one stroke of work for eighteen months. Of course, they may object that it is not their fault that they have been idle. The whole point, however, reposes in the fact that their remuneration was not accorded them as a "salary" *qua* salary, but as an allowance or indemnity to cover their travelling expenses to and from their villages and their hotel expenses in Cairo during the session. These "salaries" come to the handsome sum of £E20,000 per annum, and since the object for which they were accorded has for the time being disappeared, and the delegates have not, as was at one time hoped, shown public spirit and taken the initiative themselves, the Government would be fully justified in stopping the payment of these allowances until such time as the Assembly resumes the normal course of its duties.

The Khedivial Wakfs' Scandal.

During the past week the trial took place of Ahmed Khairy Pasha, one-time Director of the Khedivial Wakfs and guardian of the Seif-ed-Dine Estate, who is accused of misappropriation of funds belonging to these two institutions. The case had aroused considerable interest owing to the main details, which had been common property for some time past; and the pleadings of the Parquet Substitut, Zaki Bey El Ibrachi, and of defendant's counsel Ibrahim Bey El Helbawi, the celebrated Egyptian lawyer, fully came up to general expectation as regards able exposition of the facts, eloquence, and sensational revelations. I do not propose to enter into details to-day, as all the most important facts were set forth in the series of articles I contributed on the subject to your columns about three months ago. All that I will say is that the proceedings fully confirmed those facts, and revealed the disgraceful and undignified part which the ex-Khedive played in the administration of these and other estates and in the misapplication of their funds. Judgment will not be given until the first week in November, by which time it is expected that the trial of Hussein Pasha Moharrem and others on similar counts—due to start on the 24th inst.—will have been concluded.

HELP FOR PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

Reuter's Agency has received the following communication from the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva dated October 26:—On October 12 the Red Crescent Society at Constantinople informed the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, that as a result of an understanding with the Imperial Ottoman Government all parcels and money for prisoners of war in Turkey must be sent through the Red Crescent Society. The International Committee of the Red Cross therefore advises those desirous of sending parcels or money to prisoners of war in Turkey to address c/o the Ottoman Red Crescent Society. The Christian name, rank, regiment, and place of internment of the prisoner must in every case be clearly given.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, October 15.

The New Cabinet and the Chamber.

The declarations made to the Chamber by M. Zaïmis on Monday last did not throw any further light on the attitude of the new Cabinet, which will adhere strictly to a policy of armed neutrality, in order, as M. Zaïmis said, the better to safeguard the vital interests of the nation. He added that the ulterior policy of the Government would be dictated by events, which the Government would follow with the closest attention. M. Zaïmis did not ask for a vote of confidence, but contented himself with soliciting the support of the nation's representatives.

M. Venizelos's Speech.

Immediately afterwards M. Venizelos delivered a remarkable speech on Greece's foreign policy, which, listened to amid profound silence, created a deep impression. After drawing attention to the unconstitutional manner in which his Cabinet, elected by the majority of the Chamber's votes and the verdict of the people, had been replaced by the present Cabinet, thus depriving Parliament of all real authority and turning it into a mere congress of notables, he stated that he would nevertheless avoid at the present critical moment provoking unnecessary antagonisms and a crisis in the country involving a dissolution of the Chamber and fresh elections. M. Venizelos then set out to show that war with Bulgaria was absolutely inevitable; that it would come, at the outside, in two or three years' time; and that Greece, therefore, quite independently of her engagements towards Serbia, should settle accounts with Bulgaria at once, before that country became any stronger, when it would be too late to fight—for Greece would not then have the friends she has to-day. In her own interests Greece should intervene now and prevent the destruction of Serbia, who helps to maintain Balkan equilibrium. At all costs this equality of forces, established by the Treaty of Bucharest, should be maintained. Inspired with the greatest confidence that victory will rest with the Entente Powers, M. Venizelos spoke of the advantages that would accrue to Greece in that event, and of the dire consequences to her of victory for the Powers of which Bulgaria and Turkey were the allies. In disposing of the fear expressed by the Opposition that Greece, in attacking Bulgaria, might find herself opposed by German and Austrian troops, he pointed out that it would be impossible for these troops, supplied by a single railway line, to penetrate to the south of this new eastern theatre of war, which would be occupied by the Greek Army, by what remained of the Serbian Army, and by the Allied troops, who would come to their aid by way of Salonika.

Compensations for Neutrality.

However, in the event of a policy of neutrality being insisted upon until the end of the war, M. Venizelos advised the Government at least to profit by the valuable services that Greek neutrality rendered to the Central Powers to secure the compensations which the latter stated they were prepared to make, such as an extension of territory in Albania, the Dodecanesos—which concession M. Venizelos regarded as a joke—Doïran, Ghevgheli, etc., and, above all, to demand that the said Powers should guarantee the territorial integrity of Greece, not only during the war, but for ten years afterwards, to give her time to prepare for the duel with Bulgaria, and to obtain their intervention for the exchange of the Greek population of Bulgaria for the Bulgarian population of Greece. Finally, he said that it was of the highest importance that Greece should be permitted to occupy the Doïran-Ghevgheli sector at once, in order to prevent the occupation of this strategic point by Bulgaria. Thus M. Venizelos, in counselling his opponents, sought to be of service to his country, even at the cost of going against his own views. His speech ended with an appeal to the patriotism of the members of the Cabinet, whom he warned to take heed lest they should leave to their successors a smaller Greece than the Greece they had taken over from him. At the conclusion of his speech M. Venizelos was frantically cheered in the Chamber and again outside, where a large crowd waited for his appearance.

M. Theotokis and M. Gounaris protested against M. Venizelos calling the Chamber a "club of notables," and challenged him with a vote of confidence, which he avoided, so as not to create fresh difficulties in the country, although convinced that, in the event of new elections, his party would again be victorious. He contented himself with tacitly tolerating the Government, and he will support the Cabinet in voting the necessary mobilization measures.

M. Venizelos's speech gave rise to lively comments on the part of his opponents, who maintained that, under the pretext of giving advice, his remarks were directed against the King, and that, in exaggerating the danger of a great Bulgaria, M. Venizelos overlooked that of a great Serbia, of twenty million inhabitants. It is hardly necessary to point out the absurdity of this statement, since Serbia is a State that tends to expand towards the North and the Adriatic, whereas the natural expansion of Bulgaria is towards the South and the Ægean.

The War on Serbia.

The attack on Serbia by German and Austrian troops has caused sincere sorrow among the Greeks, who not long ago fought side by side with the Serbs against the Bulgars, and were able to appreciate the qualities of their former allies and admire them. Above all, it is feared that the Austrians will wreak savage vengeance on this heroic little people who have so humiliated the Dual Empire.

Immediately after Bulgaria's first attack upon Serbia, the latter asked the Greek Government, through the intermediary of its Minister at Nish, if it were disposed to come to her aid in conformity with the Treaty of Alliance. The Athens Cabinet replied the following day to the effect that it did not recognise a *casus fœderis*, since Serbia had not been attacked by Bulgaria only on causes arising from the Treaty of Bucharest, but mainly because Bulgaria was the ally of Germany and Austria. Thus the local, Balkan nature of the aggression, which was provided for by the Treaty of Alliance, no longer held good, as it had assumed the character of an incident in the great European War. It was further pointed out that at the present juncture, and unless Serbia were able to co-operate by placing on the same frontier the 150,000 men provided for in the Treaty, the participation of Greece would have dire consequences, while she would not be of any help to her ally; and that it would be better if she preserved her forces intact in order to aid Serbia in some degree by holding up a part of the Bulgarian troops on the Greco-Bulgarian frontier.

On Wednesday M. Passaroff, the Bulgarian Minister, informed the Greek Government that the Serbs having attacked the Bulgarians near Kustendil and Tren, killing seventy and wounding 500, Bulgaria had declared war on Serbia, and asked what would be the attitude of Greece. M. Zaïmis replied frankly that Greece would remain neutral. Thus, when M. Radoslavoff declared, at the commencement of the Bulgarian mobilization, that it had no aggressive aims against either Greece or Serbia, he uttered a half-lie. One now wonders whether he has not lied altogether!

Its Effect in Greece.

The people are deeply grieved at finding themselves unable to help Serbia, and M. Passaroff's assertion that it was the Serbians who attacked the Bulgarians, which is as unjust as it is unreasonable, has caused great indignation. The disembarkation of the Allied troops at Salonika is followed with the deepest interest, in the earnest hope that they may arrive in time. In certain competent quarters it is stated that, on the outbreak of hostilities, Greece occupied the Doïran-Ghevgheli sector, as M. Venizelos had advised. Officially, however, this is denied, though no information is vouchsafed on the subject.

Albeit it is impossible to make any predictions or to say whether the arrival of a large number of Allied troops will encourage Greece to come in, it is quite certain that at present the Government will not move.

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It is said that an exchange of views has taken place during the last few days between King Constantine and King Ferdinand, and that Germany has guaranteed Greece against any attack by Bulgaria. The anti-Ministerial Press asks why, in these circumstances, Greece does not demobilize, since she has no intention of taking any action, and as she has nothing to fear from Bulgaria? This question will be raised in the Chamber on Monday.

Following on a wish expressed by Serbia to the Greek Government, the two Governments have decided to publish the text of the Treaty of Alliance, and this will probably be done in the course of a few days. The military convention annexed thereto will, however, remain secret.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, October 16.

The offices of the Chief Secretary have left Mount Troödos, and the High Commissioner, Sir John Clauson, will take the opportunity of visiting a few places during his return journey to Nicosia.

Excavations which are being carried on at Katydata, under the supervision of Mr. Markides, Curator of the Cyprus Museum, are reported to have yielded various objects of considerable scientific value.

The price at which locusts are bought by the Government has been reduced to 1d. the oke. The reason given is that during damp and cold nights much larger quantities of locusts can be caught than before when greater heat prevailed. Villagers have recently brought in great numbers. In one small village locusts to the value of nearly £70 were caught. The local papers argue that the reduction of price is bad policy, and that during the few remaining days in which the pest can be taken before depositing eggs the price should rather be raised. The great object is to destroy as many as possible in order to reduce the swarms that it is feared will hatch out next spring.

CANON MASTERMAN ON THE EASTERN QUESTION.

A course of lectures on Modern European History and the Coming of the Great War is being delivered by Canon J. H. B. Masterman, at the Central Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road. Speaking last week of the Eastern Question, he said that it originated partly in the fact that the Turk, although he had many admirable qualities, could not rule subject races, and partly in the fact that the eyes of Europe, which had been turned westwards when the capture of Constantinople closed the great route to the East, had turned eastwards again on the opening of the Suez Canal. Its latest phase began with the revolt of the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina against Turkish rule. Milan, King of Serbia, took part in the struggle, and he would have been badly beaten had not the war broadened out into the Russo-Turkish war. This resulted in the Treaty of San Stefano, creating a big Bulgaria and leaving only fragments of his ancient territory to the Turk. Europe, fearing that the new State would be only a catspaw to Russia, intervened, and Bulgaria was greatly reduced in size. Bosnia and Herzegovina were at the same time handed over to Austria-Hungary to administer. From the material point of view, these provinces were administered well, but there was an entire refusal to recognise the national aspirations of the inhabitants, who were Serbs, and this led to a simmering discontent. The formal annexation of 1909 brought things to a crisis, for so long as the provinces were even nominally part of the Turkish Empire there was still room for Jugoslav aspirations towards a greater Serbia. Moreover, the fact that Hungary had treated Croatia with the most ruthless disregard of its interests and desires naturally made other Serb provinces reluctant to come under direct and complete control. The change from protection to actual annexation was the immediate cause of the trouble that had led to the present war.

In the first half of the nineteenth century the question around which European diplomacy chiefly turned was the Italian question. For the past fifty or sixty years the Eastern Question had taken that central place. Whether the present war would mean the end of the Eastern Question in the same sense as the wars of emancipation had meant the end of the Italian question it was too soon to say, but all who desired the future peace of the world hoped that it might be so.

NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, October 20.

Persecution of French Subjects.

The news from Constantinople is very meagre, and postal communication, which now takes more time than usual, may be cut off entirely at any time.

The Turkish authorities now appear to have turned their attention to the French subjects in the capital, for it is reported that ten French families were deported to Angora, en route for Changra, at two hours' notice. The names mentioned are Charrier, Toulon, Craft, David, d'Agostini, Dufour, Alger, Bocoq, de Pelletan, and Marechal. The wives and children were sent with the men, which has hitherto not been done in the case of the English, and it is feared that other French families are to be similarly treated.

Huns Still Arriving.

Large numbers of Germans continue to arrive daily in Constantinople—some are workmen and others soldiers, mostly artillerymen. All the munition factories are to be placed entirely under German control, and only Germans will be employed. Turkish recruits continue to arrive, and the private houses in Candilli have been reoccupied.

Regular arrivals of coal from the Black Sea continue, the Nora Hugo Stinnes and another vessel having succeeded last week in evading the Russian fleet.

Visit of Smyrna Notables.

The papers announce the arrival in Constantinople of a delegation of Syrian notables, who intend visiting the troops at the Dardanelles. The party was received with much ceremony; its members have been received by the Sultan. They are visiting different places of interest, and generally much attention is being paid to them. There is no doubt some special object in their visit and in the efforts of the Turks to make themselves so agreeable to them.

Perteb Pasha and his staff have left Smyrna. He has been received in audience by the Sultan, and it is said that he will have command of one of the army corps which will operate with the Bulgarians. The Turkish troops reserved for these operations are stated to number between 150,000 and 200,000 men.

Fresh School Regulations.

The *Hilal* has been publishing the new regulations regarding private schools. There are forty-six articles, and the object is, of course, to make it as difficult as possible for foreigners to establish schools in Turkey. For example, in order to obtain leave to open a school in any particular district the number of residents of the nationality concerned must be sufficient to justify the opening of a school, and leave will only be granted provided that Ottomans in the country of that nationality are also allowed to open schools. The Turkish language must be taught, as well as Turkish history and geography, and in the elementary schools at least four hours must be devoted to the teaching of Turkish.

Parliamentary Clap-trap.

On the reassembling of the Turkish Parliament after a week's adjournment, the President (Halil Bey) expressed his regret at not having been able, through indisposition, to be present at the opening of the session. He indulged in a great deal of high-flown language about the glorious deeds of the Ottoman Army and the future of the Empire, and said that the Turkish nation was prepared to make all necessary sacrifices.

Subsequently Enver Pasha discoursed at great length, but his speech, as can be imagined, is so full of inaccuracies, and such a perversion of the truth from beginning to end, that it is probably undesirable to make any extracts. As an instance of its inaccuracy, he states that the forces so far collected exceed 2,000,000 men, and that this figure includes only the ordinary classes. In spite of this large force, he admits that parts of the Turks' territory have been invaded. A reference that he made to the "invasion of Egypt" was amusing, for he said that the expedition to the Suez Canal last winter resulted in the occupation of the territory necessary for the larger movement to be undertaken later on!

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, October 14.

Preparing for the Bulgarian Attack.

The expected outbreak of hostilities with Bulgaria has not yet taken place, but everyone here is fully persuaded that, though deferred, it may occur at any moment. Everything indicates that the mobilization and concentration of Bulgarian troops is not intended merely to maintain the "armed neutrality" of a nation whose army would remain passive. So seriously is the situation viewed here that the women-folk and children of well-to-do families have left Nish for other parts of Europe, more sheltered from the probable attacks of the Bulgarians; and the authorities are taking every precaution in connection with the security of the treasures of the State.

German Aeroplanes' Visit.

My last letter reported that two enemy aeroplanes had flown over Nish, had dropped bombs, and had afterwards disappeared in the direction of Bulgaria. Since then two German aeroplanes have been seen, this time approaching from their place of refuge in the neighbourhood of Sofia. They had been discerned by watchful eyes at Pirot, whence Nish received timely notice of their approach, and their arrival was hailed with a vigorous fire from the Serbian artillery stationed on the neighbouring hills. This fire was well aimed, as could be seen by the clouds of smoke which floated at various spots immediately under the enemy aeroplanes; but so extremely high did they fly that it was impossible to reach them.

In the meantime Serbian aeroplanes had started in pursuit, and the enemy evidently considered that he who . . . "runs away may live to fight another day"; for after making a few courses from north to south and from east to west at a prodigious height, followed from afar by our aeroplanes, they went back to the shelter from whence they had come, after throwing only one bomb.

Bulgaria's Attitude.

It may be asked why Bulgaria confines herself to the secret aiding of the enemy, and why she has not yet attacked with her armed forces, as she threatens to do. The answer may be found in the attitude of Greece, who, it is said, will only come to the aid of Serbia if the latter is first attacked by Bulgaria.

Yet so far Bulgaria has played her hand well. She has so acted as to compel Serbia in self-defence to send nearly all her forces to the Bulgarian frontier, and in the meantime the Germanic group has profited by the absence of a sufficiency of Serbian troops on the Austro-Hungarian frontiers, and has attacked Serbia.

As was to be foreseen, it was difficult for Serbia to defend herself at one and the same time against two enemies, one in the North and the other in the South. An urgent call for help was signalled to all Allied countries, and the call has been promptly answered. A first landing of Allied troops has already been effected at Salonika, and more troops are on their way. May not that be also a reason why Bulgaria now hesitates?

The Austro-German Invasion.

At last the Germanic bullies have carried out their threat of again invading Serbia. During the night of the 7th and 8th and on the 9th they crossed the Danube at points near Semendria, using heavy artillery to facilitate the attack. The Serbians, with inferior forces, defended themselves bravely, annihilated the first Germanic detachments, made 200 prisoners, and freed the soil of the enemy.

On the 10th and 11th the Austro-Germans renewed their attack on these points of the Danube, and, after heavy losses and several repulses, they succeeded in getting a firm footing on the banks of the river on the Serbian side. In the meantime Semendria was evacuated by the civil population, and the battle continued to rage. The enemy also advanced on Pozharevaz, where fighting is now going on.

Near Semendria the tide turned in favour of the Serbian troops; the Austro-German troops were defeated, 50 per cent. were killed and left by the fleeing enemy on the battlefield, and Semendria was recovered by the Serbian troops. During those days the enemy also attacked at several points along the Save and the Drin, at all of which points a successful defence has been maintained, the only exception being temporarily the chief town of Serbia.

For three consecutive days Belgrade was bombarded by powerful heavy artillery, firing shells of 24 and 30 centimetres, from a distance beyond the reach of the Serbian batteries, and aided by hundreds of cannon of smaller calibre, which rained shells incessantly on all the Serbian positions and on the town. The parts of the town near the Save, the fortress itself, the buildings in the streets of that neighbourhood on the hill and those in the thoroughfares stretching down to the Danube were in a great part in flames and otherwise destroyed, and many houses in the central part of the town were ruined.

Allied Artillery Success.

Four Austrian monitors attempted to steam up the Save to take part in the bombardment of Belgrade. Two only succeeded. One was sunk by heavy artillery served by the Allied Marines, and another was completely disabled by their accurate shooting.

The enemy's shells fell in great numbers in all parts of the town, the Serbian positions were completely battered, many men serving the big guns were killed or wounded, and the heavy artillery was disabled and rendered useless. Every two or three minutes three hundred enemy guns belched forth fury and death. The inhabitants who sought to flee for refuge fell victims in the roads; the streets and pavements were covered with a sea of blood. It was under cover of this murderous fire that the enemy troops effected a landing at the base of the town.

The Evacuation of Belgrade.

The few Serbian troops defending Belgrade, with the Gendarmery, made at first the best defence they could. By the Save and the Danube, at the fortress end of the town, there was stubborn rifle and hand-to-hand fighting. Foot by foot the enemy had to fight their way up to the central part of the town. The defenders were a thousandfold outnumbered, and fell rapidly. The enemy's cannon continued to play havoc; death and devastation threatened the whole city.

To save the city from utter ruin the Commander of the Serbian troops considered it advisable not to bring into action the small force of reserves at his disposal, and the Serbian troops were ordered to fall back upon positions outside the town. And thus Belgrade passed entirely into the hands of the Germanic forces.

Civilian Refugees.

From the eastern part of the city the inhabitants could not escape, as the only means of egress from that quarter would be across the rivers Save and Danube, so that those who sought to get away from the town could only flee by the western routes, leading to Kragujevatz andSemendria. These routes now became thronged with fugitives, men, women, and children, rich and poor, civilians and military, all huddled together, in thousands, trying to escape from the flames of death and the fear of atrocity. Most of them—nearly all, in fact—were weary travellers on foot, but a few among them had, at enormous expense, procured vehicles to carry them away from destruction. Alas! even here there was no safety. An enemy aeroplane hovered over these roads and signalled to the distant enemy batteries where they should direct their fire, so that beyond the town the roads were barred by the enemy's fire, and hundreds of people trying to escape were killed and hundreds more were wounded. It was a pitiable scene of heartless massacre: death faced the fugitives whilst they advanced, death faced them if they should attempt to return.

I am told, by an eye-witness, of one man, his wife, their two children, and a soldier who had procured a cab for some exorbitant sum, and were fleeing from the city of destruction, when a shell struck the party, wounded the man, and killed the wife, children, cabman, and soldier, and some pedestrians near by.

It is estimated that of the 40,000 inhabitants lately in Belgrade before the bombardment there now remain less than 20,000 souls.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, October 15.

Anniversary of King Carol's Death.

October 10, the anniversary of the death of King Carol, was observed as a day of general mourning, all places of entertainment being closed, and music being prohibited in public places. A special Te Deum was celebrated at Curtea del Argesh, all the members of the Royal family and Cabinet Ministers being present. Upon the whole, the Press was not so enthusiastic as might have been expected regarding the anniversary, which was, indeed, made the occasion for a good many veiled remarks about the suspected German sympathies of the present King. The *Adeverul*, the strongest supporter of the Entente Powers, and the most ardent advocate of action on the part of this country, published a portrait of the late King in his uniform as a German Field-Marshal, with the inscription: "What a Field-Marshal's bâton has cost us." The accompanying article declares that King Carol was always in sympathy with the German idea of extending German power from the North Sea to the heart of India; that he worked continually, though unobtrusively, for that end; and that had he lived longer this country would have been subordinated to Germany. It goes on to say that at one time Roumania had a dream of greatness, and that she might have become once more the great Roumania she was in days gone by; but that the right moment to strike has been allowed to slip away, and that there is now nothing to do but mourn for the country, still Roumania, but soon to be a German province.

Roumania's Difficult Position.

This language, though high-flown, gives no inaccurate impression of the general feeling here to-day. Where, six months ago, one noticed a spirit of warlike enthusiasm, one observes now only signs of discouragement and disgust. Many people feel that the country is being played with, if not sacrificed, by those in power; and the attention paid to those German dignitaries who come and go so frequently can only strengthen this feeling. It was, for instance, a subject of much comment that the very day on which the staffs of the Entente legations at Sofia were in Bucharest was chosen by the King to drive Prince Hohenlohe about the city, the Prince lolling behind, while his Majesty acted as chauffeur.

On the other hand, there are many people who approve of the Prime Minister's waiting game, and believe that he has the country's interests at heart, and that his policy is the right one to follow. Now that Serbia is at war with Bulgaria, Roumania's only road to the outer world is threatened, and until the safety of the railway from Prahovo to Salonika is assured, either by Serbia herself or by the Allied forces now coming to her aid, it is almost impossible for Roumania to throw herself into the struggle. For, while she has now a plentiful supply of ammunition, she dare not begin what might well prove a lengthy campaign without having an open road for obtaining regular supplies.

The Cabinet met yesterday, when the situation produced by Bulgaria's declaration of war was discussed, but so far it is not known if any fresh decision was arrived at. A rumour that mobilization was decided upon is not generally credited, for it is considered that Roumania could best help when the Allied troops in force have reached Serbia.

Audacious German Propaganda.

German propagandists are still active, and, not content to work among the civil population, have had the audacity to attempt to corrupt the army. A large number of soldiers belonging to regiments now stationed along the frontiers have been found to be in possession of copies of the *Ziua* and the *Seara*, papers now "run" by the Germans, and of letters advising the recipients to desert to Austria and making all kinds of tempting promises to those who do so. Happily, the military authorities have discovered the source of corruption, and active steps are being taken to prevent further action of the kind.

"Liveliness" on the Danube.

A number of lighters and tugs have lately been purchased at Galatz, Braila, and Reni by German agents, and it is supposed they were intended for the transport of troops from Hungary to Serbia, though whether they could get up the river past the Serbian shore is doubtful. Four tugs purchased by Bulgaria were to have left by sea for Varna, but, unfortunately for their purchasers, the Greek mobilization was announced, whereupon the crews, being all Greeks, refused to take the road viâ Bulgaria, abandoned the tugs, and left the country by way of Serbia. A Russian gunboat has appeared off Sulina, and the departure of the tugs is, to say the least, uncertain.

Two other tugs, owned by Austrian subjects, were also sold to Bulgaria, and were proceeding towards Sulina when, opposite Reni, on the Russian bank, a gunboat stopped them and conducted them into port. The two craft had cost their new owners nearly half a million francs, so that the bargain is a dear one for them. A protest against their seizure has been lodged, on the ground that the Danube is neutral up to Braila, and under the control of the European Commission of the Danube. The Russians maintain that the tugs were close enough to their shore to come under their jurisdiction; but they add that they will be willing to submit the case to arbitration—after the war.

Greek Reservists Depart, and—

The Greek reservists in Roumania, of whom there are—or were—some seven thousand, responded to the call to arms with an enthusiasm that was in marked contrast to the attitude of the Bulgarians. Whereas the greater part of the latter either answered the call with a very ill will, or answered it not at all, being opposed to the war and its objects, the Greeks showed even greater promptness in leaving than they did at the time of the Balkan war. A few nights ago, when the first large party left Bucharest, a scene of great enthusiasm took place, the railway station being crowded with sympathisers, Greek and Roumanian, bent on giving them a hearty "send off." A procession, carrying Greek and Roumanian flags, escorted the reservists from the Greek Legation, M. Psychas and the Legation staff attending; the Greek national hymn and patriotic songs were sung; and the train left amidst cheers for Greece and Roumania. Similar scenes took place at Tulcea, on the lower Danube, when a steamer conveying the first Greek reservists from Sulina arrived.

Bulgarian Deserters Arrive.

Since the Bulgarian mobilization the numbers of deserters arriving in Roumania are assuming such proportions as to be extremely disquieting to the Bulgarian military authorities. At Calafat no less than 800, with their full equipment, crossed the river, and at many points they continue to arrive in parties large and small, so that it is becoming quite puzzling to the Roumanian authorities to know how to dispose of them. All alike declare their disgust at the action of their Government, and give as their only reason for deserting that they do not wish to fight against Russia.

Persons coming from Bulgaria also describe the extreme feeling against the war felt in various circles, and especially among the reserve officers and non-commissioned officers, who openly express their anger at having to fight on the side against Russia and Great Britain. "It is the end of Bulgaria!" a prefect of one of the principal Bulgarian river towns declared to some persons when they were leaving Bulgaria.

What the actual feeling is in Sofia it is difficult to say, as few Bulgarians or other travellers have lately come from there, the railway service being entirely employed in moving troops; while no one between the ages of seventeen and fifty is allowed to leave the country. A rumour is current of some regiments having shown disaffection and having been disarmed. Whether this is correct it is impossible to say; but it is only what might be expected, if one may judge from the numbers of deserters arriving here. In any case, the war is far from popular.

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HELP SERBIA!

IT IS NOT TOO LATE.

By Professor Pavle Popovic.

I have just read the article of Dr. N. Zupanic on "The Strategic Significance of Serbia," which appeared in the current issue of the *Nineteenth Century*. I should very much like to say a few words in connection with this article. Perhaps I am not sufficiently qualified to deal with such a subject, but I think I can lay claim to some knowledge of it. As a literary man, I can discuss with the reader what appears in a review. As a Serb, I may be allowed to comment on subjects which concern my country. Again, during the three last wars in which Serbia was engaged against the Turks, the Bulgars, and the Austrians, I was, as a soldier and a non-commissioned officer, connected with the General Staff of one of the best and most active divisions of the Serbian Army, which fact, I trust, will carry some weight.

Dr. Zupanic explains admirably the great strategical importance of Serbia. He points out that "the issue of the war may perhaps be decided in this country." Why, he asks, have the Germans organised "a simultaneous attack by German, Austrian, Bulgarian, and Turkish forces against so small a country" if it be not because they have seen the important rôle of that country in their dreams of world-conquest?

"Serbia lies across and commands the great natural high-road which connects the East and the West, Asia and Europe," says Dr. Zupanic. As a good historian and geographical expert, he explains that it is through the valleys of Morava and Vardar that all the armies of the world had to pass whenever the West was at grips with the East. As soon as Germany is in possession of the principal railway lines, Belgrade-Salonika and Belgrade-Constantinople, she will be stronger than she has ever been before, and will be a source of the greatest danger to the British Empire. "Germany's domination of Asia Minor," continues our author, "and her organisation of that country, the building of strategical railways through the Turkish dominions in the direction of Egypt and India, would probably make Egypt untenable, and would gravely threaten England's position in India." He then adds: "The control of that railway (Belgrade-Constantinople) will enable Germany to provide herself with raw material, food, and fighting men from the Turks, and it will make it possible for her to send to the Turks all the guns and ammunition, all the manufactures, and all the officers and non-commissioned officers they may need." As a matter of fact, these are two great dangers which are pointed out by Dr. Zupanic. Once in possession of sufficient supplies, Germany will be in a position to prolong the war for seven years if she wants to, and it is certainly not the blockade by Great Britain that will stop her, because, as the writer says, in the case of a German success "the British blockade will be nullified."

The above are the principal points of Dr. Zupanic's very interesting article, the perusal of which I heartily recommend. The reader may ask, however, "Who and what is this Dr. Zupanic, whose name we have never heard before, and who expresses such views? Mr. Hillaire Belloc told us the other day in his admirable study, 'The New Balkan Factor,' in *Land and Water* (October 16), that 'the importance of the German invasion of Serbia' is greatly exaggerated, and that 'the enemy's effort (in Serbia) has mainly a political object.'"

I have no intention of going into a detailed analysis of Mr. Belloc's article. My opinion, however, or rather my conviction, is this. However great a military expert Mr. Belloc may be, and however incompetent in such matters Dr. Zupanic may appear, it is nevertheless the former who is wrong and the latter who is right. I could quote many Englishmen who are of the same opinion as Dr. Zupanic.

As a matter of fact, to help Serbia is more necessary than anything else at the present time. I do not say this simply because Serbia is my country, but because I realise that it affords a means of safeguarding the British Empire. If Serbia is crushed—I am trying to speak dispassionately of the disasters to which my country is exposed—she will be crushed only for a while, to rise again. But if the British Empire lose its strength and its greatness, it will not be able to help Serbia when the hour comes for her revival, and then Serbia will be crushed for ever. The British Empire will never cease to be the last hope of Serbia, even of a defeated Serbia. This is the Serbian idea, and it is evident, therefore, how closely her interests are bound up with those of Great Britain and how intimate is the connection between the Serbian and the British points of view.

Do not delay in coming to Serbia's help! You see how events are shaping in the Balkans. The newspapers announced the other day that Roumania and Greece would be prepared to intervene if the Allies sent 300,000 troops to Serbia's help, and I find this attitude perfectly reasonable. These two States are undoubtedly waiting for effective aid being given by the Allies to Serbia before ranging themselves on their side. Failing this, they will not. How can you expect Roumania, threatened on the south by Bulgaria, on the north by Germany and Austria, and on the west by all three, to expose herself to every possible peril by embracing the cause of the Quadruple Entente when she sees that at the critical moment she may perhaps be abandoned? Greece is held by the same fears, I must admit, while I cannot but blame her for the part she has played. Roumania and Greece are both waiting to see who is going to win. As soon as they see that victory is on the side of the Germans they will turn to that side. Greece, it appears, is already beginning to flirt with our enemies. Roumania may follow her example. There is imminent danger of all the Balkan States, with the exception of Serbia, ranging themselves on the side of our enemies.

If you do not rescue Serbia two misfortunes are in store for the Quadruple Entente. The first is that the Germans will be masters of the great road to Constantinople, and I have already explained what that means. The second, and by no means the lesser, is that the Entente will lose the whole of the Serbian Army, one of the best in the world, and one which the Allies have every interest in preserving for the future. Do not believe that our enemies will allow the Serbian Army to retreat to the south-west, and that they will be satisfied only with the possession of the coveted route to Constantinople. They will seek utterly to destroy and annihilate the Serbian Army. The Germans have everything to gain by doing so. The Bulgars—and by Bulgars I mean the whole nation, not only King Ferdinand, because they all have the same views, as you may gather from the declaration of the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia (*vide Birmingham Post*, October 27)—the Bulgars, I say, hate the Serbs to such an extent, and so stubbornly do they cling to the unjust idea that Macedonia rightly belongs to them, that they would themselves, even if the Germans did not wish it, encompass the destruction of the Serbian Army. Austria would do the same—Austria, who is thirsting for vengeance, and whose aim since 1866 has been the annihilation of Serbia and the extermination of the Serbian race. If the Serbian Army, aided by the Allies, manages to preserve its strength, it will one day, at the propitious moment, be able to drive the enemy away from the Belgrade-Constantinople and Belgrade-Salonika routes. But if it is destroyed, the Germans will keep those routes for ever. Try, therefore, to preserve the Serbian Army, because it is the only guarantee for a better future if the present should be lost.

You will say, "It is too late," and will quote Lord Lansdowne, who said a few days ago that "it is highly improbable that the Serbian Army will be able to withstand." No! It is not too late. It is not late at all. If you begin by thinking that it is too late, then certainly the campaign will be lost. But if you try to remedy matters, if you take some risks, then the campaign is not lost. A general should never anticipate defeat, but always believe in victory. How many times in our late wars have I not seen my division in extreme danger, in positions from which there was apparently no escape; but gradually the situation became clearer, the danger less, and we ended by being triumphant where we seemed doomed to certain defeat. Why? Because the commanding officers never lost their belief in victory, and concentrated all their energies on winning. That is how victories are won, not by resigning oneself to failure at the start.

It is not too late to help Serbia. The situation is beyond doubt very serious, but it is far from being desperate. My compatriots will continue to fight like lions if you send them the necessary help. Doubtless you follow day by day the account of the Serbian campaign? Those who have any experience at all of war must marvel at the inflexible resistance offered by the Serbian army to a vastly superior enemy. During the Austrian invasion last November the Serbian army simply evacuated Belgrade; to-day it has continued the fighting even in the streets of the city. Have you any idea of what that means? You must realise that the Serbian army is determined to defend each stone of its country, and that it shows no trace whatever of demoralisation, whilst any other army in the same circumstances would be completely demoralised. Can you realise the significance of the recapture of Veles, of Pirot, and of other positions which have been taken by the Bulgarians, or the fact that the Germans have, up to the present, made no notable progress in the north, though they began the campaign more than a month ago? Why, the Serbian army is showing signs of a vitality which is without precedent. This is the best proof that, however small the aid sent, the army can reconquer all that the Germans and Bulgars have so far taken, and drive the enemy from the country, as it did last year!

You do not know the worth of the Serbian army. I, who have seen it at work, can tell you something about it. I also know what our prisoners in the previous wars told me about the terrible effect of our artillery and of our assaults. I have, as regards the new campaign, information to the same effect. A German recently made a prisoner—the account is authentic—solemnly declared: "I have fought on all fronts, but never have I seen a better army than the Serbian. You simply work miracles. You are superior in courage and *adresse* to us Germans, who have the reputation of being the best soldiers in the world."

And this is the army you would abandon! You do not know what you would lose. It would be a crime—a crime against yourselves as well as against us Serbs! Send us help, and you will see what we are capable of doing. Help us against the Bulgars, and you will see what will happen to Mackensen. Davids love to fight Goliaths. We are glad to have opponents as strong as this German general. We are glad to be able to beat the victors and not the vanquished. For God's sake, do not deprive us now of the pleasure of conquering him. Such an opportunity may never occur again.

Many times in the course of our history have we turned to you for help, but you heeded not, much to our and to your own disadvantage. Throughout the nineteenth century we victoriously fought the Turks, but unfortunately it was thanks to Lord Palmerston that the Turks remained in Europe to join the Germans in the present war. For forty years we protested against the Austrian domination of Bosnia, but diplomacy allowed the Hapsburgs to remain there, with the result that the Austrian army from Vishegrad can now attack the Serbian army in the flank. We entreated you not to create an independent Albania, but diplomacy drove us from that territory which would have been of great service to us had we been allowed to hold it during the past three years. We always told you that the Bulgars were traitors, but you would never believe us.

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Listen to the voice of even the small man, for he also may sometimes be right. He who has in his hand all facts and figures is no better than he who has a good idea in his head. "Genius is instinct," said M. Coudurier de Chassaigne in the *Sunday Times*. I have long ceased to put my faith in the authorities; I believe in more modest folk. Competent people in Serbia assured me in 1912 that we would be beaten by the Turks. A young student assured me that we would not—and he was right. Everybody in Serbia believed that the Balkan League was a lasting creation; a simple Serbian officer told me on the day war was declared on Turkey, "As soon as the Turkish war is over we shall have war with the Bulgars"; and again it was the small man who was right. The weak and inexperienced have good ideas sometimes, because they have instinct.

All those who have visited Rome remember that in front of the façade of the Church of St. Peter there stands an obelisk surmounted by a cross. Sixtus Quintus placed it there, his idea being that the monuments of the infidel should be subject to the emblem of the cross—*ut in crucis honorem ipsa impietatis monumenta cernerentur*. But this monument would not have been erected if at a critical moment when it was being raised a young boy had not noticed that one of the ropes which supported the enormous weight had become dry and was about to snap, and had not cried out "Acqua! acqua!" to warn the workmen to moisten the rope.

We Serbs are doing to-day what that little boy did then. We see that the rope will break unless prompt measures are taken. We also contribute to the victory of the Cross if you will only listen to us.

SERBIA "IN EXTREMIS."

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

"*We are prepared to give our friends in the Balkans all the support in our power in the manner that will be most welcome to them, without reserve and without qualification.*"—Sir E. Grey, September 28.

SIR,—The urgent appeal for help to the Serbian army published on behalf of the leading statesmen of that country, and the statement, equally frank and serious, of Lord Lansdowne, call for some supplementary words on what, from the Serbian point of view, is the most critical aspect of the present situation.

A large strip of Danubian Serbia is in Austro-German hands. With the capture of the bridge-head opposite Orsova by the northern enemy and of Negotin and the mouth of the Timok by the Bulgarians, connection is already practically opened up between the two hostile forces. But it is the main line of communication through Nish at which the Germans aim, and for the seizure of this the enemy has now a triple converging line of advance at his disposal—up the valleys of the Morava and Timok, as well as from Sofia by the eastern line. It is becoming clear that in order to avoid a wholesale capitulation the Serbian forces may have to be withdrawn in a south-westerly direction, and that the final strongholds of defence may lie in Old Serbia and the upland valleys bordering on Montenegro.

With this eventuality clearly in view, the full gravity of what is now occurring in the Upper Vardar Valley will be appreciated. Unfortunately, to the east of Uskub there opens a serious breach to the mountain barrier of Serbian Macedonia within convenient striking distance of the important Bulgarian rail-head at Kustendil. Between that place and Egri Palanka—as, having driven between them, I can personally testify—there is no more serious obstacle than broad rolling downs. Through this gap, as might have been expected, the Bulgarians poured *en masse*, sweeping on to Kumanovo and Uskub, radiating to Vranya and Istip, and thus controlling a large section of the railway to Salonika—the sole line on which Serbia depends for reinforcements from its Allies, for munitions, and for adequate provisioning.

This is the crux. How is the national struggle for independence to prolong itself if the sources of supply are cut off? Nay, how, besides, is a huge, disastrous capitulation—affording Bulgarians and Turks alike a fresh source of armament—to be eventually avoided if the links with Macedonia are severed? Lord Cromer, from personal knowledge, has justly criticised the suggestion made in the House of Lords that a new line of communication may be opened out from Durazzo. The fact that the great Roman line—the Via Egnatia—took that route gives no clue to present conditions. As far as Elbasan there is now some kind of road, though liable to inundations, but beyond this to Ochrida there are only rough mule paths. Nor would the entrance into Macedonia from this point be of any practical use unless the Shar range was turned by the reoccupation of Uskub.

There remains the alternative Adriatic route viâ Scutari, Andrievitza, and the heart of the New Montenegro to Péch (Ipek) and the central plains of Old Serbia. I am quite aware that serious attention is being given to this route, and it must on no account be neglected. For part of the way from the lake a practicable road has been made. But beyond? Those who know what Montenegro is in winter, those who have traversed, as I have done, to the neighbourhood of Péch itself, the North Albanian Alps, will realise the enormous difficulties of transport. Certain stores and provisions may undoubtedly be conveyed by this route; for the heavier material of war it is unavailable.

The more the essentials of the geographical problem are realised the more urgent must appear the necessity of holding and, where necessary, recovering the Vardar line from Salonika at least as far as Uskub. For Serbia—for what remains of Serbia—this is a matter of life and death.

This, of course, was thoroughly realised from the beginning by the Serbian Government and High Command. It was indeed assumed that the southern part of the route would be kept open by the Greek ally, but the safety of important points like Istip, Uskub, and Vranya the Serbs were quite prepared to secure with their own arms. It was justly felt that even a withdrawal on the Danubian line would be less disastrous than the loss of the key to the Vardar route.

More seems to be known in Paris than in London as to the causes that have led up to the present almost desperate situation; but they have a very special claim on our own attention. Already on September 23 Bulgarian mobilisation and the ominous concentrations of troops on the Serbian frontier had begun, of which Greece and the Allied Powers were notified by Serbia. But the evidence of the hostile intentions of the Bulgarian Tsar and Government, of which naturally Serbia had a hundredfold more intimate sources of information than our own or any of the Allied Governments, accumulated to such an extent that on September 26 a despatch was issued on behalf of the Serbian authorities, both civil and military, appealing to the Allies for immediate action. These representations insisted on the urgent need of requiring the demobilisation of the Bulgarian troops within a fixed brief delay. It was further pointed out that in the event of Bulgaria's non-compliance with such an ultimatum the Serbian troops were still in a position to march on Sofia. In truth it was the last chance given to that unhappy country.

But it does not take any great amount of imagination to understand how a proposition for decided action of this kind was received by our own Foreign Office. What an imputation on the good faith of Bulgaria! Why, it would be the end of Government by high principle! Unfortunately, too, the British military authorities were obsessed by another objection. The mobilisation of Bulgaria was only a piece of German bluff. It meant nothing in itself except to draw off Serbian troops from the Danube line. Let them turn their forces on that side and not trouble themselves with the bugbear on their flank.

So the Bulgarian mobilisation was allowed to proceed. The Serbs were encouraged to forego Marshal Putnik's policy of concentrated defence. And then happened what had all along been arranged by the arch-conspirators. Bulgaria showed her true colours and Greece turned tail. The Bulgarians were allowed time, largely owing to the attitude of the British Government, to concentrate overwhelming forces on the most vulnerable point of the Serbian frontier. The defection of Greece left Serbian Macedonia uncovered. With regard to this unqualifiable desertion one illuminating fact is worth recording which at least places the responsibility in the right quarter. While the question of Bulgarian mobilisation, with all its consequences, was still in the balance the German envoy, Baron von Falkenhayn, arrived, it seems, at Sofia from Athens with the assurance that no counter-mobilisation would take place in Greece, and that if such were attempted the services of Venizelos would be dispensed with. Venizelos proved strong enough to defeat part of this calculation, and the decree of mobilisation was signed by King Constantine. Tsar Ferdinand, indeed, bitterly complained that he had been deceived by his German advisers.

But the enforced resignation of Venizelos followed. The Germans, after all, had reckoned rightly on their Athenian tools, and meanwhile the evil had been done.

The position of Serbia, left to herself, was now hopeless. Our own position after the great betrayal has been very frankly described by Lord Lansdowne. "Once bit, twice shy," and our military advisers, with the Dardanelles experience on their minds, were naturally averse from anything savouring of a fresh adventure. What was actually done had been arranged on the understanding that Greece would come in, but even then it is hard to understand why we should have only landed 13,000 troops at Salonika, while France, with less available forces and inferior means of transport, set down almost exactly three times that number. Why are we, too, not helping the Serbians at least to an equivalent extent? It is credibly stated that up to yesterday not a single British soldier has actually crossed the Serbian frontier. Had we been able to add another 40,000 men to the French contingent Uskub might have been at this moment again in the Allies' hands.

The 13,000 men—I quote Lord Lansdowne—"was the precursor of a large force which was put under orders at the same time." No one has the right to demand how that "large force" is to be employed. But it is permissible to make one or two observations. *Bis dat qui cito dat*. The success of the small French force and the apparent inability of the large contingent of Bulgarian irregulars or "comitadjis" to stand against Western discipline is in itself very encouraging. It lends probability to the calculation of Serbian military experts, which I am allowed here to cite, that if even as much as 50,000 additional troops could be thrown in by the Allies within a short period the essential line of communication by the Vardar Valley could yet be recovered and the whole held.

The loss of Uskub is the most serious blow that has as yet befallen the Serbian arms. It not only cuts the communication between the Morava and Vardar valleys and the lateral routes to Prilep and Monastir, but it also blocks the access to Kossovo and Novibazar by the Katchanik Pass immediately to the north. The Serb forces operating in Macedonia, Danubian Serbia, and on the Bosnian frontier are thus cut off from one another. The reoccupation of Uskub is the most imperative need of the moment.

As late as October 15 we renewed our solemn undertaking, quoted at the head of this letter, to do "everything in our power" for the assistance of Serbia. Is even such assistance as this not "within our power"? Never in all our history have we had a greater debt to a small ally—a debt in this case made the more binding by our fatal misdirection and the costly incapacity of our Government for prompt action.—I am, etc.,

ARTHUR EVANS.

Youlbury, Berks, October 28.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Julian (Old Style).	Gregorian (New Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. Nov.	1915. Oct.		1333. Julhijja.	5676. Heshvan.
5	23	Friday	27	28
6	24	Saturday.....	28	29
7	25	Sunday	29	30 Kislev.
8	26	Monday	30 1334. Moharrem.	1
9	27	Tuesday	1	2
10	28	Wednesday	2	3
11	29	Thursday	3	4

Thursday is the birthday of the King of Italy.

General Sir Ian Hamilton was received by Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House on Tuesday.

Lady McMahon had the honour of being received by the Queen at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday.

The Greek Minister and the Serbian Minister are among those who have accepted the invitation of the Lord Mayor-Elect and the Sheriffs to the Guildhall banquet next Tuesday.

According to a Constantinople telegram received in Amsterdam, the Sultan on Thursday of last week received in audience the Delegate-Apostolic, Mgr. Dolci. According to the newspapers, Mgr. Dolci handed the Sultan a letter from the Pope to his Majesty.

As soon as he learned that General Marchand, of Fashoda fame, had been wounded, Sir Reginald Wingate, Governor-General of the Sudan, sent him the following telegram: "Please accept heartiest congratulations on the success of your arms, and sincere sympathy for your wound. Hope that it will be rapidly healed." General Marchand replied: "Am delighted and appreciative of your good wishes, which are precious to me above all. Very many thanks."

The Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury have appointed Sir Henry Paul Harvey, K.C.M.G., C.B., Chief Auditor, National Insurance Audit Department, to act as a representative of the Treasury in the United States of America. Sir Paul was formerly Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government.

On Thursday evening last week Mr. Tennant announced in the House of Commons that the command of the British force in Serbia had been entrusted to General Sir Bryan Mahon, D.S.O.

Sir Bryan, who is the eldest son of the late Henry Blake Mahon, of Belleville, Galway, was born in 1862. Gazetted to the 8th Hussars in 1883, he served in India till 1889. In 1896 he served in the Egyptian campaign, and he took part in the advance on Khartoum and the defeat of the Khalifa. For his services in the Dongola expedition he was granted the D.S.O., and he holds the Sudan war medal, the Egyptian war medal, with eight clasps, and the Order of the Osmanieh (4th class). Again in 1901-1904 he was in the Sudan, as Military-Governor of Kordofan. In the interval he took part in the South African war, and led the column which relieved Mafeking. He was awarded a C.B. in 1900, and in 1912 was made a K.C.V.O.

The *Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula, at present in Bucharest, has received a telegram from Lady Paget stating that all the members of her hospital are gathered at Uskub and are safe and well. They are receiving every courtesy at the hands of the Bulgarians.

Mrs. Cyril Cumberbatch and daughter have arrived in Athens from Constantinople.

The engagement is announced of Miss Norah Gedge, only daughter of the late Admiral Herbert Gedge and Mrs. Herbert-Gedge, of Lennox Mansions, Clarence Parade, Southsea, and Lieutenant Steyn, R.E., only son of G. A. Steyn, M.D., late District Surgeon of Salt River and Maitland, and of Mrs. Starvey Steyn, of Kevalworth, Cape Town. Lieutenant Steyn, R.E., is a well-known Rugby International player, and an Oxford Blue.

The Dowager Duchess of Somerset, who died last week, was the daughter of Philip Morier, who (says the *Morning Post*) was Consul-General in Albania in 1803.

Field-Marshal Lord Methuen, Governor of Malta, requests that all parcels containing comforts or literature for distribution to the patients (now numbering upwards of 15,000) in the hospitals there should be addressed to the Commissioner, Red Cross Society, Valetta, Malta.

We regret that an error crept into the notice we published last week of the engagement of Mr. C. R. Skrimshire, formerly Headmaster of the English High School, Constantinople, and now of Wellington College. The lady to whom Mr. Skrimshire is engaged is Miss Aileen Lumb, not Lund, as stated.

Sir Reginald Wingate returned to Khartoum from Erkowit on Sunday, October 10, accompanied by the following members of his staff: Major G. S. Symes, D.S.O., Private Secretary; Major R. Rees-Mogg, Military Secretary; Major F. W. L. Edwards, A.D.I.; Mr. A. W. Keown Boyd, Assistant Private Secretary; and Shaheen Bey George, Arabic Secretary. Mr. Patterson, Mr. Lang, Mazloum Effendi, and the other officials of the Governor-General's Office arrived on the same train with his Excellency.

The day before leaving Erkowit for Khartoum, the Governor-General visited Sinkat, where he inspected the hill station of the British troops and their convalescent quarters. Visiting the headquarters of the inspector, his Excellency was received by El Lewa Wilson Pasha, Governor of the Red Sea Province, and Mr. Nalder, Second Inspector; and a number of Omdehs, Sheikhs, and notables were presented. Sir Reginald then called on Sherifah Miriam el-Morghaniyeh, and afterwards proceeded to the Old Military Station, where he was received by the officers of the 3rd Egyptian Battalion. Another resident of Sinkat honoured by a visit from the Governor-General was El Miralai Mohammed Bey Ahmed, former Commandant of Police, Red Sea Province.

News has reached us that the British prisoners of war interned at Urfa are enjoying very good health and are being well treated by the authorities. They live in a house which has been hired by themselves and have their own cook to look after their requirements.

According to a contemporary, Mr. G. Ward Price, the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Mail*, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett as official Press correspondent at the Dardanelles. The choice is particularly happy, as Mr. Ward Price has had considerable experience of the Near East. For some time before the Balkan wars he represented the *Daily Mail* at Constantinople, and he acted as war correspondent with the Turkish troops. Mr. Ward Price is a Cambridge man, and was in residence at St. Catharine's College for three years. There he greatly distinguished himself both in the schools and at games, taking high honours in history and rowing at Henley for his College.

A Sofia telegram states that the German Emperor has conferred Iron Crosses upon the Bulgarian Crown Prince Boris, Prince Cyril, the Premier, M. Radoslavoff, and General Jekoff.

Much regret will be felt by his many friends in this country at the news that Dr. David Sandler, of the Church of Scotland Mission, died suddenly in Constantinople on October 20.

The death occurred at Tenby on Sunday, after a long illness, of Lieutenant-Colonel Denne, late of the 4th Dragoon Guards, who was in command of his regiment at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir.

We regret to learn that the death, from enteric fever, took place at Port Sudan on October 8 of Mr. Percy Newton, chief clerk of the Customs Department. Mr. Newton entered the Sudan Government service in August, 1906, and had a large circle of friends and acquaintances, by whom his loss is very keenly felt.

The following urgent appeal is made by the Hon. Lady Monro, wife of Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Monro, Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force:—

2, Upper Belgrave Street,
October 30.

I beg most earnestly to make a special appeal on behalf of the troops of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, and especially those in the Dardanelles. Help is more than ever needed. I would point out that the number of men is largely increased and the area of operations widely extended.

Winter is upon us, and I feel sure everyone must wish to provide some extra comforts for our troops, especially as there is no opportunity of their obtaining anything on the spot. Christmas is now but two months distant, and further preparations for it must be made without delay, if our men are to feel the hand of love and friendship extended to them by those at home.

The Committee of Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund have most kindly undertaken to acknowledge all donations of money and gifts in kind, and to use these to the best advantage for the benefit of our men now serving in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Donations of money and cheques should be specially marked for the Dardanelles, and sent to Mr. W. L. Sclater, who will act as Hon. Treasurer of the Dardanelles Fund of Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund.

Gifts in kind should also be specially marked for the Dardanelles and sent to Mrs. Sclater, who is acting as Hon. Secretary.

Everything should be addressed to the offices of Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund, at 24a, Hill Street, Knightsbridge, S.W.

MARY C. MONRO.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (October 15):—

Mr. Hurst, British Vice-Consul at Sofia, has remained in charge of the Legation archives.

Mr. Heard, Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, has left the country, via Dedeagatch.

Mr. Picton Bagge, Vice-Consul at Rustchuk, Mr. D. Young, who was on leave from San Francisco, and was assisting him, and Mr. Gilliat-Smith, Vice-Consul at Varna, with his wife and family, all left Bulgaria by way of Roumania. Mr. Bagge has proceeded to Petrograd. Mr. Young has been attached to the Legation here.

Mr. G. T. Havard, British Vice-Consul at Teheran, has passed through Bucharest en route to his post.

The Greeks of New Zealand (states a Wellington telegram) have cabled to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Athens, as well as to M. Venizelos, expressing their sympathy with the Allies, and the hope that the Greek Government would join the Allies and help Serbia.

Mr. Ralph Caldwell Crafton, of Bulkeley, Alexandria, who died on September 2, left estate valued at £53,069.

WOUNDED AND MISSING.

MAJOR G. DAVIS,
1/11TH COUNTY OF LONDON REGIMENT,
Wounded and Missing on August 15 at Suvla Bay. Will anyone hearing news of him please communicate with Mrs. Davis, "Idencroft," Brondesbury Park, N.W.?

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The funeral of the late Abbate Pasha took place in Cairo on October 11 from the offices of the Sultanieh Geographical Society, whither the body had been transferred from the deceased's residence. The Sultan and the High Commissioner were represented, and others present were General Maxwell, Comm. Attilo Sera, Italian Diplomatic Agent, the Governor of Cairo, Yacoub Pasha Artin, most of the members of the Sultanieh Geographical Society, and the First Aid Society of Cairo, and a large number of leading members of both the native and European communities. Sir Reginald Wingate sent a telegram expressing his unfeigned regret at the death of his old and valued friend, and his heartfelt sympathy with the family.

The Serbian Legation in Paris announced last Friday the death at Vznitzi of M. Lazard Patchou, the Serbian Minister of Finance.

M. Eugene Mavrodi, a noted Roumanian diplomat, passed away recently, writes our Bucharest Correspondent. He joined the Diplomatic Corps in 1883, being for a long period Councillor of Legation at Vienna, and later Minister at Brussels. Of late years, being in ill-health, he withdrew from public life. He was married to the Chief Lady of Honour to H.M. the Queen.

Writing on October 15, our Athens Correspondent says:—The death occurred the day before yesterday of General Smolenski, who, in the unhappy war of 1897, saved the honour of Greece, having alone gained a victory over the Turks at Reveni, Velestino. Thanks to this victory the General enjoyed at one time a very great popularity, of which, however, he never took advantage.

On Thursday of last week, her Majesty Queen Alexandra visited the Galleries of the Fine Art Society, 148, New Bond Street, to view the pictures of the Dardanelles by Mr. Norman Wilkinson, also those of France and Flanders by Mr. Russell Flint and Mr. Purves Flint, now at the front.

Lieutenant-Colonel George Butler Stoney, D.S.O., 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers, killed in action, was born in August, 1877, and was commissioned to the K.O.S.B. in September, 1897. He was promoted lieutenant in April, 1899, captain in 1904, and major in September of this year, while recently he received the rank of lieutenant-colonel. From April, 1908, until the present war he had been employed with the Egyptian Army. Colonel Stoney had seen service with his regiment in India in 1897-8, when, for work with the Tirah Expeditionary Force, he received the medal with two clasps. In the present war he had served with great distinction, and had been decorated with the D.S.O.

Major William James Anderson, 9th Manchester Regiment (T.F.), of Applecross, Rock Creek, British Columbia, who was killed in the Gallopoli operations on October 19, was the eldest son of the late Colonel J. C. Anderson, R.E., C.S.I. He was educated at Wellington and Sandhurst, and was gazetted to the 1st West Riding Regiment. After passing out of the Staff College he was appointed to General Chermside's Staff in Crete in 1899, and was subsequently Vice-Consul at Sivas and Diarbekir in Asia Minor, until 1903, from which time until his retirement in 1909 he held staff appointments in India. He was an accomplished linguist, and held the interpreter's certificate for French and Turkish. He leaves a widow and two children.

Captain Leicester William le Marchant Carey, 4th Battalion Royal Fusiliers, who was previously wounded and missing, and is now believed to have been killed on October 20, 1914, was the only son of the late Major-General Constantine Phipps Carey, R.E., C.B., and of Mrs. Carey. Born in November, 1877, he entered the Royal Fusiliers in February, 1898, was promoted lieutenant the following November, and captain in July, 1901. From July, 1903, to October, 1910, Captain Carey was employed with the Egyptian Army. In the South African war (1899-1902) he took part in the operations for the relief of Ladysmith, and was afterwards continually employed to the end of the war. He was decorated with the Queen's medal with five clasps and the King's medal with two clasps. In the present war he was mentioned in dispatches in October of last year.

Captain William Loring, 2nd Scottish Horse, who died on a hospital ship on October 24 from wounds received in action in the Gallipoli Peninsula, had spent several years in the British School of Archæology at Athens. He was the fourth son of the late Rev. E. H. Loring, rector of Gillingham, Norfolk. Two of his brothers have fallen in the war, and a third commands one of H.M.'s battleships.

Captain R. W. Sutton, 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers, who has been killed in action, enlisted in 1898, went through the South African War, 1899-1902, was mentioned in despatches, and received the Queen's medal with six clasps and the King's medal. He also served in the Aden Hinterland in 1902-3. Captain Sutton, who received his commission from the ranks on May 21 last, was shot through the head by a German sniper while examining the entanglements in front of his line of trenches on the morning of October 16.

The Lord Mayor's appeal for help for the suffering Armenians has already brought in over £7,000, but more subscriptions are very urgently required. Further instances of the plight and sufferings of the refugees in Southern Russia are received almost daily by the Relief Committee in London. From scores of other districts to which the remnants of the Christian inhabitants of Armenia have escaped come heartrending details of wretchedness and distress. The Lord Mayor's Committee is endeavouring to succour these people, who are among the worst sufferers through the war. Subscriptions will be gratefully received by the secretary, Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, 96, Victoria Street, London.

Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., as Chairman of the British Armenia Committee, has received from the Foreign Office the following memorandum containing the substance of a telegram from the British Consul at Tabriz: "His Majesty's Consul at Tabriz, Mr. Shipley, telegraphing on the 22nd inst., reported that 25,000 Syrian mountaineers from Tyari and adjacent districts were now refugees in Salmas, and that 10,000 more were expected. Mr. Shipley adds that these refugees are destitute, and that unless help is received numbers of them must inevitably perish, especially as the winter is close at hand. The American Relief Committee, under the presidency of the United States Consul, is endeavouring to do all that is possible, but its resources are entirely inadequate to meet the requirements of the situation, and the circumstances justify an urgent appeal to charity in this country. His Majesty's Consul suggests that all the funds should be sent to him for distribution through the United States Committee, which, in his opinion, constitutes the best agency for effective relief."

Dr. Moon's second lecture on typhus was delivered last Friday in the hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, Wimpole Street. The address was chiefly of a historial nature, giving accounts of epidemics from the days of ancient Athens onwards. Speaking of the service we might render our Allies in the Balkans, the lecturer said this would chiefly be by showing them how to avoid the mistakes that we had made in the past, and teaching them how much the disease might be got rid of by simple methods, before Serbia had accumulated the capital that would make it possible for her to build great laboratories for research work. Typhus was essentially a war disease. He thought the bites of blood-sucking insects, such as lice, were not the only means by which it might be communicated.

The third lecture concluding the series was given last Wednesday. Dr. Moon said that the three main causes of the disease were dirt, overcrowding, and destitution. The population of the Turkish quarter of Skoplje seemed to him to suffer less from the epidemic than the inhabitants of other parts of the town, which fact he attributed to the frequent ablutions enjoined by Mohammedan law. The authorities set up a system of compulsory notification of the disease, together with isolation of cases, disinfection of houses and clothing, examination of railway travellers, etc.; and the various British and foreign medical missions, working devotedly in co-operation with the authorities had such success that before June the epidemic was over and he did not think it would recur.

Two half-figure busts by M. Ivan Mestrovic have been added to the International Society of Sculptors, Painters, and Gravers Exhibition at the Grosvenor Gallery. They are portraits of "Madame Errazuriz" and "Miss St. George."

A Press representative was informed last week that at the head offices of the Serbian Relief Committee no news concerning between two and three hundred Englishwomen who are attached to various hospital units in Serbia had been received in this country since the 26th ult., but information had arrived that a temporary orphanage at Belgrade, inaugurated by British funds, had suffered demolition as a result of the late bombardment.

Addressing a S.P.G. meeting at Stepney last Friday evening, Bishop Bury said he asked recently for a clergyman to volunteer to go to Serbia. He intimated clearly that typhus was then raging, that cholera was expected, and that the candidate would have to pay his own expenses. He received eighty answers to that appeal. Nothing was held out to the volunteer but the plain mark of the Cross.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of October 14 reports that news has been received in Alexandria of the death of Judge von Bulow, who until January last was a Judge of the Mixed Court of First Instance at Alexandria. The Judge left Egypt on leave before the war broke out and his connection with the Mixed Courts terminated last January, together with the mandates of all the other enemy subjects who were judges in those Courts.

Judge von Bulow was a kinsman of the late Chancellor of the German Empire, and went to Egypt in 1898 on his appointment to a judgeship in the Cairo Mixed Courts. In 1904, he was appointed to Alexandria. Last April he was nominated by the German Government to a judicial post in the Belgian capital, but had to resign a few months afterwards owing to illness. He went to Switzerland for a change of air, but did not improve and returned to Germany. He died in a sanatorium at Berlin last month. He had been suffering from a tumour in the face, and succumbed after an operation. The late Judge was fifty-two years of age. He was a highly-cultured man. His father was formerly Envoy to the Vatican.

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Lecturing at Essex Hall Strand, last week, Mr. A. H. Pollen, said that if ever the diary of the E 11, Commander Nasmith, V.C., in the Sea of Marmora came to be published, the most marvellous sea story that had ever been written would be told.

The following ratings who formed the crew of his Majesty's submarine "E 7" at the time of her loss, are officially reported to be prisoners of war in Turkey :—

Blanchard, Herbert, sto. 1st class; Coates, Asher, Proby E.R.A., R.N.R.; Dalnoky Louis Anthony James, P.O.; Dempsey, William George, leading smn.; Doyle, Alexander, acting ldg. sto.; Godfrey, John Herbert, sig.; Gwynne, Ernest Alfred, A.B.; Harrison, John Henry, E.R.A., 2nd cl.; Hooper, Reginald, ldg. smn.; Hubbard, Frederick James, acting ldg. sto.; Johnson, William Edward James, stoker, 1st cl.; McDonald, William Gordon, E.R.A., 3rd cl.; Macklin, Herbert, E.R.A., R.N.R.; Matthews, William Henry, A.B.; Osborne, Ernest, stoker 1st cl.; Parkhurst, Thomas Milner James, leading teleg.; Pope, Harry Henry, stoker, 1st cl.; Reid, William, A.B.; Ross, Percy Charles, A.B.; Sims, Robert Walter, P.O.; Smith, Jack Richard, A.B.; Taylor, Edward Charles, ch. stoker; Tomkinson, Thomas Henry, stoker, 1st cl.; Websdale, Edward Samuel, P.O.; Wilson, Archibald, leading sto.

For the benefit of officers, medical men, and nurses who are about to proceed to the Near East, the authorities of King's College are organising elementary classes in the modern Greek, Russian, and Serbian languages, to which Turkish will be added if there is a sufficient demand.

APPOINTMENTS. PROMOTIONS, Etc.

A Cyprus correspondent informs us that Mr. Bowring, treasurer, was expected to return to the island at the end of the month.

Major James J. B. Tapley, D.S.O., Army Veterinary Corps, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army with the rank of Bimbashi, and posted to the Sudan Government.

Under date of October 15, our Bucharest Correspondent reports :—

M. Al. Jacovake, First Secretary at the Roumanian Legation at Berlin, has arrived at Bucharest on leave.

M. Al. Pisoski, Roumanian Diplomatic Agent at Cairo, has arrived at Bucharest.

M. A. Guranesso, lately recalled to fill a position at the Central Administration of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, has again taken up his position of First Secretary at Sofia, M. Trandifiresco, who replaced him, has returned to Bucharest.

M. C. Langa Rashcano, Councillor at the Constantinople Roumanian Legation and former Director of the Cabinet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been decorated with the Order of St. Sava of Serbia.

Under date of October 30, Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam telegraphs: According to a Berlin telegram, the Sublime Porte has been requested to agree to the appointment of Count Wolff Metternich, formerly Ambassador at the Court of St. James, as Ambassador Extraordinary.

The Berne correspondent of the *Morning Post* understands that Bulgaria has appointed a Minister Plenipotentiary to Berne, who will probably be M. Stancioff, formerly Minister to Italy.

Mr. W. Lawrence Balls has been appointed to a position on the staff of the Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association of Manchester, to conduct scientific investigations.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 2s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTHS.

GOSCHEN.—On October 17, at Cairo, the wife of E. H. Goschen, of a son.

KENNY.—On October 31, at 15, Lower Berkeley Street, W., the wife of Capt. W. D. Kenny, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (attd. Egyptian Army), of a daughter.

HONOURS FOR MESOPOTAMIAN SERVICE.

The following honours and awards bestowed upon officers of our forces for distinguished service in Mesopotamia, are announced in the *Gazette* :—

To be Additional Members of the Military Division of the Second Class, or Knights Commanders, of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath :—

Major-General Charles John Melliss, V.C., C.B., Indian Army.

Major-General George Frederick Gorringe, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Indian Army.

To be Additional Members of the Military Division of the Third Class, or Companions, of the said Most Honourable Order :—

Colonel (temporary Brigadier-General) Richard Narrien Gamble, D.S.O.

Colonel Patrick Hehir, M.D., F.R.C.S., Indian Medical Service.

Colonel Usher Williamson Evans, Royal Engineers.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Hennessy, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps.

To be additional members of the Second Class, or Knights Commanders of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India :—

Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Arnold Barrett, K.C.B., K.C.V.O.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Percy Zachariah Cox, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

TO BE MAJOR-GENERAL.

Colonel (temporary Brigadier-General) W. S. Delamain, C.B., D.S.O., Indian Army.

TO BE BREVET COLONELS.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. S. R. Annesley, Supply and Transport Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. Chitty, 119th Infantry (the Mooltan Regiment).

Lieutenant-Colonel E. S. Cleeve, Royal Field Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. L. Clery, 104th Wellesley's Rifles.

Lieutenant-Colonel S. H. Climo, D.S.O., 24th Punjabis.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. L. D. Fordyce, Supply and Transport Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. N. Harward, 48th Pioneers.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. Molesworth, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. Peebles, D.S.O., 2nd Battalion the Norfolk Regiment.

TO BE BREVET LIEUTENANT-COLONELS.

Major H. A. Holdich, 2nd Battalion 5th Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force).

Major C. C. R. Murphy, 30th Punjabis.

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) G. A. F. Sanders, Royal Engineers.

TO BE BREVET MAJORS.

Captain F. Booth, the King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment), attached 34th (Divisional Signal) Company, Sappers and Miners.

Captain E. G. J. Byrne, 104th Wellesley's Rifles.

Captain R. E. Wright, M.B., Indian Medical Service.

TO BE COMPANIONS OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER.

Commander Anthony Hamilton, Royal Indian Marine.

Major Henry Arthur Bransbury, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Leslie Herbert Queripel, Royal Field Artillery.

Lieutenant Richard Hassell Sheepshanks, 12th Cavalry.

AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS.

Captain Edward Bruce Allnutt, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Captain William Burgess Benton, 105th Mahratta Light Infantry.

Captain Murray George Gunning Campbell, Royal Engineers.

Captain Kenneth Edward Cooper, 110th Mahratta Light Infantry.

Captain William Morgan Hunt, Royal Garsion Artillery, attached 23rd Peshawar Mountain Battery (Frontier Force).

Captain Aubrey Francis Vincent Jarrett, Royal Garrison Artillery, attached 23rd Peshawar Mountain Battery (Frontier Force).

Captain Charles Aubrey Pogson, 117th Mahrattas.

Captain Henry Cave West, Royal Horse Artillery.

Captain Arthur Wilfred White, 117th Mahrattas.

Captain Alister Ralph Thomson, 7th Duke of Connaught's Own Rajputs.

Lieutenant Humphrey John Baillie, 2nd Battalion the Dorsetshire Regiment.

Lieutenant Richard Henry Dewing, Royal Engineers.

Lieutenant Malcolm Eccles, 119th Infantry (the Mooltan Regiment).

Lieutenant (temporary Captain) Harcourt Sutcliffe Farebrother, 2nd Battalion the Norfolk Regiment.

Lieutenant Alec Bryan Matthews, Royal Engineers.

Lieutenant Eric Lechmere Stephenson, 2nd Battalion the Dorsetshire Regiment.

Lieutenant Narayan Krishna Bal, Indian Medical Service.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1915.

BRITAIN'S PLEDGE TO SERBIA.

It is the whole position in the Near East which has brought criticism on the conduct of the war to a head, and compelled Mr. Asquith to render an account of his stewardship in the House of Commons last Tuesday. Elsewhere in this issue we try to follow the Premier over much of the ground covered by his statement; here we may confine ourselves to the question of Great Britain's pledge to Serbia, to which prominence was subsequently given by the speeches of Sir Edward Carson and the Foreign Secretary. Mr. Asquith made no reference to the undertaking given by Sir Edward Grey on September 28; but he dealt with the reproach brought against the Allies of being too late in providing active help for Serbia, and so far admitted the justice of the charge by emphasising King Constantine's responsibility for having upset the plans of the Entente Powers. He asked those who criticised the alleged inertia of the Allied Powers to take into account the action of the Greek Government, but refused to comment upon it on the ground that it was better not to do so. Whether it will redound to the credit of Great Britain and her Allies that it should be known that Greece's failure to throw a hundred thousand or more men into the field was sufficient to dislocate their plans and to leave them powerless to bring aid to Serbia is a question which the House of Commons was not asked to consider. If that aspect of the subject had been brought to its notice, it might have reflected that when Germany's calculations were upset by Belgium's refusal to act up to the expectations of the German Government, the new situation was met by the General Staff in an effective manner and without any public whimperings. It is true that our enemies had made careful preparations for most emergencies, but any stigma attaching to them for such action is concerned solely with the fact that the preparations were made in time of peace, while the German Government was protesting its friendliness. The Entente Powers had more than twelve months after war broke out in which to prepare for a situation which, as Sir Edward Grey has admitted, was to be foreseen. Their only effort to cope with it was to try to persuade the Greek Government to do the work for them. They had good reason to hope that Greece would do it, but they made no provision to meet what must inevitably prove a very critical position, if Greece, who had already once proved altogether unreliable, should fail them again. By such means war is not waged successfully; or if the "final lap," on which all hopes have now to be pinned, proves successful in spite of such means, then the cost has been ruinously enhanced.

Although Mr. Asquith made no reference to Sir Edward Grey's pledge to Serbia, the late Attorney-General made it clear that his resignation from the Cabinet was based almost exclusively on that pledge and the failure of the British Government to redeem it. Sir Edward Grey had spoken in the House of Commons on September 28. It was, Sir Edward Carson maintained, "one of the most important declarations that could be made" in that House. He added: "I believed it, when I was a party to it, to be the policy of his Majesty's Government, but I believed more: I believed that our military advisers never would have allowed us to make that declaration, unless we had actual preparations and plans which were ready when the moment came to enable us to strike and to assist our gallant little Ally on the field of battle." How far this was from being the case has been proved by subsequent events. But in a letter which he wrote to the Prime Minister on October 12, and which he read to the House of Commons, Sir Edward Carson showed that the failure to redeem the pledge to Serbia was not solely due to lack of military preparations. After Sir Edward Grey had announced that, in the event of Bulgaria assuming an aggressive attitude on the side of our enemies, we were prepared "to give to our friends in the Balkans all the support in our power in the manner that would be most welcome to them in concert with our Allies, without reserve and without qualification," the War Committee of the British Cabinet appears to have evolved certain plans which had little or no reference to the situation in Serbia. "I could understand," wrote Sir Edward Carson, "a policy of limiting all our actions to the western theatre . . . and in that way to relieve the situation in the east. But to send an army to Egypt to await action which may or which may not be possible on the report of a General to be sent to Gallipoli seems the most futile and hesitating decision that could be come to, and one calculated merely to lead to a further dissipation of our forces." Such, apparently, was the intention of the Cabinet at the time when Sir E. Carson resigned. Since then, fortunately, other counsels have prevailed; General Joffre has been over to England to lay his own views before the Government, and Mr. Asquith has now given a fresh pledge to Serbia.

Serbia is no longer to be abandoned. She has been left "to bear the brunt of a frontal invasion by Germany and Austria and a side attack from the King of Bulgaria," but Mr. Asquith declared, in the name of Great Britain and her Allies, "we cannot allow Serbia to become the prey of this sinister and nefarious combination." As a result of complete agreement between the Entente Governments, whose co-operation is to be "close, cordial, and in full concert," Serbia "may be assured . . . that her independence is regarded by us as one of the essential objects of the Allied Powers." Mr. Asquith very naturally could not say by what method or in what form this common policy of the Allies would be pursued, but it will be hoped in this country that, now that we are going to help Serbia, we shall strike quickly and intelligently. Sir E. Carson's statement that valuable time has already been lost would seem to be too obvious to be challenged. But so different are the views held by the British Government regarding the proper conduct of the war from those of the general public that Sir Edward Grey was able to maintain that there has been "no delay in preparation" for helping Serbia. "The forces that were immediately at our disposal for landing at Salonika were landed and are engaged in the operations in the Balkans now. Preparations went on without delay to send further forces to the east, and it is not the case that we delayed or hesitated or that any consultations that took place could have had the result of delaying any practical steps which could have been taken to give help to Serbia." If this is Sir Edward Grey's honest belief, it is obvious that the British and Serbian Governments hold different views regarding what constitutes delay in military operations. Nor will the Serbians be better pleased with the British Foreign Secretary's explanation of his pledge of September 28. He contended that the promise only had reference to the sending of "a certain definite number of men to Salonika for the express purpose of enabling Greece to fulfil her treaty obligations to Serbia," while the expression "without reserve and without qualification" implied that, "when once Bulgaria had joined the Central Powers, there could be no more talk of concessions." In the light of this "explanation," which occurred to no one who heard or read Sir Edward Grey's pledge, we can only hope that behind Mr. Asquith's fresh pledge there does not lurk any similar explanation rendering it absolutely valueless.

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THE DESTROYERS OF TURKEY.

A LETTER FROM PRINCE SABAHEDDINE TO LORD KITCHENER.

We have received for publication a copy of a letter addressed by Prince Sabaheddine to Lord Kitchener. It will be remembered that the Prince not long ago addressed to the Sultan of Turkey a telegram protesting against the course that the present rulers of the Ottoman Empire were—and still are—pursuing. To this he alludes in his present letter, of which the following is a translation:—

My Lord,—In a speech which you recently delivered in the House of Lords there occurs, as reported by the telegraphic agencies, this characteristic sentence: "It is only just to admit that the methods of the Turks are infinitely superior to those which have dishonoured their masters, the Germans."

Deeply touched by these generous and fair words, my friends of the Ottoman Liberal Opposition party and I tender you our sincere thanks. We also hope that the goodwill which is beginning to show itself amongst the noble minds of England regarding the Turkish people, so tyrannically treated but so loyal at heart, will increase as time goes on. For while, ostensibly, it is reluctantly fighting against you, it is at the same time carrying on an internal struggle in favour of that cause for the triumph of which you and your Allies are so heroically shedding your blood.

It was particularly to the development of this spirit, which showed itself at the beginning of the war in the opinion of educated Turkey, that I desired to draw the attention of the Sultan and his Government by means of my latest telegram. Therein I said: "The Turkish and Ottoman national conscience has ranged itself definitely on the side of the Allies, to such an extent that we should prefer, if the worst came to the worst, to see ourselves beaten by the side of those whose cause is so just, rather than triumph on the side of Germany, whose cause is so manifestly unjust. Honour compels us to oppose all brute force that scorns legitimate rights. Thus, neither arrests, nor persecutions, nor executions will suppress the Ottoman patriots who are striving, in the general interests of Europe also, to safeguard their independence and their national dignity."

We, the Ottoman Reformers, who have for many years worked systematically to prove to our fellow-countrymen the social and moral superiority of the Anglo-Saxon world, and the necessity of allying ourselves to it—we have joyfully discerned this spirit of justice in your noble words, which do such credit to your country. We have also observed further evidence of this generous spirit towards us in the writings of some of your talented and large-minded publicists, who have upheld the proposal—which is so eminently a just one—to leave Constantinople in the possession of a repentant Turkey. This proposal is also only in accordance with that principle of nationalities which the Allies themselves defend.

Allow me, my Lord, to repeat here what I have said elsewhere: that, modest as our efforts have been, had they been better appreciated and seconded by the diplomacy of the Entente at Constantinople, and that had the representatives of the Entente, three years ago (on the occasion of the attempt against the Sublime Porte by the Unionists), refused to recognize a Government founded on a crime, the present usurpers of power would never have been able to hold their position. This would have resulted in the access to power of a sincerely Liberal and reforming Government in Turkey, and, consequently, in a close understanding between the Sublime Porte and England and her friends, as well as with the Balkan States, whose true interests demand the preservation of the Ottoman Empire.

In those circumstances, Austria, to the great gain of her subjects, certainly would not have dreamed of sending an ultimatum to Serbia, who would then have been supported by all the armies of her neighbours; and Germany, held between the united forces of the East and West, would have been reduced to utter impotence even before she had been able to draw the sword. And if, in spite of everything, war had broken out, we should at least have had the satisfaction of shedding our blood beside you in the defence of a just and noble cause. Unhappily, at the time when the leaders of the "Union and Progress" party were so strongly supported by official Germany and—which seems incredible!—even upheld by the representatives of the Entente, we Liberal Reformers were almost ignored by the diplomacy of the Allies, although we desired to assure the friendship with them which formed part of our national programme, at the risk of liberty and even of life.

But if the present war could not be avoided, its repetition, under other conditions and at a date more or less distant, ought to be prevented. That object can only be achieved by securing a stable equilibrium in the East. And the maintenance of an Ottoman Empire, *reformed and reorganized*, is the only possible condition of such equilibrium.

The partition of Turkey, on the other hand, by letting loose ambitions which it would be impossible to satisfy, would create a most precarious situation. International rivalry and the increasing anarchy that would result from it would end by bringing about a fresh catastrophe, like that which followed the first Balkan War, to which the present war is a natural sequel.

At the outbreak of the present war, England, the great and historic friend of Turkey, declared that she was not making war on the Turks, but on their Government—words that earned the gratitude of all thinking Turks.

Unfortunately, Ottoman patriots, who now risk the worst tortures in order to save their country from the "Unionist" and Germanic claws, see with indescribable sorrow that Ottoman territory forms the basis of every attempt at a bargain between the Allies and between them and neutrals.

I declare, my Lord, that, as a convinced supporter of the cause of the Allies, I have been more than once questioned on this subject by my countrymen, and, unhappily, without being able to give them any satisfactory reply. This naturally paralyses the efforts of those in Turkey who are devoted to the cause of justice; and it is the "Party of Union and Progress" and Germany that benefit by this state of things, to our disadvantage, and, perhaps, to that of our friends of the past and of the future.

Russia herself is the first victim of this state of affairs.

If it had been possible to plan and steadily carry out a course of action between the British Government and the true representatives of Liberal Turkey, we should certainly have had by now a radical change of authority at Constantinople, a change which would have had as one immediate result a definite orientation of all the Balkan forces in favour of the Allied Powers. Let us hope, in the higher interests of humanity, which demand the final triumph of the Allies, as well as in the interests of honest and Liberal Turkey, that such an understanding may yet be established.

Thanking you again most heartily, my Lord, for your words regarding my countrymen,—I am, etc.,

SABAHEDDINE.

Athens, September 28, 1915

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HEROIC SERBIA.

SIR IAN HAMILTON'S FAREWELL.

Reuter's correspondent with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force reports that the following farewell order by Sir Ian Hamilton was issued to the troops on October 17:—

On handing over the command of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force to Sir Charles Monro, the Commander-in-Chief wishes to say a few farewell words to the Allied troops, with many of whom he has now for so long been associated.

Firstly, he would like them to know his deep sense of the honour it has been to command so fine an army in one of the most arduous and difficult campaigns which have ever been undertaken, and, secondly, he must express to them his admiration at the noble response they have invariably given to the calls he has made upon them. No risk has been too desperate, no sacrifice too great.

Sir Ian Hamilton thanks all ranks, from generals to private soldiers, for the wonderful way they seconded his efforts to lead them towards a decisive victory, which, under their new Chief, he has the most implicit confidence they will achieve.

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HICKS PASHA: AN ANNIVERSARY

(From a Correspondent.)

Two-and-thirty years have passed away since the slaughter of General Hicks and the whole of his expedition sent a thrill of horror through the civilised world; yet no one has thought of perpetuating the memory of this brave soldier by even the most humble kind of monument. It may be, as Sir Thomas Browne has told us, that "to extend our memories by monuments, whose death we daily pray for, and whose duration we cannot hope, without injury to our expectations in the advent of the last day, were a contradiction to our belief"; nevertheless there is a deep-seated feeling of satisfaction created by the spectacle of a suitable memorial destined to keep in green remembrance those who have fought nobly in the battle of life and who deserved something in the form of permanent recognition at the hands of those who survive them. Such an one was Hicks, one of the most cruelly defamed and most undeservedly condemned men of his time. He may have had but little to do with the actual winning of the Sudan; but at least, he acted like a brave soldier and did his duty, as he conceived it, in the face of much difficulty and obstruction. And in these days when both men and women are being commemorated for acts of self-sacrifice, assuredly a plea may be urged calling for the perpetuation of the memory of the intrepid fight waged against fearful odds in the waterless forests of Kordofan, three decades and more ago.

The disastrous end of the Hicks Expedition was the final act in the drama enacted in the hideous days of Mahdi misrule in the Sudan. In response to urgent appeals to Cairo for reinforcements, General Hicks, with several European staff officers and a force of untrained Egyptian conscripts, had been despatched to Khartoum, After a reconnaissance in force up the White Nile, during which the Dervish Emir Makashif was defeated and killed at Marabia, on April 29, Hicks commenced preparations for his advance into Kordofan, and after numerous delays the ill-fated expedition of over 8,000 men started from Dueim on September 24, and advancing viâ Shat and the Khor Abu Habl reached Rahad, where news arrived that the Mahdi and his army were based at Birka. Following yet another delay of several more days, Hicks ordered a further advance into the forest of Shekan, some thirty miles to the south of El Obeid. At Aloba, on November 5, the force was surrounded and attacked by some 40,000 Dervishes under the Emirs Wad el Nejumi and Abu Girga. Lacking all discipline and consisting mostly of the scum of the earth, the Egyptian troops lost all idea of obedience to their officers; and being further hampered by the presence of thousands of camp followers and baggage-camels, they offered practically no resistance. The result was that they were massacred almost to a man. Out of the total number mentioned it is said that not 300 got away alive.

History is not altogether silent as to the strenuous and courageous attempts of Hicks and his European officers to save the situation—with such material as they had at hand this was impossible—but no endeavour has ever been made to do even belated justice to the memory of these plucky Englishmen. On the other hand, there have not been wanting, as is usually the case, plenty of critics to disparage and decry them.

Lord Dufferin, upon whose matured judgment Mr. Gladstone and his Cabinet had so greatly relied for advice in 1880-1885, thought very little about the Sudan, and the death of General Hicks and his brave companions seems to have made but little impression upon that great diplomat, even if it horrified and shocked the warmer-hearted British public. Lord Dufferin, writing of the Hicks Expedition, which had started from Cairo for Khartoum on February 1, declared that "it was undertaken upon his own responsibility," and that neither he (Lord Dufferin) nor the British Agent (Sir Edward Malet) "was concerned in it." Nevertheless, Hicks had been appointed, after a distinguished career in India, to be head of the army in the Sudan, and his expedition was far from being the filibustering or adventurous undertaking Lord Dufferin attempted to represent it. This, however, was the wretched spirit in which Sudanese and other Imperial matters were regarded in political England in those days! Small wonder that, such pusillanimous counsel and such inepitude becoming known to the Mahdi—and little seems to have been concealed from that astute brain, thanks to his efficient intelligence department—he should have felt greatly encouraged, and should have become extremely daring in furthering his crusade against the British.

There are still living several distinguished men who can bear testimony to the worth and the gallantry of General Hicks. This may not be perhaps the most expedient moment to seek for co-operation in furtherance of a suggestion put forward for a memorial to Hicks's memory. Yet upon this, the thirty-third anniversary of his death, it may not be deemed altogether incongruous to urge his claims upon our consideration—even if sadly belated.

"And the tear that we shed, though in secret it rolls,
"Shall long keep his memory green in our souls."

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

British Commander at Salonika. Oct. 29.

Mr. Greenwood asked who was the officer in command of the British forces at Salonika, and had he a free hand?

Mr. Tennant replied that the officer was Lieutenant-General Sir Bryan Mahon, and his orders were to co-operate with our Allies, the French.

Post to Dardanelles. Nov. 3.

Mr. H. Samuel, replying to Mr. Yeo, said that special inquiries had been made as to non-delivery of letters and parcels to the troops in the Gallipoli Peninsula. The service had necessarily been slow, and had been largely dependent on the ordinary transport service, which was carried on under conditions of considerable difficulty. Steps were now being taken which he hoped would result in acceleration of the transmission of letters and parcels by about a week. It was believed that only one mail bag had been lost while under the care of the Post Office since the service began. The chief cause of the failure to deliver was inadequate packing. Thefts of parcels were infrequent. Every endeavour was made to trace wounded soldiers and deliver parcels addressed to them.

The Dalmatian Coast.

Mr. Denman asked whether the Foreign Secretary was aware that publicity had been given to the general conditions of an alleged agreement made between the Allies and Italy relative to the disposal of the Dalmatian coast after the war; and whether, in case any such agreement was in existence, there were any reasons which prevented the publication of the original document, so that the engagements of this country in the Near East might be clearly defined.

Sir E. Grey: I can only say that I am in no way responsible for any unauthorised statements that have appeared in the Press, and am not in a position to make any statement on the matter.

Prisoners of War in Turkey.

Answering Mr. Pringle, Lord Robert Cecil said that five official lists of British naval and military prisoners of war in Turkey had now been received. The latest of these lists had only recently reached the Foreign Office. It was being translated from the original Turkish, and would be forwarded to the War Office as soon as the translation was completed. It comprised the names of eight officers and 116 men—all military. The names of the eight officers had already been communicated to the War Office.

Parcels for Prisoners.

Lord Robert Cecil told Mr. Mount that parcels for prisoners in Turkey could be forwarded through the Swiss Post Office. They should be addressed to the Central Post Office, Constantinople. Regulations had been issued as to how such parcels should be packed and despatched.

PARCEL POST TO SERBIA SUSPENDED

It is officially announced by the Postmaster-General that the parcel post to Serbia is suspended.

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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

THE ENEMY ADVANCE CONTINUES.

The past week has been as replete as its predecessors with rumours and reports, but one or two facts stand forth conspicuously. Some of them are political rather than military in nature, such as the debate in the House of Commons on Tuesday, which drew from Mr. Asquith the vital admission that General Joffre's visit to this country during the week-end had resulted in convincing our Cabinet that something must be done to help Serbia in her hour of need, and that quickly. Measures are, therefore, being taken in the eleventh hour, but what they are has not been made public yet.

Northern Serbia.

The record of the military operations in the Balkans during the past week is far from reassuring. The salient feature is the fall of Kragujevaz, Serbia's great arsenal, which appears to have fallen on November 1 into the hands of Austro-German forces. Fighting here was desperate, and for four days the Serbs tenaciously held out against a superior enemy and inflicted severe punishment on him—20,000 casualties are spoken of—before retiring into the fastnesses to the south. By the fall of this strong place the whole northern section of Old Serbia, from the Save-Danube front to a distance of roughly sixty miles farther south, will have to be surrendered to the enemy. To all intents and purposes the latter, having taken the hills to the south of Grn Milanovaz (to the west of Kragujevaz), are in command of the Western Morava valley, or of a first, natural, defensive line reaching from Vishegrad, through Ushize (reported captured yesterday), eastwards to the Bulgarian frontier near Zaichar. Doubtless the enemy will fortify this line, thereby assuring their communications with Bulgaria against flank attacks. The position is a strong one, but it does not mark the limit of Teuton and Bulgar aggression, which is bent on pushing the brave Serbian army farther south with a view to utterly annihilate it.

The Nish Sector.

We pointed out last week that if, as was more than probable, the German and Bulgar forces had linked up across north-eastern Serbia, the Timok sector ceased to be of military significance. Unfortunately, this has happened; the Austro-German frontier is now contiguous with that of Bulgaria, and there is free intercourse between the two. However, except for the Danube as a most invaluable waterway from Orsova to Vidin, the nature of the terrain is against easy communication between the two parties in this sector. Hence the necessity for the enemy to seize and hold the railway line, which, leaving the Morava valley at Nish, climbs sharply eastwards to the Bulgarian frontier. Nish, therefore, is the immediate objective. It is being approached on three sides, if not on four; from the north, up the Morava valley; from the north-east, along the Timok valley and the Nish-Zaichar railway line; from the east along the Nishava River and the Nish-Sofia line; and, finally, from the south and south-east along the Vlasina. How long Nish will be able to hold out is beyond human knowledge; the enemy is within forty miles of the city on the north and twenty miles on the east; Pirot and Bela Palankra on the east, and Kniashevatz to the north-east, have already fallen into the hands of the Bulgars, and it is even reported (on Wednesday) that the heights overlooking Nish to the east have been taken by the enemy. Opposed to them are the fortifications of Nish which turn in this direction, few being turned towards the north. But the numerical strength of the enemy, and especally his artillery, is so vastly superior to that of the Serbs that unless a miracle occurs Nish must fall. The Government offices, the diplomatic body, and, with but few exceptions, the Government itself, have been removed, the Entente Ministers having gone to Kralievo, and the Government to Maturago. King Peter, it is said, is most unfortunately invalided at Topola, the historic town where his ancestor first raised the standard of revolt against the Turks.

Central Serbia.

In considering the defence of Nish it must be remembered that Voivode Putnik dare not risk having his army encircled by the enemy at this point, and that he must, therefore, withdraw it before it is too late. In other words, rather than defend the city to the last and find his retreat cut off, he will evacuate it and let the enemy occupy it. To hold on to the Nish-Constantinople line twenty-four hours more or less is of no moment, now that the inevitable must happen in view of the fact that no timely help is forthcoming. Far more important is the safety of the army. Is this assured? As very little is known concerning the exact positions held by the Bulgars to the west of Vrania and the north and west of Uskub, and concerning the progress made from Uskub in the direction of Vishegrad, it is difficult to define the Serbian line of retreat. A Serbian official communiqué on October 31 stated that "after violent attacks with large forces, the enemy succeeded in capturing the Kocanik Pass," which lies between Uskub and Kossovo. A Bulgarian communiqué on the same day claims that "on the plain of Kossovo our troops have reached the district north of Matjanik, and the upper Morava, east of Gilmi." Moreover, from the east of the Morava the Bulgars are reported to have advanced on Lescovaz, half-way between Nish and Vrania, with the result that a retreat along the Nish-Uskub line seems practically impossible, and that the encircling movement of the enemy is developing. As far as can be gathered, therefore, the only route open for the retreat of Voivode Putnik's army is in a south-westerly direction from Nish to Pristina. But the Bulgars are approaching the latter from the south, and verily it looks as though the plain of Kossovo was again to become famous in the annals of Balkan warfare. As for the Serbian retreat to Monastir, it appears only to be feasible after the Serbian army (or its Allies) has broken through the Vardar wedge which the Bulgars have succeeded in driving into the heart of Macedonia.

Southern Serbia.

The past week has seen little alteration in the lines held by the Allied forces and the enemy in southern Serbia, a circumstance which seems to indicate that the positions on both sides are being consolidated pending the general action along the entire front. The reported capture by us of Strumitza (in Bulgaria) had reference evidently only to Strumitza Station on the Uskub-Salonika line between Ghevgeli and Veles. Regarding the latter, the enemy appear still to be in possession of that part of the town lying to the east of the Vardar, and it is, therefore, highly improbable that the Uskub-Ishtip-Egri Palanka triangle held by the Bulgars is being threatened. Operations by the French seem to have been limited, pending the arrival of further support, to the Doiran sector, where, according to a Serbian report, the French have occupied the heights of Valandovo, Rabrava, and Tatarlisof, all of which dominate Strumitza, "which is not expected to resist much longer." To the south of Veles and west of the Vardar the Bulgars are attempting to reach Prilip and Monastir, but they are being heroically opposed by the southern Serbian army occupying a strong position at Isvar and flanked on their left by British cavalry, which is thus helping the stubborn resistance offered to the Bulgarian attempt to reach Monastir. No news has been received concerning the position in the Treska valley, which runs south from Uskub in the direction of Prilip and is of considerable strategic importance, but advices from Corfu state that Bulgarian troops have approached Kalkandelen, a few miles from the Albanian frontier, and are reported to have been stopped by Serbian troops. From the foregoing it will be seen that no decisive results have been obtained in this section during the past week. The military operations now developing are in preparation for a big action shortly to be fought, and in which the British and French troops will fill a predominating role. General Sir Bryan Mahon, in command of the British forces, has arrived in the Balkans.

Sea Operations.

A Paris communique issued on Wednesday states that "the Bulgarian Ægean coast has been blockaded since October 16, and that Dedeagatch was bombarded on October 21." There is no official confirmation of the landing of Anglo-French troops at Kavalla (reported on Tuesday), and though the same applies to the bombardment of Varna, on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, by Russian warships, there is no reason to believe that the bombardment did not take place.

THE SUDAN TIMES.

We congratulate our contemporary, the *Sudan Times*, on the celebration of its twelfth birthday, which occurred last month. The paper has from its inception been characterised by a firm and unwavering belief in the value of the Sudan from all points of view, and it has certainly served to inspire confidence—confidence that has been fully justified by events—among serious inquirers regarding the Sudan as a field of investment. Apart from this, the paper is keenly appreciated by the ever-increasing British colony in the Sudan, which it serves with brightly written local reports and the latest telegraphic and other news from Europe.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The announcement, made in Germany, that "the army of Field-Marshal von Mackensen, commander-in-chief of the Austro-German forces invading Serbia, is now styled 'The Army of Egypt'" sounds just a little bit like a counting of chickens before they are hatched. F.M. von Mackensen and his Huns are admittedly plagues, but they are not yet one of the plagues of Egypt. And it remains to be seen whether they ever will be.

***

A little while ago, as you may remember, the Germans were very angry indeed with us for employing "unfair" methods of disposing of their beautiful U boats. They complained that we sent out large vessels to demolish these harmless little craft, whose commanders, as all the world knows, have earned for themselves a quite unique reputation for chivalry. They also complained that we sent out very small vessels, which, being swift, and handled by men who liked not chivalry of the kind displayed by the commanders of the U boats, made themselves highly unpleasant to the said commanders. In fact, it seemed that unless we employed vessels of a particular (unspecified) size we should have to consider ourselves no gentlemen—according to German Admiralty standards. This, while it may have saddened the Ramsay Macdonalds and others of the Potsdam-for-ever Party, merely caused most of us, I fear, to smile. The German view, we remarked once more, was a thing peculiar to itself, and the German lack of the sense of humour was surely unique.

***

But we were mistaken. It has been left to M. Tontcheff, the eminent Bulgarian financial expert and sturdy henchman of Ferdinand the Traitor, to excel the Prussian pattern of unconscious humour. For he has been telling a correspondent of the *Pester Lloyd* that "the Bulgarian people *now* recognized Russia to be the natural enemy of Bulgaria," and that "at the same historical moment as the Bulgarian soldiers were joining hands with their victorious Austro-Hungarian and German comrades, the Russian Fleet was making a *felonious* attack on the Bulgarian coast." The italics are, of course, mine. Could there possibly be a more perfect example of gorgeous flapdoodle than this? I shall certainly keep my eyes open for any further interviews with M. Tontcheff, who in the matter of guileless simplicity could surely give the Heathen Chinee points and a beating.

***

On second thoughts, perhaps M. Tontcheff is merely mistaken regarding the feelings of his countrymen towards Russia. Possibly he has been so occupied in keeping in the closest possible touch with Berlin financial circles that he has rather lost touch with Bulgarian national feeling. The Bulgarians may have recognized Russia as their "natural enemy" long ago—say in 1878—and have been chafing all the time to "act accordingly," as M. Tontcheff so pleasingly phrases it. This would account for the extraordinary methods in which they have manifested their eagerness to fight against her and her Allies—the wholesale desertions, the mutinies of entire regiments, the placing on the retired list of many officers of high rank, the introduction of Turkish troops for the protection of Bulgarian soil, and so forth. And if this be so, I would ask M. Tontcheff whether it is at all likely that Russia would make any kind of attack—let alone a "felonious" one—on the Bulgarian coast. If she sent troops to Bulgaria it would obviously be only in order that they might help their Bulgar half-brothers in welcoming "their victorious Austro-Hungarian and German comrades." Let M. Tontcheff, therefore, calm himself, and continue to assist his royal master with his financial operations and calculations. Between them they may eventually find out the exact value of thirty pieces of silver—acquired at a price.

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Another pleasing proof of Bulgarian willingness to learn, even from the Turk, is forthcoming in the announcement that all French and British subjects who failed to leave Bulgaria before the declaration of war are to be interned at ports on the Ægean. This, I take it, is in the hope that the French and British subjects referred to may meet their deaths in the course of a bombardment by the Allied Fleet. It is an ingenious idea, copied, of course, from the Turkish one of sending Frenchmen and Britons into the danger zone at Gallipoli. I trust that a hint similar to that which proved so effective in the case of Enver and the other Young Turks will be conveyed to Ferdinand, Radoslavoff and Co. Should this be done, they will probably copy the Turkish example once more.

***

Omdurman, I see, has suffered rather heavily from the effects of flood this year. It is not often that rain visits the town, but when it does one's thoughts turn instinctively to Niagara. This year a storm broke at 10 o'clock at night, after a preliminary bombardment of sand which had lasted some hours. By midnight the streets were entirely flooded and houses were beginning to fall. Omdurman was not built to withstand rain. I do not yet know whether the material damage to property was very great, but the flood was unfortunately attended by one fatality at least. The night was passed in safety by the inhabitants of the town, notwithstanding the danger which hidden sand-pits offered to the many people who were driven from their homes to seek refuge elsewhere. But on the following morning, when the danger seemed past, and when the lake which had been the market square only the night before was bathed in sunlight as people waded this way and that to their destinations, death laid a gaunt hand on a passing native and dragged him struggling to his doom before the eyes of all the people. A well which had long ago been filled up was the cause of the trouble. The filling had presumably given way beneath the weight of the flood and the man combined, and had sunk further into the earth, leaving the core free, a veritable death-trap.

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In writing of this I am reminded of a Cairo newspaper, long since defunct, and of a weird and wonderful tale told on the occasion of a former flood in Khartoum. Sudden and heavy rains had fallen upon the city. So much we in Cairo knew through the medium of the Government; then came the British Daily Newspaper with its details. The rains, it said, had been quite unprecedented in volume. Scores of crocodiles had been washed down stream by the force of the accumulated currents of the Nile, and, bewildered and furious, they had landed at and attacked Khartoum. Natives with *nabouts* had done their best, but an advance had been made at some points, and notably one gigantic crocodile had succeeded in entering the Palace! The account came out under large headings, and was evidently advanced in entire good faith by the staff of the paper responsible for its circulation. So much for the credulity of certain newspaper men and for the imagination of a certain young luminary in a Government office. Whenever I see a "tall" story in the papers now I think of him, and of the misguided fate that made an officer (a capable one, I admit) of a born romancer. It was said of him in Cairo that his life was divided into two parts. The one he spent in the concoction of news for the local Press, the other in agonies of mind fearing that he might have successfully imposed upon his victims and that the humour of the thing would not appeal to the Powers that Be.

CORSAIR.

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN REPRESSION AS A CAUSE OF THE WAR.

Last Monday, at the London School of Economics, Dr. Seton-Watson delivered the second of his series of lectures on Austro-Hungary and the Southern Slavs. He said that the dual constitution was in effect an arrangement between the Germans and the Magyars to divide the empire between them, buying the Poles and Croats with special concessions, so as to make them accomplices in holding down the remaining eight races. The constitution of Hungary guaranteed such rights as the use of their native tongue to the non-Magyar races, who formed about half the population, but in practice such rights were denied. On one occasion, when some Roumanians petitioned the Emperor in their native language, not only was the Magyar Government able to prevent the petition from reaching the sovereign, but the men who were responsible for it were arrested, and received among them twenty-nine years' imprisonment. Later the Hungarian Government formally and by decree dissolved the Roumanian National party in Hungary, declaring it illegal to have a political party on the basis of nationality. This policy of suppression was seen in every department. Since 1868 the number of Slovak elementary schools had been reduced from 1,800 to 400. A mother had been sent to prison for three days because her infant had been decorated with the Roumanian tricolour; in many places an inscription on a tombstone was not allowed in any language but Magyar. It was this kind of oppression that had reacted upon the relations between Austro-Hungary and Serbia, had created the Southern Slav question, and brought a very important quota to the causes of the present war.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

M. VENIZELOS.*

It has been remarked that the great war now raging has unmade many reputations and made but few fresh ones. Applied to the Balkans and South-Eastern Europe generally the remark would seem to be very true. But it certainly would not be true with regard to M. Venizelos. His policy may have failed to commend itself to those of his countrymen who have not yet succeeded in escaping from the cramped views that are the result of centuries of stagnation under Turkish rule; but to the outside world at least the true greatness of the man has only been made more apparent by the events of the past few weeks. We recognize that it is his fairmindedness, his readiness to give something in return for something, instead of expecting something for nothing, that has given the petty-minded men who have schemed to bring about his retirement their opportunity. And we make bold to form our own opinion of him—and of them. In this country he has had admirers ever since he sprang into prominence as a leader of the Cretans in their struggle for freedom; the number of those admirers was greatly increased when he took the helm of the Greek ship of State in the hour of need, and piloted that somewhat erratic craft into safe waters; it went up by leaps and bounds at the time of the Balkan War and the subsequent Conference of London; and, quite naturally, it has increased enormously since the outbreak of this great war, in which he has been one of the few European statesmen who have known their own minds and have not feared to speak them out. Obviously, therefore, the moment was an auspicious one for the appearance of his biography; and this little book is sure of a warm welcome.

It certainly opens in most promising fashion. The first chapter begins:—

> Early in the year 1864, in the village of Mourniès, a charming little town an hour's journey from Canea, in a house surrounded by almond trees in blossom, two Muhammedan hodjas and two Greek priests were praying; for two days and two nights they prayed ceaselessly near a room where the wife of a rich merchant of Canea was then in labour. . . . They all four prayed in different tongues that the child about to be born should have long life.
>
> At dawn on the third day a son was born, Eleftherios Venizelos, the future Minister of Greece.

That Moslem hodjas and Greek priests should unite in praying for the unborn child was surely a happy omen of the success that should attend his efforts to unite all elements of the country whose greatest citizen he is to-day.

Unfortunately, Dr. Kerofilas has been less happily inspired in the rest of his book than in the beginning. He tells us a great deal about M. Venizelos's political activities, his wonderful success, both at home and abroad, in winning friends for the cause to which he has devoted his life, of his courage in times of crisis, and of his eloquence and astuteness. But he does not tell us of these things in an attractive style, or one worthy of his subject. His facts are as a rule reliable; but they are not well arranged, especially in regard to chronological order; nor has he, we think, apportioned his space wisely. We are all comparatively familiar with M. Venizelos's work since he was called from Crete to Greece, and though any account of his career must, of course, cover this ground, it would surely have been better if the author had compressed Part II. and utilised some of the space thus gained in giving us a fuller sketch of the Cretan days, of which we would gladly know more. As it is, even of these Cretan days we get only the political side, so to say—and throughout the book there is the same fault. Of Venizelos the man we are told but little; and what little we are told is unsatisfying and conveys the impression that Dr. Kerofilas himself is but slightly interested in this side of his subject.

The account of the Conference of London is interesting, especially that part of it which describes the duel between M. Venizelos and Dr. Daneff over the question of Salonika. And even more interesting—because less familiar—to English readers are Chapters 8—10, dealing with the peace negotiations at Bucharest. But in reading them it will be well to bear in mind that they are written by a Greek, and, very naturally, give all the facts from the Greek point of view.

The Introduction contributed by M. Také Jonescu is admirable. It contains a fine tribute to M. Venizelos as statesman, patriot, Cretan, and Greek. And when M. Jonescu writes: "Sincerity, the cult of truth, that is the finest trait in Venizelos's character, and at the same time the secret of his strength," we feel that he has judged aright.

The record is brought down to the end of last August, when M. Venizelos and King Constantine were understood to be agreed upon the policy that Greece should follow. On his last page but one the author asks: "What is the point on which the King and his great Prime Minister are at one?" And he adds: "As we write it is impossible to know." In the light of subsequent events, question and answer sound rather pathetic. But M. Venizelos, we hope and believe, has not yet completed his service to Greece. His courage will keep alive his ideals, with which he has to some extent inspired his countrymen. The Greek people have faith in him, too, so that we may yet hope, with Dr. Kerofilas, "that Greece will follow the evolution marked out for her by the force of destiny, which since 1912 has been so gloriously personified by M. Venizelos."

* "Eleftherios Venizelos: His Life and Work." By Dr. C. Kerofilas. With an Introduction by M. Take Jonescu. Translated by Beatrice Barstow. (Murray. 3s. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. George Newnes have just issued, at the price of 1s., "Sir Ian Hamilton's Despatches from the Dardanelles." Field-Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood contributes an introduction.

Mr. John Murray announces "With the Turkish Army in the Crimea and Asia Minor," by Thomas Buzzard, M.D. The book, which is illustrated, deals with incidents of the war that are comparatively little known, such as the battle of Tchernaia and operations connected with the siege of Kars.

Part XI. of the "Oxyrhynchus Papyri," edited by Drs. Grenfell and Hunt, has just been published by the Egypt Exploration Fund. It contains some new literary pieces, with translations and notes. The price is 25s.

Mr. Lawrence Balls' forthcoming book, "Egypt of the Egyptians," which Messrs. Pitman will publish very shortly, contains a portrait (signed) of Sultan Hussein, presented specially for the purpose, as frontispiece.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Harim and the Purdah: Studies of Oriental Women. By Elizabeth Cooper. Illustrated. (Fisher Unwin. 10s. 6d. net.)

The Aspirations of Bulgaria, Translated from the Serbian of "Balkanicus." (Simpkin, Marshall. 2s. 6d. net.)

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Germany and Armenia.

The following paragraph, which is quoted from a German paper, *Die Hilfe*, by the *Challenge*, is, as far as we are aware, the only public expression of German opinion that could be construed into even a semblance of sympathy with Armenia in her present straits. The editor of *Die Hilfe* is a member of the Reichstag:—

. . . . It ought not to be forgotten in Germany that—rightly or unrightly—Germany will be held accountable by the neutrals for everything that happens now in Turkey. Now up to the present moment *no single voice has been raised in Germany to express even compassion for the Armenians*! That is a great mistake, since it is just the mission agents in Switzerland, in Holland, in Sweden and America, who know only too well that the Armenians have never found much sympathy in Germany, neither in 1895, when Abdul Hamid had a large part of the Armenian people slaughtered, nor in 1909 after the massacres of Adana.

The *Basler Nachrichten*, a Swiss paper of pronounced German sympathies, says:—

. . . . It would be not only gracious, but politically wise, if it were made a special concern on the German side to prevent Turkey proceeding against the Armenians more savagely than military necessity requires. A Germany that fills the neutral world day after day with complaints because its opponents employ Gurkhas, blacks from the Senegal, and Moors must take it into account that it will be held chargeable for everything which its Turkish allies perpetrate upon the unhappy Christian peoples of the East if it does not put forth all its power at Constantinople to procure relief.

The expression " more savagely than military necessity requires " is certainly worthy of note.

A "Perfect Scoundrel."

In one of the most interesting articles that have been written on the subject, M. Joseph Reinach sets forth in the *Morning Post* (October 28) an intimate character sketch of the Coburg of Sofia. It is not pleasant reading, but it is an article to be noted by inquirers into the why and wherefore of Bulgarian intervention. A personal friend of King Ferdinand for many years, M. Reinach writes with exceptional authority. In the early days of his acquaintanceship with the King the writer shows the latter to have been animated by profound friendship for France—his mother's native country—and by equally deep hatred for the Young Turk. Our first quotation is of a telegram addressed by Ferdinand to M. Reinach in answer to a telegram which he dispatched to the King lamenting the news that Bulgaria was negotiating for a loan in Berlin:—

Monsieur Joseph Reinach, Paris.—Sofia Palace, February 12, 1915.—I know nothing whatever of the news to which you refer. Whatever it may be, I believe the historian is too shrewd to accept without confirmation statements of such doubtful authenticity. *As to my sentiments, they remain unchanged.*—The *European*.

In his comments on subsequent events the writer says:—

In the month of April the betrayal, one of the most despicable recorded in history, was an accomplished fact. The Minister of Roumania at Sofia intimated as much to his Government, which communicated the information to the Powers of the Triple Entente. At the same time the King of the Hellenes sent a warning on the subject to at least one of the three Allied Governments; in fact, he even sent two warnings. But King Ferdinand continued to protest that he would remain at least neutral and that at heart he remained friendly to Russia, England, and France. Rarely has a ruler displayed such shameless hypocrisy.

M. Reinach thinks that had Russia been victorious in Galicia and in Poland, Ferdinand " would have come to an understanding with the Triple Entente instead of betraying his past and his honour by selling his armies to Germany." Writing of the emissaries bearing mendacious assurances from the King who were subsequently despatched to him, M. Reinach admits that, although his confidence had been rudely shaken, he continued to appeal to the conversational views so often expressed by the Bulgarian Monarch.

But I was deceived in believing, with Shakespeare, that there is no such thing as a perfect scoundrel. It seemed to me in July last that the time had come for armed intervention in the peninsula of the Balkans. I gave expression to that opinion in the proper quarters. I urged that vessels and an expeditionary force should be despatched to Salonika with the consent of the Greek Government. M. Hanotaux was of the same opinion. A few days later, on July 11, some of my friends were of opinion that I might yet do some good if I went and saw the King at Sofia. The time when such a visit would have been of any avail, even supposing it would ever have had any influence on the result, had gone by. However, I had a conversation on the subject with M. Delcassé, who, I am sorry to say, was still hopeful.

M. Reinach deplores the error in our diplomacy which prevented Serbia attacking Bulgaria before the Austro-German armies could reach the Danube.

Hamburg to Baghdad.

We take the following quotation from an article in the *Daily Graphic* by Mr. Waclaw Czerniewski, who quotes the saying of a famous diplomat regarding the Balkan people, " vox populi, vox asini," in support of his argument that although the Greek people are admittedly on our side, we may yet number them among our belligerents. He continues:—

But remember always that it is in the Balkans that the chief object of German endeavour lies. The present situation there is the result of the work of many years of German diplomacy. Germany is aiming at the creation of a world-empire from Hamburg to Baghdad. The Kaiser many years ago started his first diplomatic campaign with the object of winning over the Turks, to whom he could very easily picture a restoration, with German help, of a powerful Turkish empire such as it was in the time of Suleyman the Great. . . . Turkey in possession of Germany would control the communications from Russia to the Mediterranean and from England to India, China, Japan, and Australia. . . . However, to realise the idea of a Germano-Austro-Turkish Empire it is essential—apart from any other difficulties—either to bribe or crush the little Balkan States. . . . Thus it is most important that the Entente Powers should abandon their policy of wait and see, and should take the most energetic steps to apprehend Germany while yet the gateway to Constantinople remains locked.

The Great War.

In his sixty-fourth appreciation under the above heading, " Vielle Moustache " deals with affairs in the Balkan theatre in the *Saturday Review* (October 23). The situation has altered considerably since the article was written, but the paragraph quoted is as much to the point to-day as it ever was:—

We must have no more dribbling into a war arena of improvised armies. We have had time enough to straighten out our incongruous war methods, which find Indian soldiers perishing of cold in Flanders and Territorials of heat in Mesopotamia. When shall we begin to realise that we are making war, and that unless we succeed we go under as a nation? We still fail to conceive that we are up against a determined nation, not an army only. Peace with the German will only be dictated when behind the parchment stands the whole manhood of England, rifle in hand, with the glint on British bayonets ready for the thrust that will determine for the enemy a hesitating mind.

Baghdad.

In a leading article the *Morning Post* (October 30) deals with our advance upon Baghdad and the possibilities of adverses in the Balkans exposing our forces in Mesopotamia to danger of attack by a Turco-German army. In the first paragraph we quote a well-deserved tribute paid to our troops in this region, to whom the actual days of fighting have been " rare recreations."

No estimate of their work would be at all adequate which did not take account of the physical miseries they have endured in a climate which is quite beyond the conception of the average Englishman. Even Marco Polo, who passed through every extreme of weather in Asia with robust disregard, quailed before the summer of the Persian Gulf; and yet in a region where people in the best houses, with every available palliation, find it difficult to exist, General Nixon's troops have fought, toiled, and marched in the open in a way that raises our ideas of the capacity of the human constitution for adaptability and endurance. It is a magnificent record, but to judge by the methods of the English Government one might suppose it to be a story that was to be kept away at all price from the attention of the public.

In dealing with the chances of a Turco-German advance on Baghdad, the *Post* continues:—

However unsafe, as a rule, it may be to prophesy, one may safely predict that that is a development that need not be seriously considered. The British force, whether at Kut-el-Amara or Baghdad, is in a position quite out of range of practical menace from any movement from Constantinople. An army moving from the west would have to move on its feet and its wagon wheels from the time of arriving at the Taurus range. This means that the despatch of a great force is impracticable, while that of a small one is futile.

Articles to Note.

" The Balkan Puzzle," " Bulgaria and the Entente." By Dr. E. J. Dillon, in the *Illustrated London News* (October 30).

" Memories of Aden and Lahej." By Colonel Keene, in the *Saturday Review* (October 23).

" Sofia," in the *Outlook* (October 23).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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It was stated in the *Egyptian Gazette* recently that on November 1 the Egyptian State Railways would take over and exploit the Helouan line of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, but inquiries at the London offices of the company yesterday elicited the information that no such alteration in the service has as yet taken place. It will be remembered that, in the ordinary course of events, the line should have been taken over by the Egyptian Government last year, but that in view of the war the operation was suspended. Questions also arose between the company and the Government regarding the ownership of certain lands, which tended to retard the conclusion of the negotiations, but these have since been fully settled. It is now thought that the Government could, if it wished to, take over the line, without further delay, and a cable to that effect from Egypt may be expected in London at any moment.

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I am pleased to see that the directors of the Baku Russian Petroleum Company have come to an agreement, and that Mr. Herbert Allen has resumed the chairmanship of the company, and that Mr. R. R. Tweed, the late manager at Baku, has agreed to act as managing director for a period of three years. I see, moreover, that Mr. Allen's method of setting aside a lump sum for depreciation, instead of writing specified amounts off certain assets, has been accepted. It is to be hoped that now the company has set its own house in order, a normal line of development will ensue in so far as war conditions permit.

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A writer in the *Egyptian Gazette* points out that there seems to be a good deal of English gold in circulation in Egypt, "probably on account of the necessary opening of private hoards." The writer then says: "Every Briton knows that this gold ought to find its way to England so as to swell the gold reserve at this time of national crisis"; but, he adds, "many of us do not know how best to accomplish this with the small sums of gold that come our way from time to time." Unfortunately, he gives no idea as to how it is to be accomplished, and we remain in the dark. Subscriptions to the War Loan might, as was suggested some time ago, have been a means, but unfortunately no facilities have been granted to the Egyptian Post Office to receive small subscriptions, as is the case at home. It is really a pity that our Government should not have extended such facilities to Egypt, Cyprus, and the Sudan. Perhaps it is not too late to do so even now, even in Cyprus, which we came so near to losing some weeks ago.

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The letter published elsewhere from the managing director of the Cairo Motor Company throws some interesting sidelights on the new motor-service in Cyprus, and shows the company to be nothing if not enterprising. I am pleased to see it, and predict a decided increase in the passenger traffic on the various routes exploited if fares are lowered so as to meet the purses of the Cypriots and to compete favourably with carriage traffic. Needless to say, and as much for their own sake as for that of Cyprus, I wish the company every success and admire their optimism.

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The lately proposed cession of Cyprus to Greece has drawn forth many letters of protest from all parts of the country, but one which was sent by Lieut.-Colonel Martin to the *Scotsman* refers to a matter of some interest, and one that has never received much attention. I refer to the reafforestation of the island, on which we have spent much time and more money. Nevertheless, it has "progressed no further than a most promising beginning, and aims at no less than planting one-half the total area, with the assurance of such benefit to its conditions as to constitute a general improvement from penury to affluence and contentment in the near future." The forestry operations, continues the writer, "have been under the charge of Scottish experts, trained at Aberdeen and elsewhere—a fact which should preserve our future interest in the undertaking; but there exists a still more important aspect as regards ourselves. Cyprus promised to afford in a few years the most striking object-lesson of an island rescued from economic and agricultural depression by the means, mainly, of re-afforestation on a scale only possible to a practically despotic Government administration, such as exists frequently in many of our dependencies, but never at home. Hence administrative successes which are possible and actually effected in India, Egypt, Cyprus, etc., etc., are never witnessed, say, in Ireland or the Scottish Highlands in the same completeness as a finished scheme. It was hoped that in the matter of forestry Cyprus might, in a few years, afford an example to be followed in other islands nearer home, and notably in the Hebrides."

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The writer has evidently taken the reafforestation of Cyprus much to heart, and, honestly, I cannot blame him. He frankly hates the thought that, in the event of our handing the island over to Greece (which is not impossible with our present Government), all our best efforts in this direction should be thrown to the four winds of Greek indifference, and he, therefore, wonders if it would not be possible to obtain an understanding that the scheme "now well in hand, though even yet insufficiently financed," be "carried to completion"? I am afraid that such an understanding would be impracticable.

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"It is true," said M. Angeloff, the former Bulgarian Consul-General in Manchester, who resigned his post as a protest against Bulgaria's action in joining forces with the Central Powers, "that Great Britain has much trade with Bulgaria. But why is that? It is because she sends honest and durable goods to the peasantry of Bulgaria, whereas Germany sends showy and worthless goods." In this statement lies a truth which I have frequently urged in these columns. British goods are "honest" and "good," and people who appreciate these qualities will have no other goods. It must not be forgotten, however, that if Bulgaria, like all Near Eastern countries, is one of our good clients, she is in no smaller a degree a good customer of Austria and Germany, principally for the reason that goods of enemy origin are, in spite of being "worthless," pushed with an energy and enterprise of which we here have no conception. The superior quality of the British article is decidedly an asset of which we can all be proud, but the mere fact that it is superior is of no trade significance unless the public be made to realise it. Hitherto, our trade with Near Eastern countries has suffered on account of the little interest we have taken in trying to prove to the countries concerned that our goods are the best. Had we done so, and had we given a reasonable amount of credit, our trade returns would have been much higher. As it is, it is mainly due to men like M. Angeloff, who took pains to point out to their countrymen the superiority of our goods, that we have done as well as we did, and we owe them a debt of gratitude which, I hope, will not be forgotten.

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In connection with the notice published recently in THE NEAR EAST of the tenders invited by the Egyptian Postal Administration for the supply of general stores, we have received a copy of the specification, which may be seen at THE NEAR EAST offices by firms interested. The closing date for offers is December 1. The stores required include:—Mail bags, boots, fuel, ready-made furniture, letter-boxes and accessories, hardware articles, electric lamps and accessories, electric fans, enamelled plates, safes, stamps and punches, special postal stationery, telltale watch requisites, lead seals, rolling-stock and accessories, flags, disinfectants, etc., etc.

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A Central News message from Amsterdam (which I reproduce here with all reserve) states that it is reported from Constantinople that the Turkish Government endeavoured to obtain from Germany a credit of six million pounds Turkish. Germany, in reply, finding it inconvenient to hand over this amount of cash, offered instead to furnish the amount in Treasury bonds, and it is under cover of these bonds that Turkey is now issuing notes which have an artificial value throughout the Turkish Empire, but are payable in gold only one year after the conclusion of the war.

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The Egyptian cotton crop for the season 1914-15 is estimated at from 6,500,000 to 7,000,000 cantars, as compared with 7,500,000 cantars for the season 1913-14—a considerably higher figure than was for long deemed possible. The decrease is almost entirely attributable to the damage effected by the attacks of ordinary boll and pink worms, which in some districts ruined two-thirds of the crop. Unless serious steps are taken to combat the evil (says the *Financier*), the outlook is threatening. A step in the right direction has probably been taken by a new law which decrees that all bolls still adhering to cotton plants must be removed and burned at least fifteen days before the date fixed in each district for the removal of the roots from the ground. The quality of the crop suffered in most varieties, and the damage done would probably have been greater but for the fact that there had been an increased cultivation of the Sakellarides cotton, which matures early and escapes the worm to a greater extent than other varieties. It is unusually difficult to estimate the value to the grower of the cotton crop.

COMMENTATOR.

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Egyptian Post Office.

Annual Report.

The Postmaster-General of the Egyptian Postal Administration has published his annual report for the year 1914. The results attained during the first half of the year were satisfactory, but the outbreak of war and consequent suspension of various foreign services had a depressing effect upon the revenue. Various schemes for the development of the inland service were inevitably postponed, yet, despite these adverse circumstances, nine new offices and thirty-seven rural stations were opened during the year, and the house-to-house delivery service was extended to six new centres—viz., Manfalut, Deirut, Fashn, Baliana, and Bani-Mazar in Upper Egypt and Tukh in the Delta.

New Stamps.

A new issue of stamps was introduced in January to replace that antedating to 1879.

The features of the new issue are a distinctive design and colouring for each value and the addition of a 20 piastre stamp.

Dr. Wallis Budge, Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum, lent valuable aid in revising the proofs of those designs consisting of reproductions of Egyptian temples and monuments.

The issue has been favourably received, both in Egypt and abroad.

The number of licensed stamp retailers in Egypt is 282, as compared with 317 in the year 1913. The rate of commission allowed on sales thus affected was reduced from 2 per cent. to 1 per cent. towards the end of the year. The possession of a licence appears to be regarded as an asset by shopkeepers, and has the effect of attracting trade to their establishments. It is not, however, to the advantage of the Administration to grant licences, excepting where public convenience demands them, and the merits of each application are very carefully inquired into.

Correspondence.

It is estimated that more than 81½ million articles of correspondence were dealt with, a decrease of 6.2 in comparison with the year 1913. An exact statistic of registered articles is kept, and of these we learn that less than one per million was lost, a gratifying result especially as the registration service is one of the cheapest in the world.

A substantial increase in the number of postcards exchanged is attributed to motives of economy on the part of the public. All inland Government correspondence has been carried free of postage since April 1, 1914.

Foreign correspondence showed a decrease in the number of articles despatched and received of more than a million and almost two millions respectively, an inevitable consequence of the suspension of postal communications with certain countries.

The movement of funds handled by the Inland Service is an interesting study, and reveals the altered conditions brought about by the increased circulation of banknotes and the financial stringency occasioned by the war.

The insured letter service, for example, has benefited by the transmission of some 2¼ million pounds in excess of the figures for the preceding year. but this is outbalanced by a heavy drop in the number and value of specie groups.

Insured boxes sent abroad numbered 1,762, valued at £E16,050, compared with 3,005 valued at £E32,823 in the previous year.

Financial Results.

The receipts amount to £E305,611, and the expenditure to £E316,492, in comparison with £E334,759 and £E294,885, respectively, in 1913.

In order to permit of true comparison between the figures for the two years, it is necessary to take into consideration the following changes introduced in the formation of the Budget, with effect from April 1, 1914.

(1) The foreign transit dues, etc., (£E31,143), hitherto deducted from receipts, are not included in expenditure.

(2) The cost of services rendered by one Department of State to another no longer figures in the Budget; hence the receipts are decreased by £E34,330 for franking Governmental correspondence and the expenditure by about £E11,865 otherwise due to other departments.

Allowing for these modifications, the net decrease in receipts for 1914 is £E25,361, i.e., 7.7 per cent., and the increase in expenditure £E2,329, or 0.79 per cent.

The measures adopted consequent to the outbreak of war have realised a general economy of approximately £E23,311 upon the estimated expenditure for the financial year ending March 31, 1915.

Savings Bank Department.

Branches were opened at twelve new centres, bringing the total number of agencies of all kinds up to 1,984. The total number of depositors at the end of the year was 233,744 as compared with 282,401 in 1913.

The amount remaining to the credit of depositors on December 31 was £E466,797, as compared with £E642,678 last year.

The number of accounts remaining open excludes those for which no transaction was recorded during the year.

During the months of August and September many depositors hastened to withdraw their savings, but anxiety was soon allayed when it was found that these were readily available. Special arrangements were subsequently made to enable such individuals to redeposit the sums withdrawn.

A decrease of 16,920 transactions was recorded in the rural branch of the bank, which is the more regrettable in view of the fact that it is only in its infancy.

The students branch of the savings bank show an increase in the number of depositors, but a decrease in the total amount deposited. At the end of the year 13,919 accounts of a total value of £E10,342 remained open, as compared with 9,787, value £E12,821, in 1913. The officials of the Ministry of Education continue to co-operate in the endeavour to popularise the system among the students under their charge.

As a result of the labours of a Commission appointed in the summer of 1913, a comprehensive Postal Law has been drafted and forwarded to the Ministry for consideration by the Government's legal advisers.

In the autumn, a subscription list was opened by members of the staff, the proceeds of which, amounting to £400, were forwarded to the Secretary of the General Post Office, London, as a contribution to the Relief Fund for the families of British Postal Servants who have volunteered for active service. All grades of the staff responded with liberality, and it is gratifying to be able to place on record that this spontaneous and practical expression of sympathy with a kindred service owed its inception to the non-European employees of the Administration.

During the year, new postal premises at Suez were taken over from the State Buildings Department of the Ministry of Public Works and the important alterations to Cairo Post Office, which have extended over several years, are now within sight of completion.

Cash Services.

Cash transmitted by the Inland Service amounted to £E19,374,000, a decrease of £E5,788,000 compared with the preceding year. The exigencies of the situation during the latter half of the year demanded the substitution throughout the country of banknotes as an equivalent for cash. Since this change the importance, for the time being, of the Specie Group Service is nugatory. Whereas in 1913 nearly fifteen million pounds were carried by this means, less than nine and a-half millions were dealt with in 1914, and this chiefly during the first seven months of the year. On the other hand, there has been a substantial increase in the number and value of insured letters, owing to the fact that remittances for payment on crops, wages, etc., now take the form of banknotes despatched by this medium. The decrease recorded in the number and value of groups, however, is only partially due to the increased circulation of banknotes, for, after deduction of the increased value of insured letters from the total decrease in cash transmitted by post, there remains a diminution of £E3,500,033 in funds handled by the Inland Service, attributable to the dislocation of affairs consequent upon the war. In October the minimum tax on money orders was raised from ten milliemes to fifteen milliemes. The projected inauguration of an inland postal order service rendered this measure advisable.

Money orders exchanged with the Sudan showed an increase of 4,702 in number and £E64,321 in value. This is partly due to higher rates charged by banks for remittances from August till October, whilst Post Office commission remained unchanged.

Newspapers.

Newspapers and periodicals published in Egypt numbered 102 at the end of 1914, forty-four having ceased to appear during the course of the year. Of this number thirty-one were European. The disappearance of twenty-seven literary, scientific, and industrial reviews argues that public interest has been absorbed by the war. Several of the European newspapers have been acquired and combined by a company. The number of illustrated reviews increased to seven. Of the 102 newspapers published, sixty-five were published in Cairo, twenty-six in Alexandria, five in Tanta, three in Port Said, and one each in Assiut, Mansura, and Zagazig.

CYPRUS MOTOR SERVICE.

Reduced Rates.

(To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.*)*

Sir,—In your edition of September 17 I notice a reference to our motor passenger service in Cyprus. Your correspondent's contentions regarding rates are quite justified and my company recognised that in order to popularise the motor service some sacrifices were required. These we have effected in the hope that increased traffic will justify the reductions.

The most frequented route is that from Larnaca to Nicosia, a distance of twenty-six miles. Our charge for this run is 3s. single (i.e., 1.4d. per mile), and 5s. 6d. return (i.e., 1.15d. per mile). These extremely low rates will only be justified if, as we hope, a more frequent intercourse is developed between these two important centres, through our rapid, comfortable, and cheap service.

An innovation that we have instituted is a through rate from Nicosia to Limassol and vice-versa, via Larnaca. The rate for this through-trip, a distance of sixty miles, is 10s. 9d., or at the rate of 2d. per mile; whilst the trip from Larnaca to Limassol is charged at 9s. single (i.e., 2.6d. per mile), and 16s. 3d. return (i.e., 2.2d. per mile).

On all runs, hand luggage is carried free, by means of special trailers constructed for the purpose.

Explanations have repeatedly been asked for the reason of the higher mileage charge on the Limassol route, and through the medium of your paper I should like to explain that this is due to the indifferent state of this road and the consequent wear on tyres and machinery.

My company hopes that, with the co-operation of the Public Works Department on the improvement of road surfaces, it will be possible to maintain the present rates, and that fresh lines may be developed next year which will offer visitors improved means of communications between the charming spots that abound on the island of Cyprus.—Yours faithfully,

E. W. FLOWER.
Managing Director of the Cairo Motor Co.

Writing on October 22 from Bucharest, the *Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula stated that an official *communiqué* declares that, inasmuch as the Bulgarian Government has suspended the transit of goods from Salonika destined for Roumania, the Minister of Public Works has decided to prohibit the passage of goods from Bulgaria to foreign countries. The same correspondent adds that a meeting of Moldavian landowners and farmers at Jassy has decided, notwithstanding the high prices offered, to suspend the sale of agricultural produce to German buyers.

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Egyptian Cotton.

THE COTTON CROP.

On October 24, the following official estimate of the 1915 Egypt cotton crop was posted in the Khedivial Bourse, Alexandria:—

The restriction by law of the cotton growing area was expected to result in the sowing of about 1,350,000 feddans, but according to the returns obtained by the Sarrafs for the Department of Direct Taxes, only 1,186,000 feddans were actually planted with the crop in 1915.

A check survey conducted in a few localities showed that the aggregate of the cotton areas given for these localities corresponded very nearly with the Sarrafs figures. It was thought inadvisable, therefore, to make any correction of the figures given by the Direct Taxes Department. This figure, viz., 1,186,000 feddans, is that which has accordingly been taken as the basis of the estimate of the yield. The damage due to the pink seed worm has been computed by a method based upon a careful examination of the results obtained in the field. By this method, checked by inspection of the more important localities, the cotton crop of Lower Egypt is estimated at 3.99 cantars per feddan, and that of Upper Egypt at 4.49 cantars per feddan; making an average for the whole of Egypt of 4.10 cantars per feddan, and a total, based on an area of 1,186,000 feddans of 4,863,000 cantars.

This is an estimate of the 1915 crop alone, and takes no account of the balance of the crop of 1914, which has been held over until this year. Should the whole crop of 1915, together with an appreciable quantity of last year's crop, which is believed to have been held back, reach Alexandria before the end of the cotton season, the deliveries will be somewhat higher than the above-mentioned estimate.

COTTON AND THE WAR.

Mr. John A. Todd, Professor of Economics at the University College, Nottingham, contributes an important article to the new quarterly number of the "Bulletin" of the Imperial Institute," to be published this month. The question of the world's cotton supply (he points out) has been critical since the beginning of the present century, for, although the world's crops have nearly doubled in that period, the extraordinary expansion of the demand has all the time been pressing hard upon the increased supplies. In five out of ten seasons before the war the world's cotton consumption was actually in excess of the world's crops.

Owing to the temporary fall in prices at the beginning of the war the production of cotton all over the world was very much curtailed. But the world's surplus stocks have now been to a considerable extent worked off, and any revival of normal trade after the war coming upon the reduced supplies of raw material will, it is pointed out, almost certainly produce a severe cotton famine.

Only one thing can be done to prepare the way for meeting this difficulty when it arises, namely, to arouse interest in the development of new cotton fields within the Empire, especially in India, Egypt, and the Sudan, where the work of the British Cotton Growing Association and the International Cotton Federation has already shown the way. Russia has shown her wisdom in developing cotton fields in Turkestan and Trans-Caucasia, which now supply the greater part of her large native consumption of cotton. Germany, in her own sphere of influence in the Levant, has, it must be admitted, produced large results. That is a point to be remembered in the inevitable re-arrangement of the Turkish Empire after the war, as is also the fact that in Mesopotamia we have a potentian cotton field, which will probably rival Egypt and the Sudan in quality as well as quantity. But the greatest possibilities for an immediate increase in our cotton supplies lie in India, where great improvements, both in quality and quantity have been made in recent years.

Every penny that the British Empire invests now in cotton growing, either in education or in irrigation, will, Professor Todd considers, be a profitable investment for the future, and the sooner the investment is made, the greater, as well as the quicker, will be the return. What we shall want after the war is not merely a British cotton growing association with a capital of a paltry £500,000, but an organisation of the size of a State department, with all the combined resources of the British Empire behind it.

EGYPT'S TEXTILE IMPORTS.

The following tables, from the report recently issued by H.M. Vice-Consul at Alexandria, show the value of the share of the United Kingdom, as compared with the shares of the principal competing countries, in the chief sub-divisions of textiles imported into Alexandria during the years 1912-14 :—

COTTON PIECE-GOODS.

Country.	1913. £E.		1914. £E.
United Kingdom....	2,967,565	..	2,314,611
Austria-Hungary ..	74,602	..	53,044
Belgium.....	9,711	..	5,949
France	35,121	..	31,047
Germany	57,372	..	40,104
Italy	475,626	..	545,857
Total(including others)	3,627,806	..	3,001,083

WOOLLEN PIECE-GOODS.

Country.	1913. £E.		1914. £E.
United Kingdom....	125,133	..	105,236
Austria-Hungary ..	98,443	..	65,871
France	62,346	..	30,399
Germany	58,322	..	35,595
Total(including others)	364,761	..	259,259

READY-MADE CLOTHING.

Country.	1913. £E.		1914. £E.
United Kingdom....	15,941	..	11,249
Austria-Hungary ..	157,053	..	102,334
France	57,152	..	24,906
Total (including others)	250,152	..	150,138

MADE-UP LINEN AND COTTON GOODS.

Country.	1913. £E.		1914. £E.
United Kingdom....	78,686	..	57,695
Austria-Hungary ..	44,248	..	29,970
France	111,260	..	72,059
Turkey	11,632	..	6,307
Total (including others)	292,900	..	204,691

MIXED SILK, COTTON, JUTE, AND LINEN FABRICS.

Country.	1913. £E.		1914. £E.
United Kingdom....	31,630	..	57,772
Austria-Hungary ..	19,856	..	17,838
France	64,816	..	58,204
Germany	25,066	..	59,733
Italy	43,149	..	24,619
Turkey	43,974	..	30,850
Total(including others)	231,512	..	254,503

HOSIERY.

Country.	1913. £E.		1914. £E.
United Kingdom....	19,064	..	11,035
Austria-Hungary ..	20,160	..	9,383
France	53,138	..	33,691
Germany	75,571	..	57,769
Italy	40,195	..	25,079
Spain	8,448	..	9,925
Total(including others)	225,530	..	158,928

COTTON YARN IN BULK.

Country.	1912. £E.		1914. £E.
United Kingdom....	85,279	..	61,430
British India	29,635	..	22,234
Italy	79,732	..	61,397
Total (including others)	209,142	..	153,817

SILK PIECE-GOODS.

Country.	1913. £E.		1914. £E.
United Kingdom....	1,701	..	881
France	78,463	..	59,573
Italy	25,585	..	26,203
Total (including others)	133,915	..	98,047

SMOOTHLY-WOVEN FLAX AND HEMP PIECE-GOODS.

Country.	1913. £E.		1914. £E.
United Kingdom	36,618	..	11,744
Belgium.....	36,218	..	—
France	8,925	..	1,682
Total (including others)	85,906	..	16,551

The following official communication is issued: The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief has received numerous applications from merchants for permission to export eggs from Egypt. In certain cases where merchants were proved to have eggs ready packed for export by October 11, permission was given to ship them. No further export of eggs can under any circumstances be permitted for the present.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, November 4.

Currants.

The arrivals of this and last week amount to about 2,500 tons. The market continues firm at previous rates, but owing to other kinds being in a, comparatively, small supply more business is being done in Amalias and Provincial.

Sultanas.

Smyrnas are nearly exhausted; common to fine sell at 85s. to 105s. while new Greeks are quoted 102s. to 115s., and Afghans 84s.

Figs.

There has been only a moderate demand this past week, but the market is steady at previous rates.

Dates.

There has been a further advance in quotations for new crop, but with only small business passing.

Seeds.

Linseed has been, more or less, steady, but rather quiet. London-Calcutta spot and afloat is quoted 62s. 3d., while the same has been paid for November-December, and Bombay ditto 64s. Cottonseed has been very firm, with sellers offering sparingly. London-Egyptian leading is quoted £11 10s. per ton. Rapeseed continues firm, but quiet. Guzerat November-December 63s., and brown Cawnpore pure basis ditto 57s. 6d.

Oils.

Linseed oil ruled firmer, with a good demand; spot pipes £31 5s., barrels £31 15s.; November-December, £32; January-April, £32 15s.; May-August, £33 10s.. Cotton oil is quiet; crude spot in pipes £30 10s. to £30 15s.; refined pale pipes £33 10s., and barrels sweet £37 to £39, as to make. Rapeseed oil is firmly held; ordinary brown naked spot £38; English refined barrels £40 to £41.

Oilcakes.

Cotton Cakes.—There are no stocks of Egyptian in the market, but October and November shipments are being offered at £8 12s. 6d., ex ship, with only small business, however, doing. English makes are firmly held at £8 17s. 6d. to £9, and Bombay £8 15s. per ton.

Linseed Cakes.—There has been a general scarcity of all descriptions, with the result of quotations being dearer, especially for home-made descriptions. Best London made are quoted at £11 15s. to £11 17s. 6d. Fine seedy Argentine sold at £11 12s. 6d. to £11 15s., and Japanese in bags for arrivals are quoted £11 7s. 6d. to £11 10s.

Locust Beans.

The scarcity of this kind continues, and prices are dearer, £8 5s. for whole and £8 15s. for kibbled.

With reference to previous notices regarding the requirement of Consular certificate of non-enemy origin for imports and declarations of ultimate destination for exports, a recent issue of the Cyprus *Gazette* contains a further Government notice to importers and exporters prescribing amended regulations regarding certificates of origin for certain goods imported into Cyprus from various European countries and declarations of ultimate destination in respect of all exports to various foreign countries from Cyprus. Under these amended regulations, certificates of origin are, for the present, only required in respect of imports from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, and Switzerland.

LAW & CO., LTD., KHARTOUM, SUDAN.
Commission Agents,
Importers and Exporters,
Gum Arabic and Sudan Products.
Telegrams: "Reedlaw."
Codes: A.B.C., 5th Edition, Western Union.

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Roumanian Notes.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, October 15, 1915.

German Coal.

Coal from Germany is commencing to arrive in Roumania, and will be employed first of all in the lighting of Bucharest and Galatz, both partly lit by gas. The coke obtained will be sold to the public at reduced rates. When the needs of the gas companies have been satisfied, the balance will be put at the disposal of the public.

Transit to and from Bulgaria.

For some days past transit of goods between Germany and Bulgaria *via* Roumania is at a complete standstill, and nothing is passing through the country. The same applies to transit in the opposite direction, and the transport of eggs and poultry from Bulgaria to Austria and Germany has ceased. It does not seem likely, with the limited means of railway transit in Bulgaria, that much can be done in either direction for some time to come.

State Receipts.

The receipts of the Treasury for the year 1914-1915 amount, for the period April 1 to August 31, to 535 million fr. Placing the receipts for the rest of the financial year, September 1 to September 30, at five million francs, it is estimated that 540 millions will have been obtained. As the Government estimate at the commencement of the year was 600 millions, there will be a deficit of 60 millions to deal with.

Although the actual result is unfavourable, yet when one takes into consideration that war has been general, and that consequently customs' receipts, which form the principal source of revenue, have been greatly reduced, the result must be taken as really satisfactory, especially when it is remembered that the Roumanian agriculturists have found it nearly impossible to export their cereals.

Economic Societies.

Statistics on Rural Economic Societies, which in 1903 had barely commenced to exist, have just been published, and show most surprising results.

In 1903 there existed but eight societies, covering an area of 4,940 hectares, and paying an annual rent of 94,789 fr.

In 1904 the number had doubled with 10,557 hectares under cultivation, paying rent valued at 256,025 fr.

In 1905 the number of societies had risen to thirty-seven, cultivating 30,358 hectares, with a rental of 626,114 fr.

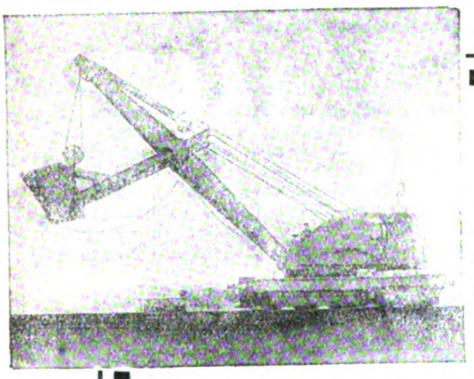
In 1906 the number had increased to sixty-eight associations, with 54,687 hectares, and funds of over a million francs. Since then the numbers have advanced steadily, so that in 1913 there were no less than 495 associations, with 76,678 members, paying 13,497,081 fr. annually and possessing a reserve capital of 4,289,981 fr.

The proprietors of the land let out to the Societies are the State, Communes and philanthropic institutions (hospitals, etc.) possessing land property.

ROUMANIAN OIL NEWS.

Exports of oil products from Roumania are estimated to amount to about 1,100 tons per day, says *Oil News*. These do not include petrol and oil fuel, both of which articles are on the prohibited list. There is an insufficient supply of lubricants, because this means re-distillation, which refiners are not inclined to undertake in present conditions. Another factor with similar influence on supply is the lack of sulphuric acid, which there is no means of filling.

Mail advices dated Bucharest, September 26, says the above journal, describe the general position as somewhat improved. Exports of lamp oil and the heavy oils to Austria-Hungary and Germany have been resumed and there is a brisk demand. The quantity of oil despatched varies from day to day owing to the irregular running of the trains and the number of empty tank-waggons returning over the frontier; some days as many as a hundred waggons arrive, whilst other days the number scarcely reaches twenty.



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Engineering Notes.

A New Harrow for Dry Lands.

While the modern harrow, in various styles and designs, is being used in almost all the well-managed estates in the East, it is a remarkable fact that the archaic home-made native harrow can still be seen at work in small holdings, and often in large estates, in the Near East. The former is the outcome of the continuous progress of modern agricultural engineering, and the latter is one of the oldest and simplest rustic contrivances that man invented for the cultivation of his land; but it is at the same time very interesting as a survival of a primitive method which is adhered to in spite of the progress that has been made in methods of land cultivation. For its construction two pieces of timber are required, a log 5 ft. or 6 ft. long by 10 ins. to 12 ins. in diameter, in the middle of which the end of a pole is securely fastened, both thus forming a "T," and this is the harrow. To use it over ploughed land, one end of the pole is hooked or chained to the yoke of a pair of oxen, in the same way as the beam of a swing-plough. The driver stands on the log, which is drawn over the ploughed land and levels it, breaking the clods, or covering seed where sown. In some districts in the Near East this method of harrowing is evidently preferred to any other modern method; and the writer had once the opportunity to ask a native farmer why he adhered to that primitive contrivance while modern chain-harrows were available in the estate. His answer was that those "European" devices were very good for certain soils, but not half as good as his old wooden harrow for dry soils. The reason he gave was not quite correct, but explained in some way why the archaic harrow is still in use. It was observed, and rightly believed, that the way in which it levelled the surface of a ploughed land tended to preserve the moisture below the surface. The weight of the dragged log over the surface levels the latter and breaks the clods, but, evidently, does not disturb the cavities which are formed by the plough below the surface of the soil, and which hold the water from rains when such fall in dry districts. The creation of such cavities is effected by a new harrow, the manufacturers of which apparently agree with the ideas of the Oriental farmer. The new harrow is proving an excellent implement for use in dry farming regions, where it is desired to prepare the soil in a way that the small amount of moisture that is normally available may be preserved. The implement can be drawn by two horses or bullocks, and the harrow-blades are so attached that they spade up the earth more deeply and pulverize it more finely than can be done by ordinary disc or tooth harrows. The action of the spades forms cup-like cavities below the surface of the soil, and these receive and hold the water from rains and showers, and thus conserve the moisture for the benefit of growing crops, whereas, it is claimed, a plough, or other harrows, would cut furrows that would cause the water to run off or collect in small pools on the surface, where it would evaporate immediately in the sunshine after the shower was over. This feature makes this new spading-harrow particularly useful in orchards, as it prevents the rainfall from running off or evaporating, and preserving it where every particle can be reached by the network of roots below the surface of the soil.

Irrigation Works in Mesopotamia.

Referring to the possibilities awaiting the contractor and engineer in the vast fertile and practically untouched regions hitherto under the dominion of the Turks, so soon as the present disastrous war should come to an end, the *Engineer* says that, apart from the projects already contemplated by foreign contractors holding concessions or construction contracts from the Ottoman Government, there are numerous opportunities which exist in other directions, and which will now the more readily obtain the financial support denied—it may be believed—to them so long as the corrupt and unreliable Turkish officials remained in power.

Among the territories especially likely to benefit from economic development of this character are the valleys of Mesopotamia and the Euphrates, where a great scheme of irrigation is under construction. The responsible undertaker, under ordinary circumstances, would have been the Ottoman Government itself, and the services of one of the best known and most successful foreign consulting engineers, Sir William Willcocks, had been secured, his comprehensive and courageous plans for the introduction of a widely embracing irrigation project having long ago been prepared and accepted. The estimated expenditure called for amounted to over £19,000,000, and the greater part of this sum had been practically guaranteed to the Ottoman Government, while the remainder was upon the point of being raised.

In connection with this scheme, the railway constructed by the Germans with so much trouble and at such expense—the Imperial Ottoman Baghdad line to link up the Anatolian railway system at Konia with Baghdad—will be found a most valuable asset and adjunct. Coming on from Constantinople, this railway has now been completed by Teutonic capital and by Ottoman labour as far as the western side of the Taurus mountains, a large section of some 80 miles having been comparatively recently opened between Baghdad and Sammarra. That the whole of the system will pass away from Turkish and German control, probably into that of the British and French Governments as a joint undertaking, seems highly probable. In that case the line would be further extended across the Taurus mountains direct to Baghdad, thence to Busra, the original terminus determined upon, or, as an alternative, to Koweit. This accomplished, and a direct line of over 350 miles of track secured from Baghdad through Damascus to Beyrout, the whole of the immense Mesopotamian trade would be controlled and British influence in the important districts of the Persian Gulf would be predominantly established.

THE PORT OF SALONIKA.

M. Bartissol, the well-known French engineer, who constructed the port of Salonika, has given some interesting particulars concerning the port. They were recently published in the French paper *L'Information*, and were recently reproduced and amplified in an article in the *Liverpool Journal of Commerce*. The following are some extracts from the last-named article:—

Before the construction of the existing port, Salonika only possessed a range of quays extending over a length of two kilometres. When the idea was mooted for constructing new quays provided with the most modern equipment, M. Bartissol obtained a subvention of 1,500,000 frs. from the Ottoman Government, and a purely French company was formed with a capital of 5,000,000 frs., debentures to the amount of 8,000,000 frs. being also issued. The revenue from port dues has steadily increased; it has grown from 692,000 frs. in 1905 to 914,000 frs. in 1913. The year 1914 showed the effects of the Balkan wars, and the receipts were only 834,000 frs. The record year was 1910, when the receipts crossed the million franc mark.

The new quays at Salonika have an available working length of 1,200 metres, and the depth of water varies between 8 and 10 metres, thus permitting the approach of large vessels. They comprise a length of 400 metres on the land front with two perpendicular breakwaters at the extremities, each with a length of 200 metres. The entrance to the port is protected by a dyke parallel to the shore at a distance of about 300 metres. The equipment consists of a 15-ton crane and four 5-ton cranes, and thus the heaviest goods can be easily handled. The railway lines run down to the quays and are provided with turn-tables, so that goods can be discharged direct into the trucks.

One interesting thing about the port of Salonika is that it possesses a sort of free zone, which is covered with buildings belonging to Serbia. The explanation of this apparent anomaly is as follows. At the time when Salonika belonged to Turkey the Serbians, who had a considerable trade in cattle through the port, found that the animals coming from Turkey were constantly decimated by epidemics which spread sometimes to the Serbian cattle. To prevent the losses arising from these diseases the Serbians obtained from the Turkish Government a site between the old and the new quays upon which they could build cattle sheds. The Greek Government confirmed this concession and extended it, permitting the free entry of Serbian goods, and it is guarded by Serbian Customs men. An official contract recognising in a more precise manner the extent of the freee zone was in preparation before the war. It provided for the building of new quays at a cost of about 7,000,000 frs. The war prevented the realisation of this project, but it remains operative.

A description of the port of Salonika would be incomplete without mention of the railways behind it. Of these there are three. One goes to Constantinople by way of Seres, Drama, and Dedeagatch. The second runs northward into Serbia, through Uskub and Nish to Belgrade. The third line travels westwards and terminates at Monastir, near the Albanian frontier.

The first of these lines is French as far as Dedeagatch, after which it forms part of the Oriental Railways built by Baron Hirsch. The second and third lines also form part of the system of the Chemins de Fer Orientaux, as is the case with the line starting at Dedeagatch and running through Adrianople to Sofia. The importance of the Salonika-Nish-Belgrade line, M. Bartissol said, did not escape the notice of the Germans, who acquired an interest and placed some Austrian and a few German representatives on the council of administration. They also made strong efforts to get a footing in the Port of Salonika Company. Shortly before the outbreak of war large purchases of shares were made in Paris for German account, and the Germans hoped gradually to obtain, if not full control of the port of Salonika, at least a preponderating voice in the management of the company. Thanks to the policy of the French company there is no chance of these desires being realized, and it is due to the company's steady opposition to the German financial intrigues that the Anglo-French forces are now able to land.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Coast Guard Administration for the supply and delivery of the following stores required during the year 1916 :—(1) 4,030 metric tons of large, first class, Cardiff coal and 40 tons of best quality Newcastle coal. (2) 170 metric tons of petroleum. (3) 11 metric tons of benzine. Copies of the specifications and conditions of tender may be obtained from the Director-General, Coast Guard Administration, Cairo, by whom sealed tenders will be received up to noon on December 1. A provisional deposit equal to 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent., of the value of the offer must accompany each tender. A copy of each of the specifications and conditions of tender may be consulted by United Kingdom exporters of the materials mentioned at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior for the supply of equipment and clothing required by the Stores Department during 1916, including the following :—Bandoliers, belts, bayonet frogs, ammunition pouches, cartridges, and other accoutrements; brushes; bits, bridles, chains, collars, reins and other horse and camel equipment; camp equipment; bedsteads, chairs, cupboards, tables and other furniture; tools; calico, canvas, uniform cloth and other textile materials; leather; oils; paints; boots; breeches, jackets, shirts, tunics, trousers, and other clothing.

Copies of the specifications, with forms of tender, etc., may be obtained, at a cost of 2s. per copy, from the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Sealed tenders, on the proper form, will be received, up to noon on December 1, by the Under-Secretary of State (Personnel and Equipment Department), Ministry of the Interior, Cairo.

Tenders are invited by the Director-General, Coast Guard Administration, Cairo, for the supply of coal, petroleum, and benzine required by the Service during the year 1916. Specification may be seen and all information obtained at the Coast Guard Magazine, Arsenal, Alexandria, or at the Coast Guard offices at Port Said, Ismailia, Suez, and Damietta. Date, December 1.

Tenders are invited by the Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs Department for the supply of 20,000 oak sleepers and 101,300 pine sleepers. The sleepers must be of very good quality wood, and preferably of one of the following species :—European and Japanese oak, Montenegrin, Swedish and Norwegian and Baltic red pine or any other species of oak or pine of equal quality. In default, tenders for sleepers of any other quality of wood coming from Japan, America, India or Australia, would be taken into consideration. Copies of the specification, containing form of tender and form of bank guarantee, may be purchased, price 2s. each, from Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received up to 10 a.m. on December 15, by the General Manager, Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs, Cairo.

For particulars concerning the tenders invited by the Egyptian Postal Administration, see page 21.

Tenders are invited by the Controller, Cairo Tanzim Department, for the supply of general stores required by the Giza and Gezira Water Works during the financial year 1916-1917. Date, December 2.

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National Bank of Egypt.

The National Bank of Egypt, says the *Statist* in its yearly bank review, started originally with a capital of £1,000,000 sterling, but in the following year the capital was increased to £1,500,000, which was the amount paid up in the first balance-sheet issued by the institution. In 1903 50,000 new shares were issued at a premium of £4 per share. In 1904 the same number of new shares was issued at a premium of £6 per share. This was followed in 1905 by a further issue of 50,000 new shares, which were placed at a premium of £10 per share. The capital has remained at £3,000,000 since 1905. The bank has the sole concession for the issue of bank notes in Egypt, the power of circulation being unlimited. In addition to the head office in Cairo there are offices in Alexandria and London, together with sixteen branches in Egypt and three in the Soudan. The bank was founded for the purpose, among other things, of enabling banking assistance to be given to the fellaheen of Egypt, and at the end of 1901 a sum of over £400,000 sterling was invested in these loans, nearly the whole being covered by mortgages. The business was so successful that it was possible to have put out a much larger sum, but the directors came to the conclusion that a larger part of the bank's capital could not prudently be devoted to this business. It was announced at the meeting in March, 1902, that, on account of the good that was being done in this direction, the Government was desirous of extending the system, and had agreed to advance the bank £250,000 to enable the work to continue. It was found, however, that this could only be in the nature of things a temporary expedient, and, finally, towards the end of the year there was brought into existence the Agricultural Bank of Egypt, to which the National Bank handed over its fellaheen loan business. In addition to a considerable holding of ordinary shares the National Bank possesses half the deferred shares of the Agricultural Bank. It also holds an important interest in the Cassa di Sconto Bank. A distinctly successful career has been experienced by the institution. It has filled a badly felt want in Egypt and has also done well for its shareholders.

The main feature of the accounts for 1914 is the largely increased amount of the bank note issue, which is £E1,464.954, as compared with £E2,236,117, and on this question the Governor pointed out that :—

"On the declaration of war the importation of gold into this country became no longer possible, and to meet the demand for currency necessary for commercial requirements, the Egyptian Government decreed the notes of the National Bank of Egypt to be legal tender throughout the country and at the bank. This prompt measure, for which I think everybody in Egypt is deeply grateful to the Government, coupled with the immediate steps taken in England by the Treasury and the Bank of England to re-establish the discount market, made the financing of the cotton crop to the extent of its demand an easy matter from the point of view of sufficiency of funds. Our bank, I am glad to say, worked in cordial co-operation with the Government, and has fully proved its utility in the hour of need. Without availing itself of the moratorium, the bank not only financed the cotton crop, but was also able to give assistance right and left in the earlier days of the crisis when there was a run on the banks and before the notes were made legal tender.

"While not departing from our statutory backing of the notes, namely, half gold and half gilt-edged securities of the Egyptian Government's approval, we were able to expand the currency in Egypt by purchasing and depositing against the note issue Egyptian Government three months' Treasury Bills, the amount of which was passed to the credit of the Ministry of Finance."

The deposits at the end of 1914 amounted to £E7,092,211, which compares with £E391,696 shown in the first accounts issued. The total assets in the first balance-sheet stood at £E3,274,778, while at December 31, 1914, the total assets were £E19,499,943. From a comparison of these figures the growth of the institution may be seen, but in order to give a clearer view of the great growth that has occurred we set out herewith an abstract of the liabilities and assets for each year since the formation of the bank, the figures being given in Egyptian pounds.

The first dividend was 7 per cent., but as 1901 was much less prosperous the dividend was reduced to 5½ per cent. For 1902 and 1903 the rate was 6 per cent. per annum; it was raised to 7 per cent. for 1914, to 8 per cent. for 1905, and to 9 per cent. for 1906, at which figure it remained until 1911, when it was reduced to 8 per cent., a rate which was maintained for 1912. For 1913 the rate was 7½ per cent., but for 1914 the dividend has been reduced to 4 per cent.

We set out below a statement of the profits made for each year since the formation of the bank :—

PROFITS OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Year ended Dec. 31.	Gross Profit (a). £E.	Expenses. £E.	Net Profit. £E.	Dividend Amount. £E.	Dividend Rate. %	Reserve, Invest., Deprn., etc. £E.	Carried Forward. £E.
1914	468,089*	159,595	308,494	117,000	4	208,706	—
1913	398,917	178,907	220,010	219,375	7½	—	17,212
1912	372,774	142,244	230,530	234,000	8	—	16,577
1911	383,983	131,647	252,336	234,000	8	—	20,047
1910	387,068	124,631	262,427	263,250	9	—	1,711
1909	376,353	120,372	255,981	263,250	9	—	2,534
1908	395,591	133,121	262,470	263,250	9	—	9,803
1907	491,147	126,220	364,927	263,250	9	119,331	10,583
1906	465,154	117,957	347,197	263,250	9	85,618	28,237
1905	371,947	99,059	272,888	195,000	8	77,666	29,908
1904	374,479	77,978	296,501	136,500	7	153,600	29,686
1903	184,582	87,815	96,767	117,000	6	14,172	23,285
1902	189,448	88,354	101,094	87,750	6	10,466	18,085
1901	134,583	34,047	100,536	80,437	5½	10,405	15,207
1900	187,733	67,832	119,901	102,375	7	6,747	10,779

(a) Less rebate of interest on bills not yet due.
*Includes £E 219,375 taken from reserve.

The proportion that the shown net profit bears to the paid up capital is 10.5 per cent., to capital and reserve combined 7.4 per cent., and to the total working resources, amounting to £E19,499,943, 1.6 per cent.

Mr. F. T. Rowlatt, the Governor, pointed out in March last that although Egypt is suffering from the effects of the war, yet it is only a question of economy for a time. The necessary foodstuffs are abundant, and her only important industry, which is the production and refining of sugar, has done very much better during the war owing to the rise in prices of that article. "Then we must look to the future. The political status of the country is altered. She is free to borrow and develop her resources. It will be possible to take up again the great drainage and irrigation works, with a free hand to make satisfactory financial arrangements."

BAKU RUSSIAN PETROLEUM CO.

It is satisfactory to find that the directors of the Baku Russian Petroleum Company have been able to come to an agreement with respect to the various matters over which the recent dispute arose, says the *Investor's Review*. The amended report now issued states that Mr. Herbert Allen has consented to resume the chairmanship of the company, and that Mr. R. R. Tweed, the late manager at Baku, has agreed to act as managing director for three years. In the accounts as originally presented the question of depreciation was one of the rocks on which the directors split, and a compromise appears to have been made, as the new balance-sheet sets out the assets in the manner adopted by Mr. Rutherford, but Mr. Allen's method is accepted of setting aside a lump sum for depreciation instead of writing specified amounts off certain assets. The balance on profit and loss account remains at £27,286, and the provision for depreciation is also unchanged at £60,236, but of this £41,513 has been written off and £18,724 has been transferred to a reserve against contingencies arising out of the absence of certain inventories. These appropriations leave a debit of £32,950, of which £10,527 is met by the balance brought forward and £22,422 by a transfer from the general reserve set aside a year ago.

TAX ON COTTON FUTURES.

It is announced, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, that the Government intends to put a tax on all operations in cotton futures. The Commission Bourse, presided over by Mr. King Lewis, the Director of the Customs Administration, has been entrusted with the duty of studying this new impost. It is said that the proposed tax will be no less than P.T. 50 for a contract of 250 kantars. As soon as the conditions of this tax have been decided upon, the matter will be submitted to the consideration of the brokers.

The general opinion at Alexandria is that this tax is far too high, and is, in fact, higher than the tax on Egyptian cotton future operations in Liverpool, which is only two shillings per one hundred bales, corresponding to 750 kantars.

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Near Eastern Banks in London.

The *Economist* (October 23) gives the following table of the status of Near Eastern banks with London offices:—

	Capital and Reserves.		Deposits.		Cash in Hand and at Call.		Investments.		Discounts and Advances.	
	1913-14.	1914-15.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1913-14.	1914-15.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Athens ..	2,400,000	2,400,000	4,767,221	3,375,298	641,066	291,187	826,849	782,741	5,041,399	3,239,389
Bank of Roumania	475,662	478,834	1,207,165	1,937,150	197,213	797,428	21,158	15,326	1,464,456	1,602,230
Ionian	554,656	553,656	2,164,602	1,993,187	535,187	478,949	220,942	244,414	2,184,628	1,925,176
Anglo-Egyptian ..	1,284,390	1,286,254	2,943,374	3,045,867	545,707	816,827	396,852	330,658	4,461,853	3,524,477
British Oriental..	30,250	—	660	—	4,581	—	250	—	28,211	—
Imperial Bank of Persia.....	860,000	860,000	905,995	671,80[illegible]	1,220,603	1,088,067	663,085	631,843	1,125,173	1,127,669
Imperial Ottoman	6,250,000	—	14,674,219	—	6,334,511	—	3,217,255	—	7,372,624	—
National Bank of Egypt	4,525,060	4,343,700	3,619,599	3,146,319	2,226,033	1,629,227	967,716	887,540	7,792,671	8,012,219
National Bank of Turkey	1,126,053	—	824,962	—	146,762	—	152,922	—	852,855	—

Referring to Egypt, it says: "Egypt is said to have been suffering from high prices. This, however, is apparently only the case in such places as Alexandria, where the presence of large numbers of troops has been responsible for a rise in the cost of living. But on the whole, although imported goods have gone up in price, the necessaries of life are cheaper."

SERBIAN ARMY CONTRACTS.

In the King's Bench Division on Thursday, Mr. Justice Darling heard an application in a pending special jury action of the Balkan Agency, Ltd. *v.* James Compton and Sons, Ltd., in which there is a claim for £18,000 commission.

Counsel for the defendants said they were a big firm of army clothing contractors, and the Balkan Agency were claiming £18,000 which they alleged was due to them as commission for placing a contract, on behalf of the defendants, with the Serbian Government. The main defence was that the Balkan Agency induced the defendants to give them a commission note by alleged misrepresentation that they were the sole commercial agents in England for the Serbian Government, and that no tenders would be entertained by the Serbian Government unless they went through the plaintiffs. The essential witness supporting that allegation was Major Harold Compton, who was at present in the firing line, and could not attend the Court before the first or second week in December. The defendants accordingly wanted the hearing postponed until then.

Counsel for the plaintiffs opposed the application, but his lordship fixed December 6 for the hearing.

BANK'S REPORTED LOAN TO ROUMANIA

Recently Mr. King asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department in the House of Commons whether the statement made in the public Press at the end of last January that the Bank of England had lent £5,000,000 to Roumania was, before being passed, submitted for confirmation to the Foreign Office or to the Treasury.

Sir John Simon: The statement was referred to the Foreign Office and the Treasury before being passed for publication. These Departments, while they did not confirm the accuracy of the statement, saw no reason to interfere with its publication.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 30 Septembre, 1915.

Prêts Existants:

	1914. £E.		1915. £E.
Prêts à court terme	46,350	..	7,925
Catégorie "B".....	6,087,894	..	5,405,856
Total	6,134,244	..	5,413,781
Echéances:			
Dues	163,631	..	122,221
A échoir	1,059,180	..	879,083
Total	1,222,811	..	1,001,304

Perceptions:

	1914. £E.		1915. £E.
Arriérés au 31 janvier	704,977	..	1,394,546
Restant	540,918	..	1,189,808
Perçu	164,059	..	204,738
Echéances:			
Perçu	39,211	..	54,647
Total perçu sur annuités échues.....	203,270	..	259,385

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN. — Gemsah, 482 tons (previous week, 178 tons); Hurgada, 205 tons (previous week, 214 tons).

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED. — Production week ended October 30, 2,500 tons.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.—The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for the 30th and 31st ult. amounted to 520,000 frs., as compared with 1,290,000 frs. for the corresponding days last year.

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT OF PERSIA FIVE PER CENT. STERLING LOAN OF 1911.—Notice is hereby given that the coupons due November 15 instant will be paid on and after that date at the Imperial Bank of Persia, 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C., or at their bankers, Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.

MONTENEGRIN BONDS.

The London agents of the Montenegrin Government state (says the *Investor's Chronicle*) that no funds are yet available to meet the coupon due July 1, lent on the 5 per cent. loan of 1919. The agents are in communication with the British Government on the matter.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, OCTOBER 19/2, 1915.

Assets.			
Metallic reserve — Gold (specie)	173,324,300		
On deposit..	25,220,000		
Gold (bars) .	260,000		
Foreign bills payable in gold.....	80,979,883		279,784,183
Silver and other coins.....			415,026
Roumanian and foreign bills			205,520,402
Advances against Government securities		26,570,700	
On current account	48,665,800		
Unused balance ..	22,749,261	25,916,539	52,487,239
Loan of 15 millions to the State.....			11,273,968
Loan to Government on 3 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914-15)			264,508,499
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			10,699,576
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,407,177
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			3,956,681
Premises			6,738,025
Furniture and printing machinery			1,111,153
General expenses			972,663
Government and other securities deposited			139,221,216
Three per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State.....			300,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			168,077,632
Current accounts.....			16,597,657
Security accounts.....			21,745,677
Sundry accounts			42,935,877
Total Lei			1,542,452,641
Liabilities.			
Capital.....			12,000,000
Reserve.....			39,804,376
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			5,907,700
Notes in circulation.....			733,219,910
Profit and loss account			4,902,667
Interest and various earnings			3,668,193
Current accounts and drafts at sight			62,642,797
Securities, etc., held on account of customers			607,298,848
Sundry accounts			73,008,150
Total Lei.....			1,542,452,641

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	—
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1909..	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909 ..	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3% Guar. Loan ..	93½	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	85	85xd
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78⅜
Do. 4½% State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5%, 1881.....	57	52	53
Do. 5%, 1884.....	56	52	53
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	40	40½
Do. 5%, 1890.....	56	52	52½
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1908 ..	77	—	60
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	74
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855..	103	97	—
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	—	81xd
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73xd
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4%, 1909	69	—	47½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4½	—	2⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6⅛
Do. 3½% Bonds Red.....	80	—	69½
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red...	83	—	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	—	9⅝
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens.....	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	88/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited.....	3⅜	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	10⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½% Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb. ..	87	—	57
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb...	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	—
Do. do. 3% Bonds..	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1⅛	—	⅛
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	⅛	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅛	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	⅛	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8⅛	—	6
Do. Pref.	4⅛	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅛	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
" " Founders	⅛	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5% Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7⅛
Do. 4½% 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	85
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	⅛
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	—	⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1⅛	—	—
Do. 4½% 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	14/6
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	9/-
Do. do. Prefs.....	3⅜	—	2½xd
Do. do. 4½% 1st Mt. ..	90	—	88
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2⅛	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Nov. 3.
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	5/8	4/6
Anglo-Persian	22/1⅛	18
European Oilfields	4/9	3/3
Roumanian.....	20/-	11/9

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Nov. 3.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	—	—
Canal de Suez	4050	3990
Credit Foncier Egyptien	630	540
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	—
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	60.70
Serbian, 1895	—	—

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 236.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

By a consensus of opinion Lord Kitchener's mission to the Near East, whatever may be the developments to which it may subsequently lead, indicates that the British Government is imbued with the necessity of giving the Eastern campaign its full attention. For this reason the mission stands out as the most significant incident of the week. In due course, as is explained elsewhere in this issue, we shall hope to hear that the Secretary of State for War has not only studied the military situation in the Balkans and at the Dardanelles, but has also enlightened King Constantine and the Greek Government regarding the intentions of the Entente Powers and their ability to carry their resolve into effect in the Near East. The language employed by Mr. Asquith at the Guildhall Banquet lends colour to the belief that the mission will have a diplomatic side. Lord Kitchener, he stated, "has gone to survey at close quarters and in intimate confidence with our own representatives and those of our Allies the whole situation in the Eastern theatre of the war."

The decision to send Lord Kitchener to the Near East would seem to have been taken hurriedly. We shall probably not be far wrong in regarding the mission as a not unnatural corollary to General Joffre's visit to London. In any case, it has been undertaken, as Mr. Asquith assured his audience on Tuesday, with the unqualified approval and the warm sympathy of the Allies. In passing through France Lord Kitchener conferred once more with General Joffre, and had an interview with the new Prime Minister. All the energy and conviction with which the campaign in the Near East is now being conducted we owe primarily to the French Government, which seems to have been far less ready than our own Government to expose itself to the charge of having left Serbia in the lurch. Before these pages are in print Lord Kitchener will have reached Eastern waters and, if Athens should be his first objective, will almost have had time to accomplish one portion of his mission.

Both the advocates of patience in the dealings of the Entente Powers with Greece and those who favour peremptory measures have much to urge on behalf of their respective views. The determining factor is probably the degree of enlightenment which has come to King Constantine since he first made up his mind that the Central Powers were bound to prove victorious in the war. All that has happened since can be explained partly by this conviction and partly by his fear of an unsuccessful war, and by personal antagonism towards a masterful Prime Minister. Sir Edwin Pears has lent the authority of his name to the report that the Goeben was able to reach the Dardanelles through the connivance of King Constantine, who gave orders, which did not pass through the Minister of Marine, that the German ship was to be allowed to coal at a port near Athens. If this report be true, it shows that the King of the Hellenes was anxious at an early stage of the war to keep in favour with Germany. At a later date he would seem to have decided that there was something to be said for co-operation with the Entente Powers, but that it would have to be on terms which guaranteed Greece against all possibility of loss and offered her the greatest possible gains. When the Allies were unable to meet him on this point, he refused to waive his claims at the suggestion of M. Venizelos. Then came the change in the military situation in Europe, with its disadvantages to Russia. King Constantine, fearing lest he had been indiscreet, tended to vere round in the opposite direction. He had allowed the Greek Army to be mobilized in the face of Bulgaria's threatening attitude, but he would not take the field in circumstances that might bring the Greek Army up against Germans and Austrians. From what we know of German diplomacy it is safe to infer that it was quick to profit by the occasion, and that it gave King Constantine the necessary assurance that the Bulgarians would not attack Greece. All would be clear sailing from that point, unless the Allied Powers were to take advantage of their position. Greece would humour the latter by allowing the disembarkation of troops at Salonika with further protest, and would safeguard herself against Germany by pleading *force majeure*.

With a somewhat distracting choice of three evils before him, King Constantine will have hoped to have chosen the least in outraging constitutional practice. As he remained adamant on the subject of military action before he could know for certain which group of Powers was going to win, no other course was open

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to him. Thus M. Venizelos was replaced as Prime Minister by M. Gounaris, and when the latter could no longer carry on the Administration the King persuaded M. Zaimis, who had some claim to public respect, to take office. There could, however, be no permanency in any arrangement which tried to carry through a breach of the Constitution by means of the constitutional machinery. M. Zaimis acted loyally by his Sovereign in placing his services at his disposal when he believed that the King was acting in the real interests of Greece. But he seems to have made up his mind very quickly that the part he was called upon to play was intolerable, and he lost no time in resigning the Premiership. A trivial instance in Parliament—offence taken by General Yanakitsas, Minister for War, who refused to accept an apology for an insult and left the Chamber—provided the opportunity for demanding a vote of confidence, which M. Zaimis knew would not be accorded him. As he refused to withdraw his resignation, the King was obliged to make a further attempt to carry on along the same lines, because there was no new factor of which he could avail himself in order to reverse his policy.

The appointment of M. Skouloudis as Premier would seem to indicate that King Constantine is not altogether averse from seeing Greek policy lean more and more towards the Entente Powers. We are of opinion that if a dissolution of the Chamber can be avoided, and if Lord Kitchener is accorded an interview in the Palace at Athens in time, Greece may yet succeed in freeing herself from the reproach which King Constantine's policy called down upon her. There is a fullness of explanation in the message sent by M. Skouloudis to the French Government which rings sincere, and which coincides, we hope, with the final abandonment by the King of any ideas he may have entertained of ranging Greece on the side of the Central Powers. Greek neutrality, according to the new Prime Minister, is now to be "characterized by the sincerest good will towards the Powers of the Entente." The new Cabinet, he adds, is too conscious of the true interests of the country and of what it owes to the protecting Powers of Greece to alter in the least particular its line of conduct. Unfortunately for Greece, neutrality, however sincere the good will by which it is characterized, leaves untouched the breach of faith committed in the base desertion of Serbia. For that reason it can have no merit as a permanent policy, but only as a transition stage from the line of conduct into which the Greek nation was nearly forced against its will.

Further support of the theory that with proper handling Greece may shortly be induced to act in the only manner consonant with her honour and traditions is also forthcoming. According to the *Gaulois* King Constantine recently said to a representative of the Quadruple Entente who asked him what his intentions were towards the Allies:—"I replied to the Emperor William when he asked me why I did not oppose the landing of the forces of the Allies at Salonika that, even if I desired to do so, I could not so long as Germany had not succeeded in paralysing the action which the Allied Fleet might take against my country." It is all to the good that King Constantine should now remember the action which the Allied Fleets might take against his country, for he must have forgotten it at one time, certainly when (if he ever did) he helped the Goeben to reach the Dardanelles. Another statement circulating from Athens is to the effect that the Greek Government has approached the Governments of the Allies regarding the question of a further loan of forty million francs. It would argue a degree of cynicism of which we do not believe a Greek Government to be capable, if Greece were to ask for a loan to enable her to continue to benefit by her betrayal of Serbia.

One point must be borne in mind by the Allied Governments in connection with Greece and Roumania, and that is that Germany is no longer content to secure the neutrality of these countries. Time was when German diplomacy, fearing the defection of Greece and Roumania, made profuse offers to the two Governments in return for the maintenance of neutrality. Now, however, Germany is more ambitious, and aims at nothing less than to bring both countries into the war on her side in spite of the trend of popular opinion towards the Entente Powers. With this end in view an active propaganda is being carried out. In Roumania a society has been formed to further the idea —already put forward in the German bribe to the Government—of Roumanian participation in the war on Germany's side for the acquisition of Bessarabia. The purely political aspect of this agitation finds support in the economic situation of the country. It is argued in the pro-German Press—and a large portion of the Roumanian Press is either owned by Germans or in German pay—that, as the only solution of the economic crisis is that Roumania should sell her produce in the one market where it can be bought, it behoves her to safeguard herself against the cutting of prices by balancing political factors against the commercial factor which leaves the seller obliged to sell in a single market at the mercy of the buyer. It will readily be understood how subtle this line of argument may prove in a country which is entirely dependent on the export of a few products.

In Greece Germany has no pull over the economic situation. Accordingly she is working on other lines. There is the same Press propaganda, which is said to have resulted in winning over to the German cause eleven out of sixteen daily newspapers in Athens, as well as a large proportion of the provincial Press. As the task of making the Greek nation pro-German is regarded as hopeless, the aim of the Germanized Press and of German propagandists is to rouse public opinion against the idea of Greece going to war, by dwelling on the resultant inconveniences and horrors. So much of the German machinations is exposed to the light of day. At the same time there is reason to suppose that a subtle campaign is being carried on in the army with a view to familiarising officers and men with the idea of co-operation with the victorious hosts of Germany, together with Turks and Bulgarians. We may feel confident that these German aims are incapable of fulfilment, but it will be well to take note of them and to remember their existence in all negotiations with Greece and Roumania.

Although the Austro-German and Bulgarian forces have been able to join hands in Northern Serbia, effective communication between Berlin and Constantinople will not have been established until the whole of the railway from Belgrade to Nish is in the invaders' possession and the damage done to the line by the Serbians has been repaired. Nish is in the hands of the Bulgarians, who are now engaged in driving the Serbians from the small section of the railway north of Nish still held by them. In the meantime, however, German munitions have secured a free passage down the Danube, and are being landed at Rustchuk for transport by rail to Constantinople. It will doubtless form part of Lord Kitchener's mission to decide whether the Allies have any chance of stopping this traffic before the Turks with the help of unlimited munitions become too formidable for the retention of the Allied troops on Gallipoli Peninsula.

Nothing could be more heroic that the desperate struggle which the Serbians are putting up against overwhelming odds. So far they have kept their forces both in the north and in the south intact, and their object must be to link up the northern with the southern force, which with the help of the Allies is holding back the Bulgarian advance from this quarter. There is still some danger that the invading armies may get completely round the Serbian army of the north. The progress of the Bulgarians is being delayed, if not actually checked, by the arrival of the Allied forces, but what is now the right wing of the German line of advance approaching from the west is already in a position to menace the Serbian line of retreat to Montenegro and Albania. At this point, however, the real difficul-

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ties of the enemy begin, and the Serbians from now onwards will derive much more advantage from the configuration of the country than they have hitherto.

As was to be expected, Sir Edward Grey has been challenged from many quarters in regard to his explanation of the pledge given to Serbia on September 28. The statement on that date was made in answer to a request for information regarding the intentions of Bulgaria in mobilizing her forces. In his reply Sir Edward Grey confined all his remarks preceding the pledge to Bulgaria. He said, "As long as Bulgaria does not side with the enemies of Great Britain and her Allies, there can be no question of British influence or forces being used in a sense hostile to Bulgarian interests; and as long as the Bulgarian attitude is unaggressive, there should be no disturbance of friendly relations. If, on the other hand, the Bulgarian mobilization were to result in Bulgaria assuming an aggressive attitude on the side of our enemies, we are prepared to give to our friends in the Balkans all the support in our power, in the manner that would be most welcome to them, in concert with our Allies, without reserve and without qualification." On November 2 Sir Edward Grey gave his explanation of this promise: "That statement made on September 28 was founded on a promise which we had made in answer to a request from Greece to send a certain definite number of men to Salonika for the express purpose of enabling Greece to fulfil her treaty obligations to Serbia. That was a definite and specific promise on which that promise was founded. When I went on to say 'without reserve and without qualification,' it meant this, that so long as there was hope of Balkan agreement and Balkan unity, we were expressing ourselves as ready to work and help to realize the national aspirations of Greece and Serbia, and also working to achieve Balkan unity by urging certain concessions to Bulgaria. What I wished to convey on September 28 was that once Bulgaria joined the Central Powers there would be no more talk of concessions from Greece or Serbia, and that the help we were prepared to give thenceforth to Greece and Serbia was to be given without any qualification and reserve. That was the particular promise made."

The upshot of the matter is that Sir Edward Grey's words of September 28 did not carry their plain and literal sense, but, as Lord Milner has expressed it, "meant something totally different, and something which no unsophisticated reader could possibly have read into them." Without doubt it is most unfortunate that it should have been so, when a statement of the British Foreign Secretary is in question. But even if the emphasis which the words "without reserve and without qualification" were taken to give to the statement be eliminated, the promise to give all the support in our power remained. It is now possible to trace how the Government proceeded to fulfil this promise. The statements of Mr. Asquith and other Ministers have elicited the following information:—The decision to send troops to Serbia was taken by the British Cabinet on September 24; on October 2 M. Venizelos agreed to the landing of British and French troops under "a merely formal protest"; on October 26 "permission was given to the Government" for British troops to proceed from Salonika to Serbia and to cross the frontier. This permission, the spokesman of the Government added, was acted upon without delay. What the Government has not explained is why there was a delay in landing British troops after October 2, when French troops were landed, and why they were still detained at Salonika while the French were already at grips with the Bulgarians. The nation, jealous of its honour, does not regard the delay as compatible with the undertaking to give all the support in our power. Sir Edward Grey takes his stand on direct communications passing from the British to the Serbian Governments, and refuses to be bound by statements made in Parliament, the primary object of which would seem to be to silence importunate inquiries.

Before we leave this subject it will be well to place on record the few dates with which the Government has marked the progress of events in the Near East. The German and Austrian sympathies of the King of the Bulgarians have always been known, Sir Edward Grey informed the House of Commons—a statement which will at once be contrasted with Lord Crewe's announcement in the House of Lords on October 14:—"We did not originally assume that Bulgaria was, or need be, hostile to us in the first instance." Reports of Bulgarian negotiations with Turkey under German influence came from various Balkan sources as early as April. The Serbian Government was much perturbed in April by the raid by Bulgarian bands on the railway near Strumnitza at the beginning of the month, and by rumours of further impending raids at the end of the month, and they stated their belief in the complicity between King Ferdinand and the Central Powers. On September 19 Bulgaria began to mobilize, and the Serbian Government proposed to the Allied Governments that the Serbians should at once invade Bulgaria, and thus anticipate Bulgaria's declaration of war. The reception accorded to this suggestion may be inferred from the fact that on September 27 Sir Edward Grey "was pressed" for his opinion, and replied "that all the political and diplomatic arguments were against such action, that he was no judge of strategical considerations, and could deal only with the others." (Lord R. Cecil, House of Commons, November 10.) The British Government declares that there was no question of refusing permission to Serbia to anticipate Bulgaria's hostility, but it is obvious that the Serbian Government regarded Sir Edward Grey's communication in the light of a refusal. This fact alone, in view of subsequent developments, ought to have spurred Great Britain on to render Serbia the fullest possible help when she was suffering from the effects of having paid attention to the "political and diplomatic arguments," of which she would have recked nothing, if the British Government had not reminded her of them. But between October 5 or thereabouts and October 26 the British troops remained at Salonika, while the Serbians were being hard pressed from west, north, and east.

Speaking in the House of Lords on November 8 Lord Milner had some shrewd remarks to make on the bogey of the possible effects of a withdrawal from the Dardanelles. "Let that matter," he said, "be determined by military considerations alone. . . . If the military considerations are against it, do not let us persist in that enterprise under the delusion that persistency will help us with Roumania or Greece, or that the abandonment will hurt us in Egypt or elsewhere. Prestige is the child of definite, solid success. You cannot ensure prestige by any kind of make-believe. If our prestige has suffered in the Dardanelles, then the way to recover it is by doing better somewhere else." More than six months ago, when we suggested that the Allied cause might be better served than by continuing the Dardanelles venture, we pointed out in these Notes, in connection with this very point, that "the Oriental world may prove to be quite level-headed enough to lay stress only on the end attained and not on the fate of any particular means adopted."

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Cairo, October 25.

The Feast of Courban Bairam.

The five-day feast of Courban Bairam has passed off quite quietly. Owing to the present political situation no reception was held at the Palace, where a register was merely opened for the public, but excepting for that deviation from custom the feast was celebrated much as usual. The fact that a great war, affecting their country, is being waged at the present moment does not seem to have affected the masses in the manner of the celebration of their great festival, and absolutely no attention was paid to the *fetwa* obtained and published by the Government to the effect that in the present circumstances sacrificial economy would be advisable, and that the killing of one sheep would satisfy the requirements of the Sherei law. Indeed, if anything, more sheep than ever have been sacrificed on the occasion of this Courban Bairam. The explanation of this is, of course, that the average Egyptian is guided by material considerations in such a matter, and that, except by the merest accident, foresight never enters into his life. Had cotton prices been bad or difficulties been encountered in marketing the crop, he might have paid heed to the "recommendations" of the circular embodying the *fetwa;* but the contrary is the case, the fellah has obtained for his cotton and other crops prices that have not ruled for some little time; and so he has obstinately adhered to—and in many instances exceeded—his time-old habit, quite regardless of the fact that the wholesale slaughter of lambs and kids and such-like young animals might lead to a very serious state of affairs in existing circumstances, where imports from Serbia and Syria, the usual sources of supply, are stopped. Fortunately there is the Sudan supply, which can be, and is being, drawn upon, and any imminent danger could be averted, even though "Sudani" meat is not in high favour in this country. But the attitude of the Egyptian masses in this matter and their disregard for the *fetwa* are an illustration of their curious outlook on economic matters, and of the great difficulty that is encountered in tackling the economic problems that periodically arise in Egypt.

The Dardanelles Mails.

It was with great pleasure and satisfaction that everyone in Egypt heard that the question of the Dardanelles mails had been taken up at home, and that a full inquiry had been promised. There is absolutely no doubt that the postal arrangements are a positive scandal. Scarce a man returns from the peninsula who does not complain bitterly about the grossly irregular manner in which his mail has reached him, although his unit may not have been moved from one particular "beach" for weeks, and the instances of parcels having been tampered with *en route* are more the rule than the exception. Many are the cases where packages strongly secured before posting have been wilfully smashed open and the contents abstracted; and we in Egypt have been repeatedly warned in private not to send our parcels through the ordinary channels, especially if they contained eatables or tobacco, but to entrust them to some officer or men returning to duty, if we wanted to make sure that they would ever reach their destination.

The mistake seems to be that no effective supervision is exercised, and that no trained staff deals with the military postal business throughout. Whatever may have been the organisation to start with, a good deal of the routine is now being done by men physically unfit to cope with it properly, or by others who, however brave on the field, and however willing to work in any capacity, possess little idea of what is really required of them, and would not, as one man put it to me, be kept for a single day, even as office boys, in any business concern. In addition, the mode of transport to and from the peninsula is of a nature that lends itself to pilfering and loss. It is to be hoped that a serious reorganisation of the system on business lines will be introduced. There should be absolutely no difficulty in getting together an intelligent, efficient, and honest postal staff to carry out the service right up to the point of delivery, and steps should be taken to ensure that this staff is permanently devoted to the postal service. There is no need to wait for the conclusion of the inquiry promised by the Postmaster-General to introduce the requisite reforms. It is up to everyone to see, now that the above is officially recognised, that it is rectified with the utmost celerity.

Marriage of the Sultan's Daughter.

Yesterday the marriage of Princess Samiha, daughter of H.H. the Sultan, to Prince Ismail Bey Daud, one of the great-grandsons of Mohammed Ali Pasha, and A.D.C. to his Highness, took place at Ras-el-Tin Palace. Owing to the present political situation the ceremony was quite a quiet one, only the members of the family, the Ministers, and the Sheikhs who drew up the contract being present. His Highness, in lieu of the usual expensive festivities, caused a substantial sum to be distributed to the poor and certain Moslem benevolent societies.

The Daira Seif-ed-Dine.

The trial of Hussein Pasha Moharrem, late Under-Secretary of State for War and ex-Curator of the Daira Seif-ed-Dine, on a charge of misappropriating the sum of £E52,000 of the Daira's funds, is at present in progress before the Saida Zenab Court. The witnesses who have been heard so far include Mohammed Pasha Said, who was Prime Minister at the time the misappropriation was committed and is now Curator of the Daira; Ali Pasha Zulfikar, Governor of Cairo and President of the Mejlis Hasbi, the Chancery Court to which the transactions were formally submitted; and Ahmed Ziwar Pasha, Governor of Alexandria. The present Premier, Hussein Rushdi Pasha, who was Minister of Justice under Said Pasha, will be called this afternoon.

Together with Hussein Pasha Moharrem are being tried on the charge of complicity Osman Bey Moharrem, the engineer who reported on the land purchased, and Ahmed Bey Saddik, Assistant Director of the Daira Khassa, who is now in Switzerland, and is being tried by default. One other person should have appeared in the dock—viz., Murad Bey Fareg, the lawyer, who had a hand in the drafting of various of the documents on which the charges are based. He has been able to prove his Russian nationality, and so cannot be brought before the Native Courts. The case is arousing much interest owing to the revelations that are being made.

Cairo, November 2.

Return of the Sultan to the Capital.

H.H. the Sultan came up by special train yesterday morning and drove to Abdin Palace, where he has now taken up his residence for the winter. His Highness was greeted on arrival at Cairo station by Lieutenant-General Sir John Maxwell and the senior Government officials, a guard of honour of British and Egyptian troops being drawn up on the platform.

"Our Day."

"Our Day," which, owing to the feast of Bairam, was fixed for Saturday last, October 30, has passed off most satisfactorily. A few days previously a great meeting of leading Egyptians was summoned at the Opera House by the Governor of Cairo, Ali Pasha Zulfikar, with the object of calling public attention to

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the appeal for funds made by the British Red Cross Society. H.E. the High Commissioner presided over the meeting, which was a very representative one, and delivered an address explaining what had been done by the society and what was still wanted. At the conclusion of his speech he announced that H.H. the Sultan had generously contributed £E500, and that H.H. Prince Fuad had also made a handsome donation. General Maxwell and Surveyor-General Babtie spoke of the great debt that the Army owed to the Red Cross, and Sir Courtauld Thomson gave some interesting details of the work that the society in its many branches was carrying out. The Governor of Cairo also addressed the meeting, which, before it dispersed, drew up a substantial subscription list, over half of the amount whereof was paid in cash on the spot.

For "Our Day" itself extensive arrangements had been made, and the full programme was carried out most successfully. The Red Cross Hospital at the Saidia School, which was open to the public all day, was a very busy centre from an early hour, and the managing committee and its assistants had their work cut out for them to show all the visitors round. The wards were all gaily decorated for the occasion, and there were several side-shows, and later in the day an excellent concert, to all of which visitors were allowed to take the patients. The High Commissioner visited the hospital during the afternoon. At the Y.M.C.A. a most successful carnival, in which the soldiers collaborated whole-heartedly, was held; a musical *matinée* was given at the Opera House by an Italian quartette; a military concert took place on the terrace of the Continental; whilst the eventful day was brought to a fitting close by a gala performance at the Kursaal. In Alexandria a great fête was held at the Jardin Rosette, and a military boxing tournament took place last night at the American Kursaal.

There is no doubt that "Our Day" has been an unqualified success. Throughout the week money has been pouring in from the provinces, where the Egyptians have contributed most generously, and what with the proceeds from the above-mentioned entertainments, and the collections made at the various hotels and centres, where leading ladies of the British colony were stationed the whole day, Egypt ought to have no reason to be ashamed of its contribution to the funds of the Red Cross Society. Owing to the large area over which the collections have been made, it will, however, not be possible to know the total amount subscribed for about another week.

The Greek Situation.

The dissatisfaction with which Greeks domiciled abroad view the policy followed by their Government and the direction in which their sympathies lie received practical demonstration on Sunday morning, when a meeting of the Hellenic community of Cairo was held under the presidency of Rostovitz Bey. The Kursaal, vast as it is, was packed with Greeks of every class, who made no secret of their feelings. After an introductory speech by Rostovitz Bey, Maître Bouboulis, in a most able address, explained the situation and the object of the meeting, and submitted a draft cable, which it was proposed to send to M. Zaimis, the Greek Premier. This telegram was to the effect that the Greek community of Cairo—

"Anxious, at the present crisis which the nation is traversing, to see Greece adopt a line of action that would safeguard her national interests . . . . adjures the Hellenic Government to direct the country, before it is too late, along the path that will assure the realization of its ambitions in a manner consonant with the traditional dignity and honour of the Hellenic nation, by the active intervention of Greece on the side of the Protecting Powers, and of our heroic Allies, the Serbians, whose cause is indissolubly bound up with that of Hellenism."

There was not one dissentient voice amongst the huge crowd congregated in the theatre, and the despatch of the message was agreed to amid wild enthusiasm. The meeting—during the whole of which, it may be noted, the name of King Constantine was not mentioned—broke up after each of the members of the Entente had been honoured by cheers. A meeting of the Alexandria community is to be held on Wednesday, when the same message will be put to the vote.

The Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly should have met yesterday in new session, but on Wednesday last a decree was promulgated postponing its reassembly until a date to be fixed later on, and suspending the provisions of the Organic Law enacting that a partial re-election of the delegates and of the members of the Provincial Councils should take place in January next. The position with regard to the Assembly was explained in one of my recent letters. It appears that the Government has come to the conclusion that it would, after all, be advisable not to hold elections. Quite possibly it is right in its opinion, though there are some who consider that no harm would have been done if just one sitting had been allowed, to permit of the elections taking place; that, in fact, it would have been a good thing to have given the country a temporary distraction. But, having come to its decision in regard to the elections, the Government certainly was very well advised to postpone the reassembly of the Legislative Assembly *sine die*, instead of putting it off for periods of two or three months, as was done in the case of the last session. It is understood that for the time being the question of stopping the allowances of the delegates is not being followed up, though such a course would be fully justified.

THE SITUATION IN PERSIA.

A Reuter's message despatched from Teheran on Wednesday presented a gloomy picture of the state of affairs in the Persian capital, where the German Legation was reported to have armed "a large force composed of Austrians and well-paid mercenaries," for the purpose, it was only naturally feared, of creating a similar situation to that at Ispahan, Yezd, and Kermanshah. Russia acted promptly, and the Russian detachment at Kazvin received orders to advance on Teheran forthwith. The same day the Persian Minister in Paris called on the French Prime Minister and declared, in the name of his Government, that, contrary to certain reports, no agreement existed between Germany and Persia. A telegram, dated November 11, from Reuter's Petrograd correspondent, carries the tale of disorder created by German agents a stage further. It reports that the Russian troops are only sixty-five versts from Teheran, that the Germans and Turks are making hasty preparations for departure, and that the Shah and the Government are said to be contemplating withdrawal to Ispahan if Russia finds certain Persian proposals inadequate The proposals referred to appear to have been drawn up at a twenty-four hours' sitting of the Council of Ministers, which was held "to deliberate on the acceptable conditions to be offered to the Russian and British Governments." At a secret sitting of the Mejliss, the message adds, the majority of the deputies expressed a wish for a favourable adjustment of relations between Russia and Persia. That wish will certainly find an echo in this country.

Hafni Hamud, an employee in the Port Sudan Customs, was tried by a military court at Alexandria on October 18, and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude. The charge (states a Cairo telegram) was that of being in possession of a seditious document.

In connection with the recent attempt on the life of the Sultan of Egypt, it is officially announced from Cairo that Lieutenant-General Sir J. G. Maxwell, commanding the British forces in Egypt, has given directions for the preparation of the summary of evidence required by military law.

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SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, October 16.

Sir Reginald Wingate and his staff returned from Erkowit on October 10 by special train.

Recent arrivals from the North, after leave in England or change of air in Egypt, include Mr. Drummond, of the Education Department, and Mr. Davidson, of the Legal Department. Several ladies have also returned, harbingers of the cold weather.

The north wind reached Khartoum on October 14, and produced a long wished-for change in the weather. Recently the humidity and heat have been excessive, whilst the insect life of the country seemed to thrive on the conditions, and became somewhat tiresome. All these, however, are blown away by the cool north wind.

Owing to the conditions of the river, the last boat for Gambella left on October 15, and it is not certain that it will succeed in reaching its destination.

The first race meeting has been set down for November 27. A feature is the addition of a race for country-bred horses and an amateur race, in which neither jockey nor horse may enter that has previously won a race.

The situation of the northern provinces, Halfa, Dongola and Berber, owing to the damage done by locusts, was reported as precarious. This now appears too pessimistic a term, and though in some parts of Dongola distress has been felt, and will undoubtedly be felt again, in Halfa Province the natives have secured a fair date crop, apart from which they have little that grows, owing to the height of the river banks and the rocky soil. In Berber, it is true, a valuable crop of cotton and grain on the river banks was lost, and this will prevent the natives from repaying the loans they received last year, but the rain crops on the land away from the river will be sufficient to supply food. In Dongola, too, where the clouds of locusts succeeded one another with a most depressing regularity, the natives have taken heart, and hope to get a small crop on the falling Nile. But the shortness of forage for cattle will be the chief problem, as without forage the cattle that work the water-wheels cannot keep up their toil, and the comparatively low flood has left much island land untouched that normally yields a rich quantity of grass, besides giving the native an easily won crop on land refreshed yearly by the Nile sediment.

THE SUDAN AND THE HAJJ.

(From a Correspondent.)

It has been decided that no pilgrims shall leave Egypt this year for the Hejaz, owing to the state of insecurity reigning in Arabia, and it is probable that the Sudan Administration will also be compelled to forbid any pilgrims from leaving that country through Suakin, for the same reason.

Each year up till the present many thousands of Sudanese pilgrims have made their way to the Hejaz to take part in the ceremonies of the sacred Hajj, the authorities facilitating their progress as much as possible, while carefully safeguarding the general community against any risks of infection by imported diseases. The stringent and strictly maintained quarantine regulations already existing were considerably amplified in March of last year, when the Central Sanitary Board issued a number of fresh regulations designed at once to assist the pilgrims and to protect the Sudan from dangers of contagion. No one was allowed to enter or to leave the country in connection with the pilgrimage to Mecca except through the port of Suakin. In 1911, some 3,880 persons had left the country for Jedda through this one port, while 4,494 had returned. During the previous year, 5,905 pilgrims had left and 3,344 had returned, while in 1912 nearly 8,000 had proceeded to Jeddah from the Sudan alone. There is always a discrepancy between the numbers of those going and those returning, which is accounted for by the fact that many remain at Jeddah until the quarantine restrictions are withdrawn, or even until another pilgrim season comes round. Others, again, who leave *viâ* Suakin return by way of Egyptian or Eritrean ports, and *vice versa*.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

On leaving Troödos, the High Commissioner and Lady Clauson visited Papho, taking up quarters at the English Club, and taking tea with the Acting Commissioner and President of the District Court of Limassol, Mr. A. S. Stuart, now acting also at Papho. Next day (October 10) the higher officials and the Mayor were received. These tours of the High Commissioner are of great benefit as regards a more intimate knowledge of the different districts and discussion of local topics on the spot, aided sometimes by personal inspections.

Papho at some periods was the capital of Cyprus, and near it was the world-renowned temple of Aphrodite—now a ruin—the scene of so many mysterious rites, and overlooking the shore where the goddess rose from the waves. For a long time, however, it has fallen into poverty and obscurity, and has been considered the most backward part of the island, from no fault of its own. At present it suffers from the "economic crisis" caused by the war. Petitions were made to Sir John Clauson for relief work, for better communication by land and sea, and for improvements of the "port."

From the Papho district, which sends many of its people abroad, another batch of 200 young men have emigrated to seek employment in Egypt, in some cases having sold their properties before leaving. In some villages the schools have been closed owing to the inability of the people to pay the masters' salaries. Most village schools receive a grant in aid from the Government, and the villagers might legally be compelled to pay their share; but they now urge that the present distress renders this impossible.

Severe comments are made by a leading paper on an "ecclesiastical scandal." At the village of Vasileia, in the Kyrenia district, owing to the refusal of the priest to continue his duties, on the ground of non-payment of fees by the villagers (their excuse being again poverty), the church has been closed. As a consequence, infants have remained unbaptised, and the dead cannot be buried until arrangements are made to bring a priest from some other village. The attention of the Bishop of Kyrenia is invited to the conduct of the *pappas*.

The Greek Press publishes the appeal of the Queen of Greece for fresh support of the Red Cross and the Patriotic League of Greek Women, of which she is the patron. It follows the lead of the Athenian Press, still with the impression that Hellas will enter the struggle "with the co-operation of Roumania," when Hellenic interests point the way, and expresses firm belief in "the wisdom of the king."

ARABIAN DESERT FIGHTING.

In reference to recent fighting in the Arabian desert, the following Brigade Order has been issued from Headquarters, Sheikh Othman (General Staff), dated September 27:—"The Officer Commanding Sheikh Othman Brigade area is instructed to convey to all the troops under him the thanks of the General Officer Commanding Aden for the excellent work done by them on the occasion of the capture of Waht on September 25, 1915. The feat of marching to Waht, turning out its garrison of four guns, 700 Turks, and 1,000 Arabs, holding it against reinforcements from Lahej, and returning the same day to Sheikh Othman, was a magnificent test of endurance, dash, and spirit of all engaged in the operation. A distance of at least twenty miles was covered, and the troops had to march across a waterless and shadeless desert with deep sand on an exceptionally hot day. The Officer Commanding the Brigade especially wishes to thank all engaged for the excellent manner in which all units mutually assisted each other and co-operated from start to finish throughout the day, thus assuring the achievement of the goal aimed at with a surprisingly small number of casualties."

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of the "NEAR EAST" to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, October 26.

The Offer of Cyprus.

The situation remains unchanged, and the Government shows no inclination to depart from its attitude of neutrality. The last few days have been marked by an event of great importance, which in other circumstances would have given rise to general enthusiasm in the country, namely, the offer of the island of Cyprus made by Great Britain to Greece as further compensation for her participation in the war on the side of Serbia and the Allies. The Government, however, declined the offer. Although no official communication on the subject of this step is forthcoming, it seems certain that M. Zaimis, while expressing surprise at the intervention of the Powers in the dispute between Greece and Serbia, maintained firmly his view that the Austro-German attack on Serbia had, for the present, at any rate, released Greece from the obligation of armed intervention in favour of her ally. Whilst reiterating his assurances of the Government's benevolent disposition towards the Entente Powers and the country's sympathy with them, and with Great Britain in particular, M. Zaimis said the acquisition of Cyprus could not compensate Greece for the risks of war.

Had the Government accepted the offer of Cyprus, the Powers were to have made formal proposals to Greece, offering her, besides Asia Minor, Bulgarian Thrace—thus denying Bulgaria access to the Ægean—Monastir, Doiran and Ghevgheli—necessary for her territorial security—as well as Northern Epirus and the promise of the despatch to the Balkans of 300,000 troops. Now, after M. Zaimis' refusal, it would appear that the Entente Powers, before taking any steps to invite the Greek Government to state precisely its attitude towards them, are waiting to see the effect of the arrival in the Peninsula of the Allied troops, in the hope that Greece will then be inspired with sufficient confidence to throw in her lot with them. Should this hope not be fulfilled, it is probable that the Powers will call upon Greece either to demobilize or to take part in the war against Bulgaria and Turkey, seeing that her mobilization is of no help to Serbia. In view of the equivocal attitude of the Athens Cabinet, they regard with suspicion the presence of Greek troops behind those of the Allies. In certain circles rumours are current of coercive measures to which the four Powers may have recourse in the case of a refusal on the part of Greece; but this would seem at least premature.

The Treaty of Alliance.

The refusal of the Zaimis Cabinet to help Serbia, the ally of Greece, has created a painful impression in the country, and more especially abroad, where Greece has been brought into discredit in consequence; and this fact is now preoccupying official circles, where every effort is being made to make their point of view prevail. The Treaty, they hold, has a purely Balkan character, and does not bind Greece to help Serbia in the present circumstances, providing, as it did, for an attack by Bulgaria alone, and not by any other Power. In support of this assertion, it is stated that in May, 1913, when the Treaty was signed, the present complications could not have been foreseen.

The Serbian Point of View.

On the other hand, a well-placed Serbian who is conversant with the text of the Treaty and the negotiations which led up to it, asserts, in an anonymous letter published in the *Patris*, that the clause providing for Greek aid to Serbia "against any attack by a third party" was aimed at Austria-Hungary, and that the meaning of this clause was discussed at length and clearly defined before the Treaty was signed. He adds that neither the Venizelos nor the Gounaris Cabinet, in declining to come to the aid of Serbia, attempted to justify their abstention by the fact that Serbia had been attacked by Austria, as was done by the Zaimis Cabinet in declaring the Treaty null and void. Serbia concluded a Treaty with Greece and not with either the Venizelos or the Gounaris Cabinet. At any rate, Greece should have warned Serbia at the outset, and not have left her under the impression that she could rely on her help in the case of an attack by Bulgaria. Finally, the writer discloses the fact that a fortnight before the Bulgarian attack, when there were only 30,000 Bulgars on the frontier, against 120,000 Serbs, Serbia informed the Athens Government of her intention to attack first, in which case the Serbian army would have been in Sofia in ten days, but she was dissuaded from taking this step by Greece, who pointed out the defensive character of the Treaty. Serbia followed the advice of her ally, but was none the less abandoned at the critical moment. Not only that, but the greater part of the Greek Press assured Bulgaria that the mobilization of Greece would not be directed against Bulgaria.

These statements have been confirmed to me by a Serbian diplomat, who added that in the military convention attached to the Treaty, it is stipulated that if, while Serbia is at war with Austria, Greece should be attacked by Bulgaria, Serbia should send to her aid a certain number of troops, which shows that the Treaty was based on reciprocity and the solidarity of the two States. The Serbian diplomat also assured me that the Treaty provides, in terms which admit of no dispute, for the intervention of Greece in case of the attack of a third Power, *other than Bulgaria*, and that Greece, in her reply, did not contest this, but argued that, instead of one other Power (Austria) there were two attacking Serbia!

The Serbian Campaign.

The Venizelist Press is asking where are the 800,000 German troops who, according to Germanophil circles in Athens, were to make a descent on the Balkans; and the same organs call attention to the fact that, although already three weeks have passed since the Austro-Germans attacked Serbia, they have made only very slight progress. It would seem likely that M. Venizelos's forecast will be realised, and that the German troops, instead of coming to reinforce the Bulgarians, are relying on the latter to defeat the Serbians. The same organs ask if Greece is going to pursue to the end a course of inaction, which would leave Serbia to her fate, in order to render a service to Germany, and they deplore the fact that the Zaimis Cabinet did not act up to M. Venizelos's declaration, that Greece would not fail to attack Bulgaria if the latter should attack Serbia, for in that case Bulgaria would never have dared to do so. But even if she had, Greek troops would now have been in Sofia, while the Austro-Germans would still be making vain efforts to enter Serbia by way of the Danube.

The Political Outlook.

That portion of the Press which is inspired by the German Legation and German propagandists in Athens has worked hard for months past to instil in the people the fear of entering into a war with the Central Powers, and it is to their efforts that the present hesitation is due. If, however, sufficient Allied troops arrive at Salonika in time to lend effective aid to Serbia confidence will be revived, and the policy of M. Venizelos will again become popular. The people will then realize that the present is a unique opportunity of crushing Bulgaria without running any risks, and one that should not be lost. Should events take this course, it is thought that the King would not offer any opposition. The mission of the present Cabinet will then come to an end, and M. Venizelos could easily return to power to pursue his policy. Foreseeing such an eventuality, Germanophil circles are showing signs of uneasiness, and, in order to prevent it, they are urging the Government to bring about a Ministerial crisis by asking for a vote of confidence, thus aiming at the dissolution of the Chamber, which would prevent the return to power of M. Venizelos. It is stated that three veteran members of the Cabinet, MM. Theotokis, Rallis, and Dragoumis, supported by M. Gounaris, are working for such a solution so as to get rid of their adversary Venizelos, who, in their opinion, would now be defeated at the polls. But the President, M. Zaimis, is opposed to such a course, not wishing to plunge the country into the throes of a general election, especially at such a critical time.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, October 27.

The Situation in Constantinople.

According to latest arrivals here, there does not appear to be much change in the general situation at Constantinople; but the unexpected entry of Bulgaria into the conflict on the side of the Huns has naturally produced a feeling of some depression in the Entente communities.

Three weeks ago about one hundred wagons of flour and some petroleum arrived from Bulgaria, and for a few days bread was to be had in sufficient quantity, but since Bulgaria mobilized transport has not been available, and it has again become difficult for the people to obtain their daily requirements of bread.

The latest report gives the coal stock as only 23,000 tons, and no arrivals are reported lately. This would account for the stoppage of some of the flour mills, though wood and lignite are being burnt in mills, factories, and on the railways. The Scutari-Kadikeui waterworks announce in the papers that they are obliged to cease supplying the public, owing to shortage of water. The real reason is, however, no doubt, because they are without coal for their pumping stations. Kadikeui and Scutari will be faced with a water famine.

A "White Flag" Mystery.

A curious incident appears to have absorbed popular attention a short time ago. One day a number of white flags were observed at different points of the harbour, on the quay, at Kadikeui, and on the lower Bosphorus. There was naturally much inquiry and speculation as to the object of this display, but no solution of the mystery has been forthcoming. The guesses indulged in by some people were amusing, for they were variously reported as a sign of surrender, to be followed by the arrival of American warships the following day—a sort of "rehearsal" to accustom the people to their use in preparation for "the day" when they will be hoisted in token of surrender!

French and British Subjects.

There is no news of the Englishmen who were exiled to Karahissar, but it is stated on good authority that the Government has given instructions that they are to be well treated. Mr. Egbert Rizzo, who had been deported from Aleppo to Urfa, has arrived in Constantinople, and it is rumoured that other Englishmen who have been detained at Urfa will follow him. The names of two of the French families who have been deported mentioned in last week's letter should read: Dafos instead of Dufour, and Bocagnano instead of Bocoq. M. Toulon was let off on the strength of his wife being a German, and M. Marechall also succeeded in obtaining his release, and has been allowed to leave the country. The French colony are rather depressed at these deportations, as it is said that others will follow as a retaliation for Ottoman families having been arrested by the French.

The private safes of enemy subjects in the Credit Lyonnais have been sealed by the authorities, and it is said that those in the other banks will also be sealed, and that a note will be made of the securities of enemy subjects deposited in the banks.

Official Exactions.

The so-called requisitioning of goods—more correctly speaking, official robbery—continues, boots being the article mostly in demand just now. Messrs. Bakers' and many other boot stores have been cleared of all suitable footwear. There may be some hope in the case of foreigners of obtaining compensation when the war is over; but this requisitioning means absolute ruin to scores of native merchants, many of whom were rich men before the war.

Greeks and Armenians.

The Greeks are apparently in the Turks' bad books again, for the authorities have ordered all Greek signs to be removed from shops and other places.

The extermination of the Armenians continues, and in places where they have hitherto been unmolested they are now meeting with the same fate. They have been removed from Rodosto, and so have the Greek *rayahs* as well. Many were sent away from Rodosto in open barges, like cattle, exposed to heavy rain, others were packed in small Bosphorus steamers with scarcely even room to sit. The Armenian quarter at Ismid, consisting of three to four hundred houses, has been destroyed by fire.

The German steamer Kerkyra, in entering the Golden Horn recently, did extensive damage to the Galata Bridge. On the Stamboul side the bridge was drawn away some distance from the shore, and the centre gates cannot be closed.

Parliamentary Critics.

There appears to have been some excitement in the Senate on the opening day, which, of course, was not reported by the newspapers. According to private information, Ahmed Riza Bey, who was the first President of the Chamber of Deputies, and is now a Senator, submitted an Interpellation to the Senate containing the following questions:—Why does the Government conceal the situation of the army at the Dardanelles? Why does the Government conceal the military disasters and financial exhaustion? "I accuse the Government of the Armenian massacres and of the persecution of the Christians in general," Ahmed Riza is reported to have said, "and even in the event of the Central Powers being victorious—which in my opinion is improbable—they would considerably influence our position as a State and as a nation. Ungrateful nations are not the Christians, but we who have turned against our friends and protectors. We have entered into an alliance without previously determining our situation and the advantage which we shall obtain in the event of success." "Can you say," continued Ahmed Riza, "what benefit we shall derive from this war, when up to the present time we have lost 400,000 men?"

It appears that some unpalatable truths were also spoken in the Chamber by the deputy for Yozgat, which likewise led to some disturbance. It is said that Ahmed Riza was arrested on leaving the Senate, but was released on the intervention of Prince Youssouf Izzedin.

THE SITUATION IN THE LEBANON.

(From a Lebanese Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 25.

It would seem after all that the annexation by the Ottoman Government of the Lebanon as an ordinary vilayet, with a Turkish Governor, has not yet carried with it the complete abolition of the province's privileges, if we are to judge from a circular addressed to the Kaimakams and Mudirs. The text of this circular was published in a local Beyrout paper, of which a copy has lately come to hand. This official notification runs as follows:—

> As the state of the treasury of the Mountain has become critical, it is incumbent on you to collect the Government taxes to the last para; and it is, moreover, your duty to make the population realize that the taxes and imposts in all the vilayets of the Empire have been increased and yet fully collected, in spite of the present circumstances. Therefore, the Lebanese, who have been exempted from military service by the privilege that has been vouchsafed to them by their government of eternal existence (*sic*), are expected to offer of their own free will, and without the least compulsion, the payment of the taxes due by them, more especially as the amount of these taxes is destined for expenditure within the Mountain itself and for its own needs. No manner of excuse may, therefore, be accepted for any delay or postponement. Any delay in the execution of this order will place you and the village sheikhs (mayors) under responsibility. We require you to give wide publicity to these instructions among all the different classes of the population, and to communicate at once the contents thereof to all concerned.

The three principal resources of the Lebanon are: the silk crop, the remittances made by the Lebanese emigrants abroad—especially in America—and the profits derived from the summer visitors, principally in the shape of rent and sales of fresh provisions. Owing to the war, these three sources of revenue have been practically dried up at the source, and one may well ask how the poor inhabitants of this rocky province are to meet the Turkish Government's peremptory demands.

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SERBIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nish, September 30.*

(*Delayed in transmission.)

Threatened by an Austro-German invasion in the north and an attack by Bulgaria in the south, the people in Serbia are excited but not terrified. They appear to have every confidence in their Allies, and are nervously awaiting the development of the attitude of Austria-Germany and Bulgaria.

The ideas and feelings of the Serbian people I can best portray by repeating the words of the chief Serbian politicians and by quotations from the Serbian Press.

The semi-official organ *Samouprava* says:—

Bulgaria wants to treat the Turco-Bulgarian entente from an economic point of view and not to consider it in a political sense, but the military measures taken the last few days and the manifestations and demonstrations at Sofia show clearly that this Turco-Bulgarian contract has a political character.

And even if it were an economic arrangement, it would be to the detriment not only of France, Great Britain and Russia, but also of the Balkan States, from an economic point of view, to aid a country which is at war. It is, in fact, the same thing as fighting on the side of that country against its enemies; therefore, if it is to be believed that Bulgaria has only an economic entente with Turkey, it is still an act directed against the interests of the Triple Entente.

The *Balkan Courier*, published at Nish, says:—

Bulgaria has decreed a general mobilization. It is not possible to deceive ourselves as to the real character of this action. It is an open declaration of hostility against Serbia and the Quadruple Entente. Bulgaria declares that this mobilization is only a means of maintaining armed neutrality, but it is evident that this is mere pretence, in order to gain time to concentrate the Bulgarian Army. An armed neutrality has no significance in reference to Bulgaria. If she mobilizes to-day it is not in order to maintain neutrality; it is in order to cease being neutral; and it is not the less evident that this will be done to the detriment of Serbia and the Triple Entente, and in favour of Germany, Austria and Turkey.

The Belgrade *Politika* writes:—

The news of the recent demonstrations in Sofia against the Quadruple Entente, and more especially against Russia and against Serbia, caused much more consternation in diplomatic circles than among our own politicians.

A highly esteemed former Cabinet Minister said to us: "We in Serbia, are not in the least surprised by the proceedings now taking place in Bulgaria; for having seen, after the events of 1908 and 1913, how close were the bonds binding Berlin, Vienna and Sofia together, we have a clear idea of how things stand with our eastern neighbour. Therefore, the passing events do not surprise us, and we feel that we can well await quietly and fearlessly the development of circumstances."

The *Novosti*, of Nish, writes:—

The mobilization of Bulgaria has been no surprise to us. We expected as much after the fall of Warsaw. The Bulgarian Government made its choice long ago between the two groups, but before declaring itself it awaited the moment when Germany would be in a position to intervene with armed force in Balkan affairs. The Bulgarian mobilisation was a proof that this moment had arrived. In order to save the situation in the Balkans at the last moment there remains but one course open to the Allies, and that is for them to intervene with an armed force on the side of Serbia without losing a single instant.

The *Balkan Courier*, in an article headed "The Balkan Crisis," writes:—

If the signing of the Turco-Bulgarian treaty does not suffice to enlighten the greatest optimist on Bulgarian intentions, her sudden mobilization and the manifestations at Sofia prove that there is no room now for effecting any arrangement. We have arrived at the culminating point of the crisis which has for a long time hung heavily over the Balkan States.

Serbia has given irrefutable proofs of her good will in order to avoid a Balkan conflagration; she has consented to sacrifices whose importance is indisputable; she has gone to the extreme limit which her national dignity and the defence of her rights permitted. Bulgaria has either understood this, or does not want to understand it. We await the solution of the crisis without bravado and without menacing any one, but confident in our own strength.

The *Odjek*, a semi-official organ, writes:—

The Balkan crisis in its newest Bulgarian armed menace has become acute.

Within two days the Bulgarian mobilization will be complete, and at the same time a concentration on the Serbian frontier. A week later we may expect this army to enter into action. It is not necessary for Serbia and her four Allies to wait until the end of this period in order to know on which side this army will act.

Every day that is allowed to pass idly increases the sacrifices over and above those which might with justice be demanded of Serbia; and for the Quadruple Entente the realization of a combination on which the fate of the great European war depends becomes questionable. If Russia is indifferent about losing European communication with her Allies, and if the Quadruple Entente is indifferent as to whether it has a million more rifles on its side, it none the less places Serbia in a difficult position.

It is incomprehensible that it cannot be clearly seen in the interests of the Quadruple Entente and in those of the Balkan States that a decision to end the Balkan crisis must be rapidly taken. This is the moment when prompt action can be most easily effected and with chances of the best results. It is the way to shorten the bloody war which it will have to come to.

A leading politician of the Young Radical party, whose voice carries great weight in this country, expresses his views in the following words:—"With her declaration of a general mobilization Bulgaria has openly gone over to Germany, and opposes Russia. Bulgaria has failed to take a lesson from her costly experience of a few years back; she repeats the same mistakes, which this time may have disastrous consequences not only to the interests of the country at the present time but also as regards her future existence.

"In reply to the mobilizing of the Bulgarian Army, King Constantine ordered the mobilization of the whole Greek forces. So the situation in the Balkans begins to be clear. Serbia and Greece rise once more in arms for the freedom of the Balkan people.

"Bulgaria has had time for calm reflection, and to weigh deliberately the consequences which may ensue from her new adventure.

"The Quadruple Powers have had time to study separately the plans and intentions of each of the Balkan peoples. The diplomatists of the Quadruple Entente did everything possible in order to satisfy Bulgaria, and went to extraordinary lengths to get Bulgaria to range herself on the side of the Entente. And after having employed every possible means, the result is the mobilization of the Bulgarian Army, and at the same time the entering into action of Austria-Hungary against Serbia.

"The Powers of the Quadruple Entente must say their last word quickly and firmly."

A ROUMANIAN VETERAN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, October 16.

From Ploesti comes news of the death of a fine old soldier, Gregorie Jon, one of the heroes of the capture of the Crevitza redoubt, the key to the position at Plevna. There, single-handed, he captured the Turkish standard, which he proudly deposited at the feet of King (then Prince) Carol. Like many old soldiers in other countries, he fell upon hard times after leaving the army, and for some years dragged out existence on the wretched pittance of 40 francs a month, working as cleaner at the offices of the *Moniteur Officiel*. Then a reporter of the *Universul* discovered him, and that paper took up his case; and a subscription being opened for his benefit, enough money was obtained to purchase a small piece of land near his native village, where he was able to pass the rest of his days in peace.

He was accorded a military funeral, the honours being done by a company of gendarmerie and a company of his old regiment, while wreaths were sent from the Prefect of the district, his former regiment, and other bodies, and the funeral was attended by a great crowd of people.

The Serbian Legation in London has received instructions from the Serbian Government to deny most categorically all reports emanating from Austro-German and Bulgarian sources alleging that the Serbian civil population fires at and takes part in hostilities against enemy forces.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

GREEKS IN ENGLAND.*

It would have been difficult to find a more timely juncture for the publication of "Hellenism in England." This little volume contains the results of much painstaking research by Archdeacon Dowling and Mr. E. W. Fletcher into the relations that have existed from the earliest times between the Greeks and this country. A valuable Introduction is contributed by the Greek Minister, M. Gennadius, which embodies many points untouched by the authors. M. Gennadius, who is an authority on the subject, has given such a scholarly survey of Greek influences here that it is much to be regretted that his information was not embodied in the text. Perhaps that may yet be done in a subsequent edition.

The fundamental difficulties which are bound to present themselves to those who essay the part of historian in such by-paths of history are sufficiently obvious for enumeration to be unnecessary. With the best possible intentions the result is apt to be a little lacking in coherence. In the present case, while there is material available in the first few centuries before the Christian era, the authors have failed to find any trace of Greek activities in this country between 27 B.C. and the dawn of the Renaissance. M. Gennadius, however, gives a number of facts which go far towards filling up the gap. Constantine the Great, he points out, accompanied his father to Britain, and on his death was crowned Emperor at York in 306, while Theodore of Tarsus, of Greek descent, was crowned Archbishop of Canterbury in 668. Theodore's work in organising the English Church, and in reconciling local antagonisms, led Stubbs to write: "He was the real organiser of the administrative system of the English Church, and in that work laid the foundations of English national unity." The writer also mentions John Basing, who died in 1252. He was at one time Archdeacon of Leicester, but a greater claim to fame lies in the fact that he was probably the first Englishman to study Greek at Athens. The first instance of a Greek visiting Britain is in 330 B.C., when Pytheas came over from the Greek colony of Massilia to ascertain how much truth there was in the rumours that there was considerable mineral wealth in the country. He was followed over two centuries later by Posidonius, once the tutor of Cicero, who was able to make a favourable report on the Cornish tin trade with Massilia.

With the capture of Constantinople in 1453 the cult of Hellenism began to prevail in this country. Under Grocyn and Linacre at Oxford, and Erasmus at Cambridge, Greek became a part of the university curriculum, and from that time onwards gradually assumed the importance which would make its removal from the list of compulsory entrance subjects at the universities practically an academic revolution. The study of Greek was doubtless responsible for a desire for an increased connection between the countries, and we find that in 1616 the Patriarch of Alexandria decided to send a young man to Oxford to be trained for the priesthood. The student remained at Balliol five years, and distinguished himself on his return by succeeding his patron as Patriarch. An attempt was made in 1677 to establish Gloucester Hall as a Greek College at Oxford; but after repeated attempts the experiment was abandoned, and in 1714 Gloucester Hall came into the hands of Sir Thomas Cookes, who founded Worcester College. Within the last ten years two Greek monks were sent to Oxford—one of them is now an Archimandrite at Jerusalem, and the other is Titular-Bishop of Stavropolis. In keeping with her mathematical traditions, Cambridge has not had anything like the same association with Greeks. In fact, one of the few notable events in her history in this connection was the translation of the *Book of Common Prayer* into Greek in 1665 by Dr. Duport, Master of Magdalene College and Regius Professor of Greek.

Apart from the universities, there have been, and are, flourishing Greek colonies in various parts of this country. "Hellenism in England" will be found to contain an excellent account of the growth of these communities, and of the Greek churches which have marked their assemblage. The presence of these communities in our midst is, however, no criterion of the strength of Hellenism in England. In literature and the arts are to be found the signs indicative of the extent to which we have yielded adherence to the Hellenic cult. The Hellenism which has roused our admiration is the civilisation of Athens, and, glorious though that civilisation undoubtedly was, it would lose much of its gloss if it was proved that it was merely an end in itself, and not an incentive for the race to achieve even greater heights.

* "Hellenism in England." By Theodore E. Dowling, D.D., and Edwin W. Fletcher, F.S.A. Scot. With an Introduction by H. E. Joannes Gennadius, Litt.D. (Faith Press.)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

BULGARIA AND THE PRINCIPLE OF NATIONALITIES.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Having just returned from Bulgaria, where we have lived for some years, may we call the attention of your readers to certain points in connection with the present position of that country in relation to the Entente Powers?

It has been repeatedly stated that the Allies are fighting this war for the principle of nationalities and the rights of small nations, and that we shall not lay down the sword until our object has been attained.

Bulgaria received Sir Edward Grey's declaration regarding the principle of nationalities as an assurance that what belonged to Bulgaria by a rational application of that principle and a due regard to economic necessities would be given to her, and that, if any of the Balkan States opposed the Allies in the fulfilment of their engagements to Bulgaria as a small State, the Allies would act with the firmness consistent with their mission, their dignity, and their honour.

For many months the Balkan States were left in anxious uncertainty as to how the Allies proposed to interpret the principle of nationalities as applied to the Balkans. Proposals were finally made, and subsequently renewed with modifications, involving the cession to Bulgaria, after the war, of certain territories occupied by Serbia and Greece, as well as other advantages. These proposals, made, as they were, by Powers warring for a stated principle, were, it was logically to be assumed, equivalent to a recognition by those Powers of Bulgaria's right, under the principle involved, to the territories proposed to be ceded to her.

Greece hastily replied to the Note containing the Allies' proposals, refusing to make any concession to Bulgaria. Serbia, after much delay, notified her acceptance in principle, but interposed so many reserves that her reply was practically a rejection of the Allies' demands.

The ultimate issue of this situation was obvious: either Bulgaria would seize Macedonia, or the Allies would have effectively to adhere to their avowed principles and compel Greece and Serbia to cede what the Allies had already implicitly recognised as belonging to Bulgaria.

The moment was a decisive one. It was evident to Bulgaria that the principle of nationalities could only be regarded as a plausible theory so long as its application was to be subject to the approval of her capricious neighbours—the authors of the Treaty of Bucharest. No Government in Bulgaria could ever have supported the cause of the Entente so long as her principles melted away at the opposition of Greece, whose very breath of life was dependent on our will.

Ferdinand was put on his mettle. He knew his people. They wanted Macedonia, and he realised that they would not get it from the Allies. Macedonia they consider as the cradle of their race. The blood of their recently massacred brothers called, moreover, for vengeance. These were the sentiments which would govern the majority of the people in a war for Macedonia. The elation of the troops, consequent on immediate easy victories, would, so Ferdinand no doubt foresaw, soon reconcile the people to fighting on the side opposed to Russia and England. Our half-hearted policy had served, moreover, no other purpose than to strengthen the hand of the King and to discredit our own friends in Bulgaria in the eyes of their following.

As our Bulgarian friends frequently pointed out, there was but one course to pursue from the beginning, if we wished to obtain the support of Bulgaria and the respect

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of other small nations—viz., to have given a frank and definite interpretation as to how the principle of nationalities should be applied in the Balkans, stating clearly what the Allies would henceforward regard as the boundaries of each Balkan State. Bulgaria would have been satisfied, and the King would have been swept away had he attempted to act against a contented national opinion. As it was, profound bewilderment replaced all other national feeling, and Ferdinand seized the occasion to indulge in a gigantic gamble.

It is frequently asked why Bulgaria could not reasonably have accepted our promise to give her, under certain conditions, a part of Macedonia at the end of the war. Bulgaria's answer is as follows:—

1. Macedonia belongs to Bulgaria, and Serbia recognised the fact in the Secret Treaty of 1912. The Allies have subsequently implicitly endorsed Bulgaria's claim.

2. Bulgaria could easily take Macedonia herself at a smaller sacrifice than that she was asked to make in return for a promise of Macedonia after the war.

3. She had no reason to feel assured that the Allies would adopt a stronger attitude towards Greece and Serbia after the war than they had done during the war, in case these States refused to give up the territories promised by the Allies to Bulgaria. Bulgaria had only recently been sadly deceived by both Greece and Serbia; and our own Foreign Secretary's statement regarding the *status quo* made prior to the first Balkan War was still fresh in the Bulgarian mind.

4. If the Allies' promise of Macedonia was good enough for Bulgaria, the Allies' still more attractive promise of compensations to Serbia and Greece should also have been good enough for the two latter.

In making overtures to Greece and Serbia with regard to the cession of certain territories to Bulgaria, the Allies presumably acted on a principle, the application of which was just, consistent, and necessary. On the basis of this assumption, it would have seemed permissible to anticipate that judicious action would follow these overtures in case they failed in their purpose. Greece and Serbia probably experienced a very great surprise, with perhaps a touch of disappointment, on finding that the Allies had accepted, with little further ado, their refusal to adhere to the principle which the Allies had solemnly undertaken, without reserve, to put into execution, and which would have meant salvation to all the Balkan States.

The interests of Greece and Serbia henceforward dominated the policy of the Allies in the Balkans; and Bulgaria was left a prey to Ferdinand and the Germans. As is natural, Greece seems now somewhat scared at the situation her own vacillation has created, and Serbia is gently murmuring that we are not helping her fast enough out of the dilemma in which she and, to a serious extent, we also, have been placed.

The question which troubles our minds most is whether we are still determined to apply the principle of nationalities in the Balkans and not to sheathe the sword until the cause of discord has been removed; or whether we shall leave to posterity a legacy still more unhappy than that of the Treaty of Bucharest.—We are, etc.,

H. L. ANDREWS.
CHAS. TURNER.

THE MAIN THEATRE OF THE WAR: THE BALKANS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The arrival of Germany in the Balkan Peninsula is misunderstood if it is attributed to failure on her other fronts. Rather is the explanation to be found in the fact that she is now seeking to gain by military effort what for the last twelve years she has been unable to obtain by diplomatic means. That Germany intended the Balkans to be the main theatre of her operations is not only shown by the long record of events that led up to the war, but it is indicated by the way in which hostilities were launched. The fact that the seat of the outbreak lay in Serbia may of itself give a key to the position, for an attack upon that State was an attack upon territory that formed a barrier in the development of Austro-German communications with the East, and which a long course of provocation had sought in vain to remove. But there are contributory facts that assist our judgment. Germany's declaration of war was a declaration against Russia, and it was not accompanied by a similar declaration against France. On the contrary, the German Government inquired through their representative at Paris "What attitude France intended to adopt in case of a Russo-German conflict," indicating thereby no predetermined resolve to make war on France. And though Baron von Schoen said, "on his own initiative," that the answer was not in doubt, yet had France then, as Greece has now, been false to her treaty obligations, the war might for the time being have been confined to Eastern Europe, and the struggle so long impending between Slav and Teuton for ascendancy in the Balkan Peninsula have been fought out on its simple and uncomplicated terms.

This is only to show that the Balkan offensive is not an afterthought on Germany's part, that the inception of it is not involved in mystery, and that it cannot be taken as an indication of Germany's weakness based upon the argument that, being contained elsewhere, she is driven to seek an outlet to the south. Whether she will achieve her end, or, if she does achieve it, whether the end will be worth the unexpected sacrifices made for it, are questions apart. But that she is now engaged upon the express object for which she declared war is apparent, for German plans have throughout persisted in unity of purpose, and in spite of all opposition. By way of example, they survived the Anglo-French Declaration of 1904, which had the effect, amongst other things, of withdrawing France from participation in the construction of Ottoman railways, which had been proceeding under the joint auspices of the Deutsche Bank and Comte Vitali, the Paris railway magnate. And they survived the subsequent Anglo-Russian Convention, which gave our relations with Russia a new setting and in effect afforded her a free hand in the Balkan Peninsula, and so the means of countering the growth of German ascendancy there. And the remarkable fact is that it now persists towards its self-appointed end, notwithstanding the opposition of Russia and France in military conjunction, and despite the additional opposition of Italy and ourselves. With one hand Germany holds back French and British on the West, and with the other she holds back the Russians on the East, and with the passage cleared, as police clear a roadway for the passing of processions, her armies press forward ostensibly to realize the objects for which she destined them. While in holding her back from Calais we have successfully countered one of the two great aims of German ambition, the command of her sea communications, yet the other, the penetration of the Balkans, remains undecided, and while it is undecided it is of the first importance for us to recognise that in the result is contained all that Germany has for so long set herself to achieve by land and all that we have set ourselves to prevent.

For has not our whole diplomatic effort for more than a decade been concentrated on the limitation of German endeavours in Asia Minor? By means of the strategical system of railways that were in course of development, largely under Germany's superintendence, and rendered the more dangerous by her refusal to internationalize them, not only was Constantinople being connected with the Persian Gulf, but the vulnerable approaches to Egypt were being rendered liable to a concentration of assault from the remotest parts of the Turkish Empire. For the British, who wish to direct their resources to the maintenance of sea power, and who want no new frontiers to defend, the Baghdad Railway, as being in its anticipated effect on the peoples of Asiatic Turkey in the nature of a turning movement of our position in Egypt, has constituted since its inception the leading international question in which we have been engaged, and it is in connection with this that Germany's Balkan offensive so concerns us.

It is not too much to say that the question of Germany's communications with the East has entirely revolutionized her world policy. Under the compact with France, not only did we abandon the Mediterranean policy of the Victorian era, but, under the agreement with Russia, we even came to regard the menace of Muscovite encroachment on Indian frontiers as altogether removed, and the anticipated growth of Russian ascendancy in the Balkans as no longer a danger to our sea communications. Could there have been more momentous changes in our foreign outlook or changes that better indicated the depth of the impression that Germany's aims had made upon us? It is idle to say that the Foreign Office, saturated as it was with this subject, has been taken by surprise, or that it was unaware that the Eastern theatre would mark the culmination of Germany's plans. Preparation was duly made, if it was not made in the Balkans. We are a maritime Power, and our plans were laid upon considerations of making the most of sea power. The Dardanelles was our natural objective, and our enterprise there was capable of fulfilling all political expectations in this connection; and it is only fair to remember that, had it succeeded, not only would the question of railway communications in Asiatic Turkey have been solved to our advantage, but the balance of power in the Balkans would have yielded in our direction. That this undertaking did not succeed was due to military and not to political causes, and the Foreign Office was unjustly blamed for the difficulties that have arisen as a consequence of the failure.—I am, etc.,

DOUGLAS M. GANE.

London, November 11, 1915.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Julian (Old Style).	Gregorian (New Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915.	1915.		1334.	5676.
Nov.	Oct.		Moharr'm	Kisler.
12	30	Friday	4	5
13	31	Saturday.....	5	6
	Nov.			
14	1	Sunday	6	7
15	2	Monday	7	8
16	3	Tuesday	8	9
17	4	Wednesday	9	10
18	5	Thursday	10	11

Thursday next, being November 5, Old Style, is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Cyril of Bulgaria, second son of King Ferdinand, who was born at Sofia in 1895.

King Peter, of Serbia, has conferred on Commander H. S. Cardale, R.N. (British Naval Mission in Greece), the Karageorge Order (Military Cross of Serbia), for distinguished service in the field. This is the first time that this decoration has been conferred upon a foreigner.

Prince Danilo, heir to the Throne of Montenegro, and his wife, Princess Xenia, who have been staying at Cap Martin, have left for Italy, states a Nice telegram. The Prince, who is now in rather better health, will rejoin the Montenegrin Army if he can obtain medical sanction.

It is officially announced that Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Dowager of Roumania, underwent an operation for cataract on the right eye on Wednesday morning. The operation, performed by Professor Landolt, who had been specially summoned to Roumania for the purpose, was completely successful.

Cordial telegrams, says a Paris message, were exchanged between the French Premier and M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier, on M. Briand's assumption of office.

The Serbian Minister visited the French Embassy on Saturday, and, during the absence of M. Paul Cambon in Paris, was received by M. Fleuriau, the Chargé d'Affaires.

A Bucharest telegram, received in Petrograd, states that M. Savinsky, Russian Minister to Sofia, who had been detained in the Bulgarian capital by illness, was expected to leave on Monday for Russia.

Sir J. D. Rees, M.P., has undertaken the direction of the Prisoners of War Information Bureau, in succession to Sir H. P. Harvey, who has proceeded to America.

The Right Rev. the Bishop in Jerusalem and Mrs. McInnes return to Egypt on the P. and O. steamer Arabia, leaving London to-morrow.

The marriage of Second Lieutenant Bernard St. John Storrs, R.F.A., third son of the Very Rev. the Dean of Rochester, and Marjorie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Kingham Dyson, took place in Rochester Cathedral on Wednesday of last week. The bridegroom is a brother of Mr. Ronald Storrs, Oriental Secretary to the Residency, Cairo.

WANTED. — Back numbers of the "SPHINX." — Write particulars, A.B.C., c/o "THE NEAR EAST," Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

WOUNDED AND MISSING.

MAJOR G. DAVIS,
1/11TH COUNTY OF LONDON REGIMENT, Wounded and Missing on August 15 at Suvla Bay. Will anyone hearing news of him please communicate with Mrs. Davis, "Edencroft," Brondesbury Park, N.W. ?

Miss Hilda Binns, of Constantinople, who was last July selected as nurse at Bagthorpe Military Hospital, Nottingham, is now attached to Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

Friends of Mr. Neville Maltass will be pleased to learn that his son, Sydney, who was interned by the German authorities on November 6 last year, while on a visit to Germany, has returned to London, and is in good health. He was released from Ruhleben on the anniversary of his internment.

In a letter dated from Athens on October 10, an Englishman formerly resident in Constantinople writes :—

The following are the names of some of the Englishmen who were deported into Anatolia about a month ago :—Messrs. Leete (Agent of the Western Assurance Co.), Farley (ex-analytical chemist at the Ottoman Gunpowder Works), Hoare (accountant, Economic Co-operative Society), Wellard (of the National Bank of Turkey), and Wellesley, Gilbert, and Harold Ashover. There are, besides, half-a-dozen more whose names I have not been able to ascertain. Dr. J. Maclean, of the British Hospital, now under American Red Cross management, and Mr. James Rawe, an old resident of over 70 years of age, were likewise arrested, and were about to be deported, but Mr. Morgenthau, the American Ambassador, was again successful in procuring their release.

The announcement that Mrs. Douch and family had left Constantinople proves, unfortunately, to have been incorrect. We learn on the best authority that as the Turks would not allow Mrs. Douch's son (who is only fifteen years old) to go out of the country with her, she pluckily decided to remain with him. Their friends will be interested to know that they are now living in Mr. Hayden's flat in Chichli, and that, though their house and property had been confiscated by the Turkish Government, they themselves had not, up to October 1, been molested in any way.

The King has been pleased to approve of the appointment as a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order of Major Cecil John Lyons Allanson, 1st Battalion 6th Gurkha Rifles, for most conspicuous gallantry and marked ability on August 9, 1915, in leading his battalion to the attack on Chunuk Bair Ridge, Gallipoli Peninsula. Major Allanson, with two companies, reached the summit of the ridge under a very destructive fire from the enemy, where he was wounded by a bayonet thrust. When it became obvious that supports could not reach him, he skilfully withdrew his men, and, notwithstanding the pain from his wound, remained with his battalion throughout the whole day, being the only British officer left.

In a congregation at Oxford held on Tuesday a statute was issued establishing the Bywater and Sotheby Professorship of Byzantine and Modern Greek Language and Literature out of moneys bequeathed to the University by Mrs. Charlotte Bywater and her husband, Professor Ingram Bywater.

The death occurred last Sunday, at Alderbourn, Stoke Poges, of Mr. F. Guy, formerly of Port Said, where he was manager for Messrs. Worms and Co. He was seventy-two years old.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Baldock, 108th Infantry, Indian Army, who is reported to have died on service, was an accomplished linguist, and held first-class certificates for Persian and for languages appertaining to India, and he had also qualified for Staff employment. Before the present war his active service had been seen in the Burmese Expedition of 1887-8, and he was decorated with the Burmah medal with clasp.

Lieutenant-Colonel John R. Beech, 2nd Scottish Horse, D.S.O., who has died as the result of a chill, and heart failure following pneumonia, was in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882-4, when he was mentioned in despatches, receiving two clasps. He served in the Sudan Expedition of 1884-5, and was the recipient of two clasps. He was again in the Sudan in 1888-91, when he was slightly wounded, and was once more mentioned in despatches. He also saw service in the South African War in 1899-1900, receiving the Queen's medal with five clasps.

The death took place last week at his residence, Herne Hill, of Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Drage. Born in 1855, and educated privately, he joined the Commissariat and Transport Department (now the Army Service Corps) in 1872, and ten years later became a warrant officer. From 1886 to 1904 he was attached to the Egyptian Army, and he had seen much fighting in the Nile Valley. He took part in the Sudan Expedition of 1884-5, receiving the medal with clasp and the bronze star. He was also engaged in the Sudan between 1885 and 1889, when he was mentioned in despatches, receiving a clasp and the Fourth Class of the Medjidieh. He was in the Expedition to Dongola in 1896, when he was again mentioned in despatches, and was the recipient of the Egyptian medal. In the following year he was in the Nile Expedition, and was once more mentioned in despatches, becoming at that time a member of the Distinguished Service Order, and receiving a clasp to the Egyptian medal. In the Nile Expeditions of 1898 and 1899 he earned further distinction, being at the Battle of Khartoum and being again mentioned in despatches, obtaining at the same time the honorary rank of lieutenant-colonel. He likewise received the Third Class of the Osmanieh.

Captain Humphrey de Butts Grant, Royal Field Artillery, who was previously reported wounded, and is now reported killed in action in France on October 3, was born at Cyprus in February, 1885. He was the only child of Colonel S. C. N. Grant, C.B., C.M.G., Chief Instructor at the Military School of Engineering, Chatham, who was employed on special service in Cyprus from 1878 to 1886, and Mrs. Grant, the White Cottage, Norton, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.

Owing to indisposition Mr. Ashmead Bartlett was unable to lecture at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on Friday last. His lectures at Sheffield, Leeds, Liverpool, Birmingham, and the Queen's Hall have had to be postponed for the same reason. Mr. Ashmead Bartlett, who returned from the Dardanelles in a bad state of health, is suffering from enteritis, but his medical attendant thinks he will be well enough to resume his lecturing tour before the end of the month.

Kaimakam R. G. Archibald Bey, R.A.M.C., attached to the Gordon College Wellcome Research Laboratories, Khartoum, has reverted to the British Army.

A Constantinople telegram received in Amsterdam states that the German Emperor has conferred the order of the Black Eagle upon the Turkish Grand Vizier.

News has reached the Committee of the Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, S.W., that at least 7,000 refugees from Serbia have crossed the frontier into Roumania. In spite of the heavy drain on their fast-diminishing capital the Committee have decided to send the refugees clothing and money as quickly as possible, and a sub-committee has been appointed to deal with the matter.

The Archbishop of the Armenians in Western Europe has written from the Armenian Church at Manchester to the Lord Mayor of London thanking him for his efforts to alleviate the sufferings of a martyred people.

The Byron Society's Executive Committee has sanctioned the following appeal to Greeks throughout the world :—"The Byron Society, recalling the help given by Great Britain, France, and Russia to the Greek cause at Navarino and on many other occasions, and holding in honour the names of Byron, Victor Hugo, Pushkin, and other great Philhellenes belonging to those three nations, hereby appeals to the Greeks throughout the world to unite in resisting the Germanic influences which will involve the ruin of Hellas and Hellenism."

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SUDAN HONOURS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, Oct. 27.

The feast of Kourban Bairam began on October 19. A levée was held by H.E. the Governor-General on October 20 at 9 a.m., at which the conferring of a number of decorations and robes of honour were made known to the public. A guard of honour was drawn up before the Palace and H.E. read out the list of honours, and invested certain native notables with their robes. The British officials who received decorations included the following:—

ORDER OF THE NILE (*2nd Class*).

Col. H. W. Jackson, C.B., Governor of Dongola Province.

Colonel Jackson has been associated with the Sudan for the greater part of his life. After the battle of Omdurman he proceeded South and took a large part in the delicate negotiations of Fashoda. Subsequently he was Acting Governor-General and then became Governor of Dongola, which province from a state of arid penury rose to a considerable degree of affluence, and was the model for all administrations.

(*3rd Class.*)

Dr. J. B. Christopherson, Director of Khartoum and Omdurman Civil General Hospitals.

Dr. Christopherson has 13½ years' service in the country, and has done wonders to disseminate in the native mind the value of hygiene and medicine instead of magic and dirt.

(*4th Class.*)

Major R. C. Greenwood, Senior Inspector, Bahr el Ghazal Province.

Major Greenwood has nearly nine years' service, spent almost entirely in the extreme South. He has just returned from Gallipoli.

Capt. H. Beaumont, Inspector, Mongalla Province.

Captain Beaumont came to the Sudan in 1909, and is stationed at Latuka, one of the remotest outposts.

Major C. W. Spinks.

Major Spinks is second in command of the Artillery and Ordnance. He recently returned to Khartoum to take up his residence here.

Mr. A. L. Butler.

Mr. Butler, who joined the service at the beginning of 1901, has just retired from the position of Director of the Game Preservation Department.

Mr. C. Havercroft.

Dr. Hodgson has for many years made At-Sudan Railways, and has been for the greater part of his service in charge of the Port Sudan section, where his work has been notable.

Mr. C. A. Willis, Assistant Director of Intelligence.

Mr. C. A. Willis has ten years' service. He was previously in the Administration, spending seven years in Kordofan, of which four were devoted to the Western district. He has since been in the Red Sea, whence he was promoted Senior Inspector, Dongola Province.

Mr. H. P. Hewins, Director of Commercial Intelligence Bureau.

Mr. Hewins has 11½ years' service. He is also Secretary of the Economic Board, and is responsible for the commercial returns that appear periodically. He has done much to assist the trade of the Sudan.

Dr. V. S. Hodgson, M.V.O., Senior Medical Inspector.

Dr. Hodgson has for many years made At-bara a model town in matters of hygiene. He has twelve years' service.

Mr. H. A. MacMichael, Senior Inspector, Khartoum Province.

Mr. MacMichael came out in 1905, and was for six years in Kordofan. He was then transferred to the Blue Nile Province, whence he was promoted to Khartoum. He has produced a standard work on the Arabs of Kordofan, and other work is shortly expected from him.

Mr. J. G. Matthew, Senior Inspector of Sennar Province.

Mr. Matthew was largely instrumental in the growth and prosperity of Tokar and the cotton industry there, though the first years of his service, as the present, were spent in Sennar.

Civil Bey.

The rank of Civil Bey (2nd Class) was conferred on two persons:—Ibrahim Eff. Dimitri and Hassan Eff. Ahmed, Chief Accountant, Public Works Department.

Ibrahim Eff. Dimitri, of Syrian birth, has been for many years the Arabic Secretary of the Inspector General, a responsible position involving considerable journeys and constant work.

SUDAN PROMOTIONS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Major G. S. Symes, D.S.O., who has recently received promotion, occupies the position of private secretary to the Governor-General of the Sudan. Major Symes has been in the service of the Government since January, 1909. He has long enjoyed the esteem and confidence of Sir Reginald Wingate, and of all others with whom he comes into contact officially. He is a good Arabic scholar as well as a very competent organiser. Much of the success that has attended the operations of the Economic Board may be attributed to his initiative.

The Governor-General's personal staff includes, likewise, an assistant private secretary (Mr. A. W. Keown Boyd), a military secretary (Captain Rees-Mogg), an Arabic secretary (Shaheen Bey George), a shorthand writer, several junior clerks, and a British N.C.O. The whole of the Palace establishment is a very modest one, calling for an annual expenditure of something less than £E4,500, and of this amount £E370 is contributed by the War Department towards the pay of the Arabic secretary.

Major H. J. Huddleston, who has recently been promoted, took part in the settlement of the trouble among the Nuers some time ago, being one of the British officers with Major Romilly, who were despatched from El Obeid (Kordofan) to deal with the troublous tribesmen. It may be remembered that the result was officially said to have been in every way successful, and that the end was attained without unnecessary resort to harsh measures. Mr. A. J. C. Huddleston (now on leave), who is stationed at El Damer, in the Berber Province, as Second Inspector, is a brother of Major Huddleston.

Major F. J .M. Postlethwaite, whose name is found among the most recent promotions, has occupied the position of Second Inspector at Gedaref (Kassala Province) for some time, and with considerable distinction. He has especially interested himself in improving the general appearance of an otherwise unattractive looking town, encouraging the native cultivation of edible vegetables, and opening up a new road from Gedaref to Fau viâ Ghadambalia and Migre, where wells have been sunk. Major Postlethwaite has also worked energetically and successfully to complete the new Civil Hospital at Gedaref so far as is possible in the absence of sufficient funds.

Other Sudan officials who are included in the new promotions are Major G. B. Wauchope, Second Inspector in the Kassala Province, now temporarily detached in Egypt, and Major C. H. Stigand, stationed as Second Inspector at Kajo Kaji, in the Mongalla Province.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

Bevan.—On November 7, at 4, St. Ronan's Road, Southsea, the wife of Carus B. Bevan, Sudan Civil Service, of a son.

Speakman.—On the 5th inst., at Suez, the wife of J. MacClure Speakman, of Tor, Egypt—a son.

MARRIAGE.

Hargreaves—Bowell.—On November 2, at the Garrison Church, Mustapha, Alexandria, by the Rev. Canon Gairdner, of Cairo, assisted by the Rev. E. W. Green, Chaplain to the Forces, Alfred Ridley Hargreaves, Lieut. R.A.M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of the C.M.S. Hospital, Old Cairo, fourth son of John P. Hargreaves, of Birkenhead, to Helen Sophia, third daughter of the late Rev. William Bowell, vicar of Sissinghurst, Kent.

The British Women's Patriotic League is collecting clothes, hospital necessaries, and money for our hardpressed Ally, Serbia. All interested are asked to send clothes, etc., to the care of Mrs. Moxey, 46, Westbourne Terrace, and money to the Secretary of the League, 92, Victoria Street.

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THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1915.

LORD KITCHENER IN THE NEAR EAST.

The decision of the British Government to send Lord Kitchener on a special mission to the Near East betokens, we may hope, the acceptance, "without reserve and without qualification," of the importance of the Balkans as a theatre of war. The people of Great Britain ask for nothing better than that Lord Kitchener's visit to the Near East should be in the nature of an heroic remedy for a desperate ill, an earnest of the tardy recognition of the fact that this country is now required to put forth its fullest effort in order to retrieve past mistakes. How much those mistakes are still with us may be seen in the circumstances attending the departure of the Secretary of State for War. Nothing would have been simpler or more calculated to restore confidence to the public than an intimation from the Government that developments in the Near East necessitated an entirely new orientation, which it was proposed to entrust to the most capable hands. Then when Lord Kitchener's absence from the War Office was noticed—as it must inevitably be noticed a few hours after he had left—it would have been connected at once in the public mind with the Government's new plans. The policy of secrecy, carried as it has been to extreme lengths, aroused all manner of suspicions. It was realized, as Lord Milner reminded the House of Lords, that the Government was developing a tendency to shed its elements of strength rather than its elements of weakness. What more likely than that Lord Kitchener, in leaving his work at the War Office, should be following Sir E. Carson into the wilderness? One newspaper, less shrewd than others, traced the line of argument with undue persistency to its logical conclusion, and has been suppressed. The Government has found it necessary to issue a denial of reports which could easily have been prevented, and in an access of misplaced indignation the official *communiqué* states that the visit has been undertaken by Lord Kitchener "in discharge of his duty as Secretary of State for War, which duty he has no intention of abandoning." But the country would have experienced no qualms in learning that Lord Kitchener had left the War Office to take over supreme direction of a large Allied force for operations in the Near East, provided always that his army and its reinforcements were to be commensurate with the work he had to accomplish, and that the country could have the assurance that his departure was not likely to coincide with any weakening in the counsels of the Government. Even now it is not concerned with the possible duration of Lord Kitchener's absence provided his object is achieved. He has a twofold task to perform—to co-ordinate the military and diplomatic efforts of the Allies in the Near East, and by his reports to galvanize into intelligent action a Government which, whatever its record in other places, has not shown until the eleventh hour an adequate comprehension of the issues before it in that theatre of war.

The situation confronting Lord Kitchener in the Near East will be largely the result of the mistakes of a Government of which he has been and remains a member. To what extent he himself shares responsibility for those mistakes we have no means of knowing, but the desire to enable the whole Government to withdraw from an invidious position must surely spur him now to make his mission the prelude to some very definite success. He will find that the military situation could hardly be worse. In Serbia the enemy's advance is steady and systematic, although it may slacken in speed as the more difficult terrain to which the Serbians are withdrawing is reached. The primary object of the Germans in invading Serbia is now within an ace of attainment; the secondary object, that of annihilating the nation, undertaken perhaps in deference to their Bulgarian allies or prompted by the discovery that, owing to the failure of the Entente Powers to help the Serbians in time, there was some chance of cutting off the army's retreat, still hangs in the balance. But a free passage for munitions has already been won down the Danube to Rustchuk, whence they can be conveyed by rail to Constantinople, and before many days have passed it is to be expected that the last section of the Belgrade-Nish railway will have fallen into the invaders' hands, enabling supplies to reach the Turks without transhipment, as soon as the Save bridge has been rebuilt. In regard to the Dardanelles operations, it is no secret that, if the Turkish Army should acquire an adequate supply of munitions, the position of the Allied forces on Gallipoli Peninsula will become extremely precarious, if not untenable. For Lord Kitchener's mission to achieve success in the military sphere it will be necessary for him not only to devise speedy relief for the Serbians, but also to check the free passage of German men and munitions to Turkey in time to save the Allied troops in Gallipoli, or as an alternative to arrange for the withdrawal of those troops.

There remains, however, another sphere in which it will be possible for Lord Kitchener's services to be utilised on the occasion of his visit to Eastern waters. We are constrained to believe that a personal interview between the British Secretary of State for War and King Constantine would tend to clear up the anomalous position in which Greece now finds herself. To the Greeks, as well as to the other peoples of the Near East, Lord Kitchener's mission is probably the first clear indication they have had that Great Britain at least, in common parlance, "means business." One and all have been encouraged to believe that, however well-meaning British diplomacy might be, there was nothing behind it to make good what it failed to obtain by words. During the course of the present war no action on the part of Great Britain has served to dissipate this theory. She was anxious to secure the support of the Balkan States, but she was paralysed in turn by the intransigeance of Serbia, Bulgaria, and Greece in the matter of making the concessions necessary for such support. When, in contrast to this attitude, the Balkan States have been brought up against Germany's methods, they have inevitably been impressed by the confidence and thoroughness shown by her, which found such telling support in the achievements of the German armies in the field. Both King Constantine and King Ferdinand of Bulgaria are firmly convinced that the Central Powers must ultimately triumph in this war. Their belief is based on the claims advanced by Germany and on the failure of the Entente Governments to prove to them wherein the Allies' superiority lies. Unlike the King of Bulgaria, King Constantine has been prevented from giving practical effect to his belief in Germany's ultimate success by the uncomfortable fact that the Allies have control of the sea, and would be able to dispose of Greece long before the Central Powers, even if they were so minded, could give her adequate assistance. The King of the Hellenes is actuated by no lofty principles. He is not anxious to fight in this war; but if he must, he is determined that he shall be on the winning side. There are many striking factors in the military position now which dispose of most of the arguments on which Germany has relied hitherto. No one will be able to lay these before King Constantine with greater cogency than Lord Kitchener, who, in view of his recent conferences with General Joffre and the French Government, will doubtless be able to speak on behalf of the Entente Powers as a whole. The interview would thus have all the advantages of finality, for in the event of King Constantine's position not being cleared up to the satisfaction of the Allies, definite measures could be adopted to put an end to an equivocal attitude which is prejudicial to the Allies' interests.

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THE SPIRIT OF RUSSIA: 1812 and 1915.

By Estelle Blyth.

In one of Maurus Jokai's books there is a chapter called "Roses in the Snow"; it describes the passage of a dying man to Siberia, whose blood, falling as he is carried along unconscious, makes the roses in the snow. Death marked just such a trail of suffering on the Russian snows in 1812, when the Grand Army of Napoleon melted away before "the stubborn constancy of the Muscovite race."

The battle of Eylau (February 8, 1807) was claimed by Napoleon as a victory, but it cost him 12,000 men, and Benningsen, by retiring some few hundred yards, lost the opportunity of forcing a double disaster upon Napoleon which would have been patent to the eyes of the world. As it was, Napoleon, with his extraordinary aptitude at what he called "the divine side of the art" of war, challenged Benningsen to a second battle, which he was not daring enough to venture, and then cried aloud to the world behind him, "The Russians refuse to fight—I have conquered!" The Treaty of Tilsit followed, whereby Napoleon, in lordly wise, bestowed countries right and left on whom he would. Russia's assent to the treaty was compelled by circumstances, and the wound rankled for three long years before it was cured by warfare. Napoleon complained in 1809 of the Tsar's bad faith, but he had probably even then determined on a second and successful invasion of Russia. To this end he neglected to reinforce his army in the Peninsula, saving the troops for a smashing blow at Russia. Slowly, methodically, and as secretly as possible he prepared the great army that was to crush Northern Europe for ever, the while he kept the Tsar dangling after a string of political feints such as none could devise better than he. Napoleon did not mean to move until the spring (1812), when he calculated that his vast army could subsist upon the Polish plains as it moved north, and so march as light as possible. Austria and Prussia, being pressed, sent men—Austria willingly, for it was to her interest that Russia should be broken, so that she herself did not lie between two mighty Powers such as France and Russia; and Prussia because Napoleon had broken her to his will, and she now bent this way or that at his word. At least eleven hundred thousand men were under Napoleon's banner. Russia, too, made her halting preparations, but she was bewildered by Napoleon's diplomatic wiles, and in any case her available resources were inferior.

The Niemen was crossed on June 24, 1812. At Wilna, a few days later, Napoleon met the National Diet of Poland, and made his first mistake by trying to temporise with the Poles; they wanted liberty as the price of their support, he demanded that support in return for specious promises; in his own callous words: "Je suis très loin de vouloir être le Don Quichotte de la Pologne." Chilled and disappointed beyond measure, Poland thenceforward gave no more help than she need to Napoleon. The Grand Army swept forward. Smolensk and Borodino, to the mind of Napoleon, were but incidents in a campaign, and truly they weigh lightly in comparison with what came after, though Borodino cost the French 50,000 in killed and wounded, and the Russians perhaps 3,000 less. All along the way the Russian dead and wounded marked the track; the sufferings of the latter were truly horrible, but the testimony of an eye-witness is that "not one of them uttered a groan," though "many were heard to call aloud the name of their country or their mother." One man, "who had lost all save one arm and his trunk," appeared "animated, full of hope, and even of gaiety"; others were seen straightening their broken leg by tying the branch of a tree tightly against it, and then, with the support of another branch, making their way to the next village. "Eight days at Moscow, and there will be an end to it!" cried Napoleon, when the list of generals wounded at Borodino was brought to him. Moscow, with its treasures, its riches, its two hundred and ninety-five churches, its gardens and suburbs, its mysterious inviolable charm—Moscow was to atone for all.

At Moscow the Tsar Alexander addressed his people, forewarned them of their danger, and asked them for their help in terms that evoked in them a resentment against the invaders and a resolve to withstand them that were almost too deep for expression; the looks and gestures of the people betrayed their feelings, but a Russian crowd is largely a silent one, and therefore all the more impressive and alarming. The citizens gave two million roubles, one man alone giving 50,000, or two-thirds of all his possessions. A balloon (constructed, it is said, by a German engineer) was prepared to try and destroy Napoleon by dropping bombs and fire on him, but meanwhile a plan of terrible magnitude and daring was evolved. Moscow was to be abandoned, and, if necessary, burnt. It is impossible here to enter into the many reasons, political and military, which led to the conception of such a fearful measure; that it could be though of, and carried out with such thorough and unwavering completeness gives us a startling insight into the Russian character and its profound capacity for doing and suffering. The archives, the public treasures of all kinds, and such personal possessions as the rich could remove, were conveyed from the city; the poor saw, understood, and followed suit. On September 3, 1812, the first contingent of the citizens of Moscow left in a vast procession, men, women, and children bearing such of their most cherished possessions as they could carry; the priests in their flowing black robes led the people, and bore in reverent hands the sacred ikons and treasures of the churches. With tears and prayers, and hymns of mourning and supplication, the people left their sacred city to its doom. It is said that the crowd passed through the gates "with painful hesitation," and then turned once more to take a long last look at Moscow ere they left her walls for ever. Ten days later the remainder of the citizens, the aged and the sick, made their exodus, all hope for the city being now at an end.

On the 14th Napoleon beheld from an eminence the beautiful gilded city of Moscow. "There, at last, is that famous city!" he cried in the first flush of pride, then added sombrely, as if to himself, "It was full time!" He waited, expecting heralds from the city to announce its surrender and submission. The day declined, but no sign of life came from the city, and at length some officers, venturing within those silent walls, brought back the incredible tidings, "Moscow is deserted!" Napoleon's anger flamed up. "Moscow deserted! Impossible! Go, bring me the boyars—I will know the truth!" The officers sent for the boyars returned with five or six miserable workmen, for they feared to return empty-handed; it was true, Moscow was empty. Empty, too, was the triumph of Napoleon; vanished all the hopes he had built on this tremendous day. He might enter the city, and in the Kremlin exclaim: "I am in the Kremlin, the ancient palace of the Tsars!" but he made his boast to empty walls. At night the city burst into flame; here and there a dull glow first awoke, smouldered amongst the wooden houses and the narrow streets, then with a crash and a roar as of every power of hell let loose, it reared its terrific crest to heaven. The thought of that empty, silent city, dead to all appearance, bursting at night into such fearful life as only fire can give, grips the imagination with both hands. Like some grim terror of the night Moscow awoke to life, and with relentless fury took vengeance on the invader. Napoleon was aroused from sleep, and watched the spreading flames from a window of the Kremlin; his ejaculations betrayed his extreme emotion. "It is their own work!—What extraordinary resolution!—So many palaces!—What men!" All at once the cry arose that the Kremlin itself was on fire. It was true. They found the incendiary, a poor devoted creature who had obeyed a command that meant his own inevitable doom, and the furious guard bayoneted him to death in a courtyard. Napoleon himself was hurried by his people from a danger so imminent. The city was now an ocean of spreading fire, whose roaring deafened every ear, as the flames appalled the sight. "We walked," says one of the Grand Army, "on a ground of fire, beneath a fiery sky, and between two walls of fire." Napoleon spent the night at Petrowski, and early the next morning turned his eyes upon Moscow, hoping that the fire had been subdued, but it was burning with the same savage fury; "the whole city appeared like a vast spout of fire rising in whirling eddies to the sky, which it deeply coloured." As he watched, one cry escaped Napoleon, a cry of deep foreboding: "This foreshadows great misfortune to us!" When the fire had burnt itself out, Napoleon returned to the Kremlin, which the heroic efforts of his guard had saved. Even now the exhausted city, blackened and laid waste, her ashes still smouldering sullenly in places, was worth plundering. Dishes and goblets of gold and silver, rainbow-coloured silks from Eastern looms, and precious stones from many lands, had miraculously escaped destruction, but food was obtainable by the merest handfuls, and the hungry soldiers eagerly bartered the richest spoils for a crust of bread or a

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

H.M. KING OF SPAIN

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little tea and sugar. Indiscriminate looting was certainly the order of the day, but Napoleon restored the churches, wherein his cavalry had quartered themselves, to the Russian worship, and opened places of refuge and support to those of the citizens who were yet in Moscow.

We pass over the month that elapsed between the burning of Moscow and Napoleon's departure on October 19. The sanguinary fight at Malo-Jaroslawetz (October 24), after which Napoleon narrowly escaped capture by the Cossacks, showed that the Russians were far from being broken either in body or in spirit. Sullenly the Grand Army continued the retreat, passing on its way the field of Borodino, where skeletons and bodies of thousands, standards torn and defaced, broken guns, helmets, and muskets, bore terrific and ominous testimony to the battle. The horrors of Borodino were surpassed, however, by the horrors of the retreat. The Abbey of Kolotskoi was full of mutilated and suffering survivors of Borodino; all had to be abandoned save the few who could be crowded into the conveyances of the army, though they crawled to the abbey doors and besought for help and mercy in the most moving terms. There were no means of subsistence for the Grand Army, which was accustomed to march light because it lived upon the country as it passed through; for the Russians had destroyed houses, burnt trees, sacrified stores, rather than let the invader find support. The draught-horses slipped and stumbled and fell upon the rough frozen tracks and ice-smooth steeps; when they fell the starving soldiers set upon them like wolves, slew them, and fairly tore them to pieces, broiling the flesh at the wagons which supplied their fires. The Russians hung upon the flanks of the Grand Army, seldom risking a pitched battle with men reduced to desperation by their awful plight, but harassing them beyond endurance. On November 6 a terrible snowstorm assailed the French, "it seemed as if the very sky was falling," wrote one of the Grand Army, "and joining the earth and our enemies to complete our destruction." The men were confused by the thickened atmosphere and the darkness; they wandered helplessly from the track, and many perished in snowdrifts and hollows, while others died from the cold and exposure. All around on the desolate countryside little snow-covered mounds began to appear, marking where these poor things had fallen by the way. A strong and piercing wind added to the anguish of the living. The tall black shapes of pine trees here and there arising out of the snow increased the horror of this gaunt landscape, wherein appeared no sign of life save the trail of "an army dying amidst a nature already dead." Night fell, a few fires were kindled, frequently extinguished by the falling snow, and officers and men crowded round those meagre flames to share their horrid meal of horseflesh. Morning rose on circles of dead soldiers lying round little heaps of cinders; they had not survived the night. The Army arose and struggled on; never men suffered more than these, their muskets dropped from their frozen fingers, the rich spoils of Moscow were recklessly flung away and strewed the track. On November 13 the Russian victory at Krasnoi gave the invaders another bitter proof of their temper; Napoleon crossed the Berezina, and the Russians burnt the bridge behind him. The Emperor hastened by a shorter way to Paris, and the Grand Army, obliged by its size and condition to follow more slowly, suffered no less after his departure. One by one the French footholds in Russia were abandoned. The Grand Army melted out of the grim northern land which it had sought to conquer like snow in springtime.

1915.

On August 5, between 6 and 7 a.m., the Germans entered Warsaw, after weeks of stubborn fighting. At 5 a.m. on that day the Russians had retired in absolute quiet and order upon their new front; their last fight for Warsaw, for the moment, was fought the previous evening, when the Russian covering troops firmly resisted the Bavarian advance guard, and, having destroyed the bridges over the Vistula, fell back to join the main army.

We turn back the pages of a few days to the close of July, when the evacuation of Warsaw began, the foreign consuls and their archives being sent away amongst the first, together with the officials, archives, and funds of the Law Courts. On July 18, three days' notice having been given, the real exodus began, under police organisation and supervision. The citizens, rich and poor alike, streamed forth, silently accepting and enduring the sudden break-up of thousands of homes; men of wealth and position all at once found themselves homeless and penniless. Day and night the sad procession wound its way out of Warsaw, in carts, in carriages, in cattle-trucks, or on foot; the people carried with them what they could, drove before them what cattle they might save, and went forth, dumbly obedient and patient as the Russians are. Meanwhile the soldiers and officials worked like Titans night and day, dismantling the city before the menaced entry of the foe. Every inch of metal that could be stripped away, machinery, telegraph wires, factory plant, were sent out, and what little could not be saved was destroyed; for a full twenty-four hours the roar of dynamite told of precious machinery and other plant being rudely forced from its holdings. Even the pumps were transported, leaving the city waterless, to face whatever horrors that might entail. It is said that barely one ton of copper was left behind for German use. The churches flung wide their doors to the crowds of weeping exiles who came for a few last moments of prayer, but their treasures, the rich robes and ikons, the jewels, books, and sacred vessels were removed, and the great bronze bells were carefully unhung and carried thence; they whose deep and solemn voices had for years called Russians and Poles to prayer must not be left to the sacrilegious use of a foeman. The life of this great and beautiful and ancient city of Warsaw drooped and died before the eyes of those who loved her, a tragic sight, indeed, for them. All that time, and during the last few hours especially, a rain of bombs and shells fell upon the city, increasing the horrors of the last phase; and even after it was useless from a military point of view, German aeroplanes continued to drop bombs upon Warsaw, apparently from a malicious wish to increase the sufferings of the people.

At dawn on August 5 the Russians blew up the bridges behind them and left the city, and about an hour later the Germans entered it. Silence, emptiness, desolation everywhere; a few sick in the hospitals, the old and infirm, those who would stay on because life nowhere held either terror or hope for them, railways, tram-lines, storehouses, factories, shops, and public buildings denuded beyond repair, water and light cut off—such was Warsaw's welcome to the Germans. Well might a German officer describe the scene as "a gaping emptiness." Was it really worth while? Moscow did not repay Napoleon; will Warsaw repay the Germans?

The Russians are a great and a strong people; they can bear great blows, be taught by great sufferings. They are a silent people, whose chief expression hitherto has been in their religion; under suffering and loss of adversity they are dumb; their very stolidity makes them more terrible, for it supports them through so much, and when it is melted the fire underneath is unrestrained, appalling. The soul of Russia has been long in travail, as the most superficial acquaintance with her music and her literature can tell us; it is the body of her that suffers now. Russia has been forced back more than once during these thirteen months of war; she may have to face yet further trials of her strength and patience. Wilna may go,* perhaps Moscow, too, again, but to take cities here and there is not to conquer Russia. The further the Russian retreat the further the German advance into Russian territory. This is true. But the tide is bound to return upon itself, and when the wave of the Russian advance rears its crest, has Germany the men or the moral strength to withstand that downward rush?

SERBIA'S ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT.

In his third lecture on "Austria-Hungary and the Southern Slavs," delivered last Monday at the London School of Economics, Dr. Seton-Watson said that Serbs and Croats were kindred tribes, who settled more or less where they are to-day in the seventh century, after which Geography had worked its will with them, tearing them in two different directions by the rival cultures of Rome and Byzantium. Christianity was brought to them in the ninth century by the great Slav apostles Cyril and Methodius, at a time when the eastern and western churches were temporarily in communion; but when schism broke out again the Croats fell under the influence of Rome, whereas the Serbs remained under that of Byzantium. The Croatian State was formed, but in 1102 its dynasty became extinct, and the country fell under the Hungarian crown, but retained the autonomy which it has never since lost. The Serbian State grew out of a system of clans very loosely knit together, until Stephen the First Crowned became king of the whole country in 1217. The State developed and advanced, but in 1389 came the battle of Kossovo, and by the middle of the fifteenth century both Serbia and Bosnia were completely reduced by the Turks. The tiny States of Montenegro and Ragusa were all of the Southern Slavs that retained their independence. For Serbia centuries of national extinction followed, but the national tradition was kept alive by the ballad poetry of the people and by the clergy of the Orthodox Church.

Little more than one hundred years ago a peasant, Kara-George, the grandfather of the present king, led a successful insurrection against Turkish rule, but in 1813 the Turks came back, and he had to flee into Austrian territory. Two years later a rival peasant leader, Milosh Obrenovitch, raised the standard of revolt, and within two years had been declared hereditary prince. His career was stained by his permitting the treacherous assassination of Kara-George, whose head was sent to the Sultan as a kind of trophy. Thus began the quarrel between the two dynasties, which has continued ever since. Of the present king, Dr. Seton-Watson said that he was the first Serbian ruler who had ever made an attempt to govern the country according to the wishes of the people rather than according to the wishes of himself and a little clique. This was, perhaps, due to the fact that until he became king he had lived all his life in Paris and Geneva. Since his accession Serbia had enjoyed a literary, intellectual, political, and military revival.

* This article was written early in September.

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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

THE FALL OF NISH.

The fall of Nish, foreshadowed as imminent in these columns last week, took place last Friday. The military authorities, realising that the prolonged defence of the city might, in view of the systematic advance of the enemy from the north and east, imperil the unbroken retreat of the Northern Serbian army, took no unnecessary risks in remaining too long in their perilous positions, and evacuated their war capital. The army retired in good order up the Toplitza Valley, and is now presumably massed in the region to the east of Montenegro, to the south of Novi Bazar and to the north of Prishtina.

It has been apparent ever since the Bulgars took up arms against our ally that Nish would be the first objective. Fighting hitherto has been entirely subordinated to this aim, and, in view of the enemy's great superiority in men and arms, it must be admitted that his strategy developed normally, in spite of the heroic resistance offered by Voivode Putnik in innumerable rearguard actions. Throughout the past two weeks Nish has been threatened at close quarters by the Bulgars, but, in the eyes of the Serbian General Staff, the moment for evacuation had not arrived. On Tuesday of last week the two armies of the Bulgarian General Boyadieff, the one operating southwards from Knieshevatz and the second eastwards from Pirot, joined forces in the Upper Timok and advanced to the attack on the north-eastern fortifications of Nish. For three days the Serbs stubbornly defended their positions, causing the enemy heavy losses, and then, having gained as much time (presumably with a view to enable the Allies to land larger forces at Salonika) as could be gained with safety to the army, the order was given for the retirement.

The enemy have, of course, cried their victory to the skies. This is certainly not justifiable. The fall of Nish, after the loss to the Serbs of the Timok sector and Pirot, and after the insecurity of their position at Leskovatz to the south, was merely a question of days, unless relief could be pushed down the Morava Valley. This relief, as is well known, was not forthcoming, though through no fault of Serbia. The success, therefore, of the enemy is not such a brilliant achievement as pretended. If the capture of the city had broken the retreat of the Serbian army or involved the capitulation of important forces, then the triumph would have been a great one, but, as it is, the greed and impatience of the Bulgars to be the first to enter Nish without waiting for the German advance up the Morava to approach within striking distance of the Serbian line of retreat enabled the heroic army to withdraw in perfect order.

Effects of the Evacuation.

The effects on the Balkan campaign of the evacuation of Nish are manifold. The first aim of the enemy will be to strengthen the Belgrade-Sofia line, which passes through Nish, so as to render attacks upon it from the west and south-west practically impossible. With this end in view the Germans will have to push the Serbs back towards the south throughout the whole northern part of Serbia. This result is slowly being achieved. At the time of writing the Serbs have practically had to evacuate their country south from the Save as far as the line Vishegrad-Ushitze and from the Danube as far as the line Pirot-Nish. The Western Morava valley from Ushitze to Krushevatz seems to be in the virtual control of the enemy, and, therefore, it can be assumed that the Belgrade-Sofia line is already protected as far as Parachin. The next sector to be equally protected is that between Parachin and Nish, and this will involve operations along the Ibar and Toplitza valleys, where heavy fighting will shortly take place, if it has not already begun.* The Serbs are doubtless in strong positions in this sector, and if driven back (and the enemy must make attempts to do so if his line of communication with Constantinople is to be guarded against flank attacks) will fight every inch of the way and give battle on ground chosen by them, most likely somewhere on a front extending through Mitrovitza, their present capital in the historic region of Kossovo. In this connection the semi-official *communiqué* issued last Friday by Reuter's Agency is of some interest. "So far," it says, "the fighting has been of the nature of rearguard actions. No decisive battle has been fought, as such an action would not be accepted by the Serbians at present. The Serbian army is not broken at any point." This is most significant. It speaks volumes for the military genius of Voivode Putnik, and we can safely rely on him, more than ever now that he has shortened and thereby vastly strengthened his lines, to give battle to the invaders at his own time and place.

* At the time of writing the enemy claim to be advancing on both sides of the Ibar, and simultaneously in a parallel line southwards along the Upper Western Morava, to the west of the Jelitza Planina.

Central Serbia.

Another effect of the fall of Nish will be to alter the campaign in Central and Southern Serbia. In the former the Bulgars have taken Leskovatz, which, with Vrania already in their possession, gives them the control of the Uskub-Nish line. In the neighbourhood of Vrania, moreover, the Morava River leaves the railway line and bends to the west. The enemy have followed this course, and have now reached the eastern approach to the Kachanik Pass, which leads from Uskub to Kossovo, Prishtina, and Novi Bazar. The Serbs hold the pass, and will doubtless make every effort to maintain their position here in order to prevent the enemy (1) from driving the Egri Palanka-Uskub wedge to the Albanian frontier—thus separating Voivode Putnik's army definitely from the Serbian armies fighting in the Prilep sector—and (2) from linking up the army advancing along the Upper Morava (as a result of the fall of Nish) with that operating in a north-westerly direction from Uskub. The position is a strong one, and it is vital to the Serbs as a gateway through which to advance, at the proper moment, on Uskub from the north.

Veles: Its Reported Capture by the Allies.

If the report which reached London on Thursday to the effect that Veles had been taken from the Bulgars is correct, and if we are able to hold the place definitely, at the same time maintaining our line Doiran-Ghevgheli-Veles, the attack on Uskub will come sooner than is generally thought. We owe it to the Serbs having held out at Nish heroically so long as they did that our tardiness in reaching the Balkan theatre of the war has been partly retrieved, and if we are now able to push forward our advance, backed as we are to the south-west of Veles in the Prilep region by the Serbs holding Babuna defile and Isvor, the Bulgarian position at Uskub will become untenable. At present the line held by the Serbs and their allies in the southern sector runs in an easterly direction from Gostivar (on the Upper Vardar), across the Treska Valley to the Babuna mountains, northwards through Isvor to Veles, southwards along the Salonika line as far as Strumnitza station, and then eastwards along the Bulgarian frontier to a point south of Doiran. It constitutes not only a strong line from which to advance along the Upper Vardar to Kalkandelen and along the Treska and Lower Vardar to Uskub, but also the only line of defence for Monastir and Prilep against the Bulgar invader. Its importance, therefore, is enormous. It is of greater immediate military interest than any other line now held in Europe, and developments here will be watched with the keenest anxiety during the coming week. It is to be trusted that the higher command in this region has not been stinted, once again, of adequate forces and supplies.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SERBIAN RESISTANCE.

At the Services Club last Tuesday, M. Woislew M. Petrovitch told the story of the Serbs from the earliest times. He said that in the Middle Ages, Serbia was the gateway from the east to the west, now she was the gateway from the west to the east. Speaking of recent times he said that the treaty of Berlin had promised an improvement in the condition of the people of Macedonia, but for thirty years after its signature the inhabitants of that country suffered not less than the Armenians, and their numbers grew ever fewer. On a suggestion of Monsieur Pasitch to Monsieur Venizelos, the Balkan League was formed, and the Turks were all but driven out of Europe. Had Constantinople been taken then, M. Petrovitch said, he did not think the present war would have taken place. Disputes as to the division of the conquered territory led to the second Balkan war, in which the Bulgarians were completely defeated; the Serbians could have marched into Sofia, but were advised by the Great Powers to desist. Then came the incursions of Albanians, and two Serbian divisions were sent to that frontier. Hardly had they returned to their homes when Austria-Hungary sent the insulting ultimatum; of which, however, Serbia accepted every clause except the one giving Austria-Hungary power to eliminate at her discretion men from the Serbian army. That clause Serbia offered to refer to the Hague tribunal, to which offer Austria-Hungary replied by making war. The first expedition cost that empire 45,000 prisoners besides twice as many killed and twice as many wounded; and the second expedition had a similar fate. Now the whole Serbian nation was withdrawing in front of the enemy's new advance. M. Petrovitch thought troops should be withdrawn from the Dardanelles and sent to Serbia's assistance; for if the line from Salonika to Uskub was not recovered Germany would get supplies. At present she was very hard up for food. Whatever happened the Serbian nation would not perish, for the Serbs would retire to the mountains as they had done before the Turks, and would live there another five centuries if necessary; but it would be very grave for the British Empire, for the Germans at Adrianople and Constantinople would mean the arming of a million Turks to be used against the British in Egypt.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I was pleased to read in THE NEAR EAST recently a letter from an American criticising my attitude towards the Turk. If what this esteemed correspondent says is to be relied upon—and I have no reason whatever to doubt this—it seems that the American people are fully alive to the horror of the Armenian massacres. This is a healthy sign. Perhaps in the near future we shall see the German nation ostracised by this same formidable ban of protesting citizens because of the truly "unspeakable" atrocities perpetrated in Belgium. Logically, indeed, it is certain that this will be so, for otherwise it might seem that America, to the exclusion of all honour and manliness, was prepared to condone any extreme of barbarity when it was committed by a kultured and much-monied nation. And that in itself would be "unspeakable."

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Ever since the war broke out the overbearing German has been bent upon keeping his Austrian ally as much in the background as possible, except, of course, when it came to the question of an advance against a nasty position. Then—in the early stages of the war, at least—he was reported occasionally as being willing to leave the place of honour to his friend. But taking things all round, it cannot be denied that he has shown a fixed determination to take to himself whatever credit was to be had from the war; and signs have not been wanting that his Austrian ally has been rather restless as a result. Now, however, news comes that an Austrian doctor serving at the front has brought out an invention that may well turn the Hun green with envy. This is nothing less than a means of keeping the soldiers in the trenches warm in even the coldest weather. The desirable result is to be achieved by "weaving electric heating threads into soldiers' pants," and subsequently connecting the said pants with a battery, placed at a convenient distance behind the trenches, the current from which can be so regulated as to warm up any desired number of soldiers.

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Doubtless ribald scoffers will make merry over this invention. They will want to know just how the connection between pants and battery is to be made; how the soldiers will be able to regulate the current so as to get the desired degree of warmth without getting too much of it; and a lot of other things like that. Will the connecting wires be easily detachable in case of necessity arising for a sudden advance or retreat? And if a short circuit occurs will it be pleasant for the soldier, or soldiers, in its vicinity? I am afraid I cannot answer these questions, for I never could understand the simplest matter connected with electricity. But I have formed my own theory about the real use to which the woven-with-electric-heating-threads soldiers' pants are to be put. When a big advance is desired the Austrian (or German, for the Germans seem to have command everywhere) commander will give the word; the battery will, suddenly and without warning to the woven-panted ones, do its worst; and the startled soldiers will vault out of their trenches, with one startled yell, and advance like demons, in such a charge as has never before been witnessed.

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According to a report published by *El Mokattam*, and forwarded by the Cairo correspondent of *The Times*, Abbas Hilmi, the ex-Khedive of Egypt, who "has never accepted his deposition by the British Government . . . has now sent in his resignation to the Sultan of Turkey." And the explanation is—just a fit of pique. Abbas Hilmi, it is said, "was commissioned by the Kaiser to intrigue for the preservation of Italian neutrality," on the strength of his family being "on excellent terms with the Italian Court." He failed, and the Kaiser, furious at the failure, refused to see him when he was in Berlin recently. Whereupon Abbas, so to say, remarked: "Shan't play."

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The Times correspondent is amused by the idea of "the ex-Khedive, who was never renowned for tact or perspicacity, being entrusted with such a mission with any expectation of success." The idea strikes me, also, as a humorous one, but for slightly different reasons. The ex-Khedive, I agree, is not a very tactful person. But in such dirty work as he was supposed to be engaged upon it is not so much tact as intrigue that is required; and Abbas Hilmi loves intrigue, and always has done so, and in this field he has occasionally scored at least a minor success. Intrigue has for a long time been the only thing he has cared to spend money on freely; and there is good reason to suspect that he is ready to spend it quite freely for this purpose, especially if it be other people's money. Indeed, if the *Mokattam's* story be true, it would never surprise me to learn that the Kaiser's indignation was not entirely unconnected with this aspect of the business. Again, while Germany has not always shown faultless judgment, it seems to me that in this instance she may have played her cards quite well. The work was dirty; therefore Abbas Hilmi was the man to do it. If, by a miracle, he succeeded, well and good. If he failed, as he seemed bound to do—for even the excellence of his family's relations with the Italian Court could hardly be expected to counterbalance the influence of Queen Elena, who, being a Montenegrin, is not likely to sympathize with the Huns—his failure would afford a good excuse for getting rid of him once for all. In fact, it seems highly probable that he has for some time been regarded by the Germans as an unprofitable investment, and one to be cleared out at the first suitable opportunity. And they may well have reckoned that when matched against the King of Italy, who is an honourable man, and an intelligent one to boot, he would fail, as any other like him would be bound to fail.

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If the *Mokattam's* story should turn out to be true, it will be interesting to see what Sultan Mohammed and Hajji Wilhelm will do about it. Of course, they will have to appoint a successor promptly! And in view of the Kaiser's nomination of his son Joachim to Poland, it is just on the cards that another of the Prussian princes may be selected. The Crown Prince, one supposes, would think the position beneath his dignity. But he is an impulsive, as well as a repulsive, person, and he might possibly consider it. And then, if ever the Turco-Teuton dream of the conquest of Egypt materialized—which Allah forbid!—the world would once more see a "Nero of the Arabs." A debauchee, a drunkard, and addicted to other unspeakable vices, he would certainly merit the title quite as well as did Muttawakil.

CORSAIR.

RACIAL CUSTOMS OF THE SERBS.

On October 30, at the Horniman Museum, Dr. A. C. Haddon lectured on "Our Eastern Allies," considering them from the anthropological point of view. Speaking of the Southern Slavs, he said they were generally tall and dark, in these respects contrasting with most of the inhabitants of Russia, but they belonged ultimately to the same broad-headed race. The first Slavs came into the Balkan Peninsula along with Ayars and Huns, whose servants they were. Later the Emperor Heraclitus introduced other Slavs, weary of Hun domination, to people the wasted province between the Danube, the Balkans, the Save and the Adriatic. These soon overflowed into Macedonia. They were not long faithful to the Empire, but they effectually checked further invasions of the Ayars and later of the Hungarians. The Serbs to-day were a typical Southern Slav people. They would not follow a leader because of his personality, but they would be faithful to him because of the principle he represented. They were deeply religious, but shrunk from religious discussion. They retained many primitive customs. The communitary organisation of society was still thriving among them. In such a community the family lived in a large central house with smaller houses round it for the younger married members. Each member of the social group thus formed had to give his labour for its benefit, it was only in his spare time that he might earn money for his own private profit. The community was governed by its oldest member, who had almost autocratic power, but held office only by the good will of the other members. His wife had supreme authority in all communitary interests affecting the women. The fire upon the central hearth was sacred, it was not allowed to go out, and if by any accident it was extinguished it must not be rekindled by matches, but in the ancient method, by rubbing sticks of wood together. Such a communitary group would have a patron saint. This was a purely Serbian custom not found in any other nation; it might be a relic of ancestor worship or of totemism. One curious ancient ceremony that survived was the "rain ceremony," performed in seasons of drought. A young gipsy girl, stripped and wreathed in willow boughs and flowers, led the peasant girls past the houses of the village while the children poured water over her to make the rain to fall.

LADY IAN HAMILTON AND THE TROOPS AT THE DARDANELLES.

The Edridge Habitation of the Primrose League organised a "Dardanelles Day" last Saturday, and some hundreds of ladies attended at the Baths Hall, Thornton Heath, London, to present Lady Ian Hamilton with gifts of warm clothing, chocolate, cigarettes, etc., for the troops at the Dardanelles. Councillor Warren, who presided, said no one knew what a pleasure it must be to a man at the front to receive a gift sometimes accompanied by a very welcome message.

Lady Ian Hamilton, in thanking the donors for the gifts, said the men on the Gallipoli peninsula would win through right enough, and if recent changes meant that they were going to be helped to win through more rapidly, no one would be more glad than herself. This consignment of gifts she would send out in her own name, but afterwards would amalgamate her fund with that of Queen Alexandra. She had received many letters from soldiers expressing the most touching thanks for the gifts of kind people at home.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Serbia's Appeal. November 4.

Mr. RONALD MCNEILL asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether Serbia's direct appeal to this country for help was made in reliance on the statement of the Government that we were prepared to give our friends in the Balkans all the support in our power in the manner that would be most welcome to them, in concert with our Allies, without reserve and without qualification; whether that pledge was given after ascertaining from the military advisers of the Government that it would be possible and expedient to send effective aid to Serbia; whether immediate preparations were made for redeeming the pledge; whether the Serbian, French, and Italian Governments were informed and, if so, on what date, of the strength of the British force which would be sent to assist Serbia, and how soon it would be in the field; and whether the despatch of 13,000 men, with a promise of a larger force to be sent at some future time to an unspecified destination, was the fulfilment of the undertaking given to Serbia on September 28.

Lord R. CECIL: Serbia's direct appeal to this country for help was received, and the decision to send troops to Salonika, subject to the consent of Greece, was taken before September 28, and the Serbian Government were informed of that decision. The statement which my right hon. friend made in this House on September 28 was based upon a promise made to Greece before that date, in concert with the French Government, to send troops to enable Greece to fulfil the obligations of her Treaty with Serbia. There appears to have been some misunderstanding as to the exact scope of this statement, but after it was made there was, in fact, no delay in making what military preparations were possible to send troops to the East, so that they might be available to help Serbia in any way that was practicable.

Mr. R. MCNEILL: Can my noble friend answer the part of the question as to whether a pledge was given after ascertaining from the military advisers of the Government that it would be possible to send effective help for Serbia?

Lord R. CECIL: I am afraid that I cannot add to my reply. I must ask my hon. friend to put down a further question.

A Dardanelles "Scandal."

Replying to a question put by Sir G. YOUNGER, who wanted information regarding regimental institutes at Mudros and elsewhere, Mr. TENNANT said that Expeditionary Force institutes had been established at Mudros, also at Kephalos and at all the beaches on the Peninsula held by British forces. Stores to the value of nearly £100,000 had already been sent out, and further consignments are being sent at regular intervals.

Sir G. YOUNGER: Does the right hon. gentleman really state that these regimental institutes have been established within range of all the troops in the Dardanelles? I can tell him it is not so.

Mr. TENNANT: I informed the hon. member that they had been established at Mudros, Kephalos, and at all the beaches on the Peninsula held by the British forces.

Sir H. CRAIK: Is the right hon. gentleman aware that the troops at Mudros are complaining that it is quite impossible to get any supplies whatever?

Mr. TENNANT: It is hoped that when the full effect of these institutions is felt these complaints will cease.

Sir G. YOUNGER: Will the right hon. gentleman inquire whether the Admiralty transport regulations there are not perfectly disgusting, and stores are not being delivered? It is a crying scandal.

Mr. TENNANT promised to inquire.

Mesopotamian Communications.

Sir J. D. REES asked the Secretary for India whether rails were being laid from the Persian Gulf towards Baghdad as our forces proceeded in that direction.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: The necessity, so far, has not arisen, as the Tigris offers a sufficient line of communication.

The Offer of Cyprus. November 9.

Sir ARTHUR MARKHAM asked the Prime Minister whether he or the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had during the war offered important British territory or territory of our Allies to any Foreign Power without first consulting the Cabinet.

Mr. ASQUITH: The only instance in question was Cyprus. The offer was made in an emergency after consultation with the heads of the Departments most concerned.

Troops for Serbia.

Replying to Mr. RONALD MCNEILL, who asked on what date the Cabinet decided to send to the assistance of Serbia a larger force than the remnant of the 10th Division, 13,000 strong, under the command of Sir Bryan Mahon, Sir E. GREY said: I believe it was on September 24.

Balkan Warnings.

Sir E. GREY, in reply to a question put by Mr. RONALD MCNEILL, said: The German and Austrian sympathies of the King of the Bulgarians have always been known, and reports of Bulgarian negotiations with Turkey under German influence came from various Balkan sources as early as April. I cannot divulge what those sources were. The Serbian Government were much perturbed in April by the raid by Bulgarian bands on the railway near Strumnitza at the beginning of the month and by rumours of further impending raids at the end of the month, and they stated their belief in the complicity between King Ferdinand and the Central Powers. Military preparations at any given moment must depend upon the forces available and the extent to which those forces can be spared from one place and used in another. I should doubt whether even the War Office would think it in the public interest to discuss that in public. I am neither willing nor competent to do so.

Replying to a further question from Mr. R. MCNEILL, Sir EDWARD GREY stated that when he first informed the Serbian Government, in answer to an appeal for help, of the despatch of troops, he did so in the words: "We are offering to Greece to send forces to Salonika to help her to fulfil her obligations towards Serbia." He told the Serbian Government definitely that the landing of our forces and their movements after they had landed depended upon the consent and attitude of Greece. When, on September 28, he promised to help our friends in the Balkans, "without qualification and without reserve," the words he used could not bear any other construction than the political one he had placed upon them. His promise was to give all the assistance in our power, and that, in fact, had been done and was being done.

Mr. R. MCNEILL: Are we to understand that the right hon. gentleman, after his declaration in this House on September 28, never explained to the Serbian Government the meaning which he attached to his words in this House at a more recent date?

Sir E. GREY: I never said anything to the Serbian Government at all about my declaration in the House of Commons. What I had to do was to reply to the Serbian appeals for help. That I could only do after consulting Lord Kitchener or the Cabinet, and in my replies to the Serbian appeals for help I stated that we were sending troops to Salonika, and used the words quoted in my answer. I said that sending them to Salonika must depend upon the attitude of Greece, and when they had gone there, and I was asked what their movements would be, I said that also must depend upon the attitude of Greece. My communications with the Serbian Government were direct communications; they were not founded upon what I said in the House.

Australians in Egypt. November 11.

In reply to a question by Mr. GINNELL, Sir EDWARD GREY stated that he had no information of any outrages committed by the Australian forces upon Egyptians.

Sir E. Grey has circulated the following replies to questions by Mr. Leicester Harmsworth:—(1) Suspicions of an arrangement between Bulgaria and Turkey, under German influence, have for a long time been entertained in the Balkans, and there were reports of such an arrangement from various sources, which I cannot divulge, as early as April. The subsequent negotiations between Bulgaria and Turkey in regard to the Dedeagatch railway were, of course, common property at least as early as July. (2) The Serbian Minister here suggested on July 7 that the possibility of sending some British troops to Serbia should be considered, but at that time it was thought by the military authorities that the troops could not be spared from elsewhere.

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Seeley, Service and Co., have published (at 5s. net.) Dr. S. M. Zwemer's new book, "Mohammed or Christ." The book is illustrated, and Bishop Stileman contributes an introduction.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton published last week, at one shilling net, Mr. Granville Fortescue's "What of the Dardanelles?" The author, who was an officer in the U.S. Army in the Spanish-American War, and was afterwards A.D.C. to Colonel Roosevelt, has during this war been attached to the German, Belgian, French, and Austrian armies, as well as to the Turkish. He has therefore had ample opportunities of forming a judgment regarding the prospects of both sides, and his book is certainly one to note.

Messrs. T. C. and E. C. Jack have recently published "The Civilisation of the Ancient Egyptians," by A. Bothwell Gosse. The price is 5s. net.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Lord Kitchener.

In a leading article on Lord Kitchener's mission to the Near East, the *Pall Mall Gazette* (November 8) laments the fact that the Government did not sooner take steps to prevent the dissemination of false and idle rumours regarding the Secretary of State for War. The paper continues:—

The visit of Lord Kitchener to the further end of the Mediterranean must strike everyone with a sense of fitness and promise. . . . Neutrals will have a more vivid impression of the earnestness with which the Entente Powers are addressing themselves to the Balkan situation when they find a soldier of world-wide celebrity upon the spot. The presence of a real War Lord may even counteract in some quarters the communications of the titular variety which fulminates from Berlin. Lord Kitchener's journey can leave no one in doubt that the Balkan problem is to be handled upon the most vigorous and comprehensive lines. . . .

The Navy and Victory.

The *War Office Times and Naval Review*, in an article on the general situation, condemns in unmeasured phrases the "wait-and-see" policy of the Government that left us unprepared for an attack upon Serbia. The greater part of the article is, indeed, devoted to an indictment of the Government, although the paragraph which we quote below shows a firm conviction in the certainty of ultimate victory:—

We have been disgusted to read in some papers pessimistic forebodings as to what will happen should Germany get to Constantinople. It has been suggested that we may lose Egypt and the control of the Suez Canal and possibly India. We have no patience with these prophets of evil. . . . They do not understand what sea power is. This war will be won at the finish, however prolonged it may be, by the nations that hold command of the seas. That is the reason why the Central Empires can never win it, and even should Germany get to Constantinople her success will only be the precursor to that terrible ruin, financial and otherwise, which will eventually fall on Germany, Austria, and, of course, Turkey and Bulgaria likewise, for the simple reason that the Allies have and will keep to the finish complete control of the seas, from which every German vessel has been swept.

Roumania's Ruler.

Commenting upon the words addressed by the King of Roumania to the Crown Prince on the occasion of his birthday recently, and exhorting him to remember the responsibilities of kingship and the value of his nation's love, *La Politique* (Bucharest) remarks:—

Cette allocution royale, modèle de genre, servira, nous sommes sûrs, de guide dans la vie à notre jeune Prince et c'est le vœu que nous formons.

The *Daily News* (London), after quoting the conclusion of the King's address, says:—

These are certainly noteworthy words, which should disabuse the public of the notion that King Ferdinand of Roumania could ever act like the other Ferdinand against the "aspirations" and "will" of the nation and contrary to the counsels of the "advisers of the Crown."

The Balkan Imbroglio.

An article of quite exceptional interest, by Dr. E. J. Dillon, appears under the above heading in the *Fortnightly Review* (November). Written in September, its publication was held over during the delicate diplomatic negotiations which were proceeding in October; but, as the editor of the *Review* points out, the article is so applicable to the present situation that its issue is still well "worth while." The first portion of the article is devoted to an examination of the attitude of the Allied Governments, and more especially Britain, towards the Balkan States. Dr. Dillon recognised the generosity of our sentiments, but, on the other hand, points to the attitude and achievements of the Central Empires in their diplomatic relations with these States:—

The Balkan States are the shifting sands of the political sphere. They show no solidity, no consistency anywhere. This defect is matter for regret rather than blame, but it behoves the Central Governments of the Great Powers to realize it. We are wont to talk of Turkey, Bulgaria, and Greece as though these politico-geographical names stood for an enduring substratum of personality, principle, or tendency underlying their temporary Governments. That assumption is baseless. Each of those countries is at every given conjuncture merely a cloak which conceals and a force which magnifies some average mortal. Each of these actors is equipped with his own modest share of mental and moral qualities which differentiate him from his Western contemporaries, is sensible to a peculiar order of motives, and very often holds systematically aloof from the currents favourable alike to the progress of humanity and to the growth of his own nation.

The writer thinks that Greece's great opportunity went for good and all when Venizelos was dismissed by King Constantine at the time when the country might have received territories covering over 60,000 square miles at the cost of participating to a slight extent in the war; and considers that the King is, and will remain, absolute master of the destinies of Greece. He shows, too, that our faith in the power of constitutional government in the Balkans has been gravely misplaced. The King goes his way, as we have seen; the Constitution follows his dictates. In regard to Bulgaria, we quote from a footnote to his main article, written by the author in October:—

Over and over again I had endeavoured to make known to the British, French, and Russian peoples the circumstance that Ferdinand of Coburg was bound absolutely to the Central Empires and also to the Turkish Government. I knew that *at first hand*. But my telegrams and messages announcing it were all suppressed. I then had the information brought before the proper authorities

Dr. Dillon makes an interesting statement regarding the Batak massacres by Abdul Keriru Pasha in 1876. Gladstone published his pamphlet, "Bulgarian Atrocities," and "aroused the horror of civilised men."

But a section of the Hungarian aristocracy warmly sympathised with the mass-murderer and decided to present him with a golden-hilted sabre. The list of subscribers for this token of aversion to the Bulgarian people can still be viewed in the Museum at Budapest. The third name on that list—Princess Clementine—is followed immediately by that of her son, Prince Ferdinand of Coburg, who gave one hundred florins as a token of his admiration for the exterminator of his future subjects!

A Wonderful Journalist.

In an article contributed to a recent number of the *Daily Chronicle* Mr. David H. Low, a former lecturer in the University of Belgrade, produces many arguments to prove that the Bulgarian reputation for prowess on the field of battle is due more to the activities of her Press organisers than to the strength of her armies or the genius of her commanders. The following paragraph refers to the notorious bogus correspondent who imposed upon half the world at the time of the first Balkan war:—

This mysterious personage was alleged to be the only foreigner privileged to follow the campaign from the Bulgarian side. He seemed to have more than mortal skill in getting hold of the wires and despatching his version of events before the authorities had had time to despatch theirs. An admiring world learned that the Bulgarian plans were developing without a hitch, and the troops were moving forward with clockwork regularity. As the official reports, when they came, invariably confirmed what the correspondent had already said, our leader writers waved the palm branch and hailed the shadowy figure as a new journalistic genius. Somebody must have laughed.

Articles to Note.

"The Shelling of Dedeagatch," by an officer who was "spotting" for guns in one of H.M. ships—the *Times* (November 10).

"Constantinople.—I.," by Henrietta Pearson, in the *Queen* (November 6).

"István, the Bulgarian," by J. M. Dodington (Illustrated), and "Fishing in Marmora," by Edwin L. Arnold (Illustrated), in the *Babington Magazine* (November).

"In the Balkans." By Sir Alfred Sharpe, K.C.M.G. (Illustrated), in the *Windsor Magazine* (November).

"Armenia and the Partition of Asia Minor," by W. Llew. Williams, and "Greece and Europe," by "Politicus," in the *Fortnightly Review* (November).

"With the Serbian Army," by W. A. Crawfurd-Price and Edward Foord (Illustrated), in the *Sphere* (November 6).

"Armenia: Is it the End?" by Aneurin Williams, M.P.; "Serbia's Need and Britain's Danger," by R. W. Seton-Watson; and "Some Truths About the Dardanelles," by Sydney A. Moseley, in the *Contemporary Review* (November).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

In connection with last week's note on the taking over by the Egyptian Government of the Helouan line, formerly the property of the Egyptian Delta Light Railway Company, I have been given to understand that a cable received on Tuesday from Cairo states that the line is definitely to be taken over by the Government on December 1.

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I have been speaking with a gentleman who has only just returned from Sofia, and as a result of our conversation I think that the following queries are pertinent: Is it true that in the month of September France and England, jointly and separately, bought up most of Bulgaria's surplus wheat stocks, and paid for them; that not only were the goods not delivered (as was to have been supposed) but that the Bulgarian Government, immediately on the conclusion of the negotiations, prohibited the export of grain, though allowing it to be exported *sub rosâ* to Germany; that this operation was entirely negotiated *after Bulgaria had mobilised*, after our Foreign Office had received warning (last April) of Bulgaria's ultimate intentions, and after the Bulgaro-Turkish negotiations of last July had clearly shown (*vide* Sir Edward Grey's written reply to a question in the House the other day) the trend of the Bulgarian Government's foreign policy?

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To-day it is being rumoured that not only are we selling coal to Greece, but that we—i.e., the Allies—are also on the point of granting her a loan of forty million francs. At the time of going to press we have been given to understand that the Allies are still discussing the conditions upon which this loan will be granted. The *Petit Journal* says that it is only natural that pourparlers should take place, especially as it is indispensable to obtain fresh guarantees from the Government in Athens. In the last few days, adds the Paris journal, an appreciable difference has been noticeable between the declarations of the Greek Prime Minister, who is friendly to the Quadruple Entente, and certain opinions expressed by one of his colleagues, who has asked whether if the Serbians came to be thrown back upon Greek territory, they should not be disarmed. In Italy, moreover, there seems to be a growing feeling of mistrust, if the following message received by the *Petit Parisien* from Rome is to be trusted. "Political circles in Italy," says the correspondent, "are sceptical about the Note which M. Coromilas, the Greek Minister, has presented on behalf of the Hellenic Government. After what Bulgaria has done, they think that the repeated declarations of the Greek Government should be treated with reserve. It is suspected that the Greek Government desires to hide the intentions of the Crown and the Cabinet until the moment when it has an opportunity to make common cause with Austria and Germany and Bulgaria." In view of the general feeling of insecurity, it is to be hoped that the Allied Governments will insist upon adequate securities before embarking on a loan to Greece.

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The United States Consul at Alexandria, writing on September 10, states that an American copper-mining syndicate at Skouriotissa, Cyprus, has applied for Government permission to lay a railway from its mines to the port of Karavostassi so as to facilitate the shipping of ore. The total quantity extracted from these mines to date aggregates about 4,000,000 tons. It is believed that after the proposed tunnels in the mines are completed the daily output of ore will approximate 1,000 tons. Three more American mining engineers will soon arrive to join the syndicate's staff.

***

The recovery which has recently taken place to 21s. 3d. in the quotation for the £1 ordinary shares of the Egyptian Markets is attributable to the fact that since the commencement of 1915 the gross receipts have advanced by £2,600 to £41,500, and seem likely to increase still further, says the *Financial Times*. Out of 123 markets the company now has in use 122, as against 116 at this time last year, while it is understood that the other branches of the business are doing well. For 1914 a dividend of 8 per cent. was paid on the ordinary shares, as against 10 per cent. for 1913. That the directors will be in a position to again pay 8 per cent. for 1915 is not in doubt, while they may be able to distribute more than this, though it would be unwise to assume that they will actually do so under war conditions.

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The directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Company have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., which, together with a bonus at the same rate, makes 15 per cent. for the whole year, the same as in the previous year. It may be noted (says the *Morning Post*) that the dividend is still free of income-tax. At the rate of tax in force for the year of the company's accounts the tax is equivalent to $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

***

The Central News Agency reports from Amsterdam that the *Official Gazette* at Constantinople publishes an Act voted by Parliament authorising the Government to make an arrangement with the German Government for an advance of six million pounds. There is only one comment: Has Germany the money (in hard cash) to lend? If so, let her bestow it on her ally and continue doing so, whatever the securities offered by the Young Turks in exchange; if not, let the Turks be wary of pawning securities for "scraps of paper."

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The recent U.S. Consular reports on Turkey, from which a first extract is reproduced elsewhere, are exceedingly interesting, more particularly on account of certain sidelights thrown in this year of war on Turkish trade. Imports and exports have fallen tremendously—in some cases, even, they seem to have been wiped away entirely. But, on the other hand, it is worth noting that the U.S. Consuls are not of those who predict terrible disasters for Turkey after the war; on the contrary, they are most optimistic, and predict a glorious future for the Ottoman Empire—an era of trade and industrial expansion, of great public works constructions, of prosperity and progress undreamt of. I wonder!

***

This brings me to the real point in connection with these reports, namely, the zeal displayed by the U.S. Consular service in seeking to persuade the American manufacturing exporter of the business opportunities which await him in Turkey if he will only be up and doing, and gird up his loins. In this respect, the report by Mr. Ravendal, the U.S. Consul at Constantinople, is more than usually instructive, and I only regret that I have not been able to quote it *in extenso*. Not only does it give a healthy survey of the whole situation, but it is as full of hints and suggestions to American exporters as a new-laid egg is full of meat. Incidentally, and in paragraphs relating to the American Chamber of Commerce of the Levant, to the special trade commissioners sent out by the United States Government to study the economic situation, etc., we learn how keen our cousins are in building up a Levant trade, how successful they have been hitherto, how eager officials are to forward their country's trade interests, and what steps will have to be taken (commercial banks, steamship lines, etc.) to assure a success in the future vastly superior to that in the past.

***

Unconsciously, while reading this report—which I hope will be filed at and studied carefully by the Anti-German Union—I thought of the many valuable articles which have recently been written in the Press about our "Coming Trade War." Whilst we are discussing, debating, advising, arguing, urging (and doing little), the Americans are silently, unobtrusively, but thoroughly, improving their own commercial position in all quarters of the globe. Their Consular officials are working hard at gathering and classifying information, at advising their countrymen and suggesting methods to be employed if American trade is to progress. Their information and advice is sound. Moreover, the United States being a new nation and, therefore, more receptive to new ideas, the Consular officials are listened to with greater attention than they would be in Great Britain, even supposing our officials (which is a great deal to suppose) were to follow their example. The net result is that whereas we are still in the preliminary propagandist stage of the trade war, the United States are carefully preparing the practical side of *their* trade war (banks, shipping, etc.), aided and abetted by an enthusiastic, wide-awake Consular organisation which, in its turn, works hand in glove with modern, go-ahead chambers of commerce.

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But to return to the more immediate report issued by Mr. Ravendal. He points out in the first place the articles in demand in Turkey, describes them, and shows how the American exporter can take advantage of the opportunities thus offered him. Next in importance is a description of Turkey's exports acceptable to American importers. In conclusion, the Consul expands on certain innovations essentially necessary to United States trade if the latter is to benefit by the opportunities offered it. These reforms include two which have frequently been insisted on in these columns in the interests of British trade—namely, commercial banks, with a view to solving the vexed credit question; and greater steamship facilities, so as to counteract the pernicious competition (in our case) of German ocean-borne trade. That I was not wrong in insisting on these facilities is now shown by Mr. Ravendal, who urges—and with greater likelihood of success—a similar course to be adopted by the United States.

COMMENTATOR.

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Turkey and the War.

U.S. Consular Reports.

I.—Constantinople.

In view of the fact that our Consular officials are not able to publish this year their annual reports on the economic situation in Turkey, we shall reproduce from time to time copious extracts from the U.S. Consular reports. The first of these, published below, is from the able pen of Mr. Ravendal, the Consul-General at Constantinople.

Turkey's economic outlook was never brighter than in May, 1914, when the large Government loan had just been negotiated in Paris by the Ottoman Minister of Finance. It was in the main a construction loan, involving the building of a network of railroad lines and highways. Numerous concessions for public utilities, especially in the interest of easier communication and transportation, such as railways, carriage roads, electric tramways, and ports, had been granted to or applied for by French, British, German, Belgian, and Austrian capitalists. Merchants, in anticipation of a general business revival, had hastened to replenish their almost exhausted stocks of goods. No business failures of any consequence had been occasioned by the late wars, so that credit conditions ranked high. There was a feeling abroad in the land that an era of exceptional commercial and industrial activity was about to dawn upon Turkey.

Decrease in Trade.

In a normal year Turkey (as reduced by the loss of its European possessions with the exception of Thrace and the Constantinople district) will import goods from abroad to the approximate amount of £40,000,000. exporting about £30,000,000 worth. As showing the reduction of trade, it has been calculated that the Turkish imports and exports during the last six months of 1914 amounted to only £5,306,007 and £2,772,966, a loss of about 73 per cent. and 81.5 per cent., respectively. In the month of December, 1914, Turkey's total imports amounted to only about £200,000 and the exports to about £255,000.

For the last decade Turkey has been on the eve of an industrial "boom." When the constitutional *régime* came in, it was thought that the era of industrial progress was at hand. The existing ban on electricity had been lifted when Sultan Abdul Hamid's Government approved of electric enterprises (light and tramway) in Damascus. Urgently needed were numerous railroads, ports, highways, telephone systems, electric street car lines, irrigation and reclamation works, factories, public buildings, docks—the country was waiting to be built up from the very foundation. It promised the handsomest returns on investments. Some improvements have been perfected. In Constantinople, electric light, electric street railway, and telephone systems have been installed. A railroad has been built from Panderma, on the Sea of Marmora, to Smyrna. Irrigation works on a large scale have been completed near Konia and more than initiated in the vicinity of Bagdad. Port works have been started at Samsun, and a railroad has been partly constructed from that town in the direction of Sivas. The so-called Bagdad Railroad has made notable progress, and in Palestine a railroad has been built connecting Jerusalem with the port of Haifa. Similarly a railroad has been constructed from Tripoli in Syria to Homs.

Concessions.

One is justified in believing that the termination of the present war will usher in the long-delayed day of construction in Turkey, because it is thought that it will introduce political order and stability. One is forced to assume that, on the one hand, Turkey will eliminate such domestic elements as militate against foreign investments, and, on the other, that foreign capital will be found. Judging from the present outlook, capital will first be sought in the United States, and it is hoped that the American money market may be both able and willing to respond to the call in the interest of the further extension and consolidation of American foreign commerce.

No American investments in industrial enterprises have been made in Turkey except by the Standard Oil Co., the MacAndrews and Forbes Co., and the American Tobacco Co. The latter two concerns own and operate minor plants in various sections of the Empire, facilitating the purchasing and preparing for shipment to the United States of liquorice root and cigarette tobacco, respectively. The former has obtained important concessions for the production of petroleum on the coast of the Sea of Marmora and in southern Palestine, and expects to work them on a large scale as soon as hostilities cease.

It is conceivable that silk reeling establishments may also be opened under American auspices in the Mount Lebanon and Brusa districts, and that thus Turkish raw silk may at length find its way direct to the American market. However, the paramount question is the matter of transportation. Who is going to undertake the construction of the urgently needed railroads in Asia Minor? Who will be called on to undertake the building of highways throughout the land? Who is destined to obtain and exploit the numerous municipal electric light and tramway and port and dock concessions which were cancelled?

It is probable that fundamental changes will be caused in the matter of concessions for public works in Turkey as regards the nationality of the concessionaires. Similarly, trade is likely to flow into new and different channels. In the present report it is proposed more particularly to study the distribution by countries of Turkey's trade as it may be affected by the war. It is of chief interest to ascertain the likely trend of Turkey's trade when business will be resumed.

Cotton Trade.

Cotton textiles occupy first rank among Turkey's imports, and Great Britain has in the past enjoyed a long lead over all competitors in this trade. Whether British, German, Austrian, and Italian manufacturers will be prepared later to supply Turkish needs in the matter of cotton textiles remains to be seen. It is likely that, owing to the inevitably disorganized condition both of their plants and the labour market, it will be some time before they will be in a position to supply the needs. It seems, therefore, that there will be a period of time immediately following the conclusion of peace when American cotton goods manufacturers will have the first call, and, in consequence, their greatest opportunity to establish themselves in the Near Eastern market.

In Turkey the classes of cotton goods sold, in the order of their importance, are: Prints, grey goods, bleached goods, and coloured or yarn-dyed goods. In grey goods the demand is for a heavily starched product weighing about 2.50 to 3 yards per pound in the 32-inch width, which is most popular. All widths, from 30 to 50 inches, can be sold, however. The dealers prefer that the goods be put up in pieces of 33 metres, or 36 yards, but with 40 laps or folds. A wide variety of bleached goods are sold, from the coarsest sheeting up to the fine muslin and madapolams. In general, they follow the same widths as grey goods. The finish is important, and a soft linen finish is preferred. In prints, goods from 27 to 29 inches wide are the most popular. A quality selling for 6 to 7 cents per yard is much in demand. It is highly important to furnish the designs which are in vogue in Turkey, and which are not nearly as conservative as the patterns sold in the United States. The principal yarn-dyed goods sold are the so-called "Toiles de Vichy," which are known in the United States as ginghams. They are usually 36 inches wide, and they come in various qualities.

Sugar.

For many years Turkey has relied chiefly upon Austria for its large needs of sugar. More recently considerable quantities of this product have been drawn from Russia. The present stringency of supply may cause the revival of cane-sugar culture in Mesopotamia and Palestine and introduce the raising of sugar beets in Anatolia; but it is more likely that Turkey will await the resumption of normal relations with the Austrian and Russian markets, suffering in the meantime the inevitable discomfort of high prices, inferior substitutes, and deficient supply. A prominent commission house in Constantinople, in the belief that, as a result of the pending conflict, Austria will be unable to furnish sugar on the former basis, has entered into correspondence with an American sugar refinery with a view of representing it in Turkey.

Flour and Rice.

Agriculture is more or less certain to be disturbed for the present. The exportation of foodstuffs has been forbidden and it is considered likely that Turkey for the next few years will require more than ordinary imports of flour. During the last six months of 1914, notwithstanding the wheat crop of Anatolia was exceptionally abundant, the importation of foreign flour was larger by about 30 per cent. than during the corresponding period of 1913. While Russia, France, Roumania, and Bulgaria dispose of substantial supplies of flour to Turkey, this staple is also brought from the United States and Canada, both direct and viâ Marseille and Trieste. The total imports of flour to Turkey are valued at £1,600,000 to £1,800,000 annually. Should direct steamship communications between Turkish ports and New York be re-established at the close of the war, there is no doubt but what American flour will reach here in appreciable quantities. Transhipment is fatal to this trade. A product of the United States, under the general category of cereals, which is certain to prevail in Ottoman markets, is glucose. Both glucose and corn starch of American manufacture are making gratifying progress not only in Turkey, but throughout the other sections of the Levant. Their sale is certain to increase on account of the scarcity and the high price of sugar and the growing consumption of sweetmeats. Constantinople is the headquarters of this trade, which is extended through agencies stretching from Belgrade to Aden and from Batum to Patras.

In view of the remarkable growth in American exports of rice, it is pertinent to observe that rice is to this country what the potato is to Ireland, and that it seems well within the range of possibilities that American rice and rice flour may soon be sold in Turkey. At present India, Egypt, and Italy are the chief rivals in this market. Recently Dutch rice (East Indian rice refined in the Netherlands) has acquired a certain reputation in the Levant. Turkey each year imports rice to the amount of more than £1,000,000.

Machinery.

Turkey is certain to become an attractive market for machinery. In the matter of engines, petroleum motors may be unhesitatingly recommended, as the price of benzine is about 135 per cent. higher than oil. There are rumours of an impending petroleum monopoly in Turkey which, if realized, might enhance the price of petroleum. On the other hand, there is in prospect a largely increased domestic production which would keep prices down in spite of the monopoly. Greece has a petroleum monopoly and Bulgaria a tax system equivalent

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to a monopoly. Greece admits benzine free of duty.

In Great Britain, where benzine is also expensive, petroleum motors, marine and stationary, are manufactured on a vast scale and at attractive prices. Motive power is urgently in demand in all countries of the Near East, and at least for the present the oil engine will predominate, as benzine and coal prices are high. "A reputable American concern," recently remarked a leading dealer in Constantinople, "specializing in simple kerosene motors of one to twelve horse-power could do excellent business here." Both in agricultural and in general industrial and engineering operations, oil engines of limited horse-power are wanted, and this demand will be strongly in evidence when later the peaceful activities of the people are allowed free vent.

Various kinds of machinery will be needed in agriculture, mining, irrigation, and house construction, in factories and shops, in sawmills and flour mills, in ice-making, and laundrying. Along with the resumption of the exploitation of natural resources will come a call for machinery in the building of highways, railroads, and harbours, in the installation of telephone and tramway systems, as well as municipal light and waterworks. Manufacturers of non-competing products should combine, if necessary, for the purpose of defraying the expense of such representation as is absolutely unavoidable. There is no valid reason preventing manufacturers of oil engines, pumps, windmills, wood and metal-working machinery, automobiles, cash registers, typewriters, and radiators from acting together in maintaining a properly equipped warehouse and sales office in Constantinople. This sort of co-operation is absolutely essential in new markets such as those of Turkey. . . . Special attention should be paid to the market for generating plants with their prime movers, electric fixtures, and machinery. This market is at present controlled by German manufacturers.

Oil.

In oils—mineral, vegetable, and animal—the United States plays an important part in Ottoman markets. During 1914 the sales of American petroleum in Turkey increased by 139 per cent. as compared with 1913. In view of the proximity of the competing sources of supply—Russia and Roumania—the progress made year by year by agencies established here of American refineries is remarkable. Last year American petroleum was awarded the bulk of the contracts by the Turkish Government Purchasing Department. Further progress is expected as soon as bulk installations with tanks, tin-can factories, etc., similar to those now existing at Smyrna, can be built at Constantinople, Alexandretta, and other Turkish ports. The total deliveries of American petroleum in 1914 amounted to 600,000 cases, against 250,000 in 1913. With the building of better roads, the development of aviation, and the more extensive use of engines, the consumption of benzine in Turkey is likely to increase materially. Also in lubricating products the American varieties gained ground, although Russian lubricating oil ("Mazoüt"), on account of both price and quality, occupies a strong position. Russia exports principally "black oil," used for axle lubrication, while Roumania supplies Turkey with engine oils. The Anatolian and Oriental railroad companies have until recently been using Roumanian oil, but are now buying an American brand.

Leather.

In upper leather, glazed kid, sterling kid, and box calf are the principal varieties imported. Glazed kid is chrome tanned, and a good product comes from France. Nevertheless, the American brands are usually preferred on account of the strength of the leather. France and the United States compete also in sterling kid, while box calf is supplied by Germany with hardly any competition. Until now much of the American upper leather has been supplied by houses in England, who sell B brands at A prices and otherwise prejudice the business. Sole leather is largely furnished by France. It has been found that a given weight of French sole leather will yield more surface than the same weight of American sole leather, the latter being heavily saturated, it is alleged here, with chemical matters. Upper leather is imported into Turkey to the amount of £500,000 per annum. A large house in Stamboul dealing in glazed kid, box calf, sterling strips (colt and cow), splits, and fancy coloured leather informs the writer that 40 to 50 per cent. of the kid they import is of American origin, but bought in England. "We only buy 20 per cent. direct from America."

Paper, etc.

Paper is an item of some consequence among Turkish imports. Austria supplies about 55 per cent., Germany 40 per cent., and other countries 5 per cent. Austria commands the market, because it is in a position to quote low prices, and, furthermore, grants liberal credit. Quality is not looked for in Turkey primarily. Wholesale dealers prefer credit, because most of them work with a small capital and carry but limited stocks; small orders are given and filled from Austria within two weeks.

Some years ago a fair assortment of office supplies, especially rubber goods, used to arrive from the United States. These are now received from Germany. As a general rule, American stationery and office supplies are considered of excellent quality but expensive. The consumption of print and book paper is rapidly growing in Turkey.

In haberdashery and furnishing goods the Turkish market is constantly adapting itself more and more to modern styles.

It has often been suggested in consular reports from Turkey that this country affords a good market for American paints and varnishes, now supplied by Great Britain, Belgium, Germany, Austria, and France. It is now learned that a strong concern here, representing American petroleum interests, has decided, as soon as the war is over, to import from the United States a full line of ready or prepared paints and keep a stock on hand of such articles.

Coal.

The outlook for the sale of American coal in Turkey is promising. It is difficult to foretell how freight conditions will be after the war, and this is the chief consideration. However, American coal has won its way into Italy, Greece, and Egypt, and it is not doubted that it will be introduced in Turkey as soon as conditions permit of its entry. It is at present among contraband goods. Judging from preparations made prior to the outbreak of the war there will be a depot in Constantinople set aside for American coals, and from this centre, ports of the Aegean, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Black Sea, will be supplied. Turkey imports in a year some £700,000 worth of coal, mostly of British origin. Between 50 and 60 per cent. of Constantinople's annual importation of coal, which amounts to about 500,000 tons, is consumed by the different steamship lines and railroads, and the remainder is used partly for bunkering steamers of irregular lines and partly by local industries and for heating private dwellings. The leading grades have been Admiralty, Newport, Newcastle, and Lancashire. Anthracite is growing in favour, both for production of gas and for burning in house stoves.

Wood.

Before the war nearly 80 per cent. of the lumber consumed in Turkey came from Austria-Hungary, but Scandinavia has of late years considerably increased its sales in these parts (from 40 to 800 cars in five years). The effects of the war will likely cause Turkish importers to look to new sources for their supplies of lumber, the imports of which are valued at about £800,000 annually. Scandinavia supplies Africa and Australia, as well as the bulk of the needs of all European countries which do not themselves produce lumber, particularly Belgium and France, where the effects of war will cause an unprecedented demand.

These are factors that will contribute to the introduction of American lumber in Turkey. An unusual opportunity it likely to present itself. It will cover not only building material, but also hardwoods (red gum), veneer (mahogany, oak, and birch), and oak or maple flooring. If properly taken advantage of it would form the basis for the institution of a new steamship line with lumber as its staple article of freight. The opening of the Panama Canal will materially facilitate the shipping of Oregon pine to the Levant.

Most of the furniture imported into Turkey comes from Austria and Germany. Hamburg factories of late have been offering American style desks at about the same price as the American article, and with advantageous shipping and credit conditions. This competition, in fact, has been growing quite keen. Many importers prefer the German article because it arrives in better condition. The native furniture is of indifferent finish and made from unseasoned lumber. Turkey offers a promising market for doors, sash, and blinds.

Copper is an article of consequence in Turkish housekeeping, as numerous kitchen utensils are made of this metal. It is stated that Turkey annually imports copper sheets and slabs to the value of about £350,000.

The automobile is rapidly making inroads in Turkey. There are now scores of cars in Constantinople and other principal centres. Motor trucks will be much in demand after the war.

Railway Material.

The necessary material for railroads built by foreign concessionaires is usually bought in the home country from which come the capital and the technical skill. The only railroad owned by the Government is the Hedjaz Railroad, for which most of the supplies are furnished by Germany. Generally speaking, Germany leads in locomotives and freight cars, Austria in passenger cars, while Germany, Belgium, and Austria compete in the matter of rails. In narrow-gauge installations Belgium and Germany have been competitors. Quarries, mines, tile and brick factories, cement works, harbour enterprises, etc., require rails, waggonets, and other Decauville material. There will be a great demand for these materials on the conclusion of peace.

It is clear that the termination of the war will witness a situation in Turkey in which the American export market figures conspicuously. But the Turkish demand will not be limited to articles mentioned in the preceding paragraphs. It will comprise also manila rope; binder twine and sacking; oil cloth and tar paper; lamps, lanterns, and lighting devices; clocks and watches; canned groceries, biscuits, hams, and evaporated milk; drugs and medicines; photographic goods; musical instruments; leather belting; fertilizers; harness and saddlery; refrigerators; fire brick; cement; metal bedsteads; boiled linseed oil; perfumeries; incubators; turpentine; dental supplies; surgical instruments; arms and ammunition; and jewelry.

Exports.

The export movement of Turkey during the first half of 1914 was above normal. The crops were fair if not abundant, and a prosperous year seemed assured. The decrees prohibiting the exportation of all foodstuffs and of all articles which might serve military exigencies, however, practically caused a stoppage in the export trade.

In a normal year Turkey's exports are valued at nearly £30,000,000. During 1914 this total was reduced to probably about £17,798,384, of which only £2,772,966 (estimated) represented the exports during the last

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six months of the year. Among products which were exported rather freely despite the war were tobacco, opium, and silk. Important articles tied up by the official embargo were wool, barley, and oils. Crops which became more or less of a total loss, owing to defective shipping facilities and the closing of belligerent markets, were Syrian oranges and nuts from the Black Sea coast. The United States is the principal buyer of Turkish opium, followed by Great Britain, Germany, Italy, and Japan. Prospects for the 1915 crop are good, but some anxiety is felt regarding harvesting possibilities owing to lack of labour. The area planted is somewhat less than usual. Nevertheless a crop of 8,000 to 9,000 cases is expected for Turkey, and 2,500 for Macedonia.

Since the loss of Macedonia to Greece, Serbia, and Bulgaria, Turkey's tobacco exportation has been reduced by 33 per cent. Efforts are being made, however, in Turkey, to extend the culture of tobacco and to improve its quality so as to maintain the world-wide prestige of Turkish cigarette tobacco. The culture of Turkish tobacco is spreading in California and promising experiments are being undertaken in the Philippines.

The trade in rugs the first half of 1914 proved normal, and satisfactory sales to the United States, Germany, and Austria were reported. With the outbreak of the war and the closing of the Dardanelles, the rug business came to a standstill. Dealers, however, maintain prices, as they feel certain of fair business after the war. Most of them hold considerable advances from the banks, which, under the moratorium, they need not pay back for the present. As all wool has been requisitioned by the military authorities the weaving of carpets is limited. Constantinople continues the principal clearing house for Persian rugs, but there is a tendency in Persia to ship direct to the European and American markets, and therefore the Turkish carpet industry has been showing signs of renewed vitality.

The shipments of wool were influenced by the embargo. The new clip promises to be as good as last year's. In ordinary times considerable supplies of Turkish wool is invoiced at the American consulates at Trieste, Marseilles, and Liverpool, for the United States. However, as Turkish domestic industries require increasing quantities, and no adequate efforts are being made to improve sheep husbandry in Turkey, it is likely that shipments to the United States will diminish.

Oil, Nuts, etc.

Although the closing of the Dardanelles stopped all exportation of Black Sea coast nuts except minor lots shipped into Europe, the consular statistics show that the United States bought as many nuts from Turkey in 1914 as in an average year. It is believed that this trade (almonds and pistachios from Palestine and Syria, and filberts and walnuts from the Black Sea districts) is certain to grow in volume. Similarly American purchases of Turkish figs, raisins, and olive oil continue as in the past. Although the port of Smyrna was closed in October, it was possible to export figs via Vourla. Opium and tobacco were the only other articles that could stand the additional expense of transportation.

The output of olive oil was only about half that of 1913—prices ruled over 10 per cent. higher.

In October, 1914, a severe earthquake destroyed the towns of Sparta, Bourdour, and a few others in the hinterland of Smyrna, which produce most of the attar of roses in Asia Minor. Many people in the business were killed. It will take three to four years before the industry revives to the point of activity and promise reached last autumn.

Silk Industry.

The Turkish silk industry was seriously affected. Producers have large quantities of thread on hand which they are unable to export. Reports from both Brusa and Beirut are pessimistic, and the prospects for the 1915 crop seem unfavourable. During the last four years silkmen complained of inadequate profits, due to increased cost of labour, lack of transportation facilities, etc. Attempts are made to assist the industry by the free distribution of mulberry plants and by educational methods. Prizes are also given for the best results.

In a normal year the production of cocoons and raw silk in Turkey is valued at some £1,800,000. The spun silks usually are exported—about 1,000,000 pounds from Syria, and 1,500,000 pounds from Brusa. The industry is capable of great development, but requires modernization along Italian lines.

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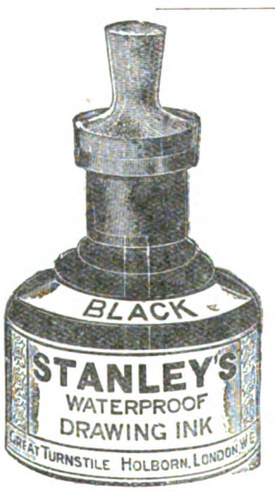

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Engineering Notes.

Acetylene Searchlights.

Searchlights at the present time are, according to recent information, a very desirable equipment on board ships plying in the Eastern Mediterranean. Neutral boats engaged in the coast and the Ægean Islands service, coastguard stations, patrolling boats and private yachts are often embarrassed or inconvenienced at the approach, at night, of boats or floating objects, the nature of which may be doubtful or dangerous. In such cases a searchlight is of great assistance. But it appears that the apparatus mostly known or used in those regions is the electric searchlight, the cost of which is, more or less, prohibitive for the class of service referred to above. It would, therefore, interest the owners of such coasting boats to know that there are several searchlights of British construction that can be obtained, for the purpose, at a very reasonable price. The acetylene searchlight will be found particularly suitable. This instrument is, as a rule, self-contained, and generates its own acetylene gas without any separate generator. It can be fitted either with a silver parabolic reflector or a glass-covered reflector. By means of a swivelling attachment the lamps can be moved instantaneously in any direction all round the compass. An automatic generator is provided which, when charged with carbite, will supply the lamp for eight or ten hours continuously. On the other hand, the lamp can be used intermittently as required, gas being turned on and off at will. The prices vary from £8 for a complete outfit of about 1,000 candle-power, to £11 or £12 for one of 1,500 candle-power.

Leaking Boiler Tubes.

The bugbear of an engineer is the leaking of boiler tubes This can be especially vouched for by the marine engineer, who, in spite of the various tools, expanders, ferrules, and other devices with which his engine-room stores may be provided for the purpose, often finds himself in mid-ocean embarrassed and in despair, for as a rule, none of the devices within reach will enable him to effect a lasting or, sometimes, even a temporary, remedy. The consequence is a troublesome and worrying voyage, and loss of engine efficiency. It will therefore be of interest to engineers, shipowners, and, generally speaking, steam boiler proprietors, to learn of an expanding ferrule, the use of which is claimed to give absolute immunity from leaking tube trouble. As, apparently, the ordinary tube joint has not a sufficient area of contact with the tube plate to withstand abnormal stresses for any length of time, the aim of the designer of the ferrule in question has been to provide a joint which extends the full width of the plate. The device consists of two sleeves which have a common taper, the one external and the other internal. When one is forced into the other the tendency is to produce parallel expansion, so that the tube is brought into contact with the tube plate right through, and not merely over a small area, as is the case with tubes expanded with rollers. It is asserted that tests on locomotive power boilers in continuous use for over twelve months have been completely successful, the joints having had no attention, and being now as firm and as watertight as when first made.

Dongola Irrigation Works.

Work is still actively proceeding on the excavation of irrigation and drainage canals in the basins of Dongola Province, say the *Sudan Times*. The work accomplished up to the present includes a canal for irrigation of the northern Kerma basin, which extends from Abu Fatma village to Kerma town, a distance of some ten kilometres, with a width of ten metres and a depth of between two and three metres. It also includes the heightening of Abu Fatma embankment which retains the water of the basin and irrigates an area of 2,000 to 4,000 feddans. Two dams have also been erected at the "Borkik" outlet, which will serve to store up the water to be utilised in irrigation. The convict labourers' camp was transferred to Argo Island two weeks ago, where work is now going on for the erection of dams and the digging of canals for the irrigation of that basin. It is hoped to complete this work and hand it over to the Provincial authorities before the end of the present year. The number of convicts now at work amounts to 933. The average amount of excavation work done by each convict daily is four or five cubic metres.

The Bagtche Tunnel.

The U.S. Consul-General at Constantinople reported on September 3 as follows:—

The most important event in railroad construction in Turkey to date is the recent completion of the large tunnel on the Bagdad Railroad piercing the Amanus Mountains on the border between Asia Minor and Syria. It is known at the Bagtché Tunnel, taking its name from the station of Bagtché, at its northern entrance, about 75 miles east of the city of Aadana and some 60 miles north-west of Aleppo. With the completion of this tunnel the most serious difficulties connected with the construction of the Bagdad Railroad have been overcome, and the work of connecting up many of the isolated stretches of track may be expected to be completed with reasonable rapidity. In spite of delays occasioned by the war, this most important undertaking in railroad construction in Turkey has passed the problematical stage and is now certain to become an accomplished fact in the near future.

Details.

The following details, taken from a recent issue of the local *Osmanischer Lloyd* throw interesting light upon the importance of the Bagtché Tunnel from a technical point of view:—"Leaving Mamoure, last station on the Bagdad Railway in the Cilician plain, the line begins, at the foot of Amanus Mountains, to ascend, at a grade of 394 feet, the slopes of these mountains, which are intercepted by ravines crossed by means of eight steel bridges and seven small tunnels, the latter having a total length of 6,355 feet. Thus it arrives at Bagtché station, situated at an altitude of 1,754 feet, near the entrance of the great tunnel which bears its name. Before reaching the mouth of the tunnel the line runs through two other tunnels, having a length of 236 and 394 feet, respectively, and over a small bridge. The great tunnel has a length of 16,028 feet. For about 8,000 feet it ascends to 246 feet above the level of the entrance, and then begins to descend and emerges at the other end 197 feet above the level of the entrance. Between this point and Islahie station, which is still building, there are four more tunnels having a combined length of 3,500 feet. The total length of the tunnels it has been necessary to construct in crossing this chain of mountains is therefore a little more than 26,250 feet. The great tunnel with its length of more than three miles is by far the longest in Turkey. It is only exceeded in length by the great tunnels in the Alps and elsewhere. Still, the technical difficulties which had to be overcome in piercing through have been just as great as those encountered in the Alps. In fact, for several hundred yards, the engineers encountered a rock of practically pure quartz, which was so hard that it was necessary to have recourse to boring machines of special construction."

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TRADE NOTES.

Egypt.

H.M. Consul at Cairo reports that tenders will be received by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, up to noon on December 1, for the supply and delivery of the following supplies required during 1916-17:—Mail bags, boots, fuel, ready-made furniture, letter-boxes and accessories, keys and other hardware articles, lamps and electric fans, enamelled plates, rolling stock and accessories, safes, strong cupboards and safety locks, stamps, special postal stationery, and miscellaneous articles. Tenders must be made out on the printed schedules which, with copies of the specifications, may be obtained on application to the Central Stores Department, General Post Office, Alexandria, where also samples may be inspected. Some of the samples may be inspected in London at the offices of the Egyptian Government representative, Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

Gibraltar.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies notify that tenders are invited for the supply of about 4,000 tons of steam coal to be delivered at Gibraltar during 1916. Forms of tender and conditions of contract may be obtained from the office of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W., where also tenders will be received up to noon on November 15.

Malta.

Copy of a Government Notice (No. 221), dated October 11 last, has been received, which amends the Government Notices Nos. 175 and 200 of 1915 by prohibiting the exportation of various articles to certain destinations from Malta, as follows:—

To all destinations abroad, other than the United Kingdom and British Possessions and Protectorates:—Chlorides of sulphur; fustic (chips and extract) and logwood (chips and extract, including haematine crystals and other logwood preparations); iron ore, Cumberland haematite; whale meal; animals, pack, saddle and draught, suitable or which may become suitable for use in war; diamonds, rough, suitable for industrial purposes, including Brazilian carbon; and bones for manure, dissolved bones, bone flour, bone meal and bone ash.

To all foreign ports in Europe and the Mediterranean and Black Seas, without permission of the Collector of Customs:—Aluminium, salts of; calcium sulphite; china clay (including china stone and potters' clay); gas carbon; kapok hempen fibre; and iron ore (except Cumberland hematite).

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Near East Markets.

SUDAN DURA EXPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, October 16.

Exports of dura for this year have passed all previous records. The most successful hitherto was in 1910, when 32,400 tons of dura was exported. This year up to the end of September the total amounted to 36,700 tons, and that notwithstanding great difficulty over transporting the grain by sea.

RAINFALL IN CYPRUS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, October 20.

The first rain, always very welcome, has fallen at Nicosia and in many parts, encouraging hopes of a good season for ploughing and sowing. There is still no reason to fear the series of "lean years" which croakers predicted.

Further swarms of locusts have unfortunately been reported, and the invasion appears to coincide with fresh movements into Egypt from the Sudan. The villagers at the localities attacked met the foe with the discharge of guns, the beating of petroleum tins, and loud shouting, driving them from their fields. The same or other swarms visited the lands of the historic Idalium (Dàli), Potamia, and other places. Towards evening they settled on trees and bushes, enveloping every branch and twig with a covering of reddish hue.

A show of live stock held at Nicosia has been quite successful, and has shown a marked improvement in exhibits of various classes, notably, perhaps, of sheep. The Government efforts to improve the breed of ponies, cattle, pigs, poultry, etc., have been crowned with great success, and are worthy of all praise; and the agricultural shows periodically held at the capital, at other towns, and at some of the fairs, are unquestionably doing much to stimulate progress in these and other important branches of the still backward agricultural industry.

The *Koelnische Zeitung's* Sofia correspondent telegraphs that a Commission, composed of representatives of the German Wheat Society, have arrived in the Bulgarian capital with the object of arranging with the Bulgarian Government for a supply of wheat for Germany and Austria.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.

The market is very firm. Pyrgos, quoted 39s. to 40s; bags, 36s. to 36s. 6d.; Gulph, 45s. to 48s.; Patras, 43s. to 46s.; Vostizza, 49s. to 55s.; Islands, 40s. to 44s., and smalls, 39s. to 46s. Stocks in London on October 31 5,960 tons, against 6,136 tons the same period last year.

Sultanas.

Very little business is being done. Smyrnas are practically exhausted, and only small supplies of Afghans, Greeks, and Californians are available, the prices of which are constantly advancing. Stocks of sultanas of all kinds in London on October 31, 873 tons, against 3,293 tons of last year.

Figs.

Prices are a little easier, and the demand somewhat diminished, buyers having bought for present requirements.

Dates.

There is only little business doing at steady rates, the first tide boats being expected here with the new crop about the end of next week.

Locust Beans.

The market is firm on last week's quotations.

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Oils.

Linseed oil is very firm and in good demand at fully 5s. advance. Spot pipes £32; barrels £32 10s., month £32 15s., Nov.-Dec. £33, Jan.-April £34, and May-August £34 15s. Rape oil is firm at £38 for ordinary brown naked, spot, and £41 to £42 for English refined, barrels. Cotton oil is firmly held. Crude spot in pipes, £31 10s.; refined pale pipes, £34; and barrels, sweet, £38 to £40.

COTTON MARKET.

Liverpool.

November 11.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph:—There has been a quiet general demand for cotton this week, and a fair amount of business is reported. Quotations show an advance of five points. Sales, which include 200 bales Sudan cotton, are estimated at 2,900 bales.

Manchester.

There continues to be a fair inquiry for piece goods for export, but there has been considerable difficulty in arranging business. India has not been prominent. Printing cloths and heavy goods have met with inquiry for Egypt generally. The yarn market has been strong.

EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

Estimated at 4,863,000 Cantars.

Reuter's Agency reports from Cairo that Mr. Gerald C. Dudgeon, Consulting Agriculturist at the Ministry of Agriculture, has issued the following notice regarding the approximate yield of the cotton crop in 1915:—

"The restriction by-law of the cotton-growing area was expected to result in the sowing of about 1,350,000 feddans; but according to the returns obtained by the Sarrafs for the Department of Direct Taxes, only 1,186,000 feddans were actually planted with the crop in 1915. A check survey, conducted in a few localities, showed that the aggregate of the cotton areas given for these localities corresponded very nearly with the Sarraf's figures. It was thought inadvisable, therefore, to make any correction of the figures given by the Direct Taxes Department. This figure, viz., 1,186,000 feddans, is that which has accordingly been taken as the basis of the estimate of the yield.

"The damage due to the pink seed worm has been computed by a method based upon a careful examination of the results obtained in the field. By this method, checked by inspection of the more important localities, the cotton crop of Lower Egypt is estimated at 3,99 cantars per feddan, and that of Upper Egypt at 4.49 cantars per feddan, making an average for the whole of Egypt of 4.10 cantars per feddan, and a total, based on an area of 1,186,000 feddans, of 4,863,000 cantars. This is an estimate of the 1915 crop alone, and takes no account of the balance of the crop of 1914, which had been held over until this year. Should the whole crop of 1915, together with an appreciable quantity of last year's crop, which is believed to have been held back, reach Alexandria before the end of the cotton season, the deliveries will be somewhat higher than the above-mentioned estimate."

The Sudan and the War.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, October 30.

The half-yearly account of the Sudan Government, which has just been made public, follows very appropriately in the track of the publication of the annual report of the Central Economic Board for 1914.

By comparison with the same period of the preceding year, the receipts during the six months ending June 30, 1915, fell off by £E110,225 to £E736,608, and the expenditure by £E85,902 to £E663,024, leaving a balance in hand of £E73,584. The chief heads of revenue that showed decreases are royalties £E14,064 (gum £E9,453), Customs £E26,995 (import dues £E23,254), steamers £E23,202, and railways £E56,654, but, on the other hand, telegraphs increased by £E3,567, rent of Government land by £E10,237, and Land Tax by £E9,195.

On the expenditure side the Provincial Services have remained comparatively stationary, practically the whole reduction being borne by the Departments. Public Works have taken £E4,581 less, steamers £E19,660 less, and railways £E48,643 less. In the first instance the reduction is due to the stoppage of all but the most necessary works, whilst in the other two instances diminution of passenger traffic and falling off in foreign trade, especially imports, have naturally led to a curtailment of services and a consequent reduction in certain items of working expenses.

On the figures the financial position would not appear to be so bad, but he would be a rash man who would attempt to draw any definite conclusions therefrom or say whether the anticipation of a deficit would be realised or not.

The balance in hand of £E73,584 may look most satisfactory, and undoubtedly it reflects great credit on the financial situation, but there is at present no indication as to the commitments of the Sudan Government in respect of large orders placed during the first half and other claims that are as a rule settled in the course of the second half of the year; in addition to which it should be remembered that at the end of June, 1914, the balance in favour of revenue was £E97,907, or £E24,323 more, and that notwithstanding, the surplus at the end of the year was only £E12,203.

Effects of the War.

Of course, the outbreak of war took everyone by surprise, and whilst it was necessarily not until the last quarter that any appreciable economy in expenditure could be effected, the diminution in revenue made itself manifest almost immediately, with the result that the last half of 1914 showed a deficit of £E85,704.

It may quite rightly be contended that the general conditions during the second half of the current year will be widely different from those existing during the same period of 1914, that the present rate of reduced expenditure will be maintained, that crop prospects are good and that trade is reviving. All that is very true, but under present-day conditions there is no knowing how matters will shape a month or so hence, despite all the efforts that have been and are being made to counteract the effect of the war and re-establish some approach to the previous favourable condition of affairs; nor must sight be lost of the fact that no matter how the revenue may be affected, expenditure cannot with safety be reduced any further.

A Hopeful Outlook.

That the position is, however, full of hope is abundantly evident from the very able annual report of the Director of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Central Economic Board for 1914. Trade since the outbreak of war, *i.e.*, during the eight months from July 31, has fallen off by 30 per cent. It is, however, comforting to note that whereas imports diminished by 40 per cent., exports fell by 13 per cent. only. There is, indeed, as the report points out, every reason to anticipate that the statistics of the succeeding months will show that the leeway lost has been made up, for, owing to the improved climatic conditions in 1914, there is a great quantity of produce waiting shipment, whilst it may be added that the initiative of the Sudan authorities in advertising the resources of the country prior to the war, in finding new markets, since the outbreak of hostilities closed certain outlets or restricted others, and in more recently attracting shipowners to Port Sudan, is bound to result in a favourable turn being given during the ensuing months to the country's external trade.

Those who have followed at all closely the more recent history of the Sudan must admit that ill-luck has dogged its footsteps. Deficient rains and low floods, to say nothing of the outbreak of rinderpest and the locust visitation, coming just as the country had been made to stand financially on its own, combined to make the years 1912-1914 the most anxious that its administrators had experienced, and just when all obstacles had been surmounted and daylight was appearing, came the war, with its inevitable setback to all the hopes that the improving situation had engendered.

The Sudan has so far emerged not unsuccessfully from the crisis which confronted her after a three-year period of almost unprecedented drought, and despite the shrinkage of trade values, due in the first place to the aforesaid unfortunate climatic conditions and subsequently to the effect of the war on shipping and on trade in general, the country has so far continued to pay its own way. This I can affirm is entirely due to the promptitude with which, immediately war broke out, the responsible authorities tackled the serious problem that presented itself, and to the sagacity, foresight, and boldness which they have displayed all through in their handling of an unprecedented and peculiarly difficult situation. The very excellent report of the Central Economic Board already referred to serves to show that that institution is actively seconding the efforts of the financial administration—ably directed by Colonel Bernard Pasha—to steer the country through the troubled waters that have confronted it, and that no stone is being left unturned to secure for the Sudan the facilities and the openings for its products, on the disposal of which its welfare so absolutely depends.

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ALEXANDRIA PRIZE COURT.

S.S. "Lutzow" (ex Cargo).

Judge Grain has handed down from the Supreme Court, Alexandria, sitting in Prize, the following judgment :—

The goods were shipped on the s.s. Lutzow on a bill of lading dated from Zurich on or about July 18.

The cargo, consisting of five cases of cotton goods and other articles, was invoiced on July 15, 1914, from an Arnold German, a Swiss subject at St. Gall (Switzerland), to German and Co., of Manila (Philippine Islands). A formal American Consular certificate of invoice is put in, and also a copy of the original invoice certified by the British Consul at St. Gall, showing that the seller is Arnold German, the Swiss, and the purchaser German and Co., Limited, of Manila. These goods are also invoiced by Berman and Co., a German firm at Hamburg, to German and Co., of Manila, the invoice being dated July 30, 1914.

The Procurator asks for condemnation of the goods on the ground that the presumption is that the property in the goods is in the enemy firm of German and Co., of Hamburg, as the bills of lading state that the goods are shipped by German and Co., of Hamburg, and one of the invoices show that the goods are sent by German and Co., of Hamburg, to German and Co., of Manila. The Procurator urges that even if the goods did originally belong to Arnold German, the Swiss, nevertheless he has put himself into the hands of German and Co., of Hamburg, and lost the control of the property in his goods.

Mr. Booth appears on behalf of Arnold German, the Swiss, and urges that the property in the goods remain in Arnold German, and asks for a release to the neutral. Certified copies of the correspondence are put in between Arnold German and German and Co., of Hamburg, which, in my opinion, show that it was Arnold German who was sending these goods to the Philippine Islands.

It appears that Arnold German was sending these goods for the purpose of finding out how this particular class of goods would sell in America.

In one letter, dated July 29, 1914, from German and Co., of Hamburg, to Arnold German, they ask if he desires to insure his goods against war risks, and inform him that the goods will probably be shipped in the s.s. Lutzow. This certainly makes it appear that Arnold German was looked upon by German and Co., of Hamburg, as the owner and consignor of the cargo.

The correspondence also shows that Arnold German was sending the goods to German and Co., of Manila, on approval, and that they had the option of taking up the goods themselves or selling them for Arnold German. Therefore, there is doubt that the property in the goods is in whoever is decided to be the seller and consignor, either Arnold German, the Swiss, or German and Co., of Hamburg, the enemy firm, and not in the buyer or consignee.

The reason given in the correspondence for the two forms of invoice I must confess I cannot understand. The letter from Arnold German states, "the invoice from German and Co., of Hamburg, is only used for United States Consul invoices and copies thereof, because Manila wants for the Customs House uniform invoices for all imports of the firm."

But taking into consideration that the copy of the original invoice certified as a true copy by the British Consul at St. Gall shows that Arnold German was the seller, that the certificate of the invoices from the American Consulate at St. Gall (Switzerland) shows also that Arnold German is the seller; and taking into consideration that there is practically no evidence of any property in the goods having passed to German and Co., of Hamburg, beyond the second invoice and their names on the bills of lading, I am of opinion that there is sufficient evidence placed before me on behalf of the claimant to enable me to grant a release to him.

The Order of the Court will therefore be for the release of the cargo in question to Arnold German, the Swiss, of St. Gall.

FRANCE'S LOAN TO BULGARIA.

Reuter's Agency learns from The Hague that it is learned from a competent Bulgarian source that as the representative of the bondholders of the Bulgarian loan placed in France left Bulgaria without appointing representatives, the Bulgarian Government, in the interest of Bulgarian finances and bondholders, has placed the business in charge of the Director of the Bulgarian National Debt.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN LOANS TO PERSIA.

Reuter's Agency reports from Teheran that the European war adversely affects Persian revenues, particularly those from the Customs. With a view to releasing funds for efficient internal administration and the observance of neutrality obligations, Persia has arranged with Great Britain and Russia a moratorium in respect of the interest and amortisation of their loans. The service of the British public loan of 1911 is, however, unaffected.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Production of week: Gemsah, 899 tons (last week, 482 tons); Hurgada, 238 tons (last week, 205 tons).

BAKU RUSSIAN PETROLEUM. — Estimated gross production week ending November 6, 97,050 poods. Price of crude oil, 43½ copecks per pood.

BIBI EIBAT OIL.—Production for week ending November 7, 62,766 poods (or 1,012 tons).

EUROPEAN OILFIELDS.—Production for week ended 7th inst., 83,900 poods. Price of crude oil at Blacktown, 43 copecks per pood.

GREEK GOVERNMENT FIVE PER CENT. LOAN OF 1914.—Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son announce that the numbers are announced of 1,275 obligations purchased for amortisation.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED.—Production for month of October, 11,302 tons; production for week ending November 6, 1,500 tons. When reservoirs cleared will produce more quickly.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.—The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for the 10th inst. amounted to 310,000 frs., as compared with 260,000 frs. for the corresponding day last year.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, OCTOBER 26/9, 1915.

ASSETS.			
Metallic reserve: Gold (specie)	175,527,512		
On deposit	25,220,000		
Gold (bars)	260,000		
Foreign bills payable in gold	80,980,132		281,987,644
Silver and other coins			418,474
Roumanian and foreign bills			207,991,423
Advances against Government securities	26,680,700		51,424,631
On current account	48,719,600		
Unused balance	23,975,669	24,743,931	
Loan of 15 millions to the State			11,273,958
Loan to Government on 3 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914-15)			268,008,499
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			10,697,576
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,373,177
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			3,915,681
Premises			6,752,033
Furniture and printing machinery			1,111,153
General expenses			987,713
Government and other securities deposited			138,770,191
Three per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State			300,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			171,108,685
Current accounts			15,417,750
Security accounts			22.299,649
Sundry accounts			46,252,812
Total Lei			1,554,791,049
LIABILITIES.			
Capital			12,000,000
Reserve			39,877,686
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			5,959,940
Notes in circulation			740,938,130
Profit and loss account			4,902.667
Interest and various earnings			3,574,209
Current accounts and drafts at sight			64,003,428
Securities, etc., held on account of customers			609,878,876
Sundry accounts			73,256,113
Total Lei			1,554,791,049

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%. 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	85xd
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82⅛	73½	78⅝
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80⅓	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	63
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	52
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	40½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	52½
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	60
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	89
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	74⅛
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	81xd
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73xd
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6⅜
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10⅞
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅞
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	⅝
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	⅜	—	6
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅜	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	⅜	—	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	85
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	¼
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	14/6
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	9/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	2⅜xd
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	88
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Nov. 10.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅝	6/9
Anglo-Persian	22/1⅛	⅛
European Oilfields	4/9	3/3
Roumanian	20/-	12/3

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Nov. 10.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Sues	4050	—
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	—
Turkish Unified 4%	61.50	—
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	—
Serbian 1895	—	—

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 237.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Two matters call for immediate settlement in the Near East—one concerns Greece, the other Roumania. Unless the unforeseen happens, some of the Serbian troops retreating before the Austro-German and Bulgarian forces may be pressed back into Greek territory. The idea is being sedulously circulated in Athens that in such a case the Greek Government is making up its mind to intern the Serbians, and that it may even adopt the attitude that it cannot allow the Franco-British forces to return by the way they came. We shall require much more evidence than is forthcoming at the present moment to believe that the Greek Government is contemplating any such policy. Even if the prospect of having the Allied forces hemmed in between the Austro-German, the Bulgarian, and the Greek armies appealed strongly to King Constantine, he cannot altogether ignore the fact that Greece would remain defenceless from the sea, and that his easy triumph on land would be the prelude to the commercial and financial ruin of the country.

That the probabilities are all against Greece adopting the policy suggested is no reason why she should be allowed to maintain an equivocal attitude on the subject. The matter has to be cleared up once and for all, and that before the danger of a Serbian withdrawal to Greek territory becomes imminent. The first report of Lord Kitchener's movements places him at Mudros on November 15, but as he must have reached Greek waters four or five days earlier, we shall hope to find that the position in Greece had already engaged his attention. It would be useless to disguise the fact that up to the present King Constantine has acted as though he were more German than a Hohenzollern. The Prussian programme, as outlined to King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, has been carried out most scrupulously. M. Venizelos was forced to resign, and when his majority in the Chamber made its strength felt, the Chamber was dissolved. The elections will not take place until December 19, and the Chamber will not meet before January 24. For eleven weeks, therefore, King Constantine will govern without a Parliament. This circumstance will enable him to take rapid decisions, which may be either favourable or unfavourable to the Allies. It is for the Allied Governments to make sure that they shall be favourable.

Neither prudence nor common justice to our Serbian allies counsels a weak-kneed attitude towards King Constantine. As has been pointed out before, it is not a question of the traditional relationships between the British and Greek nations. The Greek nation has not been allowed to come into the picture at all. King Constantine has eliminated it by getting rid of its elected representatives, and seeks to convey the impression abroad that he is acting as the German Emperor's henchman. For reasons already stated in these columns the pose is not altogether convincing; but it might become the real thing, if the Allied Powers were foolish enough to allow King Constantine sufficient rope. Meanwhile, the uncertainty surrounding his attitude is prejudicial to the Allies' interests, and there can be no justification, in view of the situation in Serbia, for tolerating such an attitude for another moment. A message from Athens speaks of King Constantine having expressed a desire to see Lord Kitchener. Diplomacy of the "face-saving" order was supposed to be restricted to China, but if the need of it is felt in the Near East it must be given full play. The only thing that matters is that Lord Kitchener and King Constantine should meet, if they have not already done so, and that the latter should no longer be left in any uncertainty regarding the intentions of the Allied Powers to see the war through in the Balkans. The Entente Governments owe it to themselves, to the Serbians, and indeed to the Greek nation, which in the enthusiastic welcome given to M. Denys Cochin, a member of the French Government, has virtually appealed to the Allied Powers to save it from a pro-German policy.

While the relations of the Entente with Greece are being adjusted, no time ought to be lost in coming to an understanding with Roumania. When free communication between Germany and Constantinople has been opened up, the Roumanians will find themselves hemmed in on two out of three sides by the Central Powers group. It would be only natural on the part of the latter to turn on Roumania and to require her to side with them under penalty of a simultaneous attack from the Carpathians and the Danube. If this should happen—and the period within which it may quite well happen can now be reckoned in days—the Allies may rest assured that, after what has happened to Serbia,

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the Roumanian Government will not risk a national disaster for the *beaux yeux* of the Quadruple Entente. From Roumania's point of view the march of events has justified her delay in declaring herself, although the Allies must reflect that, if Roumanian co-operation had been secured when the Russians first reached the Carpathians, the war would have followed a very different course. As things are now, however, the Roumanians cannot be expected to bear the brunt of a German-Bulgar-Turkish attack single-handed. If they are to be saved from a German ultimatum, the Allies must show themselves capable of undertaking military operations in the Balkans on a big scale. In the opinion of the correspondent of *The Times* in the Balkans, if Russia could send a force of 200,000 men, while Great Britain and France land an army of the same size on the Ægean coast, the result would probably be the adhesion of Roumania and Greece, and the failure of the German advance towards Constantinople. But in such operations time is the prime factor.

Parliament has been busy during the week with the subject of the Near East. On November 11 the Foreign Secretary returned to the question of Serbia and the help afforded her by the Allies, emphasizing the Government's contention that military exigencies alone, not absence of good will, prevented Great Britain from giving the Serbians more effective help. Sir Edward Grey confined his remarks almost entirely to the period subsequent to September 24. If that date had marked the outbreak of hostilities instead of occurring in the fourteenth month of the war, there would be much force in the plea that Great Britain could not lay hands suddenly on a large number of troops for despatch to a new front. When once the Government takes its stand on the question of an insufficiency of available forces its critics must needs leave it in possession of the field. Sir Edward Grey's statement, therefore, would probably have been the last word on the subject, if he had not given Sir Edward Carson an opportunity to challenge his reading of the course of events. The Foreign Secretary was at pains to show that, when Greece repudiated her treaty obligations to Serbia, no decision was taken by the British Government not to help Serbia. Consultations took place between the Government and its military advisers and with the French. "The hesitation was, as Greece was not to co-operate, what was to be done with the troops when they were ready," preparations to send troops being in progress all the time. A few days later, however, Sir Edward Carson flatly contradicted Sir Edward Grey's assertion. He claimed that "a most emphatic decision had been come to—a decision founded upon the advice of our military advisers, that it was too late to assist Serbia," and recalled his protest against the decision and his contention that Serbia ought to be told through her Minister, "in order that the little nation might take such steps as she thought necessary to preserve herself from absolute destruction." There the matter, which is rapidly passing into the limbo of ancient history, rests, until the Foreign Secretary returns to the charge.

Further contributions to history, though mainly of a personal nature, were made in the House of Commons on November 15, when Mr. Winston Churchill, whose resignation from the Cabinet had been announced a few days before, explained to the House the reasons that had led him to take that step. The subject of the Dardanelles is the one with which we are most concerned in these pages, and the chief point established by Mr. Churchill was that the enterprise in its first phase as a naval venture had been undertaken after the most careful scrutiny and elaboration of the plans by all the authorities concerned, from the Admirals on the spot to the Cabinet. He maintained that with the failure of the first naval attacks it was quite feasible to withdraw altogether from the venture. The naval operations begun as they were did not necessarily involve the military operations begun as they were. "That was a separate decision which did not rest with the Admiralty either in principle or in method." Mr. Churchill was of opinion, however, that the military operations, once begun, ought to have been prosecuted with the utmost vigour, and he repeatedly urged the Government to take Constantinople at all costs, "to take it soon, and take it while time remains."

In the four or five weeks that have elapsed since the invasion of Serbia began in earnest the enemy have made great strides. The northern part of the country above a line connecting Vishegrad and Nish is in Austro-German hands, while the Bulgarians have advanced west of the Nish-Uskub railway. With the capture of Tetovo (Kalkandelen), west of Uskub, a town which has changed hands no less than three times in a few days, the Bulgarians have introduced a serious menace to the Serbian northern army's line of retreat to the south. Indeed, if the pressure at this point cannot be at once relieved, it is difficult to see how the Serbians can avoid having to pass into Montenegro and Albania, leaving their forces in the south to join hands with the Anglo-French armies, and to await the time when the Bulgarian advance can be thrown back with the help of the Allies' reinforcements. Montenegrin territory will not of itself protect the Serbian army from the victorious Germans; but the further progress of von Mackensen's force must depend on a variety of factors, which render further speculation at this stage useless. Italy has yet to make some contribution to the Allied cause in the Balkans. Greece and Roumania are also factors in the general situation which could very rapidly alter the complexion of things in this theatre of the war. But the situation is undoubtedly critical, and the utmost dispatch is called for both in diplomatic steps and in military operations.

The meeting of the Allies' War Council in Paris this week can hardly fail to have been concerned with the situation in the Near East. It will answer completely the expectations formed of the new scheme for co-ordinating the efforts of the Entente Powers if the first deliberations should herald the participation of the Italians in the Balkan campaign. With the Serbian army of the north being headed off into Montenegro and Albania, it becomes more than ever necessary that these much-tried troops should receive reinforcements at the earliest possible moment. The available routes militate against any large expedition, but in the country in which the Austro-German forces will have to be held, if the Serbians are to be relieved, comparatively few men, if well supplied with heavy artillery and maxims, will suffice to contain von Mackensen's force. Without doubt the main line of the Allies' advance must be from the Ægean, but the object which Italian reinforcements through Montenegro would attain would be to delay the enemy's advance in the Balkans until the Anglo-French armies were in a position to take the field in sufficient numbers.

Energetic action on the part of Russia has had the effect apparently of improving the situation in Persia. The arrival in Teheran of a force composed of Austrians and mercenaries, which was at once taken over by the German Legation, indicated that the latter was contemplating a *coup* in the capital on the lines that had already been successful at Kermanshah and Ispahan. The prompt dispatch of Russian troops from Kazvin to Teheran upset Austro-German plans, and the two Legations decided to abandon the field. Up to the last moment they seem to have counted upon persuading the Persian Government to evacuate Teheran with them and to remove to Ispahan. Wiser counsels, however, prevailed. The Shah and his Government appear to have satisfied themselves of the friendliness of the Russian and British Governments. They have announced their intention of staying in Teheran, and it ought to be possible for complete agreement to be established between Persia and the two Powers regarding the steps to be taken to re-establish the authority of the Government in the country. We must not lose sight of the fact that Persia, like Bulgaria, is divided into two camps, pro-Entente and pro-German. The latter must not be ignored, and the former look for definite support and encouragement from the representatives of Great Britain and Russia.

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EGYPT'S CANTONAL COURTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 26.

A law has just been signed and published in the *Official Journal* altering the fees in civil and commercial causes coming within the ordinary jurisdiction of the Cantonal Courts. According to the tariff introduced when this system of village justice was first established all cases that fell within its jurisdiction were exempt of any fees if the amount involved did not exceed P.T.100, and had to pay fees at the rate of 2 per cent. if the amount exceeded that figure; whilst all cases that, coming within other jurisdictions, were submitted by common consent of the parties to the Cantonal Courts had, if any amount was involved, to be taxed at the rate of 4 per cent. Under the new law just promulgated the exemption of fees accorded to cases of P.T.100 and under is abolished, and all cases where an amount can be fixed are to be taxed at the rate of 4 per cent., whether they come directly within, or are submitted by consent to the jurisdiction of the Cantonal Courts. This alteration and raising of the fees were foreshadowed by the Judicial Adviser in his last report. The reason for this step is that very often fellaheen who wished to bring suits for sums over P.T.100 adopted the simple device of splitting up their actions so that each of them should not exceed the afore-mentioned limit, and by these means avoided paying any fees at all. In addition, the tariff made litigation so cheap that the fellaheen took advantage of it to submit to these courts petty claims that otherwise would never have been brought or would have been settled privately. Whilst there is little doubt that these village tribunals have benefited and been appreciated by the fellaheen, and so justify their institution, nevertheless there is no reason why the country should bear almost the entire cost of the huge administration involved—nearly half the personal claims presented in 1914 were for sums not exceeding P.T.100. The fees fixed for cases where the claim cannot be assessed have not been altered, but the removal of the exemption and the institution of an all-round fee of 4 per cent. for all other cases will, without unduly taxing the fellaheen, go some way towards meeting the extra expense of the Cantonal Courts, which is as it should be—especially in view of the general financial situation of the State.

NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, November 3.

Turkish Misgivings.

The statement made in a previous letter that the Turco-Bulgarian Agreement had been received by the Turks with much misgiving appears to be fully justified in the light of information which is now coming through of the existence of a strong undercurrent at Constantinople. It is stated that popular sentiment in all directions is for peace, and many elements would be ready to overthrow the present Government if a leader could be found. There appears also to be much unrest amongst the Arabs, and the Syrian Mission referred to in previous letters has evidently been arranged by the Government with the object of pacifying the discontented.

That is the position in Turkey to-day. The people want peace, but there is no organisation nor any strong man to lead a movement against those who have ruined their country. The Turks, even now, appear sceptical about Bulgaria; and the Bulgarians say they cannot forget previous Turkish oppression. It is no secret that the Turks and the Germans are getting more and more at loggerheads; and incidents are frequent, almost of daily occurence, it is said, causing them to hate one another. The Huns say, "Wait till the war is over and we will then settle accounts. The Turks retort by reproaching them for their ingratitude in not recognising that the favourable position of the Huns in Europe is due to the Turkish resistance at the Dardanelles. Even the Turkish wounded openly speak of their hatred to the German nurses; and declare that it is thanks to the Germans that they are in that state. The Germans, it is alleged, cannot stand the fighting at the Dardanelles, and are constantly going to Constantinople on sick leave.

Large numbers of German subalterns arrive in Constantinople, and it is said they are to replace the Turkish officers who have fallen.

The "Egyptian Expedition."

There is talk of another expedition to Egypt this winter, and German and Turkish officers have been leaving for Syria. The Turks think the German Army will pass through Constantinople on its way to Suez, but the Germans in Constantinople entertain different views, and are of opinion that it will be an army of occupation and will remain in Constantinople.

Since Bulgaria went to war there has been more military activity in Constantinople. Two army corps have been formed to assist the Bulgarians, and have been placed under the command of Perteb Pasha and Vehib Pasha. It is said two or three divisions have been withdrawn from the Gallipoli Peninsula, and that Turkish troops are to be sent to Dedeagatch and neighbourhood to protect the coast against a landing by the Allies.

The Supply of Ammunition.

It is reported that a large quantity of ammunition, which had been held up in Roumania, has been released and has arrived in Constantinople, and also that the Bulgars have sold to the Turks a large quantity of ammunition which they captured in the Balkan War. Judging from the frequent shipments of munitions from Constantinople for the Dardanelles these reports are not at all improbable, although the monthly output of shells at Constantinople is now said to be about 40,000, besides cartridges, bombs, hand grenades, etc. Arrows for dropping from aircraft are also being made, and at Tophané and Zeitoun Bournou old guns are being improved or repaired.

Naval Activities.

About a month ago the Austrian steamer Carmen, laden with ammunition, and sixteen lighters, also loaded, accompanied by four tug boats and two destroyers, left Constantinople for the Dardanelles, but were attacked by British submarines; and it is said the whole lot were sunk, after quite a battle with the destroyers.

The Goeben has filled her bunkers, and was reported as leaving for Varna, which port is now being used by the Turco-German Fleet as a naval base in the Black Sea.

The last Russian bombardment apparently did a lot of damage to the town of Zunguldak, but it is evidently still possible to load coal there, as several

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ALEXANDRIA: Messrs. THE GABBARI STORAGE COMPY.
CYPRUS: NAJEM HOURY.

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colliers were reported to have left Constantinople for Zunguldak. However, no arrivals of coal at Constantinople have been announced lately.

The Sea of Marmora is patrolled, in search of submarines, by, amongst others, some of the Bosphorus passenger boats, on which small guns have been placed.

Copper Commandeered.

For some time the Turks have been collecting all the copper they can in Constantinople; and it is said that this is melted into ingots and then sent to Smyrna, viâ Panderma, for shipment per submarines to Pola! It is now reported that all military copper utensils are being collected and are being replaced by tin and enamel ware, which the military authorities are now requisitioning in large quantities from hardware stores, more unfortunate victims of official robbery.

All the cotton grown in the Adana district is being taken by the Turks.

It is reported that Germans in Constantinople who were hitherto exempt from military service are now being called up for employment in various capacities.

The news from the Englishmen who were exiled to Karahissar is that they are as well as can be expected under the circumstances.

ODESSA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, October 25.

The Bulgarian Committee, which has existed in Odessa for very many years, and which prior to Bulgaria securing her independence played a very important rôle in Bulgarian affairs, held a meeting yesterday, at which one thousand people, mostly Bulgarians, were present. In the course of his address the president, M. Rasheef, referred to Bulgaria's conduct as "criminal madness." The unhappy people of Bulgaria, he said, had been for five centuries under the Turkish yoke, groaning for help. Their tears and groans reached the Power that always defends the persecuted—Russia. Their prayers were heard; the liberation of Bulgaria was accomplished; and the Bulgarians at the hands of Russia received their freedom and the chance to live and expand as a free, independent nation on a level with other nations. He continued:—

Many of us were witnesses of the events of 1876-77, and in our memories there rises up the picture of Turkish excesses and the persecution of our brothers; and we remember also the sacrifices for us of the glorious Russian soldiers. Rescued at such sacrifice from the hands of the tyrant Turk, and thanks to the freedom given to it by Russia, the Bulgarian nation grew, notwithstanding the intrigues of her enemies—the Germans.

Now the rulers of Bulgaria, with Ferdinand Saxe-Coburg-Gotha at their head, following up the plans of the Germans, are proceeding further, entering into an alliance with their eternal enemy, the oppressor of the Bulgarian people, the Turk, they are going against Russia, their liberator. The treacherous madness of the Bulgarian rulers!

We protest with indignation against their treachery and their base action against the Bulgarian nation and its history. May they themselves fall into the pit they are digging for Bulgaria. But we, faithful to the traditions of the Bulgarian nation, will go forward in complete unison with our Russian brothers, with our liberator—Russia—giving our labour and our efforts for the salvation and deliverance of our country from the hands of its treacherous rulers.

Numerous other speeches in a similar strain were made, after which the following resolution was submitted and passed unanimously, all standing:—

On this 11th day of October, 1915, we, the Bulgarians living in Odessa and its neighbourhood, assembled at the invitation of the Bulgarian Committee to consider the events which are taking place in Bulgaria, after listening to the speeches of MM. Rasheef, Kapcheva, and Kaleva, and of Professors Kazanský and Doosinsky, express our indignation at the criminal policy of Ferdinand Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, which is ruinous for the Bulgarian nation, and expressing our devotion to our great liberator, Russia, who in these historical days stands as the defender of the Slavs, the freedom of humanity, and the union, freedom, and greatness of the Slav peoples, we resolve:—

(1) To fight with all strength and means against the Powers which have given Bulgaria over to German slavery, and are driving her to complete ruin;

(2) To pray Russia, the Mother of the Slavs, to defend the brotherly Bulgarian nation against the clique of German placemen who are abusing the authority which they have seized; and

(3) To convey to his Imperial Majesty, the Protector of the Slavs, the feelings of our deep devotion to him and our willingness at his word to give all we have, to our last drop of blood, for the glory of Russia and the Slavonian cause.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, November 5.

The Latest Ministerial Crisis.

The present Ministerial crisis, though apparently brought about unexpectedly by a trivial incident in the Chamber two days ago, has, in fact, been latent ever since the formation of the Zaimis Cabinet, and was bound to come sooner or later. The conditions under which M. Venizelos tacitly consented to tolerate the Government when the Zaimis Cabinet made its first appearance in the Chamber have greatly changed since, notably as regards Greece's attitude towards Serbia; and the leader of the majority could no longer share in the grave responsibility of the Government's policy. Moreover, the Venizelists fear that the Government, after having introduced the Budget for 1916, will suddenly close the Parliamentary session, the minimum duration of which will expire in a few days' time. The Venizelist majority would then be rendered powerless to overthrow the Cabinet.

On the other hand, the ex-party leaders who are members of the Cabinet, and more particularly M. Gounaris, aimed at bringing about a dissolution of the Chamber by asking for a vote of confidence, in order to benefit by present circumstances, which they consider to be unfavourable to M. Venizelos, and to hold fresh elections. Thus it was that when the incident arose, while M. Venizelos called upon the Minister of War to give satisfaction to the Chamber by withdrawing his remarks, the ex-party leaders remained obdurate, although the Minister of War and the Premier were disposed to close the incident amicably, and, having won M. Zaimis over to their side, brought about the fall of the Ministry.

As M. Zaimis, in contrast to his colleagues in the Cabinet, who are nearly all more or less Germanophil, enjoys the confidence of the Entente Powers and of Serbia, the King asked him to remain in power while the elections were being held. M. Zaimis declined, however, not wishing to take any part in a militant policy, as in that case he would, according to law, be obliged to give up his post as governor of the National Bank. Thus the King was forced to accept the Cabinet's resignation.

The Elections and Mobilization.

It is now being asked how elections can be held when such a large proportion of the youth of the country is absent. This consideration has given rise to the fear in Entente circles that Greece may demobilize. It appears even that the Russian Minister has asked M. Zaimis for explanations on the subject, declaring that such a course, which would leave the Bulgarian army quite free to act against the Allies, would hardly be consonant with Greece's expressions of benevolence towards the Entente Powers. But these fears are quite unfounded. So long as the Bulgarian army is under arms, no Greek Government would dare to propose such a measure. The only possible course would be to disband simply one-third of the reserves called up, which, in the opinion of military circles, would not weaken the force necessary to cope with the Bulgar danger. Contrary to the opinion expressed by some of his most ardent partisans, that the Venizelists should abstain from taking any part in the coming elections, as a protest against the dissolution of the Chamber, M. Venizelos has declared that a very active part must be taken in the campaign, with the object of enlightening the people.

The Messrs Buxton's Letter.

The letters published in the *Daily Chronicle*, in which the brothers Buxton endeavour to exonerate the Bulgarian people from any blame in connection with their country's action against the Entente Powers, has revived the suspicion here that British official circles are still well disposed towards Bulgaria. The existence of such suspicions is greatly to be regretted, more especially at a time when the Allied troops are on Greek territory and quite close to the Greek provinces which the Entente had promised to Bulgaria. Fortunately, a communiqué from the British Legation, to the effect that England will no longer treat Bulgaria as anything but an enemy, and that the troops are there with no other aim than to fight them, has helped to dissipate the fears created by the letter of the brothers Buxton.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, October 23.

Pro-Entente Feeling.

The feeling against the Government has once again risen to a very high pitch, and the "Entente" Press has been very bitter and outspoken in its statements. The commencement of hostilities on the part of Bulgaria against Serbia seems to have served to bring matters to a head, and the Opposition openly demands a move on the part of Roumania to aid her neighbour.

Two meetings of the Council have been held during the last few days, but nothing of any importance appears to have been discussed; though it is nearly impossible to learn whether the country's foreign policy and the need for a change therein came under discussion.

An important move on the part of the Opposition, made probably as a set-off to the inauguration of the Marghiloman club, some little time ago, has been the founding of the "Federation of Unionists," which took place on the 21st instant. M. Nicq Filipescu was elected president, and he, together with M. Také Jonescu and other Opposition leaders, spoke on the urgent need of Roumania's ranging herself on the side of the Entente Powers in the fight.

Among other things, M. Filipescu showed how the agreement between Bulgaria and Germany dated from August of last year, and stated that M. Beldiman, the Roumanian Minister at Berlin, informed the Roumanian Government of it at the time, but that no notice had been taken of it by the Government, which had acted as though ignorant of the fact.

Public Demonstrations.

A mass meeting is announced for to-morrow, at which all those in favour of immediate action are invited to be present. Not only will the leaders of the Opposition from the capital be present, but also those from the provinces. That great importance is attached to this meeting is evident from the fact that the Government journals, such as *La Politique*, strongly decry it, and that the police and military authorities are taking strict measures against any demonstration in the streets afterwards. It was originally intended to have two separate gatherings, one at the Dacia Hall, and the other at a large summer cinema ground; but, it being against the law to hold open-air meetings, this latter has been abandoned on a hint from the police. A notice forbidding any demonstration has been published in the papers, and extra troops are being drafted into the town from Ploesti and elsewhere.

How public feeling is trending is shown by an incident that occurred a night or two ago, when a determined attempt on the German Legation was made by a large crowd, and many windows were broken with stones. A few arrests were made, and when those arrested were brought up for first examination no less than a hundred lawyers presented themselves to defend them.

As remarked above, the Press has lately been most outspoken, and articles appear daily on this country having been sold "to the Germans by a German," while many hints appear as to those who are not good patriots being better out of the country. One very significant article, from the pen of the well-known writer, M. Costaforo, appeared on the occasion of a speech made by the King at the ceremony of promoting Crown Prince Carol a major in the army, on his coming of age. This article commented strongly on the difference in the Prince before and after his stay in Germany, and advocated his being sent after the war to England, where there is a constitutional government, in order to repair the harm done by the air of Germany.

Everybody awaits the outcome of to-morrow's meeting with great interest, for it is felt that it is an attempt to force the hand of M. Bratiano. Should such a riot occur as would induce the present Prime Minister to resign, then it is supposed that the King would form a Government with MM. Marghiloman, Maiorescu and Carp among its members. It is believed, among the Opposition at least, that such an arrangement would not stand an hour, and that the King would never attempt such an unpopular move. The one and only solution would be mobilization and a move to help Serbia, by an attack on Bulgaria and a defensive action as regards the western frontier. The actual force to which Roumania would be opposed in this quarter is believed to be only small. In any case it is known to have been drawn on considerably for the offensive against Serbia.

Austro-Hungarian Pin-Pricks.

While returning through Hungary, from France, M. Michel Cantacuzeno, former Minister of Justice, was arrested, on the grounds that he was carrying correspondence addressed to M. Filipescu. He was detained some days until measures for his release were taken at the Austro-Hungarian Legation here.

This is only one of thousands of such "pin-pricks" on the part of the Austro-Hungarians, who, aware of the bitter feeling that exists against them in this country, take their revenge by such means. Any Roumanian wishing to obtain a visé to a passport at the Austro-Hungarian Legation or Consulate here is treated to every kind of delay and indignity imaginable. The policy is short-sighted, and no doubt this country will sooner or later "get even."

An "International Incident."

A few days ago, at the military depôt at Cotroceni, when soldiers were engaged unpacking some tents arrived from France, one of them found a note attached by a pin to a tent side, the wording of which was as follows:—

Cher soldat, la jeune fille qui vous envoie ce billet, croit que vous serez vainquers et que vous reviendrez tous sains et forts dans votre patrie. Mille baisers.—Marcelle.

The address of the writer of the note is given, and the soldier who found the note has replied to it. One wonders what the eventual result of the strange correspondence may be.

THE RESURRECTION OF GREECE.

In a recent lecture at King's College, Dr. Seton Watson told the story of Greece's resurrection after centuries of Turkish domination. He said that when in 1821 Mehemet Ali definitely revolted against the Sultan he invited the Greeks to join him, and there was a general rising in the Morea; strongholds were wrested from the Turks and Moslems were massacred. The Sultan replied by hanging prominent Greeks, and in January, 1822, the Greek inhabitants of the island of Chios were massacred, a population of 113,000 being reduced to 1,800. Heroic guerilla warfare followed, lasting for years. In 1827, Count Capodistria was elected President, and Russia, France and Great Britain offered their mediation. This was accepted by the Greeks and rejected by the Turks, but on October 20 came the battle of Navarino, when the Turkish Fleet was destroyed. The war dragged on another couple of years, but Greece had been saved. In 1830 the Powers drew up a protocol to regulate the position of Greece, but the frontiers were drawn in such a niggardly way that Prince Leopold of Coburg, to whom the throne was offered, refused it; the Piræus and Thessaly were left out, and Samos and Crete were specially excluded. In 1831 the President was assassinated, and the crown was given to Prince Otto of Bavaria, whose reign lasted until 1862, when he was deposed by a revolution. In 1863, Prince William of Denmark accepted the throne, under the name of George the First. He brought with him as a contribution to Greek national unity the Ionian Islands. Traces of the British occupation were still to be found in those islands, the good roads there were due to British work, and people were to be seen playing cricket in the great square of Corfu.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, November 3.

Greece and Bulgaria.

Under the Government of M. Zaimis Greece still remains neutral, but it is certain that in order to secure this result German diplomacy has had to work extremely hard both in Athens and in Sofia. Just what promises it has made we do not know; what we do know is that Greece maintains her neutrality in spite of reiterated offers made to it by the Entente of the cession of Cyprus and of other territory. Germany has worked hard and, from its own point of view, well; the Entente, or its diplomatists, not hard enough, or not well enough.

Has Germany succeeded in working the miracle of bringing about, if not a union, at least an entente between Greece and Bulgaria—on the basis of future compensations, or of mutual guarantees against attack by either party? It almost looks as if she had. For, though Greece has not demobilized, it is nevertheless true that relations between the two countries are at any rate quite "correct," which in these times is the equivalent of something more. After the simultaneous withdrawal of the Greek and Bulgarian troops from the frontier, the Bulgarian Government forbade the Press of its country to publish anything hostile to Greece, and the Bulgarian journals no longer refer to former "unredeemed" territories. On the other hand, the Greek Government has just sent to Sofia a delegation which will conduct negotiations for the transfer of certain wheat to this country. All this points to an improvement in the Greco-Bulgarian relations; and this improvement has a good deal of significance to those who follow events closely.

The Military Situation.

The military situation has not undergone any important modifications. All the Allied troops disembarked here have not yet left Salonika, and until the Allies send to the Balkans a force of at least 200,000 men no serious action will be possible. Meanwhile, Serbia is actually invaded by the Austro-Bulgaro-German armies. According to trustworthy reports, the Allies will for the present content themselves with guarding the railway line which ensures communication between Salonika and Serbia, confining themselves to a prudent defensive while waiting for the propitious moment to embark upon a bold offensive. Up to the present the Entente has disembarked here about 100,000 men, which seems to indicate operations on a larger scale than any military critic had foreseen. And that is the impression given by a visit to the camps of the Franco-British troops in Salonika and its environs.

Austro-Bulgarian Plans.

The plan of the Austrian and Bulgarian Staffs, it is well known, is to cut the Salonika-Serbia line and to effect a junction of their forces at a point on the narrow belt of land where the frontiers of Austria, Roumania, Serbia, and Bulgaria lie together. According to the latest reports available—which, however, are not confirmed—this junction has already been effected in the neighbourhood. The report is not credited in military circles here; for the capture of this town has been frequently announced, only to be denied. The main field of the great fight that will begin very soon in the Balkan mountains is the key to the Vienna-Constantinople road, which is the great route of which both adversaries desire to be the undisputed master.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

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The Austro-Germans have crossed the Danube at several points, and have consolidated their new positions. Their next effort will be against Nish; and while the Austro-Germans would continue their march on Constantinople the Bulgarians would hope to gain possession of the territories allowed to them by the Treaty of 1912, but which were given to Serbia by the Treaty of Bucharest. It is thought in Greek political and military circles that the Bulgarian offensive will be carried up to the Greek frontier except in the Doiran and Ghevgeli districts, regarding which Greece has well-known ethnical ambitions.

Franco-Serbian Co-operation.

The French troops are already co-operating with the Serbian forces against the Bulgarians; but all reports about a French invasion of Bulgarian territory are groundless.

The Bulgarians are said to have attacked Veles with great impetuosity, but they have been repulsed with heavy losses. As to Uskub, nothing certain is known regarding its fate, neither the French military authorities nor the consuls here having received any official communication about it.

Nor is there any news of importance from the north or north-east of Serbia. The struggle, however, continues, fierce and stern, in all the small fronts into which this new war in the Balkans resolves itself. The Austro-Bulgaro-Germans are straining every effort to emerge victorious in this conflict, which will decide the supremacy of the Orient. The effort of the Allies will surely be no less strenuous.

All the German plans will melt away like dreams if—as everything seems to indicate—the Allies take energetic action in the next few weeks. They hold some trump cards in their hands; though, for reasons that will be readily understood, I cannot enlarge on this subject. I need only say that Salonika is not the Allies' only base in the Balkan theatre. There are the Bulgarian coasts, the Albanian coast, etc. Evidently the Allied Staff knows whether or no they should be used. . . . It may be pointed out that quite lately there has been talk of a new factor in the Balkans—the formidable Russian factor. Will the armies of the Quadruple Entente meet in Serbia, where the present conflict originated? It seems very probable, but the future alone can show.

GERMAN AMBITIONS IN THE NEAR EAST.

Speaking before the Fabian Society at Essex Hall last Friday, Lieut.-Commander J. Wedgwood, M.P., said that Germany's policy was that, whatever might happen in other theatres of the war, she should be able to show, as one of its results, a military occupation of Turkey. A financial occupation she already had. The terms of peace might guarantee the integrity of the Turkish Empire, but before the war Germany had already got such a grip by banks, railways, harbour improvements, commercial agents, etc., that the country was fast passing into the condition of a German colony; and if to this was added an enormous public indebtedness for loans raised in Germany, the officering of Turkish troops by Germans and the presence of German soldiers, the position of affairs would be similar to the British occupation of India. The possibility of peace on these terms was, to his mind, what Germany was aiming at, and the hope that Persia might be added to Turkey was a further incentive. The German Empire had been formed not so much by war as by a customs union, and it was by extending that customs union that the Germans hoped to build up a greater empire, extending from Antwerp or, at any rate, Hamburg to Baghdad. In order to persuade Turks, Bulgarians, and Greeks to enter such a customs union, it was necessary that at the end of the war the Central Powers should have military predominance in Sofia and Constantinople and within striking reach of Greece.

What should we do if the Germans sent troops into Asia Minor, occupied the Turkish Empire, and sought to threaten our Eastern possessions? We ought not to let that cause us to waste our troops on too many points. With the devices we had discovered for ourselves or learned from captured German trenches, anybody could see that we could hold the short stretch of the Suez Canal with a comparatively small force. Three rows of trenches, well studded with redoubts and protected by barbed wire, would make Egypt impregnable against any force that could be brought against it, whether the Germans built one railway or twenty, provided the trenches were put down in time and all the latest devices of the Western front were followed. India was adequately protected from attack by our forces on the Tigris. Further, any attack by the Germans must follow the line of the Baghdad railway, and where this railway passed round the north-east corner of the Bay of Iskanderoun was a point vulnerable to attack by a force based on either Egypt or Cyprus.

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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

THE HOUR OF PERIL.

The situation in the Balkans, as it presents itself to-day, cannot be clearly defined. The news which comes through from the Near East, be it from enemy sources or from Athens, Salonika, or Vodena, is so contradictory and so inconsequential that no clear survey of how the armies are operating can be obtained. The enemy reports, tainted with the bravado which characterises them, give us little or no reliable information. Unfortunately, in the absence of news which might throw light on the situation, the London Press is inclined to paint the latter in morbid hues, which create the impression that the Serbs are on the point of throwing up the game. Their great hour of peril, admittedly, is at hand. The help to be expected from the Allies is relatively speaking small (unless Italy moves), and it is even doubtful whether they will be in a position to break through the Bulgarian lines, more particularly the Uskub wedge, in time to help the Northern Army under Voivode Putnik hurl itself on the Teuton enemy somewhere near or on the Plain of the Blackbirds.

Kossovo.

Though operations in the south of Serbia, where Bulgars are fighting against the Anglo-French expedition and against the Southern Serbian Army, are of more immediate interest, the situation in the north must claim priority of place. We saw last week that, after the fall of Nish, the main Serbian Army under Voivode Putnik, retreated slowly in a south-westerly direction along the Toplitza. Since then no news, except enemy news, has reached us concerning the movements of this army. King Peter, it is said, led the attack against the Bulgars attempting to cross the Morava near Orlian, but finally the enemy's superiority in numbers and artillery prevailed, and they crossed the river, pursuing the Serbs, who retreated in an orderly and dignified manner to the Toplitza mountains to the east and north-east of Prishtina. Since when no news has been received of its exact whereabouts or doings. From enemy reports, the advance of the Austro-German armies from the north is progressing; but the fact that no important developments have been claimed makes us suspect that either (1) the resistance offered by the Serbs in their almost inaccessible mountain passes is so stubborn as to make a rapid advance impossible, or (2) that, in pursuit of his strategic plan, Mackensen does not wish to hasten forward his centre and left armies into the real danger zone until his right, operating southwards from Vishegrad, in the direction of Novi Bazar and Mitrovitza, is in a position to drive a wedge between the Serbian army and its line of retreat into Albania. Operations which have been taking place in the vicinity of Kalkandelen, or Tetovo, between Bulgars and Serbs, seems to show that the last-named cause is the paramount one, and that the Bulgarians operating northwards are to play an important part in Mackensen's strategy.

The whole week's fighting has been preparatory to the great engagement which, as previously pointed out, will take place somewhere near the historic Plain of Kossovo. Failing this, the Serbian North Army must retreat into Albania before it is too late. Up to the present, and judging by the absence of German claims to great victories in the Toplitza and Novi Bazar sectors, to the north of the Serbian main army, it can safely be assumed that this army is still intact, and that its line of retreat westwards into Montenegro or Northern Albania is still open. It is with great eagerness and anxiety that events here will be watched, but it is hardly likely that the great engagement (or judicious retreat) will take place for some time, neither the Germans nor the Bulgars being in a position to consummate their strategic plan as rapidly as might be imagined. The mountain roads in Central Serbia are, happily, atrocious for the transport of heavy artillery, which must besides be protected against hill raids by flanking columns.

The Babuna Position.

As stated previously, more immediate interest is being taken in the operations in Southern Serbia. The reasons for this are only too obvious: British and French troops are fighting side by side in this sector with the Serbs, and news, both accurate and inaccurate, is coming through, which is not the case as regards the Northern Serbian Army.

Analysing the enemy's gains and losses during the past week as compared with our own, the balance is in favour of the former. The Babuna position, which was, when reviewing the situation last Thursday, the strong link in an Entente line extending from Gostivar to Doiran, has become merely a salient in our hands, threatened by strong enemy forces advancing from the north—from Tetovo, Uskub, and Veles. At the time of writing the resistance of the Serbs in this position is becoming desperate, and should they be forced to fall back, not only is Prilep at the mercy of the Bulgars, but our whole line, from Gradsko to Doiran, becomes so vulnerable that in all probability it will have to be shortened. The fact that we have not been able to deploy our forces (at least it is not known that we have done so) from the Vardar front westwards seems to indicate a decided insufficiency in the number of troops landed—a circumstance of which the enemy has been taking full advantage by fiercely attacking the Anglo-French line with no other purpose in view than that of impossibilitating the sending of troops to the more vulnerable point of attack between Krushevo and Prilep. Until important reinforcements have strengthened our line (where our utmost consists in repelling enemy attacks) the help we can extend to the Serbian Southern Army is practically nil. This should have been foreseen.

Tetovo.

The strengthening of the Bulgarian position at Uskub has enabled the enemy to advance westwards to Tetovo and capture it. This practically completes the enemy wedge across Serbia's "waist-line," and cuts off the Northern from the Southern Army, excepting through roadless Albania. In plain words, the salient feature of Balkan operations during the past week has been the way in which the Bulgars have strengthened this wedge and their whole position in this sector. The danger to which they were momentarily exposed by attacks from the north and the south has been removed: towards the south they have driven the Serbs from their positions, and are within reach of Prilep and Monastir, whereas in all probability they have strengthened their line to the north and are meditating a formidable attack on the Kachanik Pass, the gateway to Kossovo.

The Hour of Peril.

The outlook is far from hopeful, but not on this account must we despair. The Bulgars have undertaken, upon German instructions, a big task, so big, as a matter of fact, that they are more than likely to overshoot the mark. That will be our opportunity. Moreover, Voivode Putnik's army is still intact, and whatever the successes achieved by the Bulgars in the southern sector—short of the total defeat of our forces, which is not to be thought of—it can never be complete as long as the Northern Serbian Army holds its positions in Central Serbia. Then, again, we must take it that our troops on the spot are increasing in numbers, that French troops are hastening to help their comrades, and that, finally, Italy now realises that it is up to her either to throw an army into Salonika or into Albania. It is sufficiently clear that the Allied forces in Southern Serbia are too weak to do more than hold a given line, and that, therefore, not only have they been unable to help the decimated Serbs to hold their vulnerable positions to the west of the Anglo-French lines, but they are also seriously imperilling their own position along the Vardar.

FOR PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

The War Office announces that an arrangement has now been made for remittance of money to be sent to British Prisoners of War in Turkey.

Persons desirous of taking advantage of this arrangement should forward any sums which they may desire to send to:—The Secretary, Prisoners of War Help Committee, 5-7, Southampton Street, London, W.C.

Full particulars should be given of the name, number, rank, etc., of the prisoner to whom the money is to be remitted.

Speaking at University College on Thursday evening last week, Professor Pollard took a hopeful view of the situation in the Balkans. With regard to the loan to Greece, he said it seemed rather a superfluous luxury to provide the sinews of war for a Power whose ultimate position was open to so much doubt. We had no particular reason to help Greece in her difficulties, and it would apparently pay Greece to join the Allies rather than remain outside.

Public Opinion

Edited by PERCY L. PARKER

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TWOPENCE WEEKLY

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Like a good many other people, I dare say, I have frequently wondered of late what effect it would have had on recent events in the Balkans if our own Prince Alfred, afterwards Duke of Edinburgh, had accepted the offer of the Greek throne when it was made to him after the abdication of King Otho. He refused the offer, unless my memory plays me false, because Queen Victoria considered the position of a King in such a democratic country was too precarious. King George, however, occupied the throne for half a century —and made a remarkably good sovereign, too, showing rare tact and patience on more than one occasion.

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I wonder whether King Constantine in these stressful days ever recalls the words of wisdom contained in the political testament of his father, King George. "Never forget," wrote the late King, "that it is preferable for the King to suffer, even morally, rather than to allow his people to do so." And again: "Give your children a good Greek education, for they must, above all things, be Greeks." I do not pretend to know what King Constantine thinks of this advice to-day—if, indeed, he has time to think of it at all in the intervals of receiving Hajji Wilhelm's admonitory greetings —but I do know that a great many Greeks are of opinion that his people have suffered morally, and seriously so, by the vacillating policy—to give it no harsher name—that Greece has been compelled, against the people's will, to follow. Two days ago a Greek friend was holding forth on the subject to me, and his language was as vigorous as anyone could wish to hear, especially when he referred to King Constantine's extremely active consort. What he said about that August Personage I will not set down. Indeed, it was unprintable. And his opinion was that whether the King's children were "above all things . . . Greeks" or not, the King's policy was most emphatically *not* Greek.

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I have on more than one occasion alluded to the psychic qualities of the Serbian people and to their simple acceptance of spiritual direction in the affairs of everyday life. An article contributed by Count Cheddo Miyatovich—one of the most ardent psychics of the day—to the *Daily Telegraph* throws further light upon their beliefs, and recalls a prophecy which would seem to be in the process of fulfilment to-day. In the year 1868 a peasant called Matha, of Kremna, was gifted of visions concerning the future of his country, and they come down to us in the form in which he dictated them to the Prefect of Ushitze and the President of the Court of Justice in that year. One of the most important of his declarations was to the effect that during the reign of King Peter a foreign army would overrun the country, causing the people terrible sufferings, but that the country would eventually be delivered by the Serbian Army, and that it would become greater than ever. The Serbians believe that this hour is at hand. Already the foreign hosts have made true much that the first portion of the vision indicated—the Serbian Army, unconquered and unafraid, is fighting its way to the position from which it is to deliver the blow that will complete the prophecy. There is in Serbia a power more mighty than Krupp, a spirit that Potsdam cannot even sear.

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In the House of Commons last week (on Thursday), Colonel Yate, in the course of a most interesting speech on the situation in the Near and the Middle East, said, very truly, that in the British Army there is no spirit of bitterness against the Turks, as there is against the Germans. The Turks, he added, had behind them the traditions of old Crimean days; and he went on to tell a story that he had heard from a doctor, who in the days of the Russo-Turkish war went out with one of our first Red Cross units. This doctor related that the Turks would come to him day after day, and say to him: "When are you English coming to help us? You English officers lead us; our officers drive us." "That," said Colonel Yate, "was a great testimony from the soldiers of one nation to the officers of another"; and he was right. I am not surprised that he lamented that we should be fighting the Turks at all. Properly led, the Turk is a fine fellow, in peace as well as in war. But, unfortunately, he very seldom has been fortunate in his leaders. And led—or driven—by such a gang as has seized the power in Constantinople to-day he is, I fear, bound to come to a bad end. I agree with Colonel Yate that "The pity of it is that to-day the Turkish soldier, instead of being led by British officers, is now being driven not only by his own officers, but by German officers as well." With all his faults, he deserves a better fate than that.

***

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post*, in a message forwarded to that paper under date of November 11, writes:—

> I regret to say that the painful impression created by the pro-Bulgarian letter of Messrs. C. R. and Noel Buxton continues in the Serbian colony here. An official declaration disavowing the British Government's sympathy with the Buxtonian policy of treating Bulgaria as a prodigal son and Serbian Macedonia as the fatted calf would greatly reassure our Serbian Allies.

A neat bit of phrase-turning that will surely raise smiles on the faces of "Messrs. C. R. and Noel Buxton" even in the present circumstances, which they, like other well-wishers of Bulgaria, must find far from amusing.

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Prince William of Wied, who, after a brief and inglorious attempt to play the part of Mpret of Albania, fled from the land of the Shkypetars back to his beloved Fatherland, is now reported (by the *Echo de Paris*) to be with the Bulgarian Headquarters Staff. Ferdinand of Bulgaria must look out. It is all very well for the Rome correspondent of the *Echo de Paris* to say: "This is regarded here as a proof of Bulgaria's intentions with regard to Albania." But what about Prince William's intentions? Perhaps he might prefer Sofia—or even Constantinople—to Durazzo. Besides, what about the Albanians? The ex-Mpret's record, one supposes, will hardly endear him to a race that, whatever its faults, cannot justly be accused of cowardice.

***

According to the report recently issued by the High Commissioner, Cyprus is beginning to feel the evil effects of education. Country youths returning to their villages after educational training in the towns feel themselves to be a peg above their parents, and refuse to labour in the fields, while their parents, proud of their sons' learning, work the harder to support them in idleness. Thus a class of men fit for nothing but clerical work and high collars is springing up, to the detriment of the country. This is a pity, but it is not surprising. The same sort of thing is to be seen everywhere, and, personally, I blame the system rather than the student. Sound knowledge is a very fine thing, but indiscriminate education is the deuce. And it always seems to me that we have extraordinary views on education even in our own country. We take the son of a labourer and we cram him with a confusion of learning that almost inevitably leads to a confusion of ideas, or at the least robs him of this fitness to follow the work of his father. I think that in some ways even the late lamented Mr. Squeers was better advised than we are. We have yet to educate ourselves in the art of educating.

***

It is not even as though the system we have nurtured could lead us to an ultimate plane of higher things, far removed from the sordid facts of toil. Unfortunately, while nature insists that we should feed our bodies in order to exist, we can never get away from the fact that the land must be tilled, the flocks and the herds tended. Let the Cypriots remember that. And now, in the twentieth century, when the pendulum of our civilisation has swung far towards the goal of the Utopians, back it comes with a crash, altering all our world again. It is no uncommon thing now to see tapering fingers and filbert nails grimed with the stain of toil at our workshops and hospitals about the country. What of the indignity of labour now? The fighting men stand apart; no code of learning has ever taught us that it is undignified to fight when our King and our country call us. But when the fighting is done, what then? Are the heroes of the seas and the trenches going tamely back to their counters, with clean hands and spotless collars the height of their ambition. I think not. I fancy that more strenuous ideals will call them, and if England will not give them place and encouragement, they will emigrate to the newer lands that will. Let England remember that. And in framing our educational laws for Cyprus or any other country, for Heaven's sake let us remember the ranks of pallid, ill-paid, semi-educated peasantry which fought tooth and nail for the honour of genteel slavery in our own cities before the war began.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF

BEHIND THE VEIL.*

Foremost among the social phenomena of our age stands woman's revolt against customs which hamper the free development of her personality. They originated in her physical disability, and the exigencies of intertribal warfare. Woman's functions as child-bearer and rearer forbade her to take part in marauding expeditions, and placed her at the mercy of the victorious tribe. A successful leader obtained the largest share of booty, which included women, children and cattle; and male jealousy prompted him to keep his female captives in strict seclusion. Thus in course of time a man's social status came to depend on the number of wives whom he could afford to withdraw from out-of-door employments. A custom which arose from necessity became the hall-mark of superior caste, and the Harim was established on firm foundations. Mrs. Cooper has studied this peculiar institution in Egypt and Further Asia. Her sex proved an Open Sesame to the gilded prisons in which her Eastern sisters are content to dwell, and she speaks of life behind the veil with all the authority of an expert.

The word "Harim" is constantly misapplied by Europeans who are ignorant of Arabic. Its literal translation is "privacy," and it connotes the apartments in a Moslem's house which are sacred to his womenfolk, as distinguished from the Selámlik, wherein he foregathers with male relatives and friends. In a wider sense Harim implies the social system prescribed by Mohammed, who forbade women to show their faces in public. An Egyptian girl, for instance, is "kept harim" at the age of seven or eight.

Mrs. Cooper analyses the effect on Eastern women's mental development produced by their highly artificial environment. Protected as they are from the struggle for existence which makes for human progress; economically dependent on their husbands; forced to centre their thought, imagination, and emotion on the home, they exhibit many characteristics of our hot-house plants. Their strong religious instinct is utilised to strengthen male authority, and their actions are swayed by the heart rather than the head. Herein lurks danger for civilisation. For it is a law of dynamics that force shall increase by compression. Woman's emotional capacity, accumulated during ages of severance from the broad currents of human life, is apt to burst forth at a time of cataclysmic change. Thus the influence of a sex which is constitutionally conservative and traditionalist serves but to heighten the fury of revolution, and spreads to the political sphere with disastrous effects for the community at large. During periods of religious persecution Moslem women have often proved themselves capable of amazing fortitude. Charlotte Corday remains for all time the type of feminine devotion to a Cause; but Mrs. Cooper tells us that the heroine of the French Revolution had a kindred spirit in modern Persia.

During the sixties of last century, orthodox Shias persuaded the Shah to destroy a reform movement preached by Baha 'Ullah, with fire and sword. The market-place of Tabriz was deluged with his followers' blood, and, by a refinement of cruelty, their women-folk were dragged from the harim to witness the execution of sons and husbands.

One morning in June a mother was brought to see the death of her fourteen-year-old son, an only child. When the executioner had done his work, the head was tossed into her lap, and she was told, "Take back your son!" She stood up, and, holding the loved head in her hands, raised it towards the sky, as if to offer it to the God who seemed to have deserted her in her hour of need; looked long into the closing eyes; then threw it to the official's feet, saying, "I do not take back what I give to my God!" and turning quickly, took her place among the sorrow-maddened women.

The annals of Christian martyrdom may be searched in vain for a nobler instance of self-devotion; and there is surely hope for poor, stricken Iran if its daughters still resemble this nameless heroine.

An atmosphere of romance clings to the black-veiled women of Egypt, and to the lattices through which they peer curiously on the outer world. It is sustained by erotic novelists, who draw on their perverted imagination and vague memories of the "Arabian Nights." A European privileged to visit one of Cairo's great ladies is sorely disillusioned. She is shown into a drawing-room furnished in the French fashion, with gilded chairs, a grand piano, hangings and curtains made in England or France. Great glass chandeliers holding the glaring electric lights express the cosmopolitanism which the mistress feels she must show the world, in order that she may not be considered as belonging to the old school of Egyptian motherhood.

The orthodox tea-gown is a long *négligé* made in an Empire form, or what was once styled a "Mother Hubbard," with the fulness of the cloth gathered into a much-trimmed yoke, and ending in a long train. But the younger generation prefers to sport creations from Messrs. Worth's or Paquin's *ateliers*. Their mothers still give their straight black locks a reddish tinge by covering them for twenty-four hours with a paste composed of henna, known to our gardeners as Egyptian Privet. This plant was once employed as a dye for the finger nails, but it is out of fashion, and a parallel change of taste leads Young Egypt to eschew the barbaric jewellery in which her mother delighted for glittering baubles from Bond Street or the Rue de la Paix. Scientific massage is extensively practised, in order to keep the skin and complexion in perfect order; but, strange to say, the manicurist has not yet made her appearance in harims. Ladies habitually resort to the public bath for ablutions and gossip, but mosques are forbidden to them by custom. The tabu has not lessened their devoutness: on the contrary, Egyptian women are pillars of religion, which, as they understand it, is alloyed with many survivals of animism.

Mrs. Cooper follows a fair Cairene in her daily round of duty and pleasure. It includes the supervision of her sons' education until the ninth year, when they are transferred to the Selámlik; but daughters remain in their mother's hands up to the eve of marriage. The toilet occupies many hours, and others are given to the management of a horde of lazy and ill-organised servants. In the afternoon she is "at home" to callers of her own sex, or sallies forth, closely veiled, in a limousine or brougham, to visit female friends. On such occasions conversation never soars above children's ailments, servants' shortcomings, or "society" chatter. Mrs. Cooper tells us that only ten years back the proportion of literate women was three per mille! But a silent revolution is at work. The Government has founded girls' schools in every village. Foreign missions are not one whit behind the State in providing facilities for female education; and in the larger towns there are many private seminaries of the type which is only too well known in this country. The movement receives support from bachelors of the present generation, who demand a modicum of instruction in their future wives. Thus the struggle of past with future which prevails throughout the civilised world is rapidly transforming the ideals of Egyptian womanhood.

Mrs. Cooper does not attempt to forecast the effect of the new leaven. In her opinion the average denizen of the harim will not become a "désenchantée," still less a suffragette. Nor will she be a mere plagiarist of her European sisters' habits. She has a message for our wives and daughters which is sorely needed at the present time, in her self-sacrifice and devotion to the home. Indeed, Mrs. Cooper's survey of Eastern harims inspires a doubt whether, after all, the seclusion of women is not in closer harmony with the scheme of nature than the agitation for political rights which convulsed this country until it was stilled by the clash of arms.

The absence of an index is a drawback to our enjoyment of this excellent book, which should be remedied in subsequent editions. Moreover, Miss Cooper's illustrations will come as a cold douche for Europeans whose imagination has been fired by Tennyson's entrancing picture of the Persian girl:—

> Serene with argent-lidded eyes,
> Amorous, and lashes like to rays
> Of darkness, and a brow of pearl
> Tressed with redolent ebony,
> In many a dark delicious curl
> Flowing beneath her rose-hued zone.

* "The Harim and the Purdah." By Elizabeth Cooper. (T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd., London, 1915. Price 10s. 6d. net.).

BOOKS RECEIVED.

With the Turkish Army in the Crimea and Asia Minor: A Personal Narrative. By Thomas Buzzard, M.D. Illustrations and Maps. (John Murray. 10s. 6d. net.)

Agar Halfi, the Mystic. By Roland Filkin. (Wm. Rider and Son. 6s.)

Messrs. Longmans will publish next month "The Dardanelles: an Account of the Operations in Gallipoli," by Mr. Norman Wilkinson. The book will be illustrated in colour and black-and-white by the author.

Messrs. Longmans and Co. published on Saturday Mr. Harry G. Dwight's "Constantinople, Old and New," to which reference was made recently in these columns. The price of the book is one guinea net.

JUST PUBLISHED.

THE CALIPHS' LAST HERITAGE

A Short History of the Turkish Empire.
By Lt.-Col. Sir Mark Sykes, Bart., M.P.
With Illustrations and Maps. 8vo. 20s. net.

Sir Thomas Holdich in "Land and Water": "Sir Mark Sykes possesses such a charmingly easy literary style that this long-extended human drama becomes almost fascinating. . . . a most interesting and valuable work, especially appropriate to the present march of events. It is sure of a wide circulation."

MACMILLAN & CO., LTD., LONDON.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

BULGARIA, SERBIA, AND EUROPE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The Bulgarian case is very far from being as plain as Messrs. Noel and C. R. Buxton seem to think. Messrs. Buxton's thesis about Bulgaria is obsolete. It will not stand a moment in the light of facts and before the deeper motives of the actual Balkan tragedy. Messrs. Buxton are reasoning like Adam Bede after the fall of Hetty. And as Hetty was *not* the ideal girl Adam thought, so the Bulgarians and their policy are quite different from the geometrical and ideological conceit which Messrs. Buxton have crystallized about them in their minds.

And first let me say, Sir, that the revision of the Treaty of Bucharest during the war was a crime and a fatal blunder.

The case is not very different from the well-known "scrap of paper" policy. It has shaken the faith of the loyal Balkan peoples in the Allies and in the sanctity of treaties, and has only provided the Bulgarians with a good pretext for legitimatising their awful spring in the dark as *a national war with the assent of Europe.*

The Bulgarian friends of Messrs. Buxton are not sincere. The Bulgarians are generally not sincere at all. That is the pivot of the question. Taine has said: "History is psychology in progress." The Bulgarian treacherous policy and war are the best illustration of the great historian's definition.

It is absolutely untrue that the Macedonian Question stands for the Bulgarians as a capital question. That *may* have been true twenty years ago: it is not so *now*. Macedonia is a second-rate question for Bulgaria. The Bulgarians of to-day lay much more stress on another question, viz., to oppose with all means in their power any considerable territorial increase of Serbia and the unity of the Serbo-Croatian-Slovenic race.

They knew very well that the Entente Powers would give them Macedonia, or at least its largest part, after the world-war, but they knew, too, that the future Serbo-Croatian-Slovenic State would be much greater and mightier than theirs. The programme of Bulgarian statesmen, without distinction of parties, is only apparently the conquest of Macedonia. In truth it is a permanent distrust of—nay, the utmost opposition to—the eventual formation of a Great Serbia or Jugoslavia between the Danube and the Adriatic.

Macedonia *plus* a feeble and divided Serbo-Croatian-Slovenic people, and therefore a large access to the Adriatic, with a permanent alliance with the Central Powers—that is the Bulgarian programme, and not Macedonia alone.

We Jugoslavs know this very well, but the old formulæ unfortunately hold their ground and obstruct the way to a manly comprehension of the situation.

The truth is that the Bulgarians in the present world crisis were the predestined allies of the Central Powers. Their English sympathies (Robert College and Karaveloff remembrances), which are the main origin of the inexplicable Bulgarophilism of some Englishmen, have never had deep roots in the Bulgarian soul. The Bulgarians, like the Prussians or the Magyars, are the born foes of the principle of nationality—of other nations.

What policy, then, ought to have been pursued towards Bulgaria? Only one: No bargaining for Balkan provinces no shakening of the solemn Treaty of Bucharest, whose existence was guaranteed by Roumania and Greece especially, but not its overthrowing; no negotiations with the Bulgarians, but concentration of large forces in Macedonia and Serbia three months ago. Instead of that "scrap of paper" policy, there have been idle negotiations, abstention.

We are now seeing the dreadful effects of diplomatic tactics according to the recipe of Messrs. Buxton.—I am, etc.,

(Count) LOUIS VOINOVICH

(Peace Delegate of Montenegro at the London Conference).

Rome, November 10, 1915.

BULGARIA AND THE PRINCIPLE OF NATIONALITIES.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—In view of all that has passed within the last month, it was certainly surprising to read the letter published in your last issue under the above heading. That Bulgaria should still possess such champions in our midst is certainly disquieting to those who have viewed with regret the energetic propaganda which has had in the past so bemusing an effect on public opinion in this country.

It is to be noted in the first place that the writers wholly accept the pretensions of Bulgaria to Macedonia. That, however, is a subject which has been so thoroughly thrashed out in your columns that it is unnecessary to deal with it again at this moment. That the attitude of the native Macedonian population hardly agrees with the assertions put forward may be seen from the hideous fiasco of the much-advertised "great rising" of 1903, when, according to Mr. Brailsford, the total number of the insurgents was no more than 4,800. The men of the Vardar have also fought well for Serbia in this war.

It is untrue that Serbia's reply to the Powers "was practically a rejection of the Allies' demands." On the contrary, in the beginning of September Serbia agreed to surrender the whole of the "contested zone," including even Monastir, with the reservation of Ochrida and Prilep only. To claim Kavala on the principle of nationality is impossible; it is a Greek town.

The writers say that the Bulgars "consider" Macedonia "as the cradle of their race." That is absurd, and, if true, argues an abnormal ignorance of their own history. The cradle of the Bulgars in the Balkan Peninsula lies between the Balkan and the Danube; it is there that are seated the most important origins of their race and polity in the Near East.

The assertion that Serbia recognised Macedonia as belonging (i.e., by race) to Bulgaria in the Treaty of 1912 is devoid of foundation. The partition therein agreed to by Serbia was her consideration for Bulgarian aid in her attempt to reach the sea. As I have dealt fully with this Treaty in the *British Review* for September, it is unnecessary to go over the same ground here. Nor do I think it correct to point out that Bulgaria could so easily take Macedonia for herself. She is engaged on the task now, and I fancy that it looks less easy than it did at the beginning of October.

I am not quite certain that I understand the *sous entendu* of the third paragraph from the end of the letter. As I read it, it contains a covert threat (or hope?) that the Allies will fail to sustain the principle of nationality in favour of Serbia because Bulgaria was not satisfied with the granting of all-contested Macedonia with the exception of the two places mentioned. That is a bitter wish for our brave Allies, and I do not think it will find fulfilment if all goes well with our arms, an exception being made, unfortunately, of a large part of Dalmatia.

It is regrettable that the writers' minds are troubled by the thought that Bulgaria, having stabbed Serbia in the back and endangered our whole campaign in the Near East in a manner that will cost us millions of pounds and thousands of lives, will not be rewarded by her grateful enemies as the result of her perfidious hostility with all that she could have acquired as a staunch ally, because I fear that it is unlikely that any means will be found of lightening that trouble. The suggestion that Bulgaria should be rewarded is too grotesque, and is merely another amazing instance of that pro-Bulgar obsession which has worked so much harm already. I find it difficult to write without bitterness on such ideas at the moment when the heroic Serbs are undergoing their present agony in the common cause.—I am, etc.,

A. H. E. TAYLOR.

P.S.—The claim to the "eternal" possession of Nish, and for Central Albania and Durazzo, would seem to argue that Bulgarian love of the principle of nationality is not altogether without qualification.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The Press has already attracted the attention of a generous public to the distressing circumstances in which many former British residents in Turkey are placed owing to the war.

During the last ten months about 80 families have been helped, consisting approximately of 300 people. Part of the money subscribed has been sent to Constantinople to relieve those who, either for family reasons or on account of their restricted circumstances, were unable to leave the country, and, as the cost of living in Constantinople is very high to-day, the necessity of continuing this assistance is urgent.

In reply to the appeal of Sir Francis Elliot, H.B.M. Minister, money has also been sent to Athens, where a good many families took refuge at the outbreak of war, and where they are still living. Their needs are, unfortunately, as great as ever. Sir Francis has recently addressed to the committee a further request for the sum of £500, to which

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they have not been able to respond to the full extent owing to other calls and to lack of sufficient funds.

In this country, many are still requiring financial assistance, the need for which will not diminish during the coming winter, which cannot fail to increase the existing distress.

These are the circumstances in which I venture to appeal for further subscriptions, which should be sent to the acting hon. secretary, Mrs. Frank Barker, Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, or the hon. treasurer, Mr. W. Middleton Edwards, 5, Giltspur Street, E.C. Any amounts, no matter how small, will be gratefully accepted and duly acknowledged.—I remain, etc.,

LOUIS MALLET.

Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, Belgrave Square.

THE URMIA CRISIS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I have read with interest the above article in your issue of September 3 last. Whilst there are such diverse numbers of Christian nationalities in countries ruled by Turkey and Persia, it is difficult for one even to guess whom your correspondent refers to. The place is a Mohammedan country, and the Christians in it no doubt form a unit; perhaps it is for this reason that the correspondent has not been explicit. However, I would ask any of your readers, or, better still, the correspondent himself, to say who compose the Christians of Urmia and who have been those victims of Kurdish atrocities set up by Turkish pashas referred to in the article.—I am, etc.,

"A CHRISTIAN."

Bandoeng, Java, October, 1915.

REVUE DE LA SITUATION.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Monsieur,—Ce n'est plus une guerre que nous contemplons, mais bien une anarchie royale contre l'ordre social du monde civilisé, et là où nous comptions trouver chez la nation allemande une force morale qui pour lui permettrait de se refaire et de reprendre son élan industriel passé, nous ne voyons que de la cendre et du fumier, vu la part que cette nation prend dans les méthodes criminelles impérialistes.

Toutefois la solution n'est guère à la plume, en ce moment, mais bien à l'épée.

Le projet d'extravagance militaire que le Kaiser entretient n'est qu'une orgie d'idées aussi immorales que peu pratiques. Où est-il de son but après quinze mois de lutte? Arrive en Serbie? Soit. Et après? En attendant des milliers de ses soldats sont mis hors combat journellement, son peuple souffre de la faim et de mille autres misères, ses colonies lui ont été enlevées, ses bateaux de commerce balayés des eaux, un grand nombre de ses bateaux de guerre coulé et son commerce extérieur détruit. Un triste resultat d'un plus triste calcul de ce nouvel Alexandre le Grand!

La Bulgarie se bat-elle de son côté contre la Serbie sans que la conscience grecque se révolte? C'est malheureux pour la pauvre Serbie, mais la Roumanie, qui forgea la Couronne de son Roi des canons turcs pris à Plevna, est la même qui aida la Russie en 1877 et point une autre, et nous verrons ce que fera la Russie, en outre des dispositions prises et à prendre par les autres Alliés.

Ayons patience. Voici la Mésopotamie conquise à la grande joie des Arabes, l'Egypte aura encore un rôle important à jouer, et la mer est à ceux qui ont des flottes pour la parcourir et la défendre. Les Allemands et les Turcs ne trouveront qu'à se faire tuer dans la Méditerranée quoi qu'ils disent et fassent! La solution sera radicale à présent et ils l'auront voulue. Les Turcs Liberaux comme Prince Sabaheddin ont perdu leur dernière chance, à ce que je vois.—Agréez, etc.,

ALEXANDRE SEFI.

November 9, 1915.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND.

We are informed by the Hon. Treasurer to the above Fund that the following subscriptions have been received since the publication of the former list, which appeared in our issue of June 11:—

	£	s.	d.
The Hon. Lady Herbert	5	0	0
Dr. J. C. Uhthoff	1	0	0
Mrs. Newton Warren	0	6	0
Mrs. Brenchley Baker	0	5	0
Lt. H. A. D. Hoyland	1	0	0
Miss Theodora I. Ward	1	0	0
E. L. Norris	0	10	6
Miss E. Cheese	0	10	0
Dr. Clemow	5	0	0
Messrs. Jos. Gardner and Sons	2	0	0
Messrs. Thos. Wilson, Sons, and Co., Ltd.	25	0	0
The Sec., Nat. Relief Fund	500	0	0
R. W. Bullard (2nd Donation).....	10	0	0
Bertram Mills.....	25	0	0
Messrs. Irvine and Sellers	2	2	0
Yost Typewriter Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
Messrs. Curtis's and Harvey, Ltd.	25	0	0
Messrs. Crompton and Co., Ltd.....	5	5	0
Messrs. Vickers, Ltd. (2nd Donation).....100		0	0
Messrs. Hadfields, Ltd.	25	0	0
Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd. (2nd Donation)100		0	0
Messrs. G. and J. Weir, Ltd.	25	0	0

CYPRUS TO-DAY.

Speaking at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute held on Tuesday last in the Whitehall Rooms, Mr. Roland L. N. Michell, C.M.G. (formerly British Commissioner for Limassol), said that Cyprus when occupied in 1878 had a bad name as a "fever-stricken hole." By degrees it acquired a better reputation, and began to be extolled. Truth lay between the extremes. From June to October the heat was trying for dwellers in the plains, while an admirable climate could be enjoyed in the hills. During the remainder of the year there was an excellent season in the plains, while the heights were often deep in snow. The people were strong, hardy, frugal, and had maintained their vigour during ages of hardship. It was a mistake to regard them as lazy and sluggish; the apathy that was observable did not differ much from the stolid conservatism common in agriculturists elsewhere, and it must be remembered that until recently the incentives to industry that existed in civilised communities were entirely lacking. When the island came under British rule in 1878 its condition resembled that of most other Turkish provinces, and no one who visited it to-day could have any idea of what the pioneers had to face. But in spite of the ruinous condition of the country, the burden of the Tribute, the anomalous nature of our tenure previous to 1914, and other obstacles, order had been brought out of chaos, and the foundations of future progress firmly laid. The wealth of the country lay in agriculture, the principal area of cultivation being the great central plain called the Mesaoria.*

As regards the future of the island, Mr. Michell said the outlook was hopeful. The most vital problem was unquestionably that of irrigation. Storage reservoirs had been constructed, but the villagers had shown indifference. The water supply from wells might be increased. Besides irrigation and a reform of the present methods of husbandry, it was necessary that the rural population be emancipated from the money-lender. Money at a low rate of interest must reach the fairly solvent members of the agricultural community for liquidation of their debts and for reproductive purposes. Reafforestation should be pushed on. A tourist trade might be developed.

As to the political question, Mr. Michell said it was beyond question that the people were contented with our rule. In the towns there had been maintained for many years an agitation for union with Greece, but if this ideal could not be realised the Greeks who supported the movement would prefer to remain under British rule. The Turkish community was strongly opposed to the movement. The offer of the island to Greece came as a disagreeable shock to Anglo-Cypriots; the movement did not appear opportune for relinquishing a possession which, owing to its geographical situation, might be of the greatest value as a naval and air base. Its position dominated the Suez Canal, Alexandretta, and neighbouring coasts. It was an admirable half-way house for young soldiers going to India; and as a sanatorium it was a most valuable possession. There was a strong feeling amongst Englishmen that the Turkish community deserved full consideration, and in the interests of the whole population it would be regrettable if our work of regeneration should be arrested.

General Sir Robert Biddulph, second High Commissioner for Cyprus, took part in the discussion that followed. He said that the reason the island had at first a bad reputation for health was because people landed at Larnaca, which in those days had a marsh that was the abode of mosquitoes, and visitors rarely went more than a few miles inland. The marsh was now drained. As to the agitation for union with Greece, many of the people who led it were not Greeks of the island, but had come from Athens.

BOOK NOTES.

The friends of Mr. Réne Francis, both in this country and in Egypt, will be glad to learn that a new edition of his book, "The First Temptation of St. Anthony," has been called for, and has just been published (Duckworth, 15s. net). It is illustrated from drawings by Miss Katherine Loro, and is a translation from the 1849-56 Manuscripts, edited by Louis Bertrand.

An official account of "The Work of the British Red Crescent Society in Three Continents, 1912-1914" has just been published. It is a pamphlet of 95 pages, and is issued from 41, Sloane Street.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have published at the price of one penny a pamphlet, by Mr. Arthur J. Toynbee, entitled "Armenian Atrocities: The Murder of a Nation."

Messrs. Harrap and Co. have published lately two books dealing with Ancient Egypt. One is "Stories of Egyptian Gods and Heroes," by F. H. Brooksbank; the other, "Myths and Legends of Ancient Egypt," is by Lewis Spence. Both are illustrated. The price of the "Myths" is 7s. 6d. net, and of the "Stories," 5s. net.

The drawings prepared by Mr. Edmund Dulac for the illustration of the Queen of Roumania's fairy tale, "A Dreamer of Dreams," and those he did for "The Arabian Nights," are now on view at the Leicester Galleries, Leicester Square. The former book has just been published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton (6s. net).

Messrs. Jack published last week "The Civilization of the Ancient Egyptians," by A. Bothwell Gosse, a volume in the "Through the Eye" series.

*Detailed reference to the economic situation as expounded by the lecturer will be found on page 78.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915.	1915.		1334.	5676.
Nov.	Nov.		Moharr'm	Kisler.
19	6	Friday	11	12
20	7	Saturday.....	12	13
21	8	Sunday	13	14
22	9	Monday	14	15
23	10	Tuesday	15	16
24	11	Wednesday	16	17
25	12	Thursday	17	18

In a letter dated October 23, but only just received, our Bucharest Correspondent writes:—The Dowager Queen Elisabeth, who has for the last few years been suffering from cataract, has undergone a fresh and apparently successful operation at the hands of Professor Landolt, who arrived at Curten de Argesh from Paris a few days ago. The Professor travelled through Germany and Austria-Hungary, he being granted a special pass for this purpose.

Prince Ahmed Fuad Pasha has been appointed President of the Sultanieh Geographical Society, in succession to the late Abbate Pasha.

A Reuter's message despatched from Athens on Tuesday evening states:—Considerable interest centres in Sir Francis Elliot's interview with Lord Kitchener at Mudros. It is understood that King Constantine has expressed a desire to see Lord Kitchener and discuss the situation with him from a military standpoint.

On Thursday of last week, at Chinthurst Hill, Guildford, a daughter was born to Sir Henry and Lady Babington Smith.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Maurice Bonham Carter and Miss Violet Asquith will take place on the 30th inst., at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster.

Mr. Harry H. Lamb, C.M.G., who, our readers may remember, was the British delegate on the International Commission of Control in Albania in 1913-14, has been sent out to assist in the Balkans, where his knowledge of the countries and the language of the different nationalities engaged in the war will be of great service. Mr. Lamb has had about thirty-five years' experience in the Near and Far East.

General Marchand, states a Paris telegram, has left for St. Raphael, on the Riviera, where he intends spending a few days in order to regain his full strength before returning to duty. He has now recovered the full use of his limbs, and goes for daily walks of several miles.

On Thursday of last week Dr. Armand Ruffer, C.M.G., and Mrs. Ruffer celebrated their silver wedding, having been married at All Saints' Church, Norwood, in 1890. Dr. Ruffer is President of the Sanitary, Maritime, and Quarantine Council of Egypt, and Mrs. Ruffer is a daughter of the late Captain J. Tyndale Greenfield, R.A.

Princess Soutzo, wife of the Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation in Paris, left London on Tuesday for the French capital.

WOUNDED AND MISSING.

MAJOR G. DAVIS,
1/11TH COUNTY OF LONDON REGIMENT,
Wounded and Missing on August 15 at Suvla Bay. Will anyone hearing news of him please communicate with Mrs. Davis, "Edencroft," Brondesbury Park, N.W. 9

We regret to learn that Archdeacon Ward has been unwell since his arrival in England from Egypt, and that his medical advisers have forbidden him to attend to correspondence for some weeks.

The Rev. F. de W. Lushington, M.A., arrived in Egypt at the end of last month, and took up the duties of *locum tenens* at All Saints' Church, Ramleh, on the 2nd inst. He had recently been serving at the front as Chaplain to the Brigade of Guards, but was invalided with heart trouble. He had previously held the post of Archdeacon of Malta, and when the war broke out was headmaster of Dover College.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of November 3 announces that a marriage has been arranged and will shortly take place between Mr. Geoffrey Lockman, of the Ceylon Contingent, and Miss Ivy Suter, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. N. Suter, of Cairo.

Mr. Gerald C. Delany has been appointed general manager of Reuter's Telegram Company in Egypt in succession to the late Mr. David Rees.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (October 23):—

Mr. Bourchier, the correspondent of the *Times*, has arrived from Sofia. He was invited by the Bulgarian Government to remain in Sofia, and his servant was even exempted from military service, but Mr. Bourchier has come on here, and thinks of remaining here some time.

M. Titus Maiorescu, former Prime Minister, has returned from his travels, and has been received by King Ferdinand.

Colonel Colomb, of the Belgian Army, and one of the heroes of Ypres, has passed through Bucharest, on his way to Russia, on a special mission. He is accompanied by Mme. Colomb.

General Vissolykin, an aide-de-camp of the Tsar, has passed through Bucharest en route to the Serbian headquarters, charged with an important mission.

It is announced in the *London Gazette* that the King has granted authority to the following to wear the decorations stated:—

Grand Cordon of the Order of St. Sava (conferred by the King of Serbia).—Lady (Ralph) Paget.

Grand Cordon of the Order of the Nile (conferred by the Sultan of Egypt).—Colonel Lord Edward Herbert Cecil (Financial Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Cairo); General Sir F. R. Wingate (Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Governor-General of the Sudan); Sir Malcolm McIlwraith (Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government); Sir R. W. Graham (Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior); Mr. Douglas Dunlop (Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of Education).

Grand Officer of the Order of the Nile (conferred by the Sultan of Egypt).—Sir Murdoch Macdonald (Under-Secretary of State for Public Works in Egypt); the Hon. R. C. Lindsay (Under-Secretary of State for Finance in Egypt); Mr. James Haines (Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture in Egypt); Mr. W. E. Brunyate (Legal Adviser, Ministry of Public Works, Egypt).

The *Gazette* announces that the King has granted authority to the following to wear the decorations conferred upon them as stated:—

Lord Kitchener.—Grand Cordon of the Order of Leopold, conferred on him by the King of the Belgians.

General Sir Arthur Henry Fitzroy Paget, G.C.B., K.C.V.O., Order of Saint Alexander Nevsky, conferred on him by the Emperor of Russia, and First Class of the Order of the White Eagle, conferred on him by the King of Serbia.

Captain R. G. C. Glyn, Rifle Brigade (Special Reserve).—Third Class of the Order of the White Eagle conferred on him by the King of Serbia, and Second Class of the Order of Saint Anne, conferred on him by the Emperor of Russia.

Lieutenant (temporary Captain) G. H. MacCaw, 3rd Hussars.—Fourth Class of the Order of the White Eagle, conferred on him by the King of Serbia.

In a letter from Jerusalem is told the following story, which bears vivid testimony to the way in which the late Bishop in Jerusalem, Bishop Blyth, was loved and venerated by the people of the Near East. Just before the Bishop left Jerusalem, in July, 1914, he deposited certain articles of church plate belonging to St. George's Cathedral, which were of special value, in the Crédit Lyonnais Bank for safety, this being his usual custom when leaving Jerusalem for any length of time. When the Turks took over the bank, some time in November, 1914, these packages were found there, sealed with the Bishop's well-known seal, and bearing his name on each; and because they bore the name of Bishop Blyth the Turkish authorities voluntarily handed them over untouched to the United States Consulate.

No one who knows anything of the position held by Bishop Blyth all through the Near East, whether in his own immediate jurisdiction or not, will be surprised at this spontaneous tribute of respect to his name and memory on the part of the Turkish officials at Jerusalem, but it is especially good to hear of such an act on the part of an enemy during wartime.

The substance of an important telegram has been communicated by the Foreign Office to Mr. Bertram Christian, chairman of the Serbian Relief Fund. The telegram was received from Sir Charles des Graz, British Minister in Serbia, by wireless, viâ Rome. "In spite of the interruption of telegraphic communication," says the message, "and the blocking of the roads, Sir Charles des Graz has been able to get into touch with most of the British hospital units in Serbia. He finds a general disinclination among them to leave their work, and is of opinion that, in the present state of the country, it would be wiser that British nurses and doctors should remain where they are and not attempt to leave the country." Sir Charles des Graz had heard from the United States Minister at Bucharest that the members of Lady Paget's unit were well and continuing their work at Uskub. In conclusion, he suggests that "it would be well to send large supplies of foodstuffs and medical stores to Salonika, in the hope of the line being opened in order to supply the needs of the units." Remittances ear-marked "For Serbia" should be sent to the Treasurer, British Red Cross Society, Pall Mall.

Mr. Charles Cooke Taylor, who went out to Serbia in the early part of February last when the typhus epidemic was at its worst, and who was attached to Lady Paget's Hospital as orderly, in the course of a letter, says: "When the invasion by Austrian and German troops took place it was at once realised that Uskub, being a position of great strategical importance, was in imminent danger, and a move to Pristina was contemplated, but the hospital was overcrowded by the influx of patients from other hospitals, and either it was too late to effect the transfer, or it was too great an undertaking to be attempted in the circumstances. At all events Lady Paget resolved to stand her ground and risk whatever might be in store. She did so. Uskub was assailed and occupied, and the hospital passed undamaged into the hands of the Bulgarians. It is pleasant to be able to add that they have proved more chivalrous antagonists than some of their allies, and the latest news to hand reports all members safe and well."

As we go to press we regret to learn of the death of Mr. T. S. Blockey, head of the well-known firm of T. S. Blockey and Co., of Baghdad and Busreh, which took place at his residence, Grove Cottage, Cheshunt, on Thursday morning. Mr. Blockey, who had spent nearly thirty years in Baghdad, had an intimate acquaintance with that part of the Near East, and had done much to forward British interests in the Baghdad-Persian Gulf region. He returned to England to take up his residence about twelve years ago, but continued to take a very active interest in the affairs of his firm, while his activities in other directions might well put many younger men to the blush. His death will be sincerely regretted by a large circle of friends, both in this country and abroad.

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A message from Salonika states that the various Scottish Women's Hospitals in Serbia were evacuated in ample time, and that there is no cause for anxiety about their staffs.

Mr. E. Ashmead-Bartlett's second lecture on the Dardanelles operations has been postponed till November 24.

The marriage of Lady Mary Charteris, second daughter of the Earl and Countess of Wemyss, to Lieutenant Strickland is to take place in Cairo to-morrow.

The death took place in London on Monday of Charles Molyneux Grenfell, late Lieutenant 10th Hussars. The son of the late C. W. Grenfell, M.P., he married, in 1887, the Hon. Mabel Mills, sister of the present Lord Hillingdon, and leaves one daughter, who married Captain Arthur Watts-Russell. Mr. Grenfell took part in the Egyptian campaigns of 1884 and 1886.

M. Leopold Jullien, the manager of the Union Foncière d'Egypte, who has been stationed in the South of France since he left Alexandria on the outbreak of the war, has recently been transferred to the front.

The Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John have decided that a Christmas gift shall be given to every sick and wounded soldier in the hospitals under the Red Cross in France, Malta, Egypt, and the Dardanelles. The order for the despatch of parcels of various small comforts and luxuries has already been given. The committee have received some contributions for this purpose already, and will be pleased to receive further donations.

A Knitting League has been started in Egypt to provide woollen comforts for our soldiers in the Near East. Miss McMahon, the Residency, Cairo, is willing to receive contributions, in money or in kind (wool, knitted mittens, mufflers, Balaclava helmets, etc.), for the benefit of the troops on the Canal, and the Hon. Mrs. R. Lindsay, Gezira, Cairo, will similarly receive gifts intended for the men of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

The Athens correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that a grandson of General Fabvier, the French general who fought in the Greek War of Independence and distinguished himself by raising the siege of the Acropolis by the Turks, has addressed a letter to M. Venizelos, which has been published in the *Patrie*. In this letter the writer, who himself is fighting as a French soldier in Macedonia, appeals to the Greek nation to remember the Philhellenes who fought for Greece's liberty, urging them to draw the sword against their hereditary enemies the Turks and the Bulgars, and to help to erect an insurmountable barrier against the Germanic wave descending to the Ægean.

Sir Gaston Maspero, Secretary of L'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, will have a pleasant but prolonged task in studying the long series of letters upon Egyptological subjects which the late M. François Chabas received from his friends, says the *Athenæum*. This correspondence, carefully arranged by M. Chabas himself, in seventeen bound volumes, has recently been presented to the Académie by Madame Piquemal-Chabas. The writers were frequently British, and communications from them extend over a period from 1852 to 1877.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces :—The recent purchase by the British Government of the 9,000 and odd square metres of land from the Nile Land Company is for the extension of the garden of the British Residency, Cairo, and for the erection on it of offices for the Residency staff, as the Residency itself is to be occupied after the completion of these offices exclusively by the High Commissioner and his household.

THE LATE PROFESSOR VAN MILLINGEN.

We have been favoured by a correspondent with a copy of the minute adopted by the Faculty of Robert College, Constantinople, regarding the death of Professor van Millingen. The following extracts will, we feel sure, be read with interest and appreciation by many of our readers who were privileged to know Professor van Millingen :—

"As a scholar he was thorough, laborious, painstaking, and exact. His books on the archæology of Constantinople made him a recognised authority for all time on that subject. He was a profound theologian; he thought both deeply and clearly, he was conscientiously fair and just in his treatment of all difficulties and objections. He so impressed his students with his justice, sincerity, and love of the truth that they gave him their confidence unreservedly. . . . He was a strong, clear, persuasive preacher. His style was often poetically beautiful, and every sermon was an example of close, strong reasoning that appealed to the intellect and carried conviction to the minds of his hearers.

"He was a man of undaunted courage. He was not afraid of the consequences of any truth, and he never hesitated to defend the truth by whomsoever it might be attacked. He was devotedly loyal both to the college and to his friends and associates. As a teacher he had rare power in compelling his students to think for themselves. He was never satisfied unless he had succeeded in drawing out the best efforts of which each student was capable. The tidings of his death will be received with especial sorrow by the Alumni of the college.

"He was a courtly, gracious Christian gentleman, who won the love of men by the charm of his own personality and the genuineness of his character.

"In his death the college has sustained a very great loss. One has been removed from our midst who for thirty-seven years has left his impress upon every student who has graduated from the college during that period. We, his associates, are deeply afflicted with sorrow for our separation from him whom we esteemed so highly, trusted so completely, and loved so tenderly; and we extend our loving sympathy to his wife and children while we congratulate them on the noble life and splendid work of their husband and father."

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

Captain Marinkovitch, extra Attaché at the Serbian Legation in Bucharest, who had been on leave, returned to his post in the last week of October.

A Dutch message states that M. Melvill de Carnbee, Councillor of the Netherlands Legation in Paris, has been appointed temporary representative of Holland at Sofia.

A Constantinople telegram reports that Hajji Adil Bey has been re-elected President of the Turkish Chamber of Deputies. The Vice-Presidents are Emir Ali Pasha and Hussein Jahid Bey.

Under date of October 23, our Bucharest Correspondent writes :—The Dutch Minister, Dr. C. Van Vredenburch, has returned after being absent on leave. Count Carlos Bendink, First Secretary of the Legation, who has been acting as Chargé d'Affaires during the Minister's absence, has now left for Constantinople, having been appointed First Secretary there.

Count Wolff Metternich, the new German Ambassador to Turkey, has arrived in Constantinople.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTH.

BROOKE.—On November 17, 1915, at 45, Savile Road, Dewsbury, the wife of Arthur Brooke (Constantinople)—a daughter (Margaret Louise).

DEATH.

REID.—On October 29, at the Deaconesses' Hospital, Alexandria, Mrs. Reid, wife of Mr. Arthur H. Reid, agent of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Mansourah.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1915.

THE REAL PERSIAN PROBLEM.

After a period of silence, during which the British Government appeared to have adopted the attitude that the less said about Persia the better, an official statement has been issued, setting forth a variety of outrages committed during the last four months in that country against British Consular officers and other British subjects. The public is familiar with all the occurrences referred to in the memorandum, with one exception; it is stated that "a report has now been received that his Majesty's Consul and the manager of the Imperial Bank at Shiraz have been made prisoners on orders from Teheran. As telegraphic communication with Shiraz is cut off, no confirmation or denial of this report has been received." This latter incident, if authenticated, will have followed hard upon the outrage at the same town on October 23, when a clerk and a servant of the Consulate were shot, the latter succumbing subsequently to his injuries. As this statement of attacks on British subjects has been issued without any explanation, we are left to infer that it is intended to prepare the public mind for possible developments in Persia. An answer given in the House of Commons by Lord Robert Cecil confirms this belief. He stated that, in view of all that had happened and the presence of German and Austrian agents in Persia, the Government had not been without apprehension for the safety of the British and Allied Legations in Teheran. For this reason Russian reinforcements had advanced towards the capital, as the only means of giving protection. A Russian newspaper, quoted in a message from Petrograd, speaks of "the Anglo-Russian expeditions to Persia," as though something like concerted action was to be attempted. It is not long since it was announced that the British force landed at Bushire—which is the port for Shiraz—had been withdrawn, as the Teheran Government was in a position to maintain its authority in that region. Subsequent events hardly bear out this optimistic view, and if it became necessary, apart from possible developments on the eastern frontier, to support in the south the action taken by the Russians in the north, the points of entry for British forces into Persia would be Bushire and Mohammerah, the latter of which is already within the scope of the Mesopotamian expeditionary force under General Nixon.

It is to be feared that the withdrawal of the British force from Bushire, followed, as it was, by further outrages at Shiraz, argued a failure in certain quarters to appreciate the actual situation in Persia. Lord Robert Cecil's statement makes it clear that, if such was the case, any illusion on the subject has now been removed. In view of all that has been known of the activities of German agents in the country, it would be strange if the British and Russian Governments had failed to understand the menace to which their joint interests were exposed. We can only suppose that in accepting the assurances of the Persian Government they felt that the rest of the country could be left to its own devices. The series of outrages on British and Russian subjects, however, which threatened to extend even to the capital, showed that German agents were making enough headway to bring about the possibility of the Persian Government having its hand forced. It was to prevent this eventuality that a Russian force has marched from Kazvin to Teheran. A Russian appeal to the Persian people states that, in view of the uselessness of the measures taken hitherto against the corrupting gold of Germany and against the propaganda of the Turco-German *agents-provocateurs*, who seek to compromise the friendship between Russia and Persia, Russia has decided, in agreement with the Government of the Shah, to put an end to these activities in the interests of the good relations between the two countries. The appeal asks all Persians to believe that the Russian arms will not be turned against them, their families, or their possessions, but will be solely used in the defence of the peaceful population, who will be paid for anything the troops may take. This is an exemplary proclamation, the terms of which, we do not doubt, will be carried out to the letter. But it is well that it should have been accompanied by an explicit statement to the Persian Government that, while Great Britain and Russia desire to maintain the most friendly relations with Persia, they can only do so if the Teheran authorities make a real effort to prevent British and Russian subjects from being exposed to such outrages as have taken place.

There is room in Persia to-day for a little plain speaking all round. If it is to take place between the Persian Government and the Governments of Great Britain and Russia it must also be introduced between the two latter Powers. In the view of a section of the Persian population, as we are reminded by the Press, the real Persian problem turns largely on Persia's grievances against our Ally. If we did not believe that Russia of to-day was very differently minded from the Russia that the Persians know, we should not choose this moment for referring to the subject. But it can only be prejudicial to Anglo-Russian interests to ignore the fact. In regard to much that the Persians lay to the charge of the Russians Russian policy is innocent; for it is a notorious fact that from time to time Russian agents have been a law unto themselves and have acted independently of orders. The Persians, however, have had no means of distinguishing between Russia's Imperial policy and the acts of her officials, with the result that a very strong prejudice exists in the country against the Russians and their works. It is on this prejudice that the Germans and Turks have built, and the measure of success they have achieved can be gauged by the fact that it has now been found necessary to despatch Russian troops to Teheran. When, therefore, Lord Robert Cecil states that "the whole trouble arose from the proceedings of German and Austrian agents in Persia," he is really understating the case. One antecedent cause of the present unsatisfactory developments in Persia is the feeling, whether justified or not is beside the point, of uncertainty regarding the Allies' intentions. Both the Russian and the British Governments must be aware of the fact; but if from false modesty they affect to ignore it, they are more likely to aggravate than improve the situation in Persia. All the conditions that inspired that feeling or led to the dubious acts of Russian officials have now been changed; but the Persians are, after all, human, and may be forgiven if they display little alacrity in accepting Russia in a new rôle without any explanation of the metamorphosis. "Spheres of influence" are now, or should be, in abeyance. If the Allies want to be spared the trouble that Germany has been sedulously fostering for them in Persia, the British Government must be the chief spokesman in Teheran, in order to convince the Persians that Russia is not adopting the phraseology of conventionality and insincerity in speaking of friendship between her and Persia. The good intentions of the Persian Government seem to be established by the decision of the Shah to remain in Teheran; but if an effective stop is to be put to Turco-German intrigues there must be active co-operation between the Persian authorities and the Allies. These intrigues have not been confined to the capital and the western provinces, but have extended across Persia, and threaten to make mischief beyond the eastern frontier. The British Government is on very strong ground in asking Russia, on the strength of an alliance which is now based on a community of ideals and interests, to stand aside while it deals with the real Persian problem and prepares the way for a working arrangement between the three countries which will promote the real interests of Persia.

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AN EGYPTIAN SUNSET.

The new arrival in Egypt, after his first interested glance out of the train window on the way to Cairo, spares small attention, as a rule, to the landscape of the Delta. If a traveller, he is here to see mosques and mummies, temples and pyramids, and for him Egypt is the desert and the Nile. If, like Pharaoh's brethren, he has come to settle in the land, he will most likely satisfy his passion for rustic scenery within the well-kept limits of Gezira—unless, indeed, an inspector of *omdehs*, or cotton-crops, he speeds from *balad* to *balad* on the ubiquitous "motor-bike."

But, however little accounted of, the Delta has a beauty quite of its own for at least one hour of the day. That is the hour of sunset. Then, like Cinderella at the stroke of twelve, it undergoes a sudden transformation—but the other way about. Touched by the witch's wand of night, it turns from a sun-scorched, featureless plain to a land of mystery and shadow. The deserted scene fills with life as the *fellaheen*, scattered out of sight among the fields all day, emerge and gather on the raised canal-dykes, those ancient thoroughfares of Egypt. Mere mud banks half an hour before, these dykes now change to busy highways crowded with a pageant-like procession of men and beasts.

One summer's evening, not long ago, I watched this witchery. A broad streak of flame flung athwart the Western sky marked where the sun had lately set, but overhead dusk had already spread its wings, and night crept up from the East. Standing stark against the sunset glow a line of palms showed up in high relief, each separate frond as clear-cut as if cast in bronze. The green faded slowly from the fields of sugar-cane. Near where I stood was a primitive wayside mosque at the corner of a field, where the peasants on their homeward way stopped a while for the evening prayer. It was only a platform covered with reed mats and built a foot or two above the ground, with a tub of water for ablution near at hand. A dozen men had gathered there and, mounting on the platform, ranged in a double row facing towards Holy Mecca. A solitary figure took his place in front and lead the prayers, the rest following him word for word, motion for motion. Nothing in the whole wide world could exceed the simple dignity of those blue-gowned sons of toil as they bent and rose in perfect unison, chanting their praise to God, "the Compassionate, the Merciful."

From a rise a little beyond I gained a view clear across the plain to the desert. The light was waning fast, but the range of low hills—broken survivors of the great cliffs which hem in the valley of the Nile—still held a sharpness of outline unknown in northern lands. Far away on the horizon the pyramids of Giza, grim wedges of black, thrust up against the sky. A canal ran through the field in front of me, and presently along its bank came trooping a motley crowd of country-folk in single file. Two boys straddling across the massive back of a lumbering black *gamoos* led the procession, merry youngsters, breaking every now and then into snatches of Arab song. A herd of goats came next, driven by a tired-looking woman muffled in black and carrying an empty water-pitcher on her head. Her husband followed, riding a tiny donkey, whose even tinier colt, a pretty shaggy thing, trotted closely at her heels. After them a camel with huge bundles of *durra* in rope-nets on either side his hump. Last of all a crowd of sturdy *fellaheen* brought up the rear, their hoes over their shoulders, striding with the easy gait of the Egyptian peasant, untrammelled by their flowing *galabias*.

They passed in silhouette, like shadow figures on a screen, and silent till they reached a bridge over a branch-canal. As they crossed, the echoing planks gave back their footsteps clear and distinct—the buffalo's heavy tread, the pit-a-pat of the goats, the clatter of the donkeys' hoofs, the camel's deliberate plod and the padding of the bare-foot *fellaheen*, one succeeding another till the last man reached the farther bank. There they paused, and a deep-drawn soughing told that the weary beasts were enjoying their well-earned drink. For a minute the shadow forms were mirrored in the calm water of the canal, then, passing on, grew vague and indistinct against the dark background of the fields beyond.

Only a faint echo of the clear boy-voices carried back to me as the little company, heading towards its village now twinkling with distant lights, passed out of sight and left "the world to darkness and to me."

G. E. H.

"THE BALKANS AND THE WAR."

Last week Mr. J. L. Garvin addressed a crowded meeting of the members of the Constitutional Club on "The Balkans and the War." The Rt. Hon. Sir F. E. Smith, K.C., M.P., occupied the chair.

Mr. Garvin said that the Allies had allowed themselves to be taken by surprise four times. The first surprise was the weight and almost the direction of the unparalleled sweep upon Paris, the second was the ability of the enemy to stay the tide of disaster after the battle of the Marne, the third was the great attempt to breach the Russian line, and the move in the Balkans was but the sequel of three other moves that had found the great alliance as a whole less prepared than it might have been. It was impossible for any group of allied Powers to get the full benefit of their alliance unless they were in actual physical contact. Germany and Austria were thus situated, but a considerable stretch of mountainous country separated them from Turkey. In like manner with the Allies, England, France and Italy were in touch, but were separated from Russia. It was, on the whole, more important to Germany to effect a junction with Turkey than it was for us to link up with Russia, though it would be difficult to express in words how great an advantage it would have been if the Dardanelles operations had been carried through to success, and British sea-power had been fully in touch with Russian seaports. But it was more vital still to Germany; it meant for her the support of an enlarged Bulgaria, and Bulgaria's position was such that Greece and Roumania were restrained to neutrality and might even be driven to join the Central Powers. Direct contact between Germany and Turkey would mean that the Turks, who had undoubtedly been very short of munitions, would get their supplies. The German rank and file would not go to Turkey, but officers and non-commissioned officers would; and machine guns, shells, and other munitions would be sent. Until such direct contact was established it was impossible for Turkey to organize or mobilize to the full, and he had not the least doubt that the success of the German plan of breaking through and joining hands with Turkey would mean the effective employment of a million additional men against the Grand Alliance. The Germans' plan was to make themselves secure in the Balkans, to rest upon their present lines there and elsewhere in the winter, and to attempt another great move against Russia in the spring—or, at any rate, to bar the Russian offensive, as they thought they had barred the Western offensive. The Germans argued that the lesson of the present war was that once you had gained any position nothing was harder than to turn you out. They thought that if they got to Constantinople they would keep it, and Russia would be driven to a separate peace. They thought they would get a leverage from Islam to use against the British, that they could make Mesopotamia another and more powerful Egypt; and, although they did not think that India or Egypt could be threatened at a first remove they hoped to have an opportunity later on when there would be no alliance to deal with, but England would be alone.

Literally and figuratively Serbia stood in the way of these German plans, and if it were thinkable that she should perish, not only would Britain have been guilty of a breach of honour, but she would have made a great tactical mistake. What he feared for Serbia was the fate of Gordon. The circumstances were strangely alike, and there was danger of the same tragedy of hesitation and delay. It might prove that "time was of the essence of the contract," and that success or failure in the first case would be determined not by weeks or months, but by days or hours.

He could give a good many reasons for the assertion that in this case honour went hand in hand with policy. The Serbians had 250,000 men, these were as much an incorporate part of the Allies' forces as if they were in the British Army; and what would be said if it were stated of 250,000 British troops that whether they stood or were wiped out was a matter of minor concern? The destruction of the Serbian Army would be a military disaster, which, taking place in the Balkans, would react to the extremest length upon the whole situation on all sides of Europe. Again, if Serbia were abandoned, what of Greece and Roumania? These would join the Quadruple Alliance to win, but would not join to go down; and if we abandoned Serbia we should lose every possibility of winning Greece and Roumania, whose adherence would turn the scale if we pursued a vigorous policy. So far as concerned the Western Balkans the case would be altogether lost, and the ugly alternative of complete abandonment of that peninsula would come up for discussion. The case of Antwerp was cited by some who were in favour of weak courses, but in that case the Belgian Army had not been abandoned; the Seventh Division and the Naval contingents had worked their way up to Ghent, and enabled King Albert and his gallant troops to withdraw. So in the present case, we could not do now what might have been done three weeks ago, but by advancing to Uskub we could save the Serbian retreat from being cut off.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Serbia's Requirements.

A short time ago a number of young American students went to Serbia to engage in relief work. One of them, Mr. Palmer Smith, a student in the Columbia School of Journalism, contributes to the New York *Independent* (October 25) an article, entitled "Barbarous Serbia," from which we have taken the following passages:—

The Serbians also need an injection of the push and vim of the Western world. They are slow to learn, and conservative in their opinions. Nearly all the hospitals and relief agencies now operating in the country have given up trying to use Serbs as helpers. Dr. Ryan, head of the [American Red Cross] hospital, complained that the Serbs were almost useless because of their utter inability to learn or even comprehend the simplest rules of sanitation and cleanliness, which suggests what to me is the most imperative need of the nation.

There is seemingly absolute ignorance or wanton disregard of the primary rules of sex hygiene among all except the wealthier and more cultured classes of the nation, which form only a very small proportion of the population. . . . It is only the healthful outdoor life which all classes of the people lead which enables them to survive the curse.

Education is the only thing that can help Serbia. And how can education best be accomplished? Not by teaching the older people. They are too conservative. They regard the American doctors who are employed by the Serbian Government to supervise the sanitation in the principal cities and towns as flying in the face of Providence. They have a fatalistic belief that if disease is coming it will come anyway, and if precautions are taken it is a sign of cowardice and an endeavour to escape your fate. The only angle of attack that seems to offer any real prospect of success lies in taking the children at an early age and giving them a good education. This seems entirely feasible if money is forthcoming either from the Government or from private sources.

Serbia or Constantinople.

Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall, writing under the above heading in the *New Age* (November 11), urges that a huge mistake has been made in the Eastern theatre of war:—

Had the force which was sent to the Dardanelles been sent to Serbia, Turkey would have been cut off permanently from all help from her Allies, and must inevitably have succumbed in time to economic pressure; Bulgaria would never have declared for Germany, Greece would not have hesitated, and the neutrality of Roumania would have been secured, without the slightest need for bribery. At the same time, we should have gained a name for helping our Allies, not without value as an asset for the future.

Mr. Pickthall considers Constantinople to be impregnable by force of arms, although the city might have been reduced had she been deprived of an effective flow of food and ammunition. The writer concludes a vigorous article in the paragraph quoted below:—

If I were the British Government, I would send every available man into Serbia—indeed, I should have done so months ago—and if Serbia had been crushed before my troops arrived, I should use those troops to liberate her, and for no other purpose, certain that in Serbia is the gate of Germany's ambitions in the East, and that on our treatment of Serbia will depend the honour of our nation in the East in years to come.

Greece and the Allies.

Our relations with Greece are made the subject of a leading article in the *Daily Chronicle* (November 18). It is pointed out that the situation cannot be left by the Entente Powers where it is now, and, moreover, that no Ministerial assurances unsupported by the unequivocal declaration of King Constantine can any longer be regarded as representing the Greek nation. After dealing with the peculiar position occupied by the nation in virtue of her broken alliance, the paper continues:—

You cannot force a country to fight for you in fulfilment of her pledges, but you can hit back if she uses force against you in defiance of them. In the second place, the Allied troops who have gone to Salonica were sent there originally by the invitation of the then Greek Premier, M. Venizelos. His invitation binds his King and his nation, and it is not for either of them to turn round now and act as if it had never been given. International relations simply cannot be conducted on such lines. . . . The Allies have now abundant grounds for compelling Greece to adopt an unequivocal attitude, one way or the other.

Germany's Promise to Greece.

We take the following quotation on the above subject from an article contributed by Dr. E. J. Dillon to the *Contemporary Review* (November):—

Abandoning old positions which seemed fixed and unchangeable, Germany promised to the Greeks as well as to their neighbours in the Balkans rich spoils to be taken from her own allies. On the one hand, Bulgaria, Roumania, and Greece were to be recompensed at the cost of Turkey, Austria, and Hungary; and on the other hand, Bulgaria's desires were to be gratified at the expense not only of Serbia, but also of Greece and Roumania. It reminds me of the bait on twine used by Baron Munchausen, which was greedily devoured consecutively by a number of silly wild ducks, which strung themselves like so many beads, and were then carried home by the ingenious sportsman.

Armenia.

The publication of Mr. Arnold Toynbee's pamphlet on the Armenian atrocities has had the effect of reawaking public indignation with Germany on the score of her non-intervention. The following paragraph from the *Westminster Gazette* (November 15) may be taken as representing the opinion of the Press generally:—

The whole tale makes the flesh creep. The Armenians under the rule of the Turk have practically perished from the face of the earth. And this has been done, if not with the direct sanction of Germany, with its silent acquiescence in the act of its ally. Not one word of disavowal of this massacre of a civilised and Christian people has come from a nation that boasts its civilization and its culture. When the whole terrible tale of the fall of a nation from European ideals comes to be told there can be no more gruesome page than that which recites how Germany failed by a single word to spare a woman or a child in Armenia.

Berlin on Kitchener.

The following quotation of German opinion regarding Lord Kitchener and his mission to the Near East are taken from a recent number of the *Daily Telegraph*, which reproduced many extracts from the German Press, all of which go to show that the movements of the Secretary of State are watched with considerable apprehension in Berlin.

The *Berliner Tageblatt* says:—

Nothing is more stupid than to under-estimate an adversary, and when England sends her best military man to the district in which possibly the war will be decided we have every reason to examine this man, his capabilities, his determination, as impartially as possible. To begin with, we cannot but admit that what Lord Kitchener has done in the course of this war as an organizer is deserving of the greatest respect. . . .

Who is this man with whom we have to reckon in the development of the struggle in the Eastern Mediterranean? He is a typical representative of English militarism, which, notwithstanding all declamations, has always existed, and once had a similar representative, a man of the same stamp, in Wellington.

The same paper, after paying a warm tribute to Lord Kitchener for his work in organising the new armies, proceeds to anticipate his policy in the Near East, which, it considers, will be one of unflagging vigour against the danger of German communication with Constantinople.

Mysterious Baghdad.

Under the above heading Mr. Ernest Phillips contributed an interesting article to a recent number of the *Manchester Guardian*. The writer deals with his subject from many points of view, political, historical, and geographical. In reference to German ambitions in this quarter as manifested in the Baghdad Railway concession, the writer says:—

Do not forget that the concession for the Baghdad Railway was signed almost immediately after the Kaiser's visit to Constantinople, when the butcher of Berlin embraced the bloody-minded Abdul and swore brotherhood with the fiend who had sent thousands of helpless Armenians and unoffending Bulgarians to a ghastly death by fire and sword. And for what purpose? Firstly, to colonize Near Asia and sow it with German Kultur; secondly, to reduce Turkey itself to a state of vassalage; thirdly, to absorb Mesopotamia; fourthly, to oust Great Britain from the Persian Gulf; and, lastly, to reach out towards India in order that, if the moment ever arrived, that gem could be snatched from the British Crown.

Mr. Phillips comments in no measured language upon the misfortune which has come to the Turks by their entry into the present war as enemies of Britain, and concludes an entertaining pen-picture of the glories of the city of Baghdad in by-gone centuries in the following paragraph:—

And what of its future? The Kaiser planned it as the key of his Asian Empire. His hopes are dashed to the ground. Baghdad will pass now from Turkish rule; it will never be the capital of a German province, for the day when British troops enter its gates it will surely become an outpost of our Indian Empire. And then, freed from the incubus of the Turk, released from the menace of Germany, its glory may revive under the encouragement of a tolerant British rule, and Western influences may turn this fabled city into a great commercial emporium, which will give it a new and abiding lease of life and power.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

M.E.F. Correspondence.

November 10.

Mr. PIKE PEASE informed Mr. NEEDHAM that correspondence from the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force for this country is dispatched by such means as are available and the time occupied in transmission varies considerably. The hon. member might rest assured that there was no avoidable delay on the part of the Post Office. The time for transmission from Mudros is fixed at fifteen days.

Sir G. YOUNGER asked if the right hon. gentleman was aware that parcels had been on the way for five or six weeks, and had not arrived at all.

Mr. PIKE PEASE said a statement had already been made with regard to the matter, and a further statement would probably be made shortly.

Great Britain and Serbia.

Replying to questions by Mr. BRYCE, Lord R. CECIL stated that the Serbian Government had expressed the opinion that the right military policy was to attack Bulgaria before her mobilization was completed. In Sir Edward Grey's view that was a question for the Serbian Government to decide, and he had therefore sent no instructions to the British Minister at Nish. When pressed for his opinion, he had said that all the political and diplomatic agreements were against such action, and that he could only deal with considerations other than strategical ones. There had been no question as far as he was concerned of refusing permission.

Dr. MACNAMARA, in reply to Sir E. CORNWALL, said: A British Naval Mission was detailed for special service with the Serbian forces, and its head, of course, conforms to the wishes of the Commander-in-Chief of those forces in all matters connected with military operations.

Mr. TENNANT, replying to Mr. BRYCE, said permission was given to the General in Command of the British troops to cross the frontier into Serbia on the evening of October 26. This permission was acted upon without any delay.

Egyptian Tribute to Turkey.

November 11.

Mr. GINNELL having asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the amount of the Egyptian tribute payable to Turkey prior to the war was now being applied to the benefit of the people of that country,

Sir E. GREY writes: The Egyptian Government have, I understand, decided that, in view of the various issues involved, it will be desirable to defer the question of the tribute, formerly payable from Egypt to Turkey, for consideration after the conclusion of the war.

Egyptian Paper Money.

Sir E. GREY, in a written reply, informed Mr. GINNELL that his attention had not been called to reports in the *Egyptian Gazette* of losses sustained by illiterate Egyptians through the use of paper money forced upon them. Among the instances cited by Mr. Ginnell were those of animals having eaten the notes, and of three owners of equal shares in a note having cut the note in three equal parts.

Great Britain and Islam.

Mr. GINNELL asked by whose direction the pledge given by H.M. Government to the Egyptian people at the outbreak of the war that, recognising the respect and veneration with which the Sultan of Turkey in his religious capacity is regarded by the Mohammedans of Egypt, Great Britain took upon herself the sole burden of the war in Egypt without calling upon the Egyptian people for aid, was subsequently broken, and the opposite policy enforced without consulting the Legislative Assembly.

Sir E. GREY, in a written answer, says: It is not the case that any pledge has been broken, or that the policy previously announced has been departed from.

Outrages in Egypt.

In a written reply to Mr. GINNELL Sir E. GREY said he understood that after the recent attempts on the life of the Sultan of Egypt certain arrests were made, and that a few individuals suspected of complicity in these and similar outrages have been kept under observation. He had no information as to the number of the persons concerned, nor of the actual treatment accorded to them by the Egyptian Government.

The Legislative Assembly.

Sir E. GREY informed Mr. GINNELL that he was not aware that responsible opinion in Egypt desired that the Legislative Assembly should be convened at the present moment, and he understood that the Sultan of Egypt had been advised by his Ministers that the convention of the Assembly would not in the present circumstances be necessary. He had no information to the effect that the offer of the Sultan to raise half a million men to fight Turkey had been accepted.

Mr. GINNELL asked if the responsible advisers who were preventing the Sultan from convening the Assembly were Egyptian or British, but Sir E. GREY said he must have notice of the question.

Dardanelles Commissariat.

Mr. TENNANT informed Mr. WILL THORNE that the canned beef supplied to the Dardanelles was the same as that supplied to the rest of the army in France and elsewhere. It was manufactured under most careful supervision by medical experts, and there was no reason to hold it accountable for the diarrhœa amongst the troops in the Dardanelles, although he was aware that this form of sickness had been prevalent there.

Mr. PRINGLE asked if Mr. TENNANT was aware that this diet was unsuitable to the climatic conditions of the Dardanelles.

Mr. TENNANT: I dare say the hon. member is quite right, but he must remember that in time of war it is not always easy to supply everything.

Persia and the Allies.

Sir E. GREY, replying to a question by Sir J. D. REES, whether the British Minister at Teheran was a party to the warning given by the Russian Minister to the Persian Government that, if it concluded any special agreement with Germany and Turkey, the Anglo-Russian undertaking to maintain the integrity and independence of Persia would lapse, said: The warning was given by the Russian Minister alone, but the British and Russian Governments are acting in complete unity in Persia, and it must be obvious that the Persian Government cannot make agreements with our enemies, who have instigated murderous attacks on our Consuls and their staffs in Persia, without risking the position of Persia.

Serbia's Plight.

Mr. H. LAW said that, in spite of declarations by the Prime Minister and the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, there was doubt in many minds whether we were doing our utmost for Serbia, the smallest, most unfortunate, and most heroic of our Allies.

Sir E. GREY said that it was impossible, for military reasons, to go into the question in detail, but he would assure the House that Great Britain's help to Serbia had been limited by her power, not by any want of good will. When Bulgaria attacked Serbia and it appeared probable that Greece would fulfil her treaty obligations to Serbia and enter into the war, at once the possibility of co-operation with Greece for that purpose opened out new possibilities of helping Serbia. In common with the French Government, we made to Greece the offer to send 150,000 men to enable Greece to fulfil her obligations to Serbia. That was the beginning of the whole thing. We sent at once the only men who were available, and who could be sent immediately, but we could only take troops from elsewhere when they could be spared with due regard to military exigencies in other places. One of the reasons why the French Government had in some cases sent more troops than we had yet sent was that we provided transport for some of the French troops, and until we had liberated some of those transports it was impossible to embark British troops. Then came the new situation in the Balkans, brought about by the change of Government in Greece, and it was evident that Greece was not going to fulfil her treaty obligations to Serbia. We then considered, with our military authorities and in consultation with the French, whether we could go on without the co-operation of Greece. We did send troops, and there was only hesitation for a time when Greece changed her mind. What troops were available had been got ready and dispatched as quickly as possible. If we had not been able to do more it was merely one of the many instances in this enormous war where the limitation had been imposed not by want of sympathy, not by our aspirations, but solely by the amount of force at our disposal.

The State of Persia.

November 16.

Replying to Mr. PONSONBY, who asked whether he could give the House any information in regard to the critical situation in Persia, Lord R. CECIL said: As will be seen from to-day's Press various outrages have recently taken place on his Majesty's Consular officers in Persia. In view of all that has happened, and the presence of German and Austrian officers in Persia, we have not been without apprehension for the safety of the British and Allied Legations and subjects in Teheran. For this reason some Russian reinforcements have advanced towards the capital as the only means of giving protection. The Persian Government has been expressly informed of the pacific intention of the troops, whose one aim is to afford protection to the foreign Consuls in case of need. Certain proposals have been recently received from the Persian Government, and are engaging the attention of the British and Russian Governments. As in the past so now his Majesty's Government's one desire is to maintain the most friendly relations with the Persian Government provided the latter makes a real effort to prevent attempts being made by our enemies on British and Allied officials in that country. It must be remembered that the whole trouble comes from the proceedings of German and Austrian officers and agents in Persia.

The Armenian Massacres.

Mr. ANEURIN WILLIAMS urged the Government to give an assurance that wherever they might find Armenian refugees on Turkish or Bulgarian soil they would use their best endeavours to release and remove these unhappy people, and to save them from complete destruction.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR thought that the massacres could not have taken place without the connivance, or, at any rate, the recognition of the German Empire. He trusted that one outcome of the war would be to stop for ever the ruthless tyranny and bloodlust which had resulted in the massacre of 800,000 human beings.

Lord R. CECIL said that the story was a terrible one. In February of last year the Powers had induced the Turks to accept a measure of reform which might have produced some security for these unhappy people. The moment the war broke out, even before Turkey joined our enemies, she abandoned the pretence of accepting this reform, and as the Committee of Union and Progress thought that it could be done they initiated the terrible scheme of which we saw the results to-day. It might be said without fear of exaggeration that no more horrible crime had been committed in the history of the world. There was only one mitigation of the horror and regret which they must all

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feel, and that was that this was in no sense a religious movement. It was not due to any fanatical outburst of Moslem feeling. It was nothing of the kind. He believed that pious Moslems in all parts of the world viewed with as great reprobation as we did the horrors that had occurred. The crime against the Armenians was part of the deliberate policy of what Lord Bryce had called the gang of murderous ruffians who ruled Constantinople. It was part of a deliberate policy to wipe out the Armenian people, and when local Turkish authorities were anxious to mitigate some of the horrors of the operation they were ordered to go on with it, or in one or two cases were removed from office. In spite of the assertions of apologists for the Turks, there was no provocation on the part of the Armenians, and there was no kind of truth in the suggestion that British agents intrigued to stir the Armenians to rebellion. If any opportunity occurred of assisting the Armenians by the efforts of our Consuls or armed force, the Government would feel that those efforts had been put to a very noble use. The indirect complicity of Germany in the massacres of Armenians was proved beyond doubt. The creed of German militarism led logically to crimes of this description. The State occupied in the German mind the place which among other people belonged to religion and morality. Once that bastard patriotism was admitted, it became an excuse for any and every crime, and there was no limit to the degradation of a nation which accepted such a view. Unless the German people abandoned this idolatry, they would sink even lower than they had sunk already.

Gallipoli Camps. Nov. 16.

Sir E. Cornwall asked whether adequate provision had now been made for the winter drainage of the camps, and the shelter of the men on the peninsula of Gallipoli, and whether the plans of the authorities in this respect had been now carried out.

Mr. Tennant said he had no quite recent information on this point, but the General Officer Commanding gave an assurance some two months ago that all the necessary arrangements were in hand, and as all demands for material had been and were met without avoidable delay, he had no reason to suppose that the plans had not been carried out.

British Women in Serbia. Nov. 17.

Mr. Cathcart Wason asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he would make a special request to President Wilson to give instructions to the American Ambassador at Berlin to make every effort to save the lives and honour of British ladies now tending the sick and wounded in Serbia.

Lord R. Cecil: I have already made inquiries through the United States Ambassador in London and Sir Charles des Graz as to: (1) The British Red Cross; (2) the Scottish Women's Hospital, Valievo; (3) the Berry Mission; (4) the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee; (5) the 2nd British Farmers' Unit, and have received information as to the whereabouts of (4) and (5), who may be in Bulgarian hands. There would appear to be no reason to believe that the ladies referred to will be badly treated. But I will ask his Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to make special representations to the State Department on the subject.

GERMANY'S LAST CARD.

Speaking at the Knightsbridge Hotel on Tuesday, M. Miyatovich, formerly Serbian Minister in London, said he estimated the German-Austrian force in the Balkans at 300,000, with at least 100,000 men behind them. Then there were the Bulgarians, numbering about 500,000; while there were 200,000 Turks ready for operations in the Balkan Peninsula. The Allies between them must send at least 500,000 men, and then they would have a very good chance. He did not share in the unjust attacks that had been made on British diplomacy. If it had not succeeded it was the fault of military circumstances. He hoped that Greece would yet come to see that she had done not only wrong to herself but to the Allies. She would probably wait to see if the Allies had a victory. He did not think King Constantine of Greece was guided only by personal pro-German predispositions. He had a German wife, but he was not going to join the Germans. The speaker doubted if anything could be done to bring Roumania into alliance with us, although most of the people of that country were deeply and decidedly in sympathy with us. One thing was certain: the British Empire could not allow the Germans to go to Constantinople and be masters of the Balkan Peninsula. If the Germans and Austrians were beaten in the Balkans he believed that the German Emperor would see that the best interests of his country would be served by asking for peace. The Balkan venture was Germany's last card, and if defeated they would be morally and politically forced to peace. The speaker concluded by expressing the hope that by about February next the situation would change in favour of the Allies. Meanwhile, if Serbia retired, she would retire into Albania.

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ST. SOPHIA AND THE MOSQUES OF CONSTANTINOPLE & BRUSA.

Lecturing at University College recently, Professor F. M. Simpson said that the first church of St. Sophia was built by Constantine. It was destroyed by fire about half a century after its erection, and another erected on the site shared the same fate in January, 532. This gave the Emperor Justinian his opportunity. The present building was begun in February of the same year, and dedicated on December 26, 537. To build a church of such a size and such construction in less than six years was a wonderful achievement, only possible because with architecture of Byzantine character the building can be finished in the carcase state before the internal decoration is applied. In the case of St. Sophia the decoration was probably applied after the formal dedication. In 538 the eastern semi-dome and the great dome fell, probably in consequence of an earthquake, and advantage was taken of the fact to rebuild the dome some twenty feet higher than before; but it is still low, being slightly less than a hemisphere. A writer of that period, Procopius, justly said the church was of indescribable beauty, excelling both in its size and in the harmony of its measures, appearing to be both long and wide without being disproportionate, and being singularly full of light and sunshine. In early time St. Sophia had a wonderful treasure of gold and silver furnishings and ornaments. The latest mention of these was by Anthony, Archbishop of Novgorod, in the year 1200; for, three years later, all were stolen and dispersed, when the band of Venetians and Franks, who formed what was called the Fifth Crusade, captured and sacked Constantinople. They did far more damage than the Turks did when they captured the city two and a-half centuries later. Since the time it has been a mosque the Turks have carried out numerous restorations, the fabric being completely overhauled in 1848 and further repairs being carried out about fifteen years ago.

It was a remarkable instance of architectural perversity that, although the art was carried to a high pitch of excellence in Europe during the Middle Ages, no attempt was made to apply the lessons to be learned from what was still, in the opinion of many, the very finest church in the world. Only after nine centuries had passed was its general plan copied in the Imperial mosques at Constantinople. The mosques at Brusa were erected before the Turks came into Europe, and were of a different design.

INDIAN CIVILIANS IN SERBIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Mr. L. M. Wynch, C.I.E., left for Serbia on April 1 last as Administrator of the 1st British Farmers' Hospital (4th Serbian Relief Fund Unit). The equipment for this hospital was presented by a fund raised by Mr. Herbert Brown among British farmers, and the expenses of upkeep were defrayed by the Serbian Relief Fund. The hospital was established in Belgrade, in a fine building containing about 200 beds. The cases treated here were at first mainly typhus, and when this disease was checked, it became a general hospital. The staff left at the termination of their contract in September, and the hospital building was taken over by the staff of the 2nd British Farmers' Hospital, which had before been working at Posharevatz.

The 2nd British Farmers' Hospital (5th Serbian Relief Fund Unit), which was organised under the same conditions as its predecessor, is in charge of Mr. F. C. Parsons. Within a few days of its arrival at Belgrade the bombardment of that city began, and it was found necessary to withdraw the staff, who, according to the latest news received, took over the Serbian Military Reserve Hospital at Jagodina, a town some fifty miles south of Belgrade on the main line of railway. It is reported that the hospital building in Belgrade was totally destroyed by the bombardment, and it is feared that the valuable equipment of the hospital is a total loss.

Mr. Wynch has now returned to England. He has proved a most efficient administrator, and has won the respect and affection of his staff. Both Mr. Wynch and Mr. Parsons—the latter of whom has had throughout continuous difficulties to contend with—have sustained in every way the high reputation of Indian civilians as organizers and administrators. Mr. Wynch had as his secretary Mrs. Moore, the wife of Mr. A. W. Moore, now of the Rifle Brigade, and well known formerly as Secretary of the Balkan Committee and correspondent of the *Times* in Persia; and the senior physician was Dr. Fabian Hirst, of Ceylon. The secretary of the 2nd B.F. Hospital is Mr. R. C. Grey, of the Malay States.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of the "NEAR EAST" to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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THE DARDANELLES OPERATIONS

STATEMENT BY MR. CHURCHILL.

In the House of Commons, on Monday, Mr. Churchill replied, at great length, to the criticisms levelled against him in connection with his administration as First Lord of the Admiralty. His review of the Dardanelles operations was so complete, so astonishingly full, and withal so interesting that we reproduce it at length, believing that it will be of value to many of our readers as a record. "What," he asked, "am I going to prove, to try to prove, about the Dardanelles?" And he answered his question as follows:—

I am not going to prove that we have forced the Dardanelles. No amount of argument, however excellent, will do that, nor am I going to try to prove that the plan we adopted was the best plan that could have been adopted. I am concerned to make it clear to the House and to the country and the Navy that this enterprise was profoundly, maturely, and elaborately considered. There was a great volume of expert opinion behind it, and it was framed entirely by expert and technical minds, and in no circumstances could that be regarded as having been undertaken with carelessness or levity. That I am concerned to prove.

In the month of December last the political situation in the south-east of Europe was stagnant and torpid, and the immense currents of opinion which were then favourable to the Allied cause flowed sluggishly, or even ebbed. In Italy our negotiations made little progress. At the same time the Russian Government asked the Foreign Office whether some action against Turkey in the Mediterranean was not possible to relieve the pressure in the Caucasus. In consequence of those communications from the Foreign Office and the War Office I began to direct the attention of the First Sea Lord and other naval advisers to the possibilities of action in Turkish waters. The Dardanelles stood out as incomparably the most decisive operation that was open. Of course, from the beginning we all recognised that a joint naval and military operation by surprise was the best way of attacking the Dardanelles. As early as November 3 we obtained from the War Office their appreciation of the number of troops necessary to seize the Gallipoli Peninsula by a joint amphibious *coup de main*. On November 30 I sent a minute to Lord Kitchener offering to congregate transports for 40,000 men; that is to say, sufficient for the first echelon of an army for the purpose in Egypt on the chance of their being wanted, as I could see that the situation was developing in the direction of an attack in the Eastern Mediterranean on the Turkish Empire. We were informed that no army was available. In the early discussions which took place amongst us and at the War Council it was clearly the prevailing opinion that even were they available they should not be used for attacking the Gallipoli Peninsula. On the other hand, the need for action in the east of the Mediterranean was constantly pressed upon us from many quarters.

As the result of those representations and discussions, I telegraphed on January 3 to Admiral Carden, who was our admiral blockading the Dardanelles and who had been there since the Turkish declaration of war. I put to him this specific question, although these are not the actual words. It is a paraphrase: "Do you consider the forcing of the Dardanelles by ships alone a practicable operation?" The Admiral replied to the effect that the Dardanelles could not be rushed, but could be reduced by a regular and sustained naval bombardment. I put the same question simultaneously to Sir Henry Jackson, the present First Sea Lord of the Admiralty, and I received from him an almost similar answer. The coincidence of opinion between those two officers, one the man on the spot and the other the expert at the Admiralty, who was studying the Eastern theatre in the War Staff—the coincidence of opinion between those two men made a profound impression on my mind.

Admiral Carden was then asked to formulate his plans and to state his requirements. He did so in full detail in his telegram of January 11. We were in a position to meet those requirements. The victory at the Falkland Islands had cleared the German flag from the seas and liberated a large reserve of naval force. The strength, actual and relative, in home waters was undergoing that steady increase which had been in progress ever since the beginning of the war, and the action of the Dogger Bank on January 24—Admiral Beatty's action—had shown that ship for ship, man for man, and gun for gun we had a clear advantage. That being so, we were in a position to meet the very large requirements Admiral Carden put forward. His plan was then examined by the Admiralty War Staff, and Sir Henry Jackson expressed his full concurrence in it, and advised in writing an attack on the outer forts being made as early as possible.

Lord Fisher, of course, knew everything that was passing. He never advised, never expressed any opinion against the specific operation, nor indeed against the operation at all at this stage. He was very much impressed with the proposal of the Admiralty War Staff to add the Queen Elizabeth to the bombarding fleet. We had seen—and it was fresh in everybody's mind—great fortresses, reputed to be the strongest in Europe, collapsing fort by fort from five or ten shells from 15-inch howitzers. Here was the Queen Elizabeth with eight 15-inch guns on a broadside. Lord Fisher was also strongly in favour of action in Turkish waters, and wrote to me repeatedly on the subject, and especially of joint operation of the Fleet and the Army at the Dardanelles. His schemes involved the co-operation of Powers who were neutral and of an army which was not available, but they all led up to the point of forcing of the Dardanelles with old ships. Sir Arthur Wilson was in favour of attacking the outer forts, but he felt that future progress must depend on the amount of Turkish resistance.

After these discussions I brought Admiral Carden's plans before the War Council of January 13. This meeting was attended by the principal members of the Cabinet, by various high military officers, by the First Sea Lord, and by Sir A. Wilson. The War Council were immensely impressed with the political advantages of the plan if it could be carried out, and they pressed the Admiralty to find a way to carry it out. No one spoke against the method proposed. No expert adviser indicated any dissent. The War Office have always assumed in their Staff papers that the decision to make a purely naval attack upon the Dardanelles dated from the meeting of the War Council of January 13. I do not so interpret it. I consider that the decision was that the Admiralty go on perfecting its plans and making its preparations without being committed finally to action. And this was what we did. The whole plan of Admiral Carden was searchingly re-examined by the Admiralty War Staff and the various gunnery experts whom we had at our disposal, the highest and best in the world, and the general consensus of opinion was established in its favour. On January 25 Lord Fisher sent me a memorandum on naval policy. This memorandum did not question the feasibility of the particular operation, but it deprecated reducing our margin in home waters or using fighting ships for bombarding purposes except in conjunction with military operations. It was a memorandum directed not only against the Dardanelles operation, but against others, which were being very strongly pressed forward at the time. I sent the memorandum to the Prime Minister, with an analysis, which I drew up myself, of the naval margins available at the time. I think on that point I may claim that my view has been vindicated by events. Not only did Lord Fisher himself at a later date, but the new Board of Admiralty sent all the ships which were then under consideration to the Eastern Mediterranean, and a great many more besides; and so far from any misadventure occurring in home waters, it is well known that our position has become increasingly safe.

I attach importance to the fact that at no time did I receive from Lord Fisher any criticism of the definite method of attack proposed. In principle he had doubts and objections, but on the special technical and professional points involved I received from him at no time any expression of adverse criticism. Early in the morning of January 28 I had an interview with Lord Fisher in the presence of the Prime Minister, and we discussed the whole situation. The impression I derived was that Lord Fisher agreed and consented to a purely naval attack on the Dardanelles being made. The whole matter then came up for final decision at the War Council, which was held later in the day. The meeting was again fully attended. Lord Fisher and Sir Arthur Wilson were both present. As the result of prolonged discussion, in which again no adverse criticisms were expressed, and in which Lord Fisher contented himself with saying that he had expressed his opinion to the Prime Minister, the Dardanelles operation was definitely sanctioned, and we were directed to execute it. Meanwhile the War Staff had completed their work on Admiral Carden's plan and had drawn up the necessary war order. The project was also laid before the French Minister of Marine. M. Augagneur came over to London; the principles and methods were fully discussed; the project was examined in detail by the French General Staff. They were very favourably impressed by the plan; they announced their agreement and said it was a plan conceived in a spirit which was *prudent et prévoyant*. They pointed out that it enabled us to withdraw at any stage should the gunnery results not be such as we anticipated. What happened? They sent their ships, which supported the enterprise with a loyalty and valour beyond description. The action meanwhile proceeded. Ships, in number many more than Admiral Carden had asked for, were rapidly concentrated from all over the world.

On February 18 the attack on the outer forts began. The first phase of the operation was successful beyond our hopes. The outer forts were destroyed; the Fleet was able to enter the Straits and attack the forts in the Narrows. Up to the time that this happened we had always kept in view the possibility that if this operation, which necessarily depended for its success upon a number of incalculable factors, did not develop as we hoped, and if the obstacles were found to be much greater than had been foreseen, we could convert it into a demonstration and turn our attention to some other part of the Mediterranean. We had kept in view, and had prepared an amphibious operation, which would serve as an alternative in case we wished to withdraw, so as to safeguard our prestige. But the success which we had achieved at the outer forts produced an electrical effect throughout the Balkans. Its repercussion was evident from the first moment in Italy. We had touched the great strategic nerve centre of the world war of 1915. Within a week the leader of the Greek people, M. Venizelos, had taken the decision which led to his first retirement from office. Within a fortnight the Turks were forced to move back to Adrianople, and to develop their defences against Bulgaria. The movement in Italy was also most marked. A panic was created in Constantinople. Everyone supposed that the enterprise was going to succeed. Day by day I held Staff meetings at the Admiralty, at which I received the appreciation of the greatest authorities, who were unanimous that the movement was progressing in the most favourable manner; more favourable even that we had expected, though we quite recognised that the greatest difficulties were to come. It was not now desired by anyone to go back or to ride off on any alternative operation. The eyes of the whole world were riveted on the Dardanelles. Every interest, military, naval, political, and economic, urged its completion. Meanwhile,

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however, in the early days of March, the progress of naval operations became slower.

But across the prospect of the operation a shadow began to pass at the end of the first week in March. The difficulties of sweeping up the minefields increased, and although great success was obtained by the ships in silencing the forts, they were not able at that stage to inflict decisive and permanent damage. The mobile armament of the enemy began to develop and to become increasingly annoying. It was therefore decided that the gradual advance must be replaced by more vigorous measures. Admiral Carden was invited to press hard for a decision and not be deterred by inevitable loss. Admiralty telegrams gave to the officer on the spot, and were intended to give to him, the feeling that whatever he felt inclined to do he could do with the certainty of being supported in the direction of vigorous measures. These telegrams were the result of close consultation between the First Sea Lord and myself, and, like every other order of importance which has emanated from the Admiralty during my tenure of office in peace or war, bear the written authority of the First Sea Lord. The admiral on the spot, Admiral Carden, expressed himself in entire agreement with the spirit of the Admiralty telegrams, and he announced his intention to press forward in his attack on lines which had been agreed upon, and with which he said he was in exact accord.

The date of the attack was fixed for March 17, weather permitting. On the 16th Admiral Carden was stricken down with illness and was invalided by medical authority. On the advice of the First Sea Lord, who fully concurred, I appointed Admiral de Robeck, Second in Command, who had been very active in the operations, to succeed him. I thought it indispensable to find out on the eve of this difficult attack whether the new Admiral shared the opinion of his predecessor, and I therefore sent him a telegram, of which the following is a paraphrase: "Personal and secret from the First Lord,—In entrusting you, with great confidence, with the command of the Mediterranean detached Fleet, I presume you are in full accordance with the Admiralty telegrams 101 and 109, and Vice-Admiral Carden's answer thereto, and that you consider, after separate and independent judgment, that the immediate operations proposed are wise and practicable. If not, do not hesitate to say so. If so, execute them without delay and without further reference, at the first favourable opportunity." Admiral de Robeck replied that he was in full agreement with the Admiralty telegrams. He would attack on the 18th. The House is fully acquainted with what followed. I should like to point out that the total British casualties in this formidable adventure scarcely exceeded a hundred. The French, it is true, had the misfortune to be unable to save the crew of the Bouvet. We lost two old vessels, of a class of which we had about thirty, and which if they had not been employed at the Dardanelles would have been rusting uselessly in our Southern ports. Therefore, I do not think in making this attack, on which so much depended and the results of which if successful would have been so far-reaching, we risked or lost any vital stake.

Meanwhile time had been passing. The army, which earlier in the year we had been told would not be available, was gradually assembling, and Sir Ian Hamilton had arrived with the leading division of his force. The Admiral came out to attack on the 18th, determined to renew it at the first opportunity, and telegraphed accordingly. But after consultation with the General it was decided to substitute for the purely naval operation a joint naval and military attack. I regretted this at the time, and I endeavoured to persuade the First Sea Lord to send a telegram ordering a resumption of the naval attack. But we could not reach an agreement, and in view of the consensus of opinion of the naval and military authorities on the spot I submitted to the alternative, but I submitted with great anxiety. Every day the danger of the German submarines arriving—a danger which, however, we greatly exaggerated in our minds—seemed to become more imminent. Every day the possibility of a renewed Austro-German attack on Serbia seemed to draw nearer. Every day I knew the Turks were digging; I knew they were drawing reinforcements from all parts of their empire, and I can assure the House that the month which apparently had to be consumed between the cessation of the naval attack on March 18 and the commencement of the military attack on April 20 was one of the least pleasing which I have experienced in my life. I have gone through this story in detail in order to convince the House that the naval attack on the Dardanelles was a naval plan, made by naval authorities on the spot, approved by naval experts in the Admiralty, assented to by the First Sea Lord, executed on the spot by Admirals who at every stage believed in the operation. I am bound, not only in justice to myself, but in justice to the Fleet, who require to know that the orders sent to them from the Admiralty are those which always carry the highest professional authority—I am bound to make that clear. I will not have it said that this was a civilian plan, foisted by a political amateur upon reluctant officers and experts.

I am not going to embark on any reproaches this afternoon, but I must say I did not receive from the first Sea Lord either the clear guidance before the event or the firm support afterwards which I was entitled to expect. If he did not approve of the operation, he should have spoken out at the War Council. War is a hard and brutal job, and there is no place in it for misgivings and reserves. Nobody ever launched an attack without having misgivings beforehand; you ought to have misgivings before; but when the moment of action is come, the hour of misgivings is past. If the First Sea Lord did not approve the operations, if he believed they were unlikely to take the course expected of them, if he thought they would lead to undue losses, it was his duty to refuse consent. No one could have prevailed against such a refusal; the operation would never have begun. There was the time for resignation. He did not take the course. He hoped, as I did, as the French Admiralty did, as the War Council did, that a speedy success would have resulted. For the naval operations, subject to what I have said, I take the fullest personal responsibility. I did not make a plan; but I approved of the plan, I backed the plan, I was satisfied that in all the circumstances that were known to me, military, economic, and diplomatic, it was a plan that ought to be tried, and tried then. After weighing and sifting all the expert evidence, with the personal knowledge I had of all the officers concerned, I recommended it to the Prime Minister and the War Council in the presence of my principal naval advisers, believing, as did everyone there, that I carried them with me, and I pressed it with all the resources at my disposal. I recommended it to the War Council, I recommended it to the French Government, not as a certainty, but as a legitimate war gamble, with stakes which we could afford to lose, for a prize of inestimable value, a prize which, in the opinion of the highest experts, there was a fair and reasonable chance of our winning, a prize which at the time could be won by no other means. On that basis clearly understood it was accepted by all concerned. On that basis I accept the fullest responsibility; I require no shield. I do not desire to reduce or divide my burden in the slightest degree.

For the military operations at the time they were embarked upon, for the methods by which they were executed, for the numbers of troops estimated to be necessary, their quality and commanders, I take no responsibility except by what is implied by my having remained a member of the Government. That general Ministerial responsibility, of course, I accept; but I accept it only subject to my written and recorded opinions, expressed in every case before and not after the event. Luckily there is no dispute about this. In the early days of March, when it became clear that military operations might be required and that military support would be forthcoming, I sought an interview with the Prime Minister, at which I asked Lord Kitchener directly whether it was understood he assumed the responsibility for the military operations, by which I meant—and I said I meant—the measuring of the forces required to achieve success; and after he had replied in the affirmative I transferred the Naval Division on March 12 to military command. My right hon. friend told me the other day he recollected this interview vividly, and therefore it is not necessary for me at this time to enter upon an analysis of the military movements.

I am glad that is so. But I must examine this question: Did the fact that the naval operations had been begun necessarily and inevitably compel the beginning of, and persistence in, the military operations? I have shown how at the beginning of the naval attack we kept open an alternative operation of an amphibious character on which we could at any time ride off. But would it have been possible, after the naval attack of March 18 had been broken off, to sail away and cut the loss? A careful survey of the facts as we know them to-day shows that undoubtedly it would have been. The naval attack finished on the evening of March 18, the military attack did not begin until April 25. If in that period we had known what we now know of the course of the military operations, I cannot conceive that anyone would have hesitated to face the loss of prestige in breaking off the attack on the Dardanelles. I do not consider the naval operations, begun as they were, necessarily involved the military operations, begun as they were. That was a separate decision which did not rest with me or the Admiralty either in principle or in method, but I wish to make it quite clear that I was very glad the War Office authorities were willing to prosecute the enterprise by military means, and I certainly did my best to induce them to do so, and to support them in doing so.

There are, however, two observations which I wish to make of a general character upon the military operations. First, the essence of an attack upon the Gallipoli Peninsula was speed and vigour. We could reinforce from the sea more quickly than the Turks could reinforce by land, and we could therefore afford to renew our attacks until a decision was obtained. To go slow, on the other hand, to leave long intervals between attacks, to enable the Turks to draw reinforcements from their whole Empire, and to refresh and replace their troops again and again, was a great danger. Secondly, on the Gallipoli Peninsula, our army has stood all the summer within a few miles of a decisive victory. There was no other point on any of the war fronts, extending for hundreds of miles, where an equal advance would have produced an equal or even a comparable strategic result. It has been proved in this war that good troops, properly supported by artillery, can make a direct advance two or three miles in the face of any defence. The advance, for instance, which took Neuve Chapelle or Loos or Souchez, if made in the Gallipoli Peninsula, would have settled the fate of the Turkish Army on the promontory, would probably have decided the whole operation, might have determined the attitude of the Balkans, might have cut Germany from the East, and might have saved Serbia. All through this year I have offered the same counsel to the Government, to undertake no operation in the West which is more costly to you than to the enemy, but in the East to take Constantinople, to take it by ships if you can, to take it by soldiers if you must, to take it by whichever plan, military or naval, commends itself to your military experts, but take it, and take it soon, and take it while time remains. The situation is now entirely changed, and I am not called upon to offer any opinion upon these new aspects. But it seems to me that if there were any operation in the history of the world which, having been begun, it was worth while to carry through with the utmost vigour and fury, with a consistent flow of reinforcements and an utter disregard of life, it was the operation so daringly and brilliantly begun by Sir Ian Hamilton in the immortal landings of April 25.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

In last week's "Notes" I analysed at some length the U.S. consular report from Constantinople, the most salient feature of which was the manifest desire on the part of the writer to convince his compatriots that after the war Turkey would be an excellent market for American manufacturing exporters. Incidentally, he indicated the ways and means to be employed in order to conquer that market, and how preparatory measures would have to be taken now; profits accruing at a later date would more than cover initial expenditure.

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In other words, the United States are preparing for the great trade war. Their consular officials (the case of Consul-General Ravendal is not exceptional) are advising expedition to manufacturers and financiers, the Chambers of Commerce are doing likewise, and semi-official trade experts are visiting the great markets of the world and gathering information to be placed at the disposal of American business firms. There is a thoroughness about the American method which commands our respect—however much it may ultimately be directed against us—and the only deplorable fact is that, in spite of our charmed Cabinet of twenty-two and a Press alive to the necessity of our taking steps to enter the lists now so as to be armed to the teeth when the time comes, nothing positive has been done. Some leagues, prominent among them the Anti-German Union, have agitated in favour of preparation, and are still doing so; the Board of Trade is doing its little bit according to its lights, and there the matter begins and ends. The fact is that those who should be directly interested in being prepared for the trade war are content to let things drift; they all agree that reforms are necessary, that the Government should really do something, but as for insisting on it, there will be time for that later on, they say. Will there?

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The United States are not the only nation preparing for future trade rivalry in the great markets of the world. By some unforeseen circumstance I have chanced on an odd copy of a German publication, called the Deutsche Levante Zeitung (German Levant Journal). It is characteristic of German methods. Published in two languages, German for those who read Bernhardi in the original, and French for those who live on a higher plane of civilisation. There is no similarity between the two texts; the German one praises the Balkan States, and the French one praises Germany. I have nothing to do with the policital section, though admittedly it is interwoven with the economic section. The latter is thoroughly German in its pleasing, insinuating, self-praising style, and it is backed up by advertisements in all languages, advertisements only of German export articles. After a year of war (the copy under review is dated August), and after we have been taught, under the auspices of the Press, that Germany is on the verge of starvation, penury, and bankruptcy, German exporters can still afford to advertise their goods where British firms have long since refused to launch forth on publicity. Why is this? It is because the German realises that, come weal or woe, he must prepare now, and keep on preparing whatever the present unremunerative cost, for that great trade war of the future for which we are as unprepared as we were a twelvemonth ago. Here are the Germans, then, and the Americans, straining every nerve now to extend their business relations in foreign markets after the war is over, whilst we are doing practically nothing, are still riding the Free Trade nag, scoff Preferential Tariffs, which would favour our friends and Dominions, now anxiously awaiting the re-dumping of German goods in the British market, and let matters slide indefinitely. It is deplorable.

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In connection with the above, I have frequently pointed out that if we are to accomplish anything in the Near Eastern market it is essential that we should have a Mediterranean shipping line. I am glad to see that the matter has been taken up to a certain extent by some writers in the Egyptian Press. Before the war broke out the North German Lloyd and the Austrian Lloyd kept up an excellent service of boats—cargo and passenger—between Alexandria, Port Said, and Mediterranean ports. In later years the Hamburg-Amerika Line also developed its service in Near Eastern ports, with surprising results for German (and American) trade. The war has, temporarily at least, put a stop to all these services, and the people in Egypt, Britons among them, are pining for some additional service running to and from Alexandria to take the place of the suppressed lines. However, no British firm has made an attempt so far to establish a service between Alexandria and Europe, in spite of the fact that now is the time, when there is no competition, for such a line to be created and popularised so that it can be advantageously extended and finally occupy an unassailable position against all rivals when the war is over It would pay both as regards the passenger and freight service. It is notorious that in the past thousands of pounds' worth of Egyptian trade was lost to Great Britain and sent to Germany owing to the insufficiency of British tonnage. Is this to be repeated? Surely there must be at least one enterprising firm of British shipowners willing and able to take the infinitesimal risk of establishing a Mediterranean service of cargo and passenger boats having as immediate object the exploitation of Egyptian and Sudan trade.

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The lecture by Mr. Michell on Cyprus, referred to at some length elsewhere, is timely. The island has just escaped a worse fate than was imagined by our genial Secretary for the Colonies (at least, after Mr. Asquith's assertion that the responsible heads of departments were consulted before Cyprus was offered to Greece, we must assume that Mr. Bonar Law agreed to the cession of our youngest Crown colony), and Mr. Michell's plain statement of facts may prevent a repetition of the almost perpetrated blunder. Let us hope that it will have this effect. For Cyprus is not the worthless proposition some barristers would have us believe. It has possibilities that cannot be denied, and if only a more lavish scheme of economic reform were introduced it would turn out to be a valuable property. As for the Greek community, which seems to loom so large in the eyes of some of our administrators, it is not all-important, however resonant its orchestral efforts.

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Reports yesterday stated that all Greek steamers had been held up in British ports. The following denial has been published by the trading agents of the Hellenic Consulate in Liverpool:—"The report is incorrect and misleading. The position of Greek steamers is as follows: Firstly, unlicensed goods for Greece can still be shipped; secondly, Greek steamers that are at present loading licensed goods are permitted to complete the loading and sail; thirdly, no Greek steamers other than those loading are at present allowed to take licensed goods for Greece. The Greek steamer Themistoclis is now loading for the Piræus and Salonika, and will sail as soon as the loading is completed."

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According to the *Morning Post*, similar measures have been adopted at Marseilles by the French authorities. Commenting on the detention of Greek steamers in British ports, the French Press (says the *Daily Mail*) is hailing it with satisfaction, and insists that "the time is past for words, that only acts count, and that at the moment when renewed German pressure is being put on King Constantine the Greek Government can be brought to its senses only by a strong hand."

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According to the *Financier*, New Zealand farmer soldiers now in that country have been immensely struck with the value of Egyptian phosphate layers. They have discovered at Sofaja Bay, on the shores of the Red Sea, what is claimed to be the richest phosphate (naturally pulverised) field in the world. A trial shipment of 500 tons has been forwarded to New Zealand. This, I hope, will be the beginning of better commercial relations between Egypt and our Pacific colonies, and ought to open a new era of inter-colonial trade between the various members of our Empire. I have always insisted on the great development which could be given to "trade within the Empire" if backed by a powerful protective tariff, and I sincerely trust that one of the first results of this great war will be the welding together by economic bonds of our vast possessions. Egypt, Cyprus, and the Sudan stand to gain as much thereby as our great Dominions beyond the Seas.

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Since fighting in Serbia has necessitated the closing of the route from Salonika to Roumania, the Roumanian Government has been in treaty for the arrangement of a route with Great Britain viâ Russia and Sweden (says our Bucharest Correspondent). He then adds that goods for the Roumanian Government which have already arrived in Salonika will be stored there till means are found to forward them to their destination. On the other hand, and owing to the fact that the Bulgarian Government has strongly objected to the passage through Bulgaria of goods with a Roumanian destination, the Roumanian Government has countered by no longer permitting Bulgarian-bound goods to pass through Roumania.

COMMENTATOR.

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Cyprus To-day.

Necessary Agricultural Reforms.

At the Royal Colonial Institute, Mr. Roland Michell, C.M.G., delivered an instructive lecture on the above subject. The following are extracts from that portion of the lecture devoted to the economic situation :—

Agriculture.

The wealth of Cyprus lies in agriculture. Mining prospects are not brilliant. The copper mines are practically exhausted. Asbestos is worked on Mount Troodos. Salt may now become more remunerative. There are two good salines near Larnaca and Limasol. The principal area of arable cultivation is the great central plain called the "Mesaoria," lying between the northern and southern range of mountains. The soil is rich, as the detritus carried down from the denuded hills by winter torrents provides annually a fertilising layer of silt, which has been compared with that which enriches the Valley of the Nile. Water rights are, as may be imagined, of great local importance and not unfrequently of litigation. The principal products of the island are cereals, vines (wine and raisins), carobs, and silk cocoons. The exportation of these products represents about three-fourths of the export trade. The fruits of Cyprus include grapes, oranges, lemons, pomegranates, apricots, peaches, plums, cherries, quinces, apples, pears, figs, and melons, besides walnuts, almonds, and hazel nuts. As regards cereals the average yield of wheat is about 2,000,000 bushels, and of barley about the same. The carob tree, which produces the locust bean of commerce, is indigenous and grows luxuriantly in large areas. Grafting is necessary. The average yield is about 35,000 tons. The greater part goes to England and France. In England it is chiefly used in the composition of cattle foods; in France for distillation. The bean contains a large percentage of sugar. The cultivation of the tree should be largely increased.

Vines.

The vine has been cultivated from early ages, and the hills are largely clothed with vineyards. Cyprus wines used to enjoy a good reputation, especially the rich sweet variety called "Commanderia" (from a Commandery of the Templars), made from grapes when half dried. Some of it resembles Tokay. The bulk of the wine is red, both sweet and dry, of great strength and body. Most of the "black" wine, as it is called, is unpalatable to Europeans owing to the taste of tar imparted by the jars in which it is fermented by village manufacturers, and by the tarred skins in which much of it is still transported. This industry, too, has remained in a primitive condition. Some progress has been made by enterprising firms, but the efforts to improve village manufacture generally have, so far, not met with much success. Sir Samuel Baker thought that if Cyprus were to become a British possession wine would be so greatly improved, and still be so cheap, that it would become (with a moderate import duty) the drink of the poorer classes in England, "and wean the spirit-drinkers to a more wholesome drink."

To bring about better results the whole wine industry would have to be revolutionised. At present good wine of uniform quality cannot be shipped. In Europe it can practically only be used for blending purposes. A good deal of spirit is distilled, and brandy of good quality is made by several leading firms.

By nature Cyprus is well adapted to the production of good wines, especially of a Burgundy type. When Madeira lost its vines, it was restocked from Cyprus. Soil and climate are equal, or superior, to those of Australia, for example. The cost of labour is less, and so is the distance from England. But under present conditions Cyprus wine cannot hope to compete with those of Australia or other colonies. In the case of Australia we see that infinite pains have been taken in the processes of manufacture. Large capital has been available. Sound and palatable wines have been produced at moderate prices. Vast sums have been spent in advertisement, and the wines have obtained a firm footing in England. So far there has been no movement towards co-operation in rural districts, but it is quite probable that in time wineries on co-operative principles, similar to those now working in South Africa, might be started with advantage. Wine-making, however, will continue to be one of the most important industries, and one cannot but hope that the day will come when Cyprus will again produce wines suited to modern tastes, which will find a market in England.

Raisins are largely exported, but they have not found favour in England. The preparation should be greatly improved.

Cotton-Growing.

The condition and prospects of cotton-growing are of special interest. In 1904 Professor Wyndham Dunstan visited the island, and his report to Parliament was of great importance. After recalling the fact that in mediæval times the fibre of Cyprus cotton was considered the finest in the Levant, he states that the climate and soil are highly favourable for its growth. But the industry is decadent, the methods of cultivation being primitive, and requiring the light of modern knowledge. He considers that while the cotton-growing area could be largely increased within a few years, "in the future, having regard to the possibility of making cotton a part of a system of rotation with cereal and fodder crops, an area of several hundreds of square miles might eventually be brought under cultivation." The value of exported cotton now only reaches about £6,000 a year.

Olives and Silk.

The olive tree calls for attention. Olives and oil are largely consumed in Cyprus. The insufficiency of production has been characterised as "unpardonable." Trees are not grafted, the methods of cultivation and gathering the fruit are faulty, and the methods of extracting oil antiquated and wasteful. Very little good oil is produced, and the island, which should export oil, now imports to the value of about £2,000.

The rearing of silkworms is an important branch of industry, and calls for very great development. The cultivation of the mulberry tree should be very largely extended. A good deal has been done through the efforts of M. Gennadius, the first Director of Agriculture, by legislation. The Pasteur system of selection is now understood and practised.

Tobacco.

Tobacco, which finds a congenial soil in several parts of the island, was at one time grown, and the leaf acquired a good reputation in the Levant, but owing to fiscal restrictions the cultivation has been practically stamped out. About 150 tons of Turkish tobacco are imported annually, representing a value of from £12,000 to £14,000. The revival of cultivation, and consequent saving to the island of the money expended, has been advocated by the Directors of Agriculture. Cyprus cigarettes are beginning to find favour in England, but they are not of tobacco grown in Cyprus any more than Egyptian cigarettes are of tobacco grown in Egypt. Both are of imported Turkish, or now Greek, tobacco. A fresh experiment in tobacco-growing is now being made by an enterprising resident, and we must hope that it will be successful.

Amongst other products capable of greatly extended cultivation are sesame, linseed, and aniseed, of which articles, after satisfying local needs, there is an export valued at about £6,000. Plants used for extraction of essential oil can be grown on a large scale. Besides these, the chestnut, pistaccio, castor oil, peanut, coriander, cumin, and pyrethrum deserve more attention. The exportation of fruits, now valued at over £4,000, can be very largely increased. Fruit culture, like other industries, is very backward. Any advance in the main branches of agriculture should stimulate a corresponding increase in the smaller products of the farmer's industry. In market gardening, poultry keeping, and dairy produce there is much need of development. Native cows are not milked. Cheese is made from the milk of goats and sheep. No butter is made by natives.

Cyprus bees are renowned in Europe and America. A fair amount of honey is produced. The output could be greatly increased.

The Future.

As regards the future, the outlook is hopeful. There can be little doubt that, although Cyprus can hardly attain to the exceptional wealth which it enjoyed at particular epochs, it should reach a position of comparative prosperity. I am assuming that it will remain a British possession. For the moment a new state of unrest and uncertainty may retard progress. It is manifest that regeneration must be sought in agricultural reform.

The most vital problem is unquestionably that of irrigation. As the outcome of the policy of progressive development inaugurated by Mr. Chamberlain, several storage reservoirs were constructed in the island. Financially, the results have not been satisfactory. The villagers have shown indifference, and have been too apt to say, "If it rains we don't want them, and if it doesn't rain there is no water in them." If, as seems the case, storage works will not be carried out elsewhere, and the immense volumes of water which the winter torrents bring continue to run to waste in the sea, water must be raised from beneath the surface. Should these means fail, and, indeed, in any event, the next course is to increase the water supply from wells by native methods, by water-wheels, by air-motors, and other suitable lifts. A great increase of all water-raising appliances is needed, and here again we touch the weak point. For all these needs the introduction of capital is absolutely necessary. The people must be helped by loans.

Agricultural Problems.

Next to the vital question of irrigation comes that of reforming the present condition of husbandry. Circumspection cannot, of course, be too strongly insisted on in the matter of innovations. Experts are often described as a dangerous class, but it is more to the purpose to insist on the fact that little can be done for progress except by expenditure along lines laid down by competent scientific advisers. Reform is called for all round, and the process of bringing home to the villager the knowledge required will involve an increase of staff of the still undermanned Agricultural Department.

If, again, any progress is to be achieved in the near future, the emancipation of the rural population from the money-lender must proceed *pari passu* with other efforts. Money at a low rate of interest must reach the fairly solvent members of the agricultural community, both for the liquidation of their debts and for application to reproductive purposes.

If I may venture to express an opinion, it is that in the principal problems affecting agriculture the advice of reliable experts should be more courageously and liberally followed out to definite ends and conclusions, under a systematic and consistent policy. Experimental work must have full and fair trial. In the past, methods have been somewhat haphazard and unsystematic, and unaccompanied by the scientific registration of observations and facts. Greater provision should be made for practical demonstrations to villagers. The Government has had the advice of experts as regards water supply, the forests, vines and wine, cotton, sanitation, and other matters, but the results seem to be disappointing, and to bear out the opinion of Mr. Chamberlain that we have not done for Cyprus all that we ought to have done.

A wise, strict, and consistent forest policy should be supported. Having regard to the paramount importance of the forests, there should be no flinching in the matter of goats. Reafforestation should be pushed on. There should be more experimental work and better provision for the registration of careful observations, as advocated by Mr. Hutchins.

Finally, a tourist trade might be developed with great advantage as a means of attracting foreign gold. It is not beneath the dignity of Government and of municipalities to aid in this work, as has been done in Belgium and some other countries. Attractive tours could be arranged in all parts of the island. Thousands who go to Egypt, and proceed to Palestine, Greece, and Constantinople, should visit the island, now carefully shunned.

Reuter's Agency learns that the official Roumanian journal, just received from Bucharest, announces that the Roumanian Government has decided to stop all traffic to or from Bulgaria.

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Turkey and the War.

U.S. Consular Reports.

We reproduce to-day further extracts from the U.S. Consular reports from Turkish vilayets.

II.—BEYRUT.

The calendar year 1914 was the most disastrous for business that Syria in general has experienced for many years. The value of the imports decreased from £4,078,140 in 1913 to £1,762,135 for 1914, and the exports from £1,572,734 to £401,025.

Cotton Goods.

Although the year 1914 opened with an overstocked market in textiles (which constitute 40 per cent. of Beyrut's imports), in the early months of the year there were large imports of cotton goods, which amounted, in fact, to an excess over the previous year of nearly 3,000 tons. There was also a large increase in the importation of crockery and earthenware, owing to a great quantity of cheap and inferior goods of these classes having been dumped upon this market. As regards other lines of goods there was a general falling off in quantities and values. The stock of coal was allowed to become so depleted that the supplies were practically used up in May of the current year. In consequence of the lack of coal the gasworks closed down early in the autumn of 1914, and have not since reopened, while railway operation has been restricted to the movement of troops and supplies.

There was a large decrease in the imports of petroleum during 1914 compared with 1913. The stocks on hand in Beyrut were being speedily cornered by a syndicate at the beginning of the war, and therefore the inhabitants have been obliged to pay greatly increased prices for this necessary article. While good kerosene was being sold at 20 cents per gallon just before, and for a few days after the war broke out, in May, 1915, the price was 75 cents per gallon.

Exports.

The export trade in handmade Syrian lace, which at one time amounted to nearly £400,000 per annum, has disappeared, and there are no signs of its revival. The silk industry, which for many years has been the leading source of livelihood for many people in Beirut and its vicinity, is also in a bad way. There was great difficulty in marketing the 1914 crop owing to the disturbance in banking and transportation facilities, and the same conditions will affect this year's output. The current year's crop is a small one, and the prices that the merchants can afford to pay the peasants for their cocoons are but one-quarter those paid in May of last year. In fact, the merchants who are buying up and stocking away the raw silk are running a great risk, as at present it is impossible to ship any goods out of Syria by sea.

The 1914 wheat crop of Syria was an excellent one, estimated at 422,000 tons. In normal times about 80 per cent. of the Syrian wheat crops are exported, mostly through the ports of Haifa, Tripoli, and Latakia the remaining 20 per cent. being sufficient for local consumption. At the outbreak of war, however, the exportation of wheat was prohibited and all of the surplus stocks have been held in Syria.

Owing to the difficulties in the way of transporting goods, and especially wheat, from the interior to the seacoast, such as the lack of freight trains which can not be operated on account of the lack of coal for the railways, and further to the lack of transport animals caused by the general commandeering of animals for army use, it has been difficult to get wheat transported from the interior to the coast; and the result is a most serious shortage of wheat and flour in Beyrut.

III.—MERSINA.

The consular district of Mersina includes the entire Province of Adana, the Sanjak of Cæsarea, Province of Angora, and the greater part of the Province of Konia. The Anatolian Railroad has, however, diverted all trade from Konia to Constantinople, and Adana is the port of the district of that name on the Mediterranean. Practically, therefore, Mersina is only the port for the Province of Adana and to some extent for Cæsarea.

The Adana Province has an area of about 20,000 square miles. The topography of the Province is varied. The Cilician Plain, which is cultivated with cotton and cereals, is the principal feature. There is also a vast mountainous district, the Taurus and Amanus Mountains, which contains large and valuable forests of pitch-pine and other woods and deposits of chrome, copper, iron, and lignite. A number of industries have also sprung up to utilize these various products. Flour mills (some of which are equipped with modern roller-process machinery), cotton-ginning plants, spinning mills, and other industrial establishments.

Mersina-Adana Railroad.

The Province has had a rapid development of late because of improved transportation facilities. The Mersina-Adana Railroad has been practically reconstructed and equipped with much new rolling stock. It connects with the new Baghdad Railroad, which will link Mersina with Constantinople and the Persian Gulf as opposite termini. The transportation of merchandise by camel to various points beyond the railroads still continues on a large scale. While a large part of the Cilician plain is under cultivation, vast tracts of swamp land can be reclaimed, and a system of irrigation would greatly improve the cotton culture. Plans to this end are being considered for execution in the near future. An extensive system of irrigation has just been put into operation on the plain of Konia, and the productivity of over 2,000 square miles of valuable farm land has been greatly increased. The works were constructed by a German company.

The farmers of the Adana plain have been more enterprising than those of other parts of Turkey in regard to the use of modern agricultural implements and machinery. The wooden plough has largely been superseded by steel ploughs; they are mostly of German manufacture. A large number of steam ploughing and thrashing machines are also in use, principally of British origin. American reapers, however, enjoy a practical monopoly both in Adana and Konia. Apart from private initiative the Government Agricultural Bank and schools of agriculture have done much to extend the use of all such modern implements.

Crops.

The cereal crops failed to come up to expectations last year both as regards quantity and quality. The heavy rains in May and June spoiled crops everywhere in the Province. This was especially true in the fertile district of Djihan, where wheat had to be sold at a price 30 to 40 per cent. below normal. Very few exports of cereals were made, because of the prohibition of same after August 1. Many shipments to other parts of the Ottoman Empire were, however, made prior to November 1, but the stocks left were more than sufficient for local use.

The following is an estimate, in tons, of the principal crops and the quantities exported: Barley, yield, 9,000; exports, 900; oats, yield, 3,500; exports, 1,500, wheat, yield, 19,000; exports, 1,800.

The yield of sesame seed was good and totalled about 4,000 tons, of which 2,500 tons were exported.

The cotton crop of 1914 reached a total of 115,000 bales, but owing to the outbreak of the war and local measures exports were few until February of 1915. The total exports in 1914 did not exceed 40,000 bales, of which the greater part consisted of the remainder of the 1913 crop. The ginning and pressing of the entire crop is done locally.

There are four cotton-spinning mills in this Province, with a total of 42,000 spindles. Their activity was somewhat restricted last year, but was increased early in 1915. During the latter half of 1914 only 406,700 pounds of yarn were produced, while in the same period of 1913 the production amounted to 1,053,000 pounds. This is only one-third of the capacity of the mills. There are also two cottonseed oil mills in Mersina, having a total capacity of over 300 tons per month. Only one of these mills was in operation in 1914, and then only for short periods. A large part of the local yield of cottonseed is usually exported to Great Britain, but the outbreak of the war prevented such shipments.

Owing to the lack of transportation facilities only small quantities of gum tragacanth and yellow berries for dyeing were brought from the interior. Only about 35 tons of the gum were exported in 1914. Wool shipments in 1914 only totalled £1,840. In 1913 they amounted to £9,109 and in 1912 to £16,918.

Wholesale Business.

The wholesale business of this district is largely in the hands of a few merchants and exporters in Mersina and Adana. Most of these have small unpretentious offices, which give no idea of the volume of business they transact. Imports are usually made only in sufficient quantity to meet the current demands, and goods are delivered immediately upon arrival to the retailers. The retail business is done principally in small booths in the bazaars of the towns. There are, however, a number of large stores, and a department store was recently opened in Adana. Payment for imports is generally made through local banks, which hold the shipping documents at the arrival of the merchandise. Foreign credits are exceptional, but are allowed to well-known firms and for goods which must be sold on instalment payments, such as machinery.

Even before the breaking out of the European war conditions in Mersina were depressed, owing to the financial stringency which followed the Balkan wars. The European war, however, stopped all credits and advances on merchandise by banks. The regular rate of interest became 9 per cent., but was actually much higher, and continued so. Banking business was confined principally to liquidating outstanding debts, and in most cases this was accomplished despite the moratorium through the acceptance of payment in kind. Orders for merchandise from abroad were either cancelled or could not be shipped. The export trade suffered. For a long time there was no demand abroad for cotton, the principal local product, and the military authorities prohibited the exportation of cereals after August 1.

The general decline in trade is indicated by the following figures: The value of the imports for the months of July to December, 1913, was £401,792, while for the same months in 1914 their value decreased to £68.104. The exports for the last six months of 1913 were valued at £411,924, compared with £197,225 for the same period in 1914.

While surface conditions are not promising for the future, yet it can be safely stated that as soon as the war is over this part of Turkey will quickly recover from its effects. There is abundant cash among the farmers, who sold their cotton at fair prices and were protected by the moratorium from immediate payment of their debts. Stocks of merchandise, particularly foodstuffs, hardware, and cotton goods have been or will soon be depleted, and will require replenishing. While merchants were hit hard at the outbreak of the war, they have more than recouped their initial losses by the rise in price of their stocks.

An interesting experiment is being made in the Sudan in regard to the abatement of the mosquito nuisance, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. Some time ago investigations were carried on for the purpose of studying the shellfish of the White Nile and some of its tributaries, with a view to obtaining a species which would be of value in controlling mosquitoes on artificially irrigated farms. Haplochilus marni Stdr. was selected as being the most promising species met with, and some 2,000 living specimens of this fish have been placed in water channels on the Zeidab estate of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, to ascertain whether it can establish itself under the conditions which prevail there. News as to the result is awaited with a certain amount of interest.

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Engineering Notes.

Electric Pumps.

Electric pumping outfits for suburban and country houses, as well as for factories, warehouses ,etc., have many advantages over other kinds of water lifts, for they require only occasional attention, are quickly installed, and cost from 3d. to 6d. per 1,000 gallons to operate. With an automatic pressure controller an electric pump starts and stops itself when necessary, keeping water on supply at all times at a constant pressure and requiring only an occasional oiling. The smallest sizes of an American design are belt-driven, while other types of varying capacity are connected direct by worm and gearing, by back gears, or by silent chain to a motor on the same base. A very convenient pump, however, for country houses, where the water supply is continuous and cannot be met by the smaller outfits, is a geared-power pump. This can be run by an oil engine, electricity, or by line shafting, to which barn or other light machinery can also be connected. In this type of outfit both pump and electric, or oil, motor are mounted on the same base and connected through a line of machine-cut gears. It will pump about 900 gallons per hour with a motor of 1 h.p., or 1,200 to 1,800 gallons of water per hour with a larger pump and a 2-h.p. electric motor or oil engine.

The Steam Meter.

In the East, where the price of coal is three, and often four, times as much as in England, any means or instrument that can successfully facilitate control in the use of coal or any other steam-producing fuel, and also record the flow of steam over a given period of time, is now more than ever a matter of great interest to engineers and steam-power users. Several devices for that purpose have from time to time been brought out, but for one reason or another most of them have lacked efficiency. Some, however, of Continental and American origin that have been introduced in the East have met with apparently fair success, but it is a remarkable fact that the new steam meters which are now obtainable in the British market are not better known, and more adequately brought to the notice of power users in those regions. For they are superior in efficiency, and are better able to meet the requirements of factory owners in the East. By the use of the steam meter the amount of steam produced can be seen at once, also the amount that is used for other purposes than engine-driving, and the amount that is wasted through carelessness or imperfect covering of the steam pipes. With the aid of this meter steam can be sold to an adjoining factory without risk of dispute, for it measures the steam with the same certainty as coal gas is measured by the gas meter. The meter is especially valuable when charges have to be adjusted between several departments of a factory using steam from the same boiler-house. The steam meter records the flow of steam along any pipe by means of a pencil line on a chart giving the volume that has passed within a fixed period. Only one opening has to be made in a steam pipe to connect the meter; and, in a design that we have in view, this opening admits a plug through which pass two small tubes bent at right angles at the end, one facing the steam current and the other pointing in the opposite direction. These pipes continue to the instrument, and the difference of pressure within them furnishes the power that controls the meter. The connection is so easy to make and break that the meter may be moved from one department to another in a very short time.

Mine-Laying Submarines.

Every ounce of ability in the German Empire, says the naval critic, Mr. Archibald Hurd, is being utilised in the hope of gaining victory. The dictum is quite correct, although, unfortunately, German Kultur and technical ability prove to be rather more weighty in the invention of weapons and methods of aggressive warfare. Having seen the practical failure of submarine piracy, the Germans have now inaugurated a fresh policy with a new type of submarine, which is practically another agent of outrage. It is built to lay mines, and not, apparently, to discharge torpedoes. Ships of this class are now busily engaged in trying to destroy British as well as neutral ships, for there can be no discrimination. These new submarines have a specially constructed airtight chamber into which the mines are placed ready to be sown. The mines are rather smaller than those hitherto used, but, nevertheless, are sufficiently destructive. When the preparations have been completed and the submarine has reached the desired spot, the air-and-water-tight door from the hull of the submarine leading to this chamber is shut and another trapdoor is opened, flooding the chamber. The mines, by mechanical means, are then released. In this manner an area of water can be rendered perilous to shipping. Only chance will reveal the lurking danger. Each mine, when it is put into the chamber, rests on a series of "fingers" of steel, which may be compared to the fingers of the human hand; a hawser is fixed at one end of the mine, and at the other to the base of the "fingers"—which is in the relation of the wrist to the hand. The mine goes down in the water with the ingeniously constructed "sinker," as it is called. As it descends a mechanism is set in motion and the mine, which is much lighter than the water, is released from the "fingers" and rises to the surface. Meantime the "sinker" turns over, with the fingers pointing downwards; it thus reaches the bottom of the channel. The mine is set like a time-fuse shell, and when it has attained the required distance from the surface of the water it is checked by a kind of grip. The more the mine tugs to rise the more firmly it is held. But that is not all. Its struggle puts pressure on the hawser where it is fixed to the "sinker," and the "fingers" are made to claw fiercely to the bottom of the channel. The mine-laying submarine creeps along, on or under the water, as circumstances suggest, and her progress, at night in particular, cannot be easily detected.

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Near East Markets.

COTTON MARKET.

Liverpool. Thursday Night.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph:—The market has been quiet this week, and only a moderate business is reported. Quotations show a decline of five points, except for Uppers, which are unchanged. The sales which include 300 bales Sudan cotton, are estimated at 2,700 bales.

Manchester.

Although the volume of trade has been restricted here this week, prices have been very steady, chiefly owing to increased cost of production and the steadiness of raw material. The demand from India for cloth has been on a smaller scale, especially from Calcutta and Bombay.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

Reuter's Agency reports from Cairo that the "Monthly Bulletin" of the Ministry of Agriculture, dated November 1, shows that there is no change in the condition of the cotton crop as compared with the previous "Bulletin" of a month ago, the crop in Lower Egypt being 7 per cent., and that in Upper Egypt 1 per cent. below the average. The weather was favourable, though cold and damp, especially at night, with a certain amount of morning fogs. The water supply was ample. The pink boll worm continues its ravages, and practically all the remaining bolls in Lower Egypt are now attacked. In Upper Egypt attacks from both species of boll worm are still prevalent, more particularly in Fayoum. Specially satisfactory results of the second picking were obtained in Assiut and Girga. In Lower Egypt, however, this picking only gave cotton of inferior quality. With the exception of Giza, the gathering of the crop in Upper Egypt is nearly finished. The law for the destruction of remaining bolls on cotton is being rigorously enforced with a view to the more complete reduction of the infesting boll worms.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants. London, November 18.

The market has been, comparatively, quiet this past week, and prices are steady with the exception of better grades, which are a little easier. The political crisis in Greece will, undoubtedly, affect the market, and already prices there are dearer than in England. The market in Liverpool is quiet at late rates.

Sultanas.

With the arrival of some Afghan and Cretan fruit the market has been a little more active. Greek sultanas are almost scarce and dearer. It is noticeable that Cretan fruit receives better attention this year, and although it reaches this market in comparatively only small quantities, sells freely and at satisfactory prices.

Seeds.

Linseed is firm, but inactive, and favouring sellers. Calcutta to London, spot 67s.; Oct.-Nov. and Nov.-Dec., 67s. Bombay, Nov.-Dec., 68s. 9d. La Plata ditto, 64s. Cotton-seed is quiet and rather easier, Egyptian to London, November, is quoted £11 13s. 9d. per ton. East African, in Liverpool market, is quoted £7 15s. to £8 per ton, nominal, quay terms. Rapeseed is very firm; brown Cawnpore, Nov.-Dec., pure basis, 59s.; yellow Gugerat ditto, 55s. 6d.

Oils.

Linseed oil is very firm, but quiet. Spot pipes quoted £33 2s. 6d., barrels ditto £33 17s. 6d.; landed Nov.-Dec., £33 12s. 6d.; Jan.-April, £34 17s. 6d.; May-Aug., £35 15s. Rape oil is steady. Refined English in barrels on spot, £41 to £42; ordinary brown naked spot, £39. Cotton oil is firm, but quiet. Crude spot pipes, £33 15s. to £34; refined pale pipes, £35 10s.; and barrels sweet, £39 to £41, as to make. Olive oil is firm; spot Levant or Spanish, £52 per ton, ex store.

Locust Beans.

There is still a great scarcity, and needy buyers are compelled to pay the full price of £8 5s. for whole and £8 15s. for kibbled. In Liverpool Cypros locust beans are quoted £7 5s., ex quay, net terms.

TURKISH LICORICE ROOT EXPORTS.

At the monthly council meeting of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, held on the 2nd inst., the question of Turkish licorice root exports was discussed, and, at the request of the London Chamber of Commerce and members interested in the trade, the Chamber addressed the following communication to the Foreign Office, viz.:—

"Liverpool, October 14, 1915.

"The attention of the Chamber has been called by members to the serious diminution in the supply of licorice that is bound to result from the inability of British importers to obtain from Turkey large supplies of the article bought and paid for before the outbreak of the war. These supplies are still in Turkish territory. The Chamber understands that the Board of Trade in December, 1914, informed importers that there was no objection at that time to their obtaining from Turkey and shipping either to this country or America licorice root and extract which was their property, and had been paid for before the declaration of war with Turkey. As this is now apparently impossible, owing to the blockade of the coast of Turkey by the British and French navies, the Chamber respectfully asks that his Majesty's Government may see their way to suggest to the French Government, as well as to the British Admiralty, the necessity and advisability of allowing the export of the article by sea in neutral bottoms should an opportunity of so doing ever arise."

CYPRUS OLIVE STONES.

The High Commissioner of Cyprus reports that some 2,000 to 3,000 tons of olive stones, together with all the residue of the olive after pressing, valued at from 20 to 25 francs per ton, are exported annually from Cyprus to the Piræus for crushing. In this way some 8 to 10 per cent. additional oil is extracted which is used in the manufacture of soap, whilst the residue is used for fuel purposes. In Cyprus olive stones have been used as food for pigs, as fuel, and often as manure.

THE WATER HYACINTH.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture issues the following circular:—In the Mahmûdia and a few other canals the introduction of a water plant with a blue flower called the "water hyacinth" has been noticed. This plant, which caused the stoppage of certain river ways in America and cost the American Government a large sum to remove, is in danger of spreading, and should be destroyed wherever seen. It is also found in private garden ponds, where it is frequently grown for its handsome flower. It should be destroyed here also. If canals are not cleaned of this weed, their flow may be seriously interfered with and the cultivation of crops will suffer.

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TRADE NOTES.

Egypt.

Tenders are invited by the Controller, Cairo Tanzim Department, for the supply of general stores required during the financial year 1916-1917. Date, December 1.

Tenders are invited by the Egypt State Railways for the supply of 3,000 ordinary sacks, 1.50 metres long and 75 centimetres wide, according to samples to be submitted in duplicate. The specification relating to this supply may be obtained, against payment in advance of 50 milliemes, at the Administration's Stores at Saptia (Cairo) or Gabbary (Alexandria), every day between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Sundays and holidays excepted. The sacks must be of a quality equal or superior to that of the Administration's standard sample which may be examined at the above-mentioned places. Date, November 29.

Tenders are invited by the Army Finance Department, Cairo, for the supply of 120 tons of cotton-seed oil, nine tons of olive oil, 26 tons of caustic soda, 11 tons of silicate of soda, into the War Department Stores, Tura Date, December 7.

Tenders are invited by the General Post Office, Alexandria, for the supply of general stores for the financial year 1916-1917. Date, December 1.

Tenders are invited by the Director of Coast Guards' Stores, Arsenal, Alexandria, for the supply of general stores and clothing required for the year 1916. Specification may be seen and all information obtained at the head office, Coast Guards Administration, Bab el Lùq, Cairo. Date, November 30.

Tenders are invited by the Inspector-General of Prisons, Cairo, for the supply of various articles and materials required for the prisons' workshops, such as English leather, brush materials, timber, coal, khaki drill serge, oils and paints, iron, ironmongery, Indian cotton yarn, yellow soap, tools, miscellaneous stores. Date, December 1.

Tenders are invited by the Controller, Cairo Tanzim Department, for the supply of general stores required by the Giza and Gezira Water Works during the financial year 1916-1917. Date, December 2.

Tenders are invited by the Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms, boots, shoes, and tarbrushes. Specification may be seen and all information obtained at the above office, on any day, Sundays and official holidays excepted, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Date, January 3, 1916.

Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Coast Guard Administration for the supply and delivery of the following stores required during the year 1916:—(1) 4,030 metric tons of large, first-class, Cardiff coal and 40 tons of best quality Newcastle coal. (2) 170 metric tons of petroleum. (3) 11 metric tons of benzine. Copies of the specification and conditions of tender may be obtained from the Director-General, Coast Guard Administration, Cairo, by whom sealed tenders will be received up to noon on December 1. A pro-

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visional deposit equal to 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent., of the value of the offer must accompany each tender. A copy of each of the specifications and conditions of tender may be consulted by United Kingdom exporters of the materials mentioned at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior for the supply of equipment and clothing required by the Stores Department during 1916, including the following:—Bandoliers, belts, bayonet frogs, ammunition pouches, cartridges, and other accoutrements; brushes; bits, bridles, chains, collars, reins and other horse and camel equipment; camp equipment; bedsteads, chairs, cupboards, tables, and other furniture; tools; calico, canvas, uniform cloth and other textile materials; leather; oils; paints; boots; breeches, jackets, shirts, tunics, trousers, and other clothing. Copies of the specifications, with forms of tender, etc., may be obtained, at a cost of 2s. per copy, from the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Sealed tenders, on the proper form, will be received up to noon on December 1, by the Under-Secretary of State (Personnel and Equipment Department), Ministry of the Interior, Cairo.

Tenders are invited by the Director-General, Coast Guard Administration, Cairo, for the supply of coal, petroleum, and benzine required by the Service during the year 1916. Specification may be seen and all information obtained at the Coast Guard Magazine, Arsenal, Alexandria, or at the Coast Guard offices at Port Said, Ismailia, Suez, and Damietta. Date, December 1.

Tenders are invited by the Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs Department for the supply of 20,000 oak sleepers and 101,300 pine sleepers. The sleepers must be of very good quality wood, and preferably of one of the following species:—European and Japanese oak, Montenegrin, Swedish and Norwegian and Baltic red pine or any other species of oak or pine of equal quality. In default, tenders for sleepers of any other quality of wood coming from Japan, America, India, or Australia, would be taken into consideration. Copies of the specification, containing form of tender and form of bank guarantee, may be purchased, price 2s. each, from Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received up to 10 a.m. on December 15, by the General Manager, Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs, Cairo.

Cyprus.

An import and export firm in Cyprus, with branches in Alexandria, Port Said, and Cairo, is desirous of representing Canadian exporters, in Cyprus and Egypt, upon a commission basis. Articles specially suggested are wheat, flour, barley, roofing and flooring lumber, and leather. For further information application should be made to the Canadian Trade Commissioner's Office, Portland House, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Tenders are invited for the supply of articles required for use in the Central Prison and for the prisons and police at Larnaca, Limassol, Paphos, Kyrenia, and Famagusta, for the half-year ending June 30, 1916. All tenders should be sealed, and should be addressed to the President of the Tender Board, the Office of the Treasurer, Nicasia. They should be marked "Tender for Central Prison or District Prison and Police of Larnaca, Limassol, Paphos, Kyrenia, and Famagusta," as the case may be, in the left hand top corner of the envelope, and should reach the office of the treasurer not later than December 1. All details regarding the articles to be supplied can be obtained from the Resident Superintendent, to Central Prison, and Local Commandants of respective districts.

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Egypt's Trade in September.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 23.

The Customs Bulletin for September shows that the satisfactory state of affairs referred to last month is continuing. Imports during the month amounted to £E1,782,948 and exports to £E1,273,184, as against £E936,275 and £E373,614, respectively, in August last year, i.e., there was an improvement of £E846,673 in the former and of £E899,570 in the latter. The nine months total gives a net decrease of £E5,550,098 in imports (from £E18,782,432 to £E13,232,334) and of £E549,446 in exports (from £E16,871,509 to £E17,420,955).

As mentioned last month, however, the comparison with any of the months since the war, while it, of course, shows whether any recovery is being made, does not of itself convey an accurate idea of real trade position. For this purpose it is necessary to make a comparison with a normal year, say 1913. If, therefore, we take the figures at the end of September of that year we find, that whilst imports for 1915 have fallen off by £E6,493,364, exports have only dropped by £E790,232. The trade position of the country may under these circumstances be considered as very satisfactory.

During the month the principal imports were frozen and preserved meat £E41,650, of which £E30,372 came from Australia, cereals £E114,500, coffee £E28,358, petroleum £E25,751, and mineral oil £E15,132—of these two the United States sent £E32,029—coal £E256,392; a further increase in quantity—natural indigo £E10,026—all from India—textiles £E630,293, and worked iron and steel £E66,666.

Suspicious Imports.

It is interesting to note that Denmark and Holland appear among the exporters to Egypt of beer, and that Norway and Holland similarly figure for packing-paper and cardboard. The amounts in question are, it is true, not large, but the facts are significant. In 1914, Denmark and Holland did, for all practical purposes, no trade in beer with this country, whilst the share of Norway and Holland of the total imports of packing-paper and cardboard was under 10 per cent. On the other hand, Germany and Austria supplied between them 50 per cent. and 38 per cent., respectively, of these categories, and under the circumstances one is, I think, justified in wondering whether the Austro-German industry is not finding an indirect outlet for these—and perhaps other commodities—through the countries in question.

The chief exports during the month were eggs £E4,142, livestock £E20,961, skins and tanned goods £E31,869, cereals £E182,639, cotton seed £E99,563, sugar £E23,140, cotton £E766,556, wool £E17,653, gold and silver goods £E44,781, and cigarettes £E25,389.

Cotton exports for the nine months have fallen by £E2,860,442, by comparison with those of the corresponding period in 1913, although the quantity is some 700,000 cantars more. This is due to the comparatively low prices ruling during the early part of the year, but thanks to the country's productivity the net decrease in exports is as already mentioned, only £E790,232. The following gives an idea of the impetus that has been given to the country's export trade. Compared with the corresponding period of 1913, eggs have increased by £E172,930, skins by £E56,825, cereals by £E948,557, sugar by £E408,871, wool by £E98,807, and gold and silver articles by £E510,410 at the end of September this year. If, moreover, we take note of the fact that during the same period the imports of cereals, and that category diminished by £E1,896,216 (from £E3,015,828 in 1913), we cannot help coming to the conclusion that the economic condition of the people has undergone an enormous improvement.

Of the total imports of £E1,782,948, the British Empire sent £E1,059,028 or 59 per cent., of which £E856,750 came from England; Italy was the next largest exporter with £E174,911. Of the exports, the United Kingdom took £E613,876 or 48 per cent. (£E380,542 cotton, £E98,030 cottonseed, the whole of the wool export, and £E55,748 cereals), Italy and France were both large buyers of cereals, the former for £E83,228, and the latter for £E36,495, whilst Russia purchased but one item—cotton for £E78,329.

During September the trade turnover between Egypt and the Sudan amounted to £E133,338. The imports into the Sudan from Egypt—£E95,185—included cereals £E9,027, sugar £E21,028, cotton tissues £E24,954, and tobacco £E7,429. On the other hand, the imports thence into Egypt, which came to £E38,153, included cattle £E17,704, cereals £E5,622, and cotton £E1,975.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

It is officially announced by the Postmaster-General that the parcel post to Serbia is suspended.

Mr. W. Gordon Campbell, of the Standard Oil Company of New York, is in Athens, where his firm have established large main offices for the Levant at Pluton and Kapnikarea Streets, No. 1.

The directors of the National Debt announce that the payment of the coupons of redeemed Bulgarian loans will be made only in Sofia, Berlin, Hamburg, Vienna, and Budapest. Payment in all other places is postponed, says a Reuter message from Amsterdam.

Cotton exports from Egypt to Russia have usually been shipped from Alexandria to Odessa, but owing to the war zone changes have had to be introduced. Thus recently a shipment of 4,000 bales of cotton left Alexandria, via the Suez Canal for Vladivostock, whence it will be carried.

According to a telegram to the *Echo de Paris* from Salonika, the Greek Budget for 1915 will show a deficit of £14,300,000.

According to the returns issued by the Roumanian State Railway authorities, which deal with the financial year 1913-14, the number of locomotives fitted with oil-burning apparatus up to the end of March last year was 751, out of a total of 873 locomotives. The quantity of residue (oil fuel) consumed during the year under review amounted to approximately 108,000 tons, says *Petroleum World*.

COMMERCE IN TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, November 5.

The announcement that the Turkish authorities are laying their hands on all the cotton in the Adana district is indicative of the expectation that direct communication between Germany and Constantinople will soon be established. In fact, the Turkish papers are commenting on the political and commercial importance of this through communication between Turkey and the Central Powers, and point out the advantage to Germany in being able to avail herself of the resources of Asia Minor such as copper, cotton, grain, etc., and the benefit which will likewise accrue to Turkey in her ability to import Austrian and German products including munitions of war.

Crop Exports.

The grain crops of Asia Minor are, however, only barely sufficient to meet Turkey's own requirements, and she is not likely to be able to spare any grain for export. The crops were reported good, but the actual yield has been much diminished owing to the primitive harvesting methods and the want of labour.

The exportation of sheepswool is prohibited, and all is bought up, or, more correctly speaking, requisitioned by the Government. An exception has been made in the case of a brother-in-law of Enver and the Bulgarian contractor Tufenkdjieff, who have obtained permits to export a small quantity to Germany, for which 16 piastres per kilo has been paid.

There is very little mohair on the market, barely 1,500 bales, and very small quantities come down from the interior by means of the parcels post. Good qualities have been sold at 21-22 piastres per oke.

Sheepskins are also not allowed to be exported, and prices are therefore nominal, but an Austrian officer is said to have been allowed to export 300,000 pieces.

Small lots of canaryseed come in to Rodosto from the producing districts, and find local buyers at 53-55 paras per oke.

Hazelnuts can be bought at the low price of 3 piastres per oke.

There is not much doing in opium just now, and the price remains at about 190 piastres per oke.

Dried Fruit.

Dried Fruit from the Smyrna district is finding its way in small quantities to Constantinople, and in the event of transport being available the fruit crops would doubtless be bought up by Germany and Austria when the expected communications are opened up. At present the railways are paralysed through want of coal, and have been burning mostly wood and lignite, and, as coal in large quantities is not likely to come from Germany, it is clearly of the utmost importance that coal supplies from Zoungouldak should now, more than ever, be prevented from entering the Bosphorus.

The sealing of private safes belonging to enemy foreigners in the banks appears to be a preventive measure more of the nature of an embargo than a seizure or confiscation. The banks have been told not to deliver to the subjects of Turkey's enemies any securities held by them, or to allow them to withdraw their deposits.

The special correspondent of the *Echo de Paris* at Athens says:—"The Greek Government has just bought 9,000 cases of petrol from an American company, to be delivered at the Piræus and Patras.

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COMPANY NOTES.

Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

The report of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, for the year ended August 31 states that the gross profits, after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, are £188,930, and, deducting the expenses, amounting to £86,631, there remains £102,299 net profit. To this must be added £77,000, the balance carried forward on August 31, 1914, making £179,299, which the directors propose should be dealt with in the following manner :—Contribution to staff provident fund, £2,555; interim dividend at 10 per cent. per annum paid, less income-tax, June 1, £25,000; dividend at 20 per cent. per annum, to be paid, less income-tax, on December 1, £50,000; amount written off investments, £26,744; bonus to staff, £5,000; provision for war contingencies, £20,000; balance carried forward, £50,000. Meeting, 23rd inst., at 3 p.m., 27, Clement's Lane, E.C.

Credit Franco-Egyptien.

The Credit Franco-Egyptien has reduced its capital from 12,500,000 frs. to 9,000,000 frs. For the amortisation of doubtful debts a sum of 5,459,448 frs. has been set aside from the profits and the capital. The net profits on the past year's working are 164,677 frs. No dividend was declared.

Societe Generale de Pressage et de Depots.

The annual general meeting of this company was held at Alexandria on October 27. The following are extracts from the report :—536,850 bales weighing 4,066,073.97 cantars were pressed, against 549,182 bales of 4,159,374.92 cantars last year. The amount cleaned was 1,222,528.14 cantars, as against 720,346.89 cantars. Profits amount to £E26,935.138, to which must be added the balance in hand from last year's account, namely, £E13,069.092. An allowance of P.T. 80 per 1,000 cantars pressed is made to the pressers, and a dividend of 7 per cent. per share is paid, leaving a balance of £E13,069.092 to be carried forward. An interim dividend of 3 per cent. was paid last March, making the total dividend for the year 10 per cent.

Oriental Gas.

The report of the Oriental Gas Company, Limited, states that while, on the one hand, the revenue account shows a gas rental lower by about 7¾ per cent. and a reduction of 18 per cent. in the yield of residual products, owing to very severe market depression, large savings have, on the other hand, been effected under the chief heads of expenditure and the item of bad debts and allowances is, in spite of war conditions, affecting all classes of consumers, lower by £614 than the corresponding figures for the preceding year. In result, the reduction in revenue has been more than counterbalanced by £75. The operations in the nature of extensions and additions properly assignable to capital expenditure have not been upon a considerable scale. So much had been done in the previous year to anticipate requirements of that nature that the comparatively light sum of £3,200 covers all the outlay which has fallen to the charge of the year under review. The whole of this outlay has been defrayed out of the revenue of the year, without recourse being had to the reserve fund. The rate of exchange has been adverse—a minor result of war conditions. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend at the usual rate of 4½ per cent., less income tax, on the 25th inst., making a total dividend of 8 per cent. for the year.

Malta and Mediterranean Gas.

The directors of the Malta and Mediterranean Gas Company, Limited, announce an interim dividend at the rate of 4 per cent per annum, free of income-tax, on the ordinary shares for the half-year, payable December 14.

Salonika, says the *Financier*, has long been an important base for the German as well as for the Austrian flag. In 1913 Greek shipping took the premier place with 879 vessels, aggregating 297,798 tons; Austria came next with 120 ships, totalling 247,638 tons; followed by France with 134,917 tons, Great Britain with 88,698 tons, and Germany with 87,908 tons. The incoming and outgoing tonnage in 1913 was 1,237,440, compared with 839,195 tons in the previous year.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN.—Production of crude oil for week ended 30th ult., 201 tons.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended October 20 amounted to £E5,727, as against £E4,703 for the corresponding period of last year.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 30 Septembre, 1915, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

		£E.
Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien		1,060,364
Titres divers		387,345
Comptes-Courants		384,150
Avances sur Marchandises		1,052,777
Avances sur Titres Locaux et Etrangers		1,628,211
Avances sur d'autres garanties		1,385,957
Effets sur l'Etranger		1,100,594
Effets sur l'Egypte		322,949
Immeubles et mobilier		246,500
Placements à courte échéance		1,179,750
Comptes Banquiers		774,255
Gouvernement du Soudan		466,790
Encaisse:		
Especes:		
Or	£E.105,132	
Argent et nickel	£E.236,391	
	£E.341,523	1,379,691
Billets de Banque	£E.1,038,168	
Divers		255,462
		£E.11,608,839

	£E.
Capital	2,925,000
Réserve:—	
Statutaire	1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	4,630,525
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,312,349
Ministère des Finances	347,306
Ministère Compte spécial	9,094
Comptes Banquiers	433,511
Chèques et effets à payer	294,825
Divers	448,729
	£E.11,608,839

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Espèces	£E.5,267,706
Titres	3,732,294
	£E.9,000,000
Billets émis	£E.9,000,000
	£E.9,000,000

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

BALANCE-SHEET, OCTOBER 3/16, 1915.

ASSETS.

Metallic reserve: Gold (specie)	175,963,709		
On deposit	25,220,000		
Gold (bars)	260,000		
Foreign bills payable in gold	80,980,132		282,423,841
Silver and other coins			398,362
Roumanian and foreign bills			207,604,194
Advances against Government securities		26,977,500	50,954,600
On current account	48,653,100		
Unused balance	24,676,000	23,977,100	
Loan of 15 millions to the State			11,273,958
Loan to Government on 3 per cent. Treasury Bonds (1914-15)			269,008,499
Bank's capital invested in Government stock			10,697,576
Reserve invested in Government stock			16,373,177
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery			3,915,681
Premises			6,752,033
Furniture and printing machinery			1,109,853
General expenses			1,026,829
Government and other securities deposited			138,630,291
Three per Cent. Gold Treasury Bonds as security for loan to State			300,000,000
Securities held against advances or temporarily lodged			173,813,427
Current accounts			15,566,924
Security accounts			21,883,203
Sundry accounts			49,020,097
Total Lei			1,560,452,645

LIABILITIES.

Capital	12,000,000
Reserve	39,877,686
Reserve, depreciation of buildings, furniture and printing machinery	5,959,940
Notes in circulation	743,278,700
Profit and loss account	4,902,667
Interest and various earnings	4,378,305
Current accounts and drafts at sight	64,681,074
Securities, etc., held on account of customers	612,443,718
Sundry accounts	72,930,555
Total Lei	1,560,452,645

Bank Rate, 6 per cent.

German synthetic indigo has been used in considerable quantities in Egypt (says H.M. Vice-Consul at Alexandria) and might be replaced by Indian indigo.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	85xd
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	78½
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½ %)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	53
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	52
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	40
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	52
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	60
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	89
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, &c., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	81xd
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73xd
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½ % C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord	17½	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	—	11/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	90
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	½	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2½	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	½	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	6
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	8	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1½	—	1
" " Founders	½	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 % Cum. Pref.	9⅞	—	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	85
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	½
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	21/6
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1⅛	—	15/-
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	9/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	—	2½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	88
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Nov. 17.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	5/-	6/-
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	18
European Oilfields	4/9	3/3
Roumanian	20/-	12/9

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Nov. 16.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	460
Canal de Suez	4050	3979
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	545
Turkish Unified 4%	59.95	—
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	89
Serbian, 1895	—	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 238.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

With a lull on the Western front, and again on the Eastern front, save where the Russians are pressing back the enemy from dangerous points, the centre of gravity of the war has for the moment been shifted to the Near East. A variety of causes may help to keep it there for months to come. Early in the war the advantages of an advance through Hungarian territory up the Theiss Valley and the Danube were pointed out in these columns. The enterprise would at that time have had to be left exclusively to the Balkan States, whose co-operation the Allies could have had, if they had desired it. The opportunity passed, because the value of the military support of the Balkans was not appreciated, and because they were looked upon as merely cantankerous people with exalted ideas of their own importance. Now, sixteen months after the outbreak of war, the Austro-German combination has seen fit to strike at the Entente Powers from the very point which the latter ought to have threatened. The enemy's flank is protected by Bulgaria and Turkey, while Roumania has been isolated. The Allies have no alternative to accepting the enemy's challenge, but they start with all the disadvantages of a single port of entry and a railway line of limited capacity.

The Allies have established the principle that they can break through in the West when they will. But the effort has proved to be costly, and—*pace* the frontal-attack school, which affects to believe that if a sufficient number of heads are run against a brick wall, it must give way—there would seem to be little justification for making the sacrifices entailed, so long as a third line of advance remains open and untried. In hammering away in France and Flanders the Entente Powers have failed to mobilise their sea power to the fullest extent. While Germany's railway system gives her undoubted advantages in rapidity of movement, the Allies' command of the sea enables them to concentrate their strength, within certain limitations, at any point on the seaboard of Europe. Germany's thrust towards the Ægean has drawn attention to a factor which the Allies had almost allowed themselves to lose sight of. Even Italy has hitherto set her face against an expedition oversea, and has been content, while making wonderful progress against unprecedented difficulties, to exercise the minimum effect on the course of the war, viewed as a whole, in return for a maximum effort. Before a co-ordinated advance of the Italians from the Adriatic, the British and French from the Ægean, and the Russians, with or without the Roumanians, from the Black Sea, there would be no trench warfare to interpose almost interminable delays. Nowhere could the Allies' superiority in numbers be used to greater effect than in recovering Serbian territory and then following the movement to its logical conclusion.

The actual accomplishment of the plan will naturally present more difficulties than the mere recital of it. We have already indicated one in the inadequacy of the Salonika railway system. There remains the political consideration involved in the attitude of Greece and Roumania. Even if the Greek problem does not solve itself in the course of the next few days, any hesitation on the part of the Hellenic Government when only a few thousand Allied troops had landed at Salonika to cope with enemy forces of half a million or more will disappear behind a screen of a million men stretching from the Adriatic to the Black Sea. As for Roumania, there is some reason to suppose that she does not want to wait for half that number before taking her place on the side of the Quadruple Entente. When once the enemy's thrust has been contained—and we shall hope to hear that this stage has shortly been reached—the work of co-ordinating the movements of the three expeditions could be begun.

The prospect of a winter campaign in the Balkans is not attractive, but the actual experience can be shorn of most of its terrors if adequate preparation be made beforehand. Climatic conditions will resemble those experienced during the winter in Russia, and the clothing of the troops will have to be modified accordingly. Caps with ear-lappets must be warmer than any worn at present; gloves must give place to lined gauntlets; overcoats cannot be too thick or too warm. Anyone with experience of a winter in Macedonia, where there will be no coal to be found, and the country has been denuded of forests, will be able to suggest a variety of elementary precautions which will make all the difference to the efficiency of any troops operating in it.

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The negotiations between the Allies and Greece are dealt with elsewhere in this issue. Here we need only recapitulate the sequence of events. Nothing seems to have marred the popularity of M. Cochin's visit to Athens. He had his audience of King Constantine, and on his subsequent return to the capital, after a visit to Salonika, he is reported to have lunched *en famille* at the Palace. But his mission so far failed in its object as to necessitate the issue of a *communiqué* from the British Legation at Athens announcing the imposition of disabilities on Greek commerce and shipping. The very next day, on November 20, Lord Kitchener arrived in Athens. His visit was limited to one day; but he had an audience of the King and met the Prime Minister, M. Skouloudis. Even after his departure Greek merchandise continued to be subjected to search at sea, but as the result of a favourable reply to the Allies' demand these measures are understood to have been considerably relaxed. All information emanating from Athens is optimistic, and adumbrates an early return to normal relations between Greece and the Allied Powers. If it be correct that the latter's demands are limited to a clear undertaking on Greece's part that she will not seek to interfere with the Allied troops on their way to or from Serbia, little wonder that the Greek Government itself should be surprised to find how little the Allies require of Greece.

M. Venizelos and his party have resolved to withdraw from the Greek Chamber and not to contest the forthcoming elections. The decision is not one that will meet with ready approval among those outside the country who are friendly to Greece and admirers of M. Venizelos. In an interesting letter to *The Times* Mr. Swift MacNeill recalls precedents in British history which tend to show that such withdrawals have proved to be a mistaken policy, and he argues that the doctrine will be confirmed in the case of M. Venizelos. Time alone will show. Present conditions in Greece have several points of difference from those that obtained in the days of Fox and Grattan. On the other hand, the elections are being forced upon the country by the political opponents of M. Venizelos in the belief that they will eliminate his influence altogether from Greek politics. He runs the risk of playing into their hands; but, as he stands without a rival in Greece, he may feel confident that his opponents will be unable to profit by his temporary eclipse, and that ultimately the justification of his policy by the course of events will bring him back to power.

A delay, which it is hoped will prove a definite check, has occurred in the enemy's sweeping movement across Serbia. At a moment when it seemed as if Monastir must fall into the Bulgarians' hands, their advance stopped, and their line has remained based on Prilep. The first suggestion that consideration for Greece's susceptibilities has made the enemy chary of entering a town which would belong to Greece, if it were not Serbian, may be ruled out of court in view of the tenour of recent German representations to the Greek Government. It was not to be supposed that Germany would remain passive in the face of the Allies' diplomatic activity at Athens. Her first efforts will have been directed towards the internment of the Serbian and Allied armies, if they should be driven back on to Greek territory. Having been worsted on this point, the German and Bulgarian armies are more likely to be preparing to invade Greece than to spare a town which the Greeks hanker after in Serbia A more probable explanation of the Bulgarian halt at Prilep would be that their advance at this point had pushed ahead of the rest of the enemy line, and would need to be arrested to give the other forces time to make good on their own fronts. Possibly, however, the steady increase in the number of Allied troops landing at Salonika is introducing in the situation in the Balkans a new factor enjoining caution on the invaders of Serbia. The Serbian northern army continues to fall back, while making the Austro-German advance difficult and costly. But Mitrovitza and Prishtina have now fallen, and the Serbian Government has withdrawn to Skutari in Albania. The road to Monastir would seem to be still open for the Serbian forces, but it must offer an exceedingly precarious route for a retreating army.

The absence of news of the Mesopotamian Expedition suggested that the force was finding the last few stages to Baghdad more arduous than some of the earlier stages. It was impossible for the expedition to leave the course of the river, and at this season of the year the current is likely to prove a serious obstacle to heavily laden steamers of a miscellaneous description. Now comes the news of a severe engagement at Ctesiphon, eighteen miles from Baghdad, on November 22. After fighting lasting all day the Turkish position was captured, together with 800 prisoners, but at a loss to the expedition estimated at 2,000 killed and wounded. On the night of the following day the enemy delivered heavy counter-attacks, which were successfully repulsed; but on November 24 want of water necessitated the retirement of our force to the river, three or four miles below the captured position. A withdrawal even for a few miles is unfortunate in such circumstances; but the confidence felt in General Nixon will enable the public to possess its soul in patience until news that the finishing touch has been put to the expedition has been received.

At the beginning of the week it seemed as if the situation in Persia had taken a definite turn for the better. The Shah and his Government had not only abandoned their intention to leave Teheran as the result of German intrigues, but had frankly accepted all the assurances given them by Russia and Great Britain. A telegraphic notification was sent to all the provinces announcing this decision and the restoration of sincerely friendly relations with Russia, while an appeal to the people confirmed the Shah's resolution to develop the old bonds of friendship uniting Russia and Persia. The *rapprochement*, moreover, evidently had the support of national sentiment. The Germans had become discredited and had evacuated Teheran.

Following hard upon this satisfactory picture comes the explanation of the unconfirmed report that the British Consul and the manager of the Imperial Bank of Persia at Shiraz had been arrested. The gendarmerie, under its Swedish officers, had risen in revolt against the Teheran Government. They arrested the members of the British colony at Shiraz on November 10. The male prisoners had been interned at Borasjun; the women had been sent under escort to Bushire. A night attack was made on Hamadan, but the Persian Cossacks in that town were able to drive off the gendarmes. As Shiraz and Hamadan are nearly five hundred miles apart, the revolt of the gendarmerie has evidently been carefully organized. The complicity of the Swedish officers, if it should be confirmed, introduces a particularly unfortunate feature, and would call for action on the part of the Swedish Government. A later message suggests that in the case of Hamadan the action of the gendarmerie was brought about by deliberately misleading information from Teheran. In September it was reported that as the wages of the gendarmerie had not been paid for several months, the head of the force, after three warnings, had proceeded to disband the force. Officers and men would seem to have fallen easy victims to German intrigues, and the money which German agents have been represented to be carrying about with them will have been expended to good purpose. It is typical of the failure of the British and Russian Governments to keep in touch with the course of events in Persia, that they should have made no attempt to secure payment for the gendarmerie, and should have given an organized force of this description the opportunity of allying itself to German emissaries and the swashbuckling Consuls whose activities in the country have been known to the world for many months.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 9.

Abdin Palace Improvements.

To-day is the Moslem New Year's Day. No reception has, of course, been held at the Palace, but a register has been opened for the signatures of all who wish to pay their respects to H.H. the Sultan. The precincts of the Palace had quite a busy aspect throughout the morning. Those proceeding to sign in the book, whilst they could not help reflecting upon the fact that the previous New Year had been the last occasion on which they had performed the same formality in honour of Abbas Hilmi Pasha—although at the time his deposition had been decided upon—had an opportunity, as they drove across the Square, of admiring the improvements which his successor has caused to be executed. Hitherto Abdin Palace has never given the impression of being the official residence of the ruler of the country. The building itself was imposing enough, but its approach was, to say the least, undignified. The main doors, *i.e.*, those through which the sovereign, his family, notable visitors, and high officials passed, gave in to a quadrangle, which formed part and parcel of the public square. As a result the crowds of ragamuffins who disported themselves all day in that square—for the most part careering about on bicycles with galabeas flying in the wind, and shouting at the top of their voices—invariably strayed on to what were in reality palace grounds, and turned them into a public playground. Advantage has been taken of the Sultan's long absence to change all this. The quadrangle has been separated from the public square by means of an imposing set of high railings with large gates, and a neat guard-house has been erected at the north end on the ugly vacant space that existed there before. The alteration is a credit to the good taste of the Sultan, who conceived it, and of the Public Works officials who have carried it out. Abdin Palace has now acquired a dignified appearance that brings it more into line with similar edifices in other capitals. It only remains for the somewhat squalid set of houses that fills the south-west corner of the Palace Square to be replaced by a building more in keeping with the rest for the situation of the official residence of the Sultan of Egypt to leave nothing to be desired.

The Ex-Khedive and His Coterie.

Reference to the ex-Khedive reminds me that *Al Mokattam* has just published some interesting and amusing news that has reached it concerning that personage and some of the Turco-Egyptians who accompanied, or followed, him into exile. According to that well-informed vernacular organ, Abbas Hilmi Pasha, who, despite his deposition a year ago, has clung to the title of Khedive, has tendered his resignation of that position to Sultan Mohammed V.; Moheb Pasha, the ex-Minister of Wakfs, who, albeit he owed his rapid promotion purely to the British, had prior to the outbreak of war with Turkey defected to the ex-Khedive and had been ordered to leave Egypt, is reported to be detained on suspicion at Vienna; and Yussuf Saddik Pasha, one-time unsuccessful broker in Cairo and latterly the ex-Khedive's trusted agent in all his intrigues and business deals, is now leading a gay and extravagant life in Switzerland. With regard to Abbas Hilmi Pasha, the story was that the Kaiser commissioned him to assist in preventing Italy from breaking her neutrality, and that he was so annoyed at the failure of his "protégé" that he refused to receive him when he recently visited Berlin. The ex-Khedive, piqued at this treatment, with characteristic impetuosity, sent his resignation to Stamboul. Moheb Pasha, it appears, had of late been endeavouring to get back into the good graces of England, and had begged Sir Rennell Rodd to intervene for him. Meanwhile came a summons from Vienna. Moheb, unsuspecting and still trying "to run with the hare and hold with the hound," made a bee line for the Austrian capital, where his attempted intercourse with the British Ambassador at Rome had evidently aroused suspicion, for, finding that there was nothing doing there for him, he endeavoured to leave, but was ordered to remain under supervision.

The misfortunes that have befallen Abbas Hilmi Pasha and Moheb Pasha are entirely due to their lack of all sense of proportion and their perverted characters, and there can be few who are surprised at their present position or pity them in the disappointment that must now be theirs. At the same time a certain amount of amused satisfaction is felt that while those two personages should have cast themselves so completely into the toils of the Turco-Germans, at least one member of the Khedivial coterie should have got the better of that band of arch-schemers, for Yussuf Saddik Pasha is disporting himself in Switzerland with the gold entrusted to him by the German Foreign Office for the carrying on of anti-Entente intrigues in Italy prior to the latter's intervention in the war!

The Khedivial Wakfs Scandal.

Last Tuesday saw the conclusion of the second case in connection with what is known as the "Khedivial Wakfs Scandal," which was proceeding when I despatched my last letter. The feature of the trial was the brilliant exposition by the Substitut of the Parquet of the accusations levelled at Hussein Pasha Moharrem, Ahmed Bey Saddik, and Osman Bey Moharrem, and the eloquent pleading of the lawyers for the defence. Moharrem Pasha's counsel tried to establish the omnipotence of the ex-Khedive in Wakfs and trustee matters, and the complete subservience to his will of the curators and staff, and Helbawi Bey, in the course of his pleading, created much amusement by stating that "the ex-Khedive was a man who liked thorough methods. For philosophy he employed philosophers, for agriculture he employed agriculturists, . . . and for signing documents he employed fools, amongst which latter category his client (Moharrem Pasha) stood!" The evidence, whilst it did not reveal very much more than what we already knew, certainly tended to confirm the notorious unscrupulousness of the methods adopted by the ex-Khedive and the extreme venality of the persons with whom he surrounded himself. Judgment in this case will be delivered on the 18th inst., at the same time as the verdict in the action recently brought against Ahmed Khairy Pasha, which should have been published yesterday, but has been postponed for ten days.*

Unfortunate Egyptian Institutions.

The affairs of the Egyptian University and of the Orwa-el-Woska Society, the well-known Moslem charitable and educational institution, are exciting public interest. Space prevents my going into any details to-day, but with regard to the society, I may say that the Commission of Inquiry that was appointed has sub-

* A Reuter's telegram received from Cairo last Saturday announced that Saddik Bey has been sentenced by default to eighteen months' imprisonment for misappropriation of the funds of the estate. Prince Seif-ed-Din Bey, who is in a lunatic asylum in England, and Hussein Pasha Moharrem, have been sentenced to ten months' imprisonment on the same charge. Prince Seif-ed-Din, who was formerly Under-Secretary for War, benefits by the law of respite. Evidence showed that both were tools of the Khedive, who benefited by the spoliation. Khairy Pasha has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment, with respite, for misappropriation of the funds of the Khedival wakfs when he was director-general of that department.

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mitted its report, which, it is understood, imputes negligence to the managing committee. It is possible that a public inquiry may now be ordered.

Echo of the Law School Strike.

The seventeen students of the Sultania Law School who were expelled some time back under circumstances recorded in this correspondence at the time, and who were interned in the course of the political inquiry into the bomb outrage on H.H. the Sultan, were yesterday brought before the Prime Minister, who had simultaneously summoned their parents before him. Rushdi Pasha informed the students that, although their conduct had been most blameworthy, the Government had decided, on the occasion of the New Year, to forgive them and set them free. They would be allowed to accompany their parents to their villages, which they must not quit under any circumstances without official leave. As regards their readmission to the Law School, that is a question which has not yet been considered by the Government, and which may not be entertained for some time to come.

"Our Day" in Egypt.

Just as I close my letter for the mail I receive the advance figures of the collections made throughout Egypt for "Our Day," which was held on October 30 last. The total amounts to £E107,110—equals £109,857—made up as follows:—

	£E.
Governorate, Alexandria	16,609
,, Cairo	12,000
Province of Menufia	14,494
,, Sharkia	8,766
,, Assiut	8,167
,, Gharbia	7,890
,, Dakahlia	7,003
,, Minia	6,147
,, Behera	5,164
,, Fayoum	4,636
,, Giza	3,624
,, Kaliubia	3,355
,, Beni Suef	3,033
,, Girga	2,860
,, Kena	2,195
,, Assouan	477
Governorate, Suez	288
,, Damietta	201
,, Port Said	201

It is to be noted that the Cairo figures include a sum of £E3,500, which is the total of the special fund opened by H.E. Ali Zulfikar Pasha, Governor of Cairo. Small items are still coming in, and minor adjustments will have to be made before the account is finally closed; but we can say to-day that Egypt's contribution is round about £110,000, which is quite satisfactory, seeing that it is officially confirmed that no pressure whatever has been exercised upon the Egyptians to contribute. The High Commissioner, in a note circulated to the Press, expresses his great satisfaction at the generous manner in which the Egyptian population has responded to the call for funds in aid of the Red Cross Society.

THE SITUATION IN THE SUDAN.

(From a Correspondent.)

Public attention, absorbed by the critical situation in the Near East as well as in the eastern and western theatres of the war, has been but little directed to that portion of the Empire in Central Africa where, but for the continual watchfulness of the Administration, serious and far-reaching trouble might have arisen. Immediately before, and for some little time after, the outbreak of hostilities on the Continent, Khartoum, Omdurman, Suakin, and Port Sudan became so many centres of enemy activity against constituted authority. In the capital one of the most prominent citizens, of alien birth and long residence, was found to be in active correspondence with German and Austrian agents; he was promptly expelled, but there were those who declared that, rightly, he should have been shot, in compliance with the conditions of the Governor-General's Proclamation.

Failure of Enemy Plots.

The aim of the plotters had been to stir up revolt among the Mohammedan population; but every effort has proved abortive. Nevertheless, the difficulties created have been real, even if but little understood generally. To administer a country comprising about one million square miles of territory, remote and with few means of communication, is no simple problem.

When Vespasian inquired of Apollonius what was the cause of Nero's overthrow, the reply was, "Nero could touch and tune the harp well; but in government sometimes he used to wind the pins too high, sometimes too low." That has been a danger which successive administrators of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan—Kitchener, Cromer, and Wingate—have always carefully avoided; the policy of preserving an equitable authority over all classes, creeds, and conditions alike, has proved one of the most valuable factors in the government of the country since the British occupation in 1898. The result is to be seen in the complete calm and tranquillity of the people to-day, notwithstanding the persistent efforts of paid incendiaries to create discord and disturbance among them.

The authorities, however, have been, and are, in no way thrown off their guard by this outward appearance of tranquillity. It is known that the enemy are contemplating a *coup de main* in Central Africa in case of the failure of their peace proposals—a failure already assured. It is said that the enemy are calculating upon our traditional slowness in moving, but so far at least as the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan is in question they will find that the preventive measures adopted have been in no way remiss.

Tribal Raiders.

Unfortunately, the Government is not altogether free from anxiety in another direction—that of internecine trouble among the various native tribes. The zone of danger lies between the River Atbara, where it enters the Ambara district, and the valleys where the Blue Nile and other southern rivers cross the Abyssinian border. The natives of these districts, a mixture of negro and Arab ruffianism, prove difficult to handle, for they own fealty to no recognised form of government. For years hillmen have swooped down upon the defenceless denizens of the valleys, looting and killing as they pleased, and with comparative immunity. Until the Abyssinian Government joins hands with the Sudan to wipe out completely these pestilential brigands—and this means a heavy annual outlay for both administrations—further raids, followed by usually ineffective punitive expeditions, will continue.

The Abyssinian tribesmen come down principally in search of slaves, for considerable traffic in black ivory is carried on beyond the Sudan border. Whole districts, indeed, have been swept clear of human dwellers, and as the supply of victims grows smaller the raids of the tribesmen become more widely extended, so that the actual frontier is no longer the only territory exposed to danger. The situation is undoubtedly becoming more serious, occasioning keen anxiety to the Administration, which, owing to the lack of loyal co-operation on the part of Abyssinia, finds itself practically paralysed.

The French Colonial Government might materially assist in minimising the trouble by putting a stop to the continual traffic in arms and ammunition which, to a large extent, is conducted into Abyssinia through the port of Jibuti, French Somaliland, and 190 miles distant from Harrar, with which it is connected by railway.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, November 3.

The Change of Cabinet.

Greece has not yet seen the last of its political crisis. The Zaimis Cabinet could not in the nature of things long survive, since it depended entirely upon the Opposition when it might be outvoted. And thus it came about that, after a discussion of no importance at all, the vote of confidence was put to the Chamber. The Zaimis Cabinet, one suspects, had had enough of the equivocal situation and wished to put an end to it. As to the country's foreign policy, all the eloquence of former premiers was of no avail. Greece remains neutral. Successive Cabinets can only follow blindly the course of action that appears to have been mapped out for them.

Failing to secure a vote of confidence, the Zaimis Cabinet could do nothing but tender its resignation to the Sovereign, who, in turn, could do nothing but accept it; and thus the first step in the new crisis was taken, and Greece found herself confronted by a serious dilemma. Either she had to conform to the constitutional laws and leave the power in the hands of the leader of the Parliamentary majority, or, ignoring the Constitution, she had to invest the King with absolute power. There seemed to be no way out of the impasse. The general opinion was that the Chamber would be dissolved and that new elections would take place, which would bring about a general demobilization. However, in spite of the misgivings of certain journals, the Chamber has not been dissolved, and the general demobilization has not taken place. But, the difference of opinion between M. Venizelos and King Constantine not having been surmounted, the former has not been recalled to power. The Cretan statesman's policy could not now be followed by the Crown, or even accepted. Therefore, another man was needed to save the situation. Latest advices from the capital are to the effect that the King has called on M. Skouloudis to form a Government. M. Skouloudis is of Cretan extraction, but is said to be opposed to the views of M. Venizelos. The newly formed Cabinet has taken the oath to-day; and the announcement of its policy is awaited with much impatience.

The Fighting in Serbia.

The fighting in Serbia is still of a fierce description. After occupying Kragujevatz the Austro-German armies had, so to say, an open road to Nish, and all their efforts have been concentrated on capturing the latter town. The plan of the Serbian Staff, working in accord with the Allies, was to keep the Serbian army intact, ready for further service at a propitious moment; and in accordance with this plan the Serbian forces are retreating slowly, methodically, and in accordance with well-made preparations. According to Austro-German communications received here, no Serbians have been taken prisoners.

French officers had prepared Nish for a lengthy defence and a stout resistance, and large quantities of stores and munitions had been collected in the town in anticipation of a prolonged siege.

On almost all the fronts fierce fighting has gone on between the Serbians and the Austro-Germans, but in spite of the former's heroic defence the enemy has gained possession of certain commanding and fortified positions. The Bulgarians, also, guided by old *komitajis* well acquainted with the terrain, have pushed on in Serbian territory. This week a rumour has gained currency that the Babuna Pass, which is of great strategic importance, has fallen into the hands of the Bulgarians; but as no official confirmation has been received, this report is probably untrue.

In the frontier region of Valandovo desperate fighting has taken place between the French and the Bulgarians, as a result of which the Bulgarians, in spite of a stout resistance, have had to fall back, abandoning certain frontier villages to the French. A French *communiqué* reports that the Bulgarian losses must have been enormous in view of the terrible havoc that the French artillery caused amongst them.

News has been received by the Serbian Consulate here of sanguinary fighting between the Franco-Serbian forces and the Bulgarians between Perlepe and Kavadar, an extremely difficult and mountainous region. The French have occupied the region of Isvor and have been wonderfully successful.

Reinforcements for the Allies.

Anglo-French troops for Serbia still continue to disembark here, the port is constantly full of waiting transports, and French and British soldiers throng the town. Besides men, the transports continue to unload vast quantities of stores and munitions of war of all descriptions. The aerodrome established here by the French has been the scene of several flights, which have been wonedrfully successful.

French and British regiments are leaving daily for Serbia, where they are reported to be acquitting themselves admirably.

DARDANELLES POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

In course of a statement regarding the postal arrangements in connection with the Dardanelles, Mr. Pike Pease, the Assistant Postmaster-General, says:—

Under existing conditions all letters and parcels for the troops in the Dardanelles are despatched first of all to the base Army Post Office at Alexandria. The letters are forwarded with the civil mails for Egypt viâ Marseilles. The parcels are despatched by the long sea route. On arrival at Alexandria the whole mail, both letter and parcel, is carefully checked by the Army Post Office staff against the way-bills which accompany it, and it is then sub-divided and re-way-billed for transmission to the Dardanelles.

For the transmission from Alexandria onwards we are entirely dependent on the transport service. The transports do not run at any regular intervals, and the time the mail may wait in Alexandria before it can go further may in certain cases be quite considerable. This particularly applies to parcel mails, as whenever the accommodation in a transport is limited, preference must naturally be given to the more important letter mails.

The transports from Alexandria naturally, under present conditions, take some time to reach their destination. When they reach Mudros Bay, Lemnos, where the advanced postal base is situated, the mails are again taken over and exhaustively checked by the postal staff and transferred to the smaller fleet sweepers, which are regularly despatched from Lemnos to the various Beaches in Gallipoli. Here, again, owing to the difficulties of transfer in an open harbour and the fact that often two or three transports with several thousand mail bags arrive together, there is often a delay of two or three days. On reaching the beaches the mails are again transferred from the fleet sweepers to lighters, landed on the shore and carried up to the various Army Post Offices, where they are, after a further exhaustive check, handed over to the post orderlies of the various units, who in turn distribute the letters and parcels to the men.

With regard to the complaints of the loss of letters, and in a greater degree of parcels, Mr. Pike Pease mentions that Mr. Samuel recently sent out one of the chief officials of the Post Office to carry out investigations on the spot, and he claims that so long as the mails are in the custody of the Post Office loss is almost unknown. The system of check at every point at which they are handled is so complete that the loss of a single bag would be at once detected. There are, he says, two main causes for the undoubted failure of a large number of mails to reach the addresses, and the first of these is the inadequate packing of parcels. The second is the difficulty experienced in disposing of letters and parcels addressed to men who have been wounded and sent from their unit to hospital. These the post orderly returns to the Army Post Office, by whom they are sent back to the base at Alexandria.

In the base there is an extremely elaborate organisation for dealing with these parcels. Every hospital, about seventy in all, sends in each day to the Army Post Office a detailed list of admissions and discharges. From these the Post Office compiles a "Hospital List" for every unit in the Force; there are at present between 50,000 and 60,000 entries on the Hospital List, and a number of men are employed for their whole time on keeping the list up to date.

The letters and parcels received from the front are first of all sorted out according to units and each batch is then checked against the Hospital List for that unit. Every article for which an address can be found is then forwarded to the appropriate hospital; but the casualties have been so heavy that the work has been overwhelming, and in spite of the strenuous efforts of all concerned, it has at times not been possible to deal promptly with the great mass of postal matter received in the office.

One of the greatest difficulties of the service, viz., the very slow transmission of the mails, will shortly be remedied, as the French War Office have now kindly allowed us to make use for our letter mails of their transport services running direct from Marseilles to Mudros. This will enable us to reduce the course of post by about a week. We have also been able to concert arrangements with the Admiralty which will, it is hoped, enable us to make a similar reduction in the time of transmission of parcels.

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CYPRUS.

I.—Annexation and its Effects.

[The Near East *has been opposed to the cession of Cyprus to Greece; but on the outbreak of the war now being fought with the object,* inter alia, *of establishing the principle of nationality, we recognised that, in order to bring about a lasting settlement in the Balkans, which would necessitate territorial concessions on the part of the several States, Great Britain might be called upon to give a lead, by compensating Greece by the transfer of Cyprus under proper safeguards. These were not the principles which actuated the British Government when the offer of Cyprus was actually made to Greece. That offer, however, has lapsed, and the following article, written by our Cairo Correspondent before the offer was made, states the case against the cession of the island.*]

Cairo, October 15.

I have just returned from a brief visit to Cyprus, the island which, for the second time in history, has become a British possession, and as the first anniversary of its annexation to the British Empire is approaching, it may be of interest if I give a short account of its present political and economic situation, and add some of my impressions.

Despite its peculiar geographical position and the lively interest which at the bottom of their hearts all the elements of the population take in the momentous events occurring close to their shores, absolute tranquillity has reigned throughout the island since last November. From enquiries made in every direction, confirmed by my own observation, I gather that even in parts far removed from direct official influence the people, be they Turco or Greco, are absolutely loyal and obedient to their Government, and live quite at peace with one another.

As a matter of fact, annexation has materially improved the internal political situation, for it appears to have called a truce to the controversy between the Moslem and Greek communities, which had caused the authorities so much trouble in the past, and to have had the remarkable effect of rallying all the communities to the side of the Government. The Turco element, of course, is keenly interested in the struggle on the mainland; but if it wishes well to its co-religionists—and one cannot blame it for nourishing such sentiments—"it wishes them well from afar" only. As for the Greco element, its former attitude has changed to one of conciliation of the authorities, and so things have become much easier in the Council for the Government. The Pan-Hellenist element on the island feigns to regard annexation to Great Britain as one step nearer to that annexation to its so-called Motherland for which it has agitated so much in the past; but for nearly a year now there has been no local attempt to bring the question into prominence. This may be due to the fact that every effort in this direction has always encountered the cold douche that it deserved; but judging from various symptoms there is no doubt that adherents of the cause are restricted to a circumscribed circle of Cypriots, who, when they have not their own axes to grind, are merely animated by sentiment, and that the movement is by no means as widespread as its self-styled leaders would have the world believe.

Considerable regret was expressed to me—and not merely in British and Turco circles—that a certain section of the home Press should have taken up the question; for the arguments put forward for a cession of Cyprus to Greece can at best be but sentimental, and they certainly repose on no foundation that deserves any serious attention. The claim of the agitators is based on the facts that at the present date the Greco element is predominant on the island, and that Greece at one time occupied it. The Greco, or Greek-speaking, element in Cyprus certainly is predominant, for it accounts for 78 per cent. of the entire population. Prior to 1881 there are few reliable data as to population to go on, but there is every reason to believe that the Greek preponderance is of comparatively recent growth, especially seeing that out of the total increase in population since the British occupation, amounting to 88,000, the share of the Greco community was 77,000, or 87.5 per cent., representing 56 per cent. of the previous Greco population.

Turning to history and taking as date of departure the year B.C. 569, when, after a series of occupations by the Phœnicians, Assyrians and Ionian colonists, Amasis II. conquered the island and annexed it to Egypt, a recapitulation of events down to A.D. 1878 shows that of the 2,500 years under review Cyprus spent 250 under Egyptian, 190 under Persian, 450 under Roman, 830 under Greek and Byzantine, and 300 under Turkish domination. On these premisses the Greek claim appears to be stronger than that of any other nation. Unfortunately for the agitators, Greek influence proper over the island came to an end in A.D. 1191, when Richard Cœur de Lion conquered it.

It can scarcely be maintained with any seriousness that Greece should be given the island merely because she occupied it 800 years ago, and the shadowy nature of the claim is emphasised by the fact that it is in the highest degree improbable that any of the Greco-Cypriots now resident on the island are descended from the original colonists or from those who settled under the Byzantine occupation. If the plea of former Greek possession were admitted, then Greece would have an equally good claim to Egypt, which was occupied by her at the same time as Cyprus; while if that of preponderance of population were conceded, then with this interpretation of the principle of nationality as a precedent, we should have "Naboth's vineyards" cropping up all over the globe, and Powers could at will "peg out" claims to coveted territories actually belonging to other countries merely by encouraging emigration of their subjects, and, thus, eventually, secure possession without any difficulty. In the face of all these facts the Pan-Hellenist claim must inevitably fall to the ground.

Moreover, if the agitators and their supporters would only study the historical side a little carefully, they would find that the island's close connection with Egypt and the fate of Egypt is a very noticeable feature of the various occupations which it has undergone, and that this feature, while it militates heavily against the cession of the island to Greece—or, for that matter, to any other Power—absolutely confirms the actual occupant in its possession.

Apart from the fact that the island was for 247 years directly under Egyptian domination, both the Persian and the Roman occupations synchronised with the subjugation of Egypt by the same nations. Even Alexander the Great's occupation and the Byzantine domination coincided with the possession of the Valley of the Nile; while the Turkish followed closely on Selim I.'s conquests of Egypt, and the loss of the island preceded by but four years that of the Khedivial vilayet. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that in A.D. 1489 Venice occupied the island in view of its value as a naval and military base. With these facts before one, it can be affirmed that Cyprus has always fallen to the occupant of Egypt, and that history conclusively puts the Pan-Hellenists out of court.

There are, however, other important arguments against any further change of status. First, there is the Turco-Cypriot community, with which I do not propose to deal at any length, but which, small as it is, deserves consideration if only on account of the assistance and support it has consistently given to our occupation in somewhat trying circumstances, and at times when the Greek element has, to say the least, obstructed progress. Next there is no doubt that vital changes are imminent on the surrounding mainland. In such circumstances how could Great Britain, with her Far Eastern interests and her position in Egypt, be expected to entertain for one moment the idea of the cession to-morrow to a second-class and consequently weak Power, of an island which is shown to have strategic potentialities *vis-a-vis* the Valley of the Nile and which in the hands of a foreign Power, be it strong or weak, may come to be a terrible menace to our hold on the Suez Canal and thus to our Empire? From every point of view, therefore, the Pan-Hellenist agitation is as ill-founded as it is ill-timed, and the more the question is studied the clearer does it become that there is every reason in the world why we should retain our hold on Cyprus and not repeat the error we made in the case of Corfu.

So much for the political position. Economically the situation on the island is fairly satisfactory; at any rate, it is no worse than might be expected from comparison with other countries similarly situated. Of course, the outbreak of the war interfered with commerce. It came just as the

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carob crop—the most valuable product of the island—was in sight, and the difficulty in obtaining gold for moving the crops and the restricted shipping facilities naturally affected trade. The financial difficulty was to some extent overcome, as in other countries, by the issue of currency notes, all of which it may be remarked have since been withdrawn from circulation; but it was some time before the shipping situation could be adjusted. The difficulty can be gauged by the fact that during the nine months ending June 30 only 354 steam and sailing vessels, with a tonnage of 106,279 tons, entered, and 328, with tonnage of 108,029, cleared from Cyprus ports in the foreign trade, as against 598, with tonnage of 273,933 tons, and 619, with tonnage of 275,827 tons, entering and clearing during the preceding corresponding period. It is therefore not surprising to find that during the six months ending December 31, 1914, the import and export trade fell by nearly 40 per cent. It is, however, pleasing to note that during the succeeding half-year, ending June 30, whilst imports recovered a little, exports picked up considerably and were barely 10 per cent. below what they were the year before. The general opinion seemed to be that, given a continuation of shipping facilities, the island would come through with little loss, and the powers that be appeared to be quite satisfied with the outlook as far as trade and the immediate finances of the island were concerned.

Turning to the general condition of the island, there is no doubt that it is still in a backward state, especially considering that we have occupied it for nearly four decades. The fault does not, however, lie at the door of the authorities. Every effort has been made to develop the country along the most remunerative lines, and considerable sums have been and are being expended on public works, agricultural experiments and education. But albeit the Government has applied itself to the task of relieving the oppression and ruin that existed, and of introducing reforms in every direction, it has frequently met with opposition, and it has, of course, had to contend with a very difficult financial problem. The great obstacle in the latter respect has been the Turkish Tribute (now the Turkish Debt) of £93,000, towards which the home Government now contributes £50,000. If only at the end of the war some more equitable arrangement can be made in regard to this unjustifiably heavy burden which the island has borne for 37 years, there is every reason to hope that a considerable improvement would speedily make itself apparent in the general condition of the country, which, as it is, has been wonderfully well administered in the face of countless difficulties.

That the authorities have met with success in their task is evident from the revenue, trade and other statistics. Since 1878 the population has increased by 50 per cent. to 274,108, the export trade has risen from £157,000 to about £700,000, while the revenue has progressed from £139,586 to £341,816—the latter, be it noted, accompanied by a remission in taxation, so that to-day the Cypriots are amongst the most lightly taxed communities of the world.

All this shows that the material position of the people is improving, and it is not surprising to learn that Government schemes are beginning to be received in a more satisfactory manner. The spread of education is undoubtedly assisting, and is conducing gradually to, the disappearance of the opposition that used to be manifested, but it is doubtful whether any marked advance will be made, or whether the Cypriot will be persuaded to take much interest in the welfare of his country, so long as he remains in his present serf-like position. Like the Egyptian *fellah* the Cypriot is a prey to the usurer, but his state is far worse than that of his fellow worker across the water; for he is little short of a bondsman of the moneylending fraternity, for whose benefit all his work is done, and by whom he is actually used as a political pawn. It is difficult to prescribe for this serious state of affairs. Some while ago it was proposed to found an agricultural bank; but unless most stringent State control is exercised such a remedy would turn out more of an aggravation than a remedy for the ill. It would appear that only Government intervention and the introduction and rigorous enforcement of a series of laws will ever succeed in giving the Cypriot his financial and political emancipation, and so afford him an opportunity to work out his own salvation.

Cyprus is undoubtedly an island with admirable prospects. Its soil is wonderfully fertile, and only requires careful development to give the country back its old reputation. Now that its status is assured, there should, after the war, be little difficulty in obtaining capital for this purpose, but over-capitalisation and speculative ventures will have to be guarded against. Whilst the task of protecting the Cypriot from exploitation by capitalists and against the rapacity of the usurers who abound on the island, and practically control its politics, will fall to the Government, everything depends on the people. If they wish to take advantage of what the future undoubtedly holds out for them they must display more enterprise, more public spirit, and more industry than they have hitherto done. Until the difficulties I have mentioned above have been remedied, they will undoubtedly be handicapped. Nevertheless they can help themselves somewhat, and those journals at home that have so unwisely taken up the cause of a "Cyprus for the Greeks," would do well to advise the clique that is responsible for the present agitation, and whose attitude has in the past tended to encourage obstruction, to concentrate their energies on more practical matters, and by their co-operation to facilitate the development of the country along lines that cannot fail to be for the benefit of all its inhabitants alike.

FROM THE ÆGEAN THEATRE OF WAR.

The following passages are extracted from a letter written by an Englishman formerly resident in Constantinople, who, on the outbreak of war between this country and Turkey, transferred his residence to Dedeagatch. He has now made another move, to Athens, whence the letter from which we quote was written on October 10:—

Circumstances have obliged me once more to move on, so here we are again, having left Dedeagatch on September 25 per Messageries' steamer Sydney for the Piræus viâ Mudros Bay, where we landed two or three officers and a party of sixty-three British workmen, consisting of carpenters and mechanics. They left the vessel singing "It's a long way to Tipperary" and amidst cheers from the passengers remaining on board, amongst whom were a party of twenty-two nurses returning home after a six months' stay in Serbia.

At Mudros Bay the sight is a grand one, and if only a few of our British people who are "asleep" could catch a glimpse of it they would soon "wake up." So, too, might those unpatriotic strikers, and especially that traitorous ——, who ought never to have been elected a member of such an honourable institution as the House of Commons. They would all quickly realize the seriousness and importance of this war, and how necessary it is that selfish motives should be set aside, and that all should work in unity, shoulder to shoulder, for our ultimate success in this war. . . . Yes, if only those . . . miners who go out on strike and those who encourage them by traitorous speech could have a look at the thousand and one craft here—British and French, dreadnoughts and super-dreadnoughts; ordinary cruisers and armoured cruisers; torpedo boats and destroyers of every class; huge liners and transports of all sizes; cargo boats, busily discharging coal, stores, provisions, ammunition, etc.; water boats and tanks; motor barges of all sizes and descriptions, some fitted with cranes for handling heavy material; steam launches innumerable; and last, but not least, hospital ships of all sizes, including the yacht Erin, and those brave trawlers that have been doing such excellent work in the Straits of the Dardanelles and patrolling the high seas, assisting in hunting down the murderous enemy submarines. What would all these do if their coal supplies were stopped? Do the miners and their leaders not think for a moment that by striking they are helping the enemy? Have they no feelings or spark of patriotism?

Our own submarines in the Sea of Marmora have done much to strike terror into and demoralize the Turks, as the following incident will show. A few days ago a suburban train running on the shore of the Marmora from Constantinople to San Stefano was suddenly stopped between two stations. The Turkish ladies cried out, "Aman! Shéitan vapor olmasin" ("Ah, me! may it not be the devil steamer?" meaning submarine). . . .

When the Turkish battleship Haïredine Barbarossa was sunk by our submarine in the Marmora she was taking to the Gallipoli Peninsula 500,000 Turkish liras in gold to pay the soldiers, besides Baïram backsheesh, as the event occurred a couple of days before the feast of Baïram. Some old Turks have been heard to remark that they did not mind the old ship being sunk, but regretted the loss of the gold.

The Turkish soldiers complain that they don't get paid, and say: "The English soldiers are always paid, because we always find money on those who are killed."

The dissatisfaction and complaints of the Turks against the Germans increase daily, which is only natural when they have such hard masters. For example: a Turkish soldier, wounded in the shoulder, was being carried along roughly, his feet and legs being raised higher than his head and shoulders. He begged the carriers to stop, so that the pain in his shoulder should be eased. A German officer thereupon asked why they had stopped, and on being told the reason immediately ordered them to move on, adding, "You are a soldier, and must bear pain."

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of the "NEAR EAST" to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The American Eagle, being a respectable bird, and a wideawake one withal, has long ago formed a fairly accurate opinion of the Prussian Vulture that has been trying to pass itself off as an Eagle in Belgium and elsewhere. Here, at any rate, is the comment of one Bird of Freedom on the bald-headed, unclean fowl that has made a howling wilderness of Belgium :—

> Bulgarians haven't much of "Kultur," but our opinion is that Lady Ralph Paget is safer in their hands than any Englishwoman is in Belgium under Von Bissingenism.—*Brooklyn Eagle.*

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The Bulgarians, by the way, appear to have had a nasty surprise in regard to the qualities of the French fighting man. They have been carefully fed with stories of Prussian prowess, and doubtless it was represented to them that even if they did run up against the Allies, they would find them not such very formidable fighters after all. If so, they must be painfully disillusioned by now. In a letter just received from a naval officer who has been helping to make things lively down Dedeagatch way, I read : "Things appear to be getting rather more interesting up Salonika way, and I gather that a very fine type of French soldier is being sent there. Brother Bulgar has had a bit of a biffing from our allies, and I think he finds them very different stuff from the poor Turks of 1912." It is rough on Brother Bulgar, but—he ought not to have given Ferdy such a free hand in the management of his affairs.

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From another correspondent, who is serving with the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force, I am glad to learn that the reports about our gallant troops in that theatre of war not being well looked after in regard to such things as the supply of books, 'baccy, and so forth, do not appear to be well founded. I wrote to my friend some time ago on this subject, and he replies: "I have spoken to several of the O.C.'s of British regiments, and they have all told me that their men are pretty well looked after from India, and did not seem to think there is any special need to move from your side." This, coming from one who is exceptionally well placed to ascertain the real facts of the case, is very satisfactory hearing; for though we should all of us, I feel sure, be glad to do anything in our power to make up for the shortage of "comforts," if such existed, it is good to know that there has actually been, and is, no such shortage.

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I should be sorry indeed if the above remarks should give any reader the impression that this Mesopotamian campaign has been an easy one; for nothing could be farther from the truth. The men who have taken part in it have had difficulties to contend with which cannot be realised by anyone who is not personally acquainted with the country, and they have faced them, and overcome them, with the same courage and the same cheerfulness that our soldiers and sailors have shown in other theatres of the war. I have referred often in these notes to the heat of Lower Mesopotamia, its insect pests, its usually vile water, and a number of other items that go to make up the catalogue of its general unpleasantness. It is bad enough to have to put up with these things, as I know from personal experience, when you can command such alleviations of your discomfort as a (comparatively) cool *serdab* to rest in during the hottest part of the day, with a *punkah* going, something cool (and not likely to poison you too quickly) to drink when you are thirsty, and netting of various kinds to keep at least a few of the mosquitoes, sand-flies, "flying scorpions," and other horrors from making you ready to emulate the example of those former visitors who sat down and wept by the waters of Babylon. But our soldiers have had none of these advantages—though, it seems, that some imaginative creatures at home have got it into their heads that *punkahs*, ice, and all the rest of it have been provided! They have had to march and counter-march, to do sentry-go, to convert themselves into coolies for the time being and shift great cases of all kinds of stores, to be ready to fight at an hour's notice, day or night—and to do it all in a region where the thermometer will register anything up to 126 degrees for days running. It is not surprising if they are inclined to feel a little sore at the idea of *their* "show" being regarded as "a small and easy" affair. The sick lists and the casualty lists prove that it has been nothing of the kind.

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The Egyptian is usually pictured as a simple soul, and the tourist who has "done" the Nile is fond of talking and writing about him as "unsophisticated." But when you have lived in Egypt some little time you are likely to discover that he is not always quite so lacking in guile as he seems. I have just been reading in the Egyptian papers of a case which illustrates this point rather nicely. Two Nilots, members of the same family, fell out, and the quarrel led to one of them determining to "have the law of" the other. After the usual round, the proceedings reached a stage at which the Court called on the plaintiff to put in a personal appearance. He failed to do so, and this being, apparently, the last of several chances given him, the case was decided against him. Subsequently it transpired that he had been met on his way to the Court by an envoy of the defendant's, who had promptly picked a quarrel with him, the result of which was his enforced appearance at the nearest *caracol*. The aggressor, having accomplished his mission satisfactorily, confessed that he had been hired by the defendant to prevent the plaintiff's appearance in Court at any cost, and added that he had taken the only means he could devise to carry out his contract. The whole incident, it strikes me, would provide Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall with an admirable *motif* for one of his delightful sketches of *fellah* character. But the only bit of simplicity about it is the confession of the paid brawler. And I strongly suspect that that would never have been forthcoming if he had been paid a sufficient amount.

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A correspondent has favoured me with a cutting from a recent number of the *Evening Standard*, in which a Greek from New York sets forth his views on the recent crisis in Greece and her relations with Great Britain. Why such an ill-flavoured, ungrammatical effusion should have been thrust upon me I do not know; for it contains nothing that is representative of Greek opinion, nothing, indeed that is striking in any way save its exposition of colossal ignorance and black ingratitude. Briefly, the letter is apparently intended to convey the information that Greece has nothing but bitterness in her memory of British diplomacy in the past. I merely mention it here because, as I have previously remarked in these notes, the traditions of Greece had always appeared to me something far too glorious to be undermined, and my purpose is to expostulate with the Editor of our much valued contemporary for having given the desired publicity to a name that must hereafter "stink in the nostrils" of all true Greeks, wherever their sympathies may lie in the immediate present.

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Some time ago I commented upon the remarkable generosity which had characterized the British officers and officials in the Sudan in their contributions to the various war appeals of the present day. And now Egypt comes in with the second largest contribution received from overseas. Ontario came first with £200,000; Egypt, with its comparatively small British population, sends £109,000 as the proceeds of the collection for "Our Day." For a large proportion of this sum we have to thank the Egyptian people themselves, for, from the Sultan downwards, they gave and gave generously. Indeed, all classes of the community, members of all races and nations are to be congratulated on a result that was almost without precedent, and which gives Egypt a very high place among the Good Samaritans of to-day.

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I see that the famous Winter Palace Hotel at Luxor is being transformed into a sanatorium, and although I had often resented the presence of this gigantic modern building, with its broad verandahs ringing with footfalls that overwhelmed the whisper of ghostly revellings at Karnak, I can almost find it in my heart to envy the wounded who are to be tended there this winter. For there is no gainsaying its comfort or the grandeur of its position. The opening of this hotel is among my most vivid memories of the social side of Egypt. I journeyed to the ceremony from the heart of the desert, and it was like going into a new world. The place was full of journalists, but there were a lot of respectable people present, too. All went well until, late in the afternoon, one of the former tribe, representing an Alexandria contemporary, conceived a brilliant scheme for the diversion of the remainder of his clan. It so happened that at this time an English Member of Parliament of pronounced Nationalist tendencies was in the country; it also happened that among the journalists was a man who still regarded his profession as one of great seriousness and responsibility. Choosing an obviously inoffensive and grey-haired gentleman as innocent protagonist to his scheme, our friend of Alexandria approached his *confrère* and told him in great confidence that the grey-haired one was in reality the Patet M.P. who had been causing such trouble in the country. "He's incognito at present, and always refuses interviewers. If you can succeed where others have failed it will be the greatest *coup* of the year." Off went the enterprising one, with results that were vastly entertaining to the watching crowd on the verandah. The elderly gentleman denied the identity thrust upon him, the interviewer would take no denial. It was only during the excellent dinner of inauguration which followed that serenity was restored, and later in the day the Alexandrian earned the friendship of both parties concerned by his adroit and diplomatic commisserations with either party.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF

MIXED MARRIAGES.*

The sense of appropriateness is instinctive. The majority of authors and novelists, writing over their own names, possess it. Others, again—and Mr. Andrew Firth is to be numbered among them—seem to take a pride in trumpeting forth their lack of it to the whole world at large. They do so in various ways, but one way especially has come very much to the front in the past few years—namely, the novel dealing with mixed marriages, in which the "white girl" mates with the coloured gentleman, and finds him—coloured. There is no real excuse for any such plot; it is unnatural, instinctively abhorrent, and thoroughly nauseating. "The Furnace of Iron" is a case in point, a distinctly repulsive Egyptian office-seeker and intriguer marries a high-strung, decadent English girl, and tragedy is their offspring. But the tragedy is sordid, repellant, and, what is even worse, uninteresting and monotonous. Thereby the author shows that not only does he lack the sense of appropriateness, but also the artistic touch which enables a writer to turn ordinary vulgar clay into shimmering pearls. There is no such touch in the book under review, which seems to have been conceived with the main purpose of airing such Arabic utterances as "andak," "ishmallak," and "minak," with the superior air of the ten-day Cook's tourist in Cairo. That the author has some little experience of Moslem domestic life cannot be gainsaid, but he has put his knowledge to questionable use. It may be argued by those who revel in reading about the untold miseries of mixed marriages that these very miseries are the best antidote against such unnatural unions, to which we gladly retort that the average British girl needs no preventatives, that she is above demeaning herself, and that as regards the high-strung decadent girls who are willing to sacrifice themselves on the altar of one of the cardinal sins, they cannot interest us either in real life or in fiction. As a matter of fact, they are even more uninteresting in fiction, because they are so dreadfully unconvincing; they cannot rise to the *rôle* of heroine, and consequently are doomed to insignificance, and their troubles leave us indifferent. Greater authors than Mr. Andrew Firth have dabbled in the same pool, have stirred up muddy waters, and have achieved no literary or artistic results—at least, in Great Britain. Why? Because we hold strong opinions on the matter of mixed marriages and strongly disapprove of one of our girls, even if only in fiction, mating with a man of another race.

C. R.

ANOTHER MAP OF THE BALKANS.

We have received a copy of the *Egyptian Gazette's* War Map of the Balkans and Eastern Europe (No. 3), which is edited by Alexander Gross, F.R.G.S., and produced in colours by "Geographia, Limited." The field covered embraces all the countries of the Balkan Peninsula, practically the whole of Austria-Hungary, and sufficient of the neighbouring countries to enable the average person to "focus the picture" at a glance; and the map is certainly one of the clearest and best printed we have seen at the price. The number of towns and villages marked is surprising, and even more surprising is it that it is, in all cases, easy to read the names. The spelling of these names is a matter on which it is possible to differ from the editor; but that is a point which is not likely to trouble the general public, who, having once faced the difficulties of Balkan place-names, have acquired a fine facility for "spotting" any particular town, village, pass. or mountain in the theatre of war, however its name may be rendered. From these remarks it must not be inferred that the map under notice is a bad offender. On the contrary, it is wonderful that the editor has achieved such success, confronted, as he certainly must have been, by so many conflicting authorities. The fact is that the whole question of rendering place-names in the Balkans—and elsewhere—badly requires to be threshed out and dealt with in authoritative fashion once and for all.

The map is very up-to-date in most respects. The new frontier between Turkey and Bulgaria is shown, and, as an example of attention to detail, it may be mentioned that Rhodes and the other islands in Italian occupation are appropriately coloured. Its weakest feature is the failure to indicate the existence of mountains. On the small inset map of Northern Serbia, it is true, they are sketched-in; but on the large map they are not even suggested; and this, in a map of the Balkans, is rather like a case of "'Hamlet' with Hamlet left out." Roads and railways are shown; but while we find the line between Parachin and Zaitchar marked on the inset, it is not shown on the larger map. Such discrepancies are sure to prove puzzling to conscientious students. The map, however, is a very handy one for general reference, and the publishers' enterprise in putting it on the market at such a low price is to be commended.

* "The Furnace of Iron." By Andrew Firth. (Unwin. 6s.)

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Bartholomew have published a revised edition of their War Map of Italy and the Balkan States, at 1s. net.

Messrs. Macmillan will publish shortly "Homer and History," by Dr. Walter Leaf.

A quite recent publication of the British Museum is Dr. Wallis Budge's "Miscellaneous Coptic Texts in the Dialect of Upper Egypt." English translations of the texts are provided, and the volume (which is published at 40s. net) is illustrated in the text as well as by numerous plates.

Among Messrs. Blackie's announcements of "gift books" we notice two with titles of a Near Eastern character: "At Grip with the Turk," by Captain F. S. Brereton, the popular writer of stories for boys, and "Constantinople," by Percy F. Westerman. The price of the former is 5s. and of the latter 2s. 6d.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces that Mr. J. Lewis Bonhote, of the Zoological Gardens at Gizeh, is the author of a new work on vigour and heredity, which is to be published shortly, at P.T.45 per copy.

This distinguished Anglo-Egyptian official, the *Gazette* adds, has from his schoolboy days been mainly interested in the study of wild animals, and during the whole of that period he has kept careful notes on all the numerous little happenings which were daily taking place among the different individuals of his stock. In 1900, when the rediscovery of Mendel's Law was given to the world, he commenced, at the late Professor Newton's suggestion, a series of experiments in the crossing of various wild species of duck, and from then to the present day his energies have been devoted to the study of heredity.

SIR EDWIN PEARS AT THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

Last Wednesday, at the Society of Arts, Sir Edwin Pears told again the interesting story of Constantinople, its origin, and the part it has played in the world's history. Speaking of its prospects, he said he did not think it could ever again become the great commercial city it was before the Turkish conquest of 1453, because the introduction of steam and the opening of the Suez Canal had entirely altered the conditions of trade. The Baghdad railway would be of immense importance to the country it served, but heavy goods from the East to Europe would continue to be sent by steamer, and even passengers would not care for the railway journey in summer over the plains of Mesopotamia.

The principal fault of the Turk was that he could never rule subject races, he could never be just to them. The story of the Armenians furnished a ghastly illustration of that fact. The Armenians, all things considered, were the manliest race in Asia Minor. The elevated plain they inhabited had bred a sturdy people. At Zeitun they had always observed a certain amount of independence. Twenty years ago Abdul Hamid wanted to exterminate every Armenian there, but a number of European residents of Constantinople brought all the influence they could to bear on every Ambassador, and they got a message to the Sultan that it would not be permitted. Now, the decree has apparently again gone forth that the Armenians were to be exterminated.

In the course of a short discussion that followed, Mr. G. Hagopian (Chairman of the Armenian Patriotic Association) said that the early emperors of the Turks were men of character and justice, and it was that fact that drew to their flag so many of the races of the Near East. But the time came when this was changed, and the decadence of the Ottoman Empire was the result. The Armenian literary language was one of the most powerful in the world; a nation that used it could never be suppressed; it was so eloquent, majestic, and inspiring.

Mr. Charles Woods said that Turkish decadence was partly due to the fact that the Turks could not rule, but also in modern times it was due to the want of roads and railways. As a result of his travels, alike in the old Turkish times and in the new Turkish times, he had formed the opinion that had the Young Turks done something in the way of public works their position would have been very different to-day. He agreed that the massacres of Armenians were in response to orders from the Turkish Government.

JUST PUBLISHED.

THE CALIPHS' LAST HERITAGE

A Short History of the Turkish Empire.
By Lt.-Col. Sir Mark Sykes, Bart., M.P.
With Illustrations and Maps. 8vo. **20s.** net.

THE TIMES.—"Sir Mark Sykes's book is full of first-hand facts and acute observations . . . a book of intense interest and present importance."

THE OUTLOOK.—"To say that there is not a dull sentence or a laboured phrase in his latest work, 'The Caliphs' Last Heritage,' is high praise. But it is merited, for the fact is there."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

BULGARIA AND THE PRINCIPLE OF NATIONALITIES.

Sir,—We have read in your last issue the letter under this heading, signed by Mr. A. H. E. Taylor.

Mr. Taylor appears to be very confused regarding the terms of the Secret Treaty of 1912. We have read that Treaty again, and find no clause in it which refers in any way to Serbia's attempt to reach the sea. He is also obviously misinformed as to Serbia's reply to the Allies' proposals. Bulgaria did not claim the Contested Zone, and Serbia is hardly likely to have offered it gratuitously. Moreover, Monastir, Ochrida, and Prilep are in the Uncontested Zone, and not in the Contested Zone, as Mr. Taylor states.

Mr. Taylor asserts that the men of the Vardar have fought well for Serbia in this war. He is apparently unaware of the fact that Bulgaria recently formed a corps of volunteers composed of Macedonians who had deserted or surrendered to the Austrians, who provided them with an Austrian uniform, a kit-bag, and a few gold coins, and despatched them by trainloads to Bulgaria. On the outbreak of war with Serbia, these men were placed, at their own request, in the front line.

In order, however, to avoid discussion on side issues, we would suggest that Mr. Taylor might find it interesting to examine this question for a moment, not from his or our, rightly or wrongly conceived, point of view, but from that which the Allied politicians themselves had adopted, though failed to maintain in practice, with the present situation as a consequence.

In his statement in the House of Commons on the 2nd inst. the Prime Minister referred to the Treaty of Bucharest as an unhappy legacy. The authors of that Treaty—Greece, Serbia, and Roumania—have expressed no grievance against it, though M. Venizelos and M. Také Jonescu have in turn admitted the expediency of revising it. Bulgaria, the other party to the Treaty, has, ever since its accomplishment, groaned under its oppression.

Having regard to these facts, it would seem reasonable to conclude that, in the Prime Minister's mind, the Treaty of Bucharest was an unhappy one principally because it imposed injustices on Bulgaria, which had had, like all other injustices, evil consequences. That conclusion would seem, moreover, to be justified by past events, inasmuch as the Entente Powers aimed at removing the evil in the Balkans by urging upon Serbia and Greece to cede certain territories to Bulgaria. The result of the diplomatic action undertaken with this object was unsatisfactory both to Bulgaria and to the Entente Powers themselves, for it did not enable the latter definitely to offer to Bulgaria what they, the Venizelist party in Greece, and the Serbians by their treaty of 1912, had recognised either as due to Bulgaria or expedient to give to her. Roumania added her tacit recognition of the evil by generously agreeing to cede to Bulgaria the greater part of the Dobrudja.

In view of the testimony to be drawn from the statements of our own Prime Minister, M. Venizelos, M. Také Jonescu, the terms of a clearly worded treaty, the diplomatic action of the Allies in the Balkans and the convincing eloquence of many competent exponents of the question, we venture to think that even the staunchest friends of Serbia will clearly see that Bulgaria was the victim of an injustice—due to whatever cause it might be—which the Allies, when championing the rights of small nations and the principle of nationalities, had undertaken to remedy. That was the point we wished to emphasise in our first letter on this subject.

It is perhaps Mr. Taylor's "bitterness" which has led him to regard as "Pro-Bulgars" several of your distinguished contributors, whose untiring efforts to save the Balkan peoples and ourselves from an inferno of intrigue and treachery have, in the opinion of Mr. Taylor, bemused so many of your readers.

Before leaving Sofia for Dedeagatch with the Ministers and staffs of the retiring Legations we had provided ourselves with a copy of that evening's issue of the *Echo de Bulgarie*, which contained a leading article concluding with the following words:—

"Si quelqu'un a travaillé dans les Balkans pour le Roi de Prusse, c'est la diplomatie de l'Entente."

It was somewhat consoling to feel that the compliment of "Pro-German" addressed, on this humorously chosen occasion, to our diplomats did not apply to ourselves; and we are not likely to be perturbed if we are called "Pro-Bulgars" by a compatriot whom the pro-Germans in Bulgaria would hail a fellow disciple.—We are, etc.,

H. L. ANDREWS,
CHAS. TURNER.

London, November 22.

THE SITUATION IN KURDISTAN AND THE URMI CRISIS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—It is a great pleasure to write to THE NEAR EAST—a paper that has our highest esteem for its splendid work.

I write of what I know and have seen, and in writing have an object in view—an attempt at the relief of some 80,000 destitute refugees, Syrians and Armenians, in Urmi and Salmas, Persia, to say nothing of the thousands of Syrians from Kurdistan who are in a desperate position, both as regards safety and livelihood for this winter.

Your correspondent of September 3 has given us the bare facts of the Urmi situation. May I add that the number of the Christians at Urmi, Syrians and Armenians, if we add the districts round about Urmi—Sulduz, Tergavar, Mergavar, Bradost, etc.—is not 30,000, but nearly 50,000. This is exclusive of 10,000 or more Armenians and Syrians in Salmas, north of Urmi plain.

The horrors committed in Urmi and Salmas have resulted in leaving over 90 per cent. of the Christians destitute, homes plundered, villages ruined, inhabitants decimated by massacres and disease. Then nothing has been sown except what there was in the fall of 1914, and no cultivation could be attempted for lack of facilities and safety. For the harvest of this year there were no animals and no implements. Most of the latter were plundered by the Moslem neighbours.

I was one of the few Commissioners appointed by the Russian Consul at Urmi and the Persian authorities to get back Christian property from among the Moslems. I was sent out to the southern district of Urmi to Baranduz villages. I went there with a dozen armed Syrians to encourage the starving Christians to venture out of their five months' quarters at the American and French missions in the city to go and look after their vineyards and crops. When we got to one of the villages, which formerly had eighty families with their own homes, it presented the appearance of a ruin. A few houses were burned, the rest were pulled down. There were, however, some rooms standing, and we wanted to go up to one of them. There was no ladder in the whole place, and we had to send for one from the neighbouring Moslem villages. Grass and wheat had grown in the yards and in the streets. All the time that we were there we slept without any windows to our rooms. As for doors, there were none at all. So we instituted a search in some of the neighbouring villages. They would rather keep our goods concealed lest we should find the offenders and ask for more stolen property; but we got some 35 doors out of some 400 missing ones.

In this one particular village, during the massacres of last January, 23 men had been shot and 85 had died of disease during the winter. Of the 300 or more animals that the villagers had owned, not one was to be seen. They had nothing to carry on farming and gather last year's crops. The vintage this year was not very good, owing to lack of cultivation in the spring. Some of these people had not eaten meat for six months; bread was all that the missionaries could offer them. Other villages were worse off.

While we were working on this plan, trying to send men to the various Moslem villages and get evidence regarding things stolen, the Persians placed every possible obstacle in our way, so that in the end hardly anything was achieved. Then, suddenly, on August 6, the whole Christian population left Urmi and Salmas, for the second time, for the Russian frontier, some eight days' distance, and marched by thousands on foot. They felt the position insecure, and that the Kurds and Turks were approaching. For fifteen days the people, mostly women and children, remained scattered all through the roads from Urmi to the Russian frontier; some were actually starving. At last the Russian General at Salmas reassured them, and the people went back to their various places, where they are still under the protection of the Russian army of occupation. Such in brief is the position of over 50,000 Syrians and Armenians of Urmi and Salmas. The picture of the village, above, is typical of the 100 odd villages.

A new danger has been added to the situation as described above, by the arrival of some 35,000 Syrians from Kurdistan in Turkey. Last June the seat of Mar Shimun, the Patriarch at Kudshanis, was plundered and the village burned. Then a formidable Turkish army, of regulars,

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with modern ammunition, and thousands of irregular Kurdish forces took the offensive against the 100,000 Syrians in their mountain fastnesses, who occupy the mountains between Van, Urmi, and Mosul, and are some eighty miles distant from each one of these places. What happened in Warsaw to the Russians took place also with Mar Shimun's gallant tribes, and fighters—lack of ammunition. For over forty days they defended themselves, when it was of no use to continue the uneven struggle. The villages in the valleys were burned and plundered; many of the people were killed, women carried captive and forced to become Moslems. This was especially the case in some forty villages of Barwar. The rest of the people took to the high mountains, and formed huge camps in the district of Tal, wi[illegible] Mar Shimun's sister and brothers, in the centre of the famous church of Mar Oudisho, where they remained for about three months, threatened by famine. The Patriarch came to Salmas to consult with the Russian General in order to effect an escape for his congregation. I know from private letters, and Mr. Shipley, the British Consul at Tabriz, has wired to the Foreign Office, that some 35,000 Syrians are in Salmas. The fate of those left behind is not quite certain, although one would hope that, though they are hard pressed, their position will be secure in the winter if they can get supplies from Persia to subsist on to the spring.

The position of the new refugees in Salmas is far from satisfactory. They are destitute and in rags. Many slept in the streets in hard, winter weather, and the Russian Consul was trying to quarter them. Unless assistance is sent they will starve. Seeing the desperate position, his grace the Archbishop of Canterbury has wired £500 for their assistance, and has appealed for them throughout all England. Then the Armenian Relief (Lord Mayor's) Fund has wired another £500. I am very grateful for all this timely help, which will stay the hunger and misery for a time. But if it is intended to save these members of the oldest Church in Christendom from annihilation, the number of pounds should correspond to the number of those in destitution, reduced to it by no fault of their own, any more than the Serbians.

The Armenian writers themselves acknowledge that the condition of the Syrians is worse than that of the Armenians in the Caucasus, where there are societies to look after them and help in the distribution of funds to alleviate their miseries. But the Syrians have no rich persons of their own nation, and their cry has been heard in this country only and in the United States. The new situation of Mar Shimun's people calls for further effort. And will God Almighty, in whose hands are the issues of war, allow the extinction of these races that have for years grappled with the Turks for an existence and for Christianity? I am sure Englishmen will be the first to see the need, and to come to the rescue. The offices of the Archbishop's Mission (Rev. F. N. Heazell, sec.) are at Church House, Westminster.—I am, etc.,

PAUL SHIMMON,
(Representing the Patriarch.)

29, Richmond Gardens, Shepherd's Bush, W.,
November 24, 1915.

A PLEA FOR THE ARMENIANS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—We, in common with all those who have worked so long for Armenia, are stricken with sorrow at the news of the awful tragedy which has overtaken her unhappy people. It is estimated by Lord Bryce, one of Armenia's staunchest friends, that 800,000 of her peoples have been done to death by their cruel masters, the Turks. For these we can only feel they are past earthly aid. But there are others of this martyred race for whom we may still care. For months past those who could do so have fled into the Caucasus, at a terrible sacrifice of life, for they were utterly destitute. There are now said to be gathered at Tiflis and other Caucasian towns 250,000 refugees in the utmost poverty and wanting everything that makes a continuance of life possible.

The appeal we now make is a more urgent one than ever before issued by us, and we ask that those who can will give generously so that we may be enabled to make the fate of these refugees more bearable and preserve the remnant of the nation for, it may be, the happier future which we may have hoped and prayed so long.

The Armenians are a clever people, with strong vitality and great powers of endurance and recuperation.

We believe that the nation will yet survive, and we confidently appeal for help, to enable them to do so, from the friends who have never failed us yet.—For the Committee of the Friends of Armenia,

LUCY C. F. CAVENDISH (President),
E. WRIGHT BROOKS (Hon. Treasurer),
MARY HICKSON (Hon. Secretary).

47, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

SERBIAN BALLADS.

Last Tuesday, at the National Liberal Club, Mr. W. M. Pestrovitch delivered an address, entitled "The Epic and Lyric Poetry of a Peasant People." Ninety-one per cent. of the Serbs, he said, were peasants. They were a very poetical people, and in the course of their history had produced nine cycles of poets. The earliest cycle described the deeds of Stephen Nemanya, who first succeeded in uniting the Serbian clans into a powerful state; the later ballads which centred round Kossovo were, however, more beautiful. A Serbian bard reciting his verses accompanied the words by music on a primitive instrument called a gusle—a kind of one-stringed mandoline that produced a sad, droning sound, contrasting strongly with the matter of the bard's song. In the Middle Ages the bard would generally be a monk or student from a monastery, or a simple peasant, who wandered from fair to fair and from castle to castle. The ballads, passing from mouth to mouth, were gradually polished during the centuries, and most of them were collected in the early part of the 15th century; but many remained to be collected even yet. Of those collected many had been translated into other languages, and the best translation was that into English, by Sir John Bowering. Prince Lazar was the grandest figure in the Kossovo cycle, but Milosh Kobilovich, the assassin of Murad, was Serbia's conception of a perfect knight. One ballad showed him after the deed overwhelmed by 12,000 janissaries, leaning on his lance exhausted with the killing of innumerable enemies, and waiting for death. The favourite hero of the entire Serbian nation was Kralyevitch Marko; the cycle of poems that related to him were popular not only in Serbia and Montenegro, but in Slavonia, Croatia, Dalmatia, and even Macedonia. The ballads ascribed to him tremendous strength. His mace contained sixty pounds of steel, the same weight of silver, and forty pounds of gold; and this tremendous weapon he would throw into the clouds and catch again in his hand as it descended. This feat he would perform without dismounting from his horse. He was the protector of the oppressed, especially of women and children, and the avenger of every wrong. He had his faults, which were those of the Serbian people. He was a very heavy drinker of red wine, though he never became intoxicated. Whenever he left his castle on a night's expedition he had a skinful of red wine slung on the left side of his charger, Sharatz, as a counterpoise to the mace that hung on the right. He drank the wine from a cup holding 36 pints, but never emptied it, half was always given to Sharatz. Marko was a vassal of the Sultan, who loved and feared him and adopted him as his son; and for the sake of his rebellious vassal would make concessions to his oppressed Christian subjects. There were various legends about Marko's death.

Besides the songs of heroes Serbia had its lyrical poetry, which was chiefly the production of women. The Serbian woman sang when in the fields, when lulling her baby, when going to church, in church, when rejoicing and when lamenting. These songs were distinguished by brevity, sincerity of emotion, and infinite love of nature. M. Pestrovitch read some translations, of which one was as follows:—

> All the night two nightingales were singing at the window of the affianced maiden; and the affianced maiden thus addressed them: "Tell me, ye two nightingales, are ye brothers? Are ye brothers' children?" Thus the nightingales made speedy answer: "Brothers are we not, nor brothers' children. We are friends, friends of the verdant forest. Once we had another friend, another; but that friend is lost to us forever. We have heard that nuptial bliss awaits him, and have come the cheerful bride to look on, and to offer her a golden spindle with the flax of Egypt bound around it."

Another was:—

> Oh, nightingale, thy warbling cease,
> And let my master sleep in peace;
> 'Twas I who lured him to repose,
> And I will wake him from his rest.
> I seek the sweetest flower that grows
> And bear it to his presence blest,
> And gently touch his cheek and say:
> "Awake my master, for 'tis day."

Mr. Chedo Miyatovitch, who occupied the chair, told a legend of Marko killing a dragon that had taken possession of a crystal lake wherein the animals of a wood had aforetime been wont to quench their thirst.

Dr. Clarke, who moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer and chairman, said the Serbs and Bulgars were both mainly Slav, but presented a striking contrast in national character. The dreamy, poetical character of the Serb might be mainly due to an admixture of Italian and Greek, whereas in the case of the Bulgar there was an admixture of Tartar and Turk.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian.	Julian.	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915.	1915.		1334.	5676.
Nov.	Nov.		Moharr'm	Kislev.
26	13	Friday	18	19
27	14	Saturday.....	19	20
28	15	Sunday	20	21
29	16	Monday	21	22
30	17	Tuesday	22	23
Dec.				
1	18	Wednesday	23	24
2	19	Thursday	24	25

To-day is the birthday of H.M. Queen Maud of Norway.

To-morrow is the birthday of the Dowager Empress of Russia.

Wednesday is the birthday of Queen Alexandra.

Thursday is the birthday of Prince Peter of Greece, the eldest son of Prince George and Princess Marie.

It is announced from Constantinople that the Sultan has given his sanction to the wedding of the Princess Behieh Sultana, described as his granddaughter, with the Prince Omar Bey, son of the Grand Vizier.

Lord Kitchener arrived at Piræus from Mudros last Saturday morning, accompanied by Sir Henry McMahon, High Commissioner for Egypt, General Sir John Maxwell, commanding the British forces in Egypt, General Horne, and Colonel Fitzgerald, Military Secretary. The party was met on landing by Sir Francis Elliot, the British Minister, and Colonel Metaxas and Major Staïcos, representing the Greek War Office.

Lord Kitchener, accompanied by part of his staff, proceeded to the Palace, where he had an audience of King Constantine lasting over an hour.

In the afternoon a luncheon in Lord Kitchener's honour was given at the British Legation. This was attended by the Allied Ministers, General Dousmanis, the Chief of the Greek General Staff, Colonel Metaxas, Major Staïcos, and the officers of Lord Kitchener's staff. The luncheon was followed by a reception, to which the British colony and many leading Athenians were invited. The Mayor and the Chairman of the City Council of Athens appeared to tender the greetings of their fellow-citizens, and the Anglo-Hellenic League presented an address of welcome through the Chairman and the Council.

At three o'clock Lord Kitchener left the Legation to visit M. Skouloudis, the Greek Premier, being greeted with cheers by the large crowd outside the Legation, and a still larger crowd outside the Premier's residence. Lord Kitchener left in the evening for an unknown destination.

Although still critical, the condition of Sir Gerard Lowther, formerly British Ambassador in Constantinople, is no worse than it has been for some weeks past. It is hoped that he will soon be able to leave his room at Sandwich.

Viscount Errington, eldest son and heir to the Earl of Cromer, who has been at Simla during the past year on the staff of Lord Hardinge, is now in Srinagar, where he is a guest of the Maharaja of Kashmir. He is proceeding on a shooting trip in the State Rukhs and surrounding jungles.

The manager of the Imperial Bank of Persia at Shiraz, who has been seized and carried off by Persian gendarmerie, as reported in a Foreign Office statement issued yesterday, is Mr. M. Ferguson. Mr. Ayrton, the accountant of the Bank, has also been made prisoner by the same band. Mrs. Ferguson and her daughters, and the wife of the telegraph superintendent at Shiraz, have arrived safely in Bushire.

Madame Vesnitch, wife of the Serbian Minister in Paris, arrived in London on a visit last week.

The tour of the High Commissioner of Cyprus, Sir John Clauson, included visits to Limassol and Larnaca, where matters of local interest were discussed, writes a Cyprus correspondent.

A mural tablet to the memory of Lady Miéville, wife of Sir Walter Miéville, K.C.M.G., was unveiled in St. Mark's Church, Alexandria, on the 11th inst.

We understand that Mr. Clarence Wodehouse, Commissioner of Larnaca, Cyprus, is retiring very shortly. He originally went to Cyprus as a commandant of police, and was afterwards for many years Commissioner of Papho.

The *Morning Post* Rome correspondent reports:—Mr. Lamb, who was British delegate in Albania, and formerly Consul at Scutari and Consul-General at Salonika, has left Rome for Durazzo, to organise relief for the Serbians.

On November 17, at Gezira, Cairo, the wife of Mr. P. M. Tottenham, Inspector-General, Irrigation Service, of the Egyptian Public Works Ministry gave birth to a son.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in Cairo, between Norman Donnelly Macnaghten, Ministry of Interior, Cairo, second son of Canon and Mrs. Macnaghten, of Tankersley, Yorks, and Ida, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Gunning, of Twerton-on-Avon, Bath.

Lady Richmond, wife of Sir W. B. Richmond, R.A., of Beavor Lodge, Hammersmith, died on Saturday night from injuries received as the result of an accident while crossing King Street, Hammersmith. Lady Richmond was knocked down by a private motor-car. She was taken to her home, where she died soon afterwards. Lady Richmond was the daughter of Mr. William Richards, of Cardiff, and was married in 1867.

The death is announced of Sir Allen Young at 11, Albemarle Street, in his eighty-eighth year. Sir Allen was a son of the late Mr. Henry Young, of Riversdale, Twickenham. He entered the mercantile marine in 1846, and commanded the Marlborough, East Indiaman, and Adelaide, troopship, during the Crimean war. Between 1857 and 1882 he was closely connected with Arctic exploration, and greatly distinguished himself on several occasions. He was present at the operations at Suakim as commissioner afloat to the National Aid Society.

Admiral John Harvey Rainier died on Sunday at St. Margaret's, Southborough, Kent, aged sixty-eight. He entered the Navy in 1860. Commanding the Kingfisher, he landed at Zeyla in February, 1885, and assisted in the arrest of mutinous Somali police. In 1897, as captain of the Rodney he commanded the English, French, Russian, Austrian, and Italian landing parties at Selinos Kastelli during the Cretan insurrection, and successfully relieved the beleaguered Turkish garrison and Moslem inhabitants of Kandanos, embarking them safely to the number of three thousand at Selinos. He was mentioned in dispatches and personally thanked by the Senior Foreign Admiral for this service. He retired in 1905.

We regret to announce that Mr. Robert Fisher, late Commissioner in Cyprus, died on Tuesday at 8, Upper Phillimore Place, W., at the age of eighty-six.

The funeral, with military honours, took place at Rhyl on Monday of Captain Gribbin, aged eighty-five years, who served in the Crimea and took part in the charge of Balaclava.

The death took place on Tuesday, at 34, Chapel Street, Belgrave Square, of Colonel Robert Baring, late 19th Hussars. He was the sixth son of the late Henry Baring, of Cromer Hall, Norfolk, by Cecilia Ann, his second wife, eldest daughter of Vice-Admiral William Windham, and brother of the Earl of Cromer and the late Lord Revelstoke.

The death is announced of Lieutenant-Colonel F. Hall, a Crimean and Indian Mutiny veteran, of the 88th Connaught Rangers. He served at the siege of Sebastopol and the attack on the Redan, receiving the medal with clasp and the Turkish medal. In the Mutiny his service included the fighting before Cawnpore, the relief of Sundeewah, and the capture of Burwah Fort. Colonel Hall was then mentioned in despatches, receiving also the medal with clasps.

Lieutenant Gordon Sanderson, attached to the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Gurkhas, who was killed in France last month, was formerly attached to the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works. He resigned his appointment in Cairo in order to take up the post of Superintendent of the Archæological Survey of the N.W. Provinces, India.

Apropos of the note which appeared in these columns last week regarding the death of Mr. T. S. Blockey, we are informed that Mr. Blockey actually returned to this country from Baghdad eighteen years ago, not twelve years, as stated. He went out to Baghdad in 1867 for Messrs. Lynch Brothers, and remained with them till about 1886, when he started in business on his own account. While with Messrs. Lynch, Mr. Blockey was responsible for many improvements in the working of the river steamers that carry on the service between Busreh and Baghdad; and it was he who obtained permission from the Turkish Government for the Euphrates and Tigris Navigation Company to attach barges to their steamers, thus greatly facilitating the business of the Baghdad merchants. For many years he was the *doyen* of the British colony, and he was much respected both by the Europeans and by the natives. He was twice married, and leaves a widow, five daughters, and two sons.

The death is announced from New York at the age of sixty-seven of Dr. Solomon Schechter, the well-known Hebrew scholar. He was born at Foksham, Roumania, and studied at Vienna and Berlin, graduating as a Rabbi at Vienna in 1887. He went in 1902 to the United States, where he took up the post of President of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Another well-known Hebrew scholar has passed away in the person of Emeritus Professor the Rev. J. J. A. Paterson, United Free Church College. His death took place in Edinburgh on Sunday night. He was appointed a professor in the Old United Presbyterian Divinity Hall when little over twenty years of age, and held the chair till the union of the United Presbyterian and Free Churches.

The Duchess of Teck has promised to open a sale of Christmas presents for soldiers and sailors in aid of the Children's Union of the Waifs' and Strays' Society on December 7, at 2.30 p.m., at 9, Chesterfield Gardens, W. Lady Beatrix Wilkinson will give a lantern lecture on "Serbia and the Serbians," the slides having been made from photographs taken by Lady Muriel Herbert while working with a British nursing unit in Serbia.

A Sofia message published in the Austrian newspapers states that the Bulgarian troops in capturing Branjanska Bania made prisoners thirteen former Serbian Ministers, including the former Prime Minister, Dr. Bladan Georgevitch.

Mr. John J. Stavridi, Greek Consul-General in London, returned on Wednesday night from a short visit to Athens, which city he left yesterday week. During his stay he was throughout in close touch with the Ministers and also with M. Venizelos.

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We regret to learn that Major H. F. S. Amery, of the Black Watch, has died, after a long illness consequent on wounds received at Ypres in November last year. Major Amery was the youngest son of the late Mr. Charles Amery, of the Indian Forest Department, and brother of Mr. L. S. Amery, M.P. for South Birmingham. He was educated at Harrow and Sandhurst, and joined the 1st Black Watch in 1897. After four years' service in India he was seconded for service with the Egyptian Army in 1901, and remained in it ten years. For the greater part of that time he was Assistant Director of Intelligence and Indian Agent. In 1912 he was admitted to the Staff College. In the present war he commanded a company of his battalion on the retreat from Mons, was wounded at the Aisne on September 14, and returned to the front at Ypres on November 1, only to be wounded next day when leading a counter-attack, for which he was mentioned in dispatches. Major Amery was, says the *Times*, a gifted linguist with an exceptional knowledge of Eastern languages and with much of Sir Richard Burton's peculiar power of entering into the Oriental mind. He was also a fine all-round athlete and sportsman, and a keen polo player and hunter of big game. By his many friends he will be remembered for the promise of a brilliant military career cut short, and for an unfailing sense of humour, never shown to greater advantage than in cheering brother officers and men through the discouragements and discomforts of the great retreat, or in facing the ordeal of a lingering and painful illness. A memorial service will be held at St. John's, Westminster, this afternoon at 3 p.m.

An Englishman, formerly resident in Constantinople, informs us that Mr. Cyril Panaretoff, only son of Professor Panaretoff, lately of Robert College and now Bulgarian Minister at Washington, and Mrs. Panaretoff, was killed recently on the Serbian frontier.

Mr. and Mrs. Lang-Anderson left for Egypt by the B.I. steamer Mandala, which sailed from London last week.

The *London Gazette* of Tuesday contained the announcement that the King has granted to the undermentioned officers of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines his Majesty's Royal licence and authority to wear decorations (as stated against their respective names) which have been conferred upon them by his Majesty the King of Serbia in recognition of valuable services rendered by them:—

3rd and 4th Class, Order of Kara-George, with Swords.—Rear-Admiral E. C. T. Troubridge, C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O.

4th Class, Order of the White Eagle.—Captain (temporary Major) B. N. Elliot, D.S.O., R.M.L.I.

4th Class, Order of Kara-George, with Swords.—Lieutenant-Commander C. L. Kerr, D.S.O., R.N.

5th Class of the Order of the White Eagle.—Assistant Paymaster H. M. Fitch, R.N.

4th Class of the Order of St. Sava.—Surgeon E. R. A. Merewether, M.B., R.N.; Lieutenant G. Bullock, R.M.

The President and members of the Jugo-Slav Committee, representing the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes of Austria-Hungary, are appealing for gifts of money, clothing, and all other necessaries on behalf of the Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, S.W. The fund has the approval of the British Foreign Office, which will allow its agents to use for the benefit of the civil population the organisation set up by our Government in concert with its Allies, for the purpose of providing food and supplies for the Serbian Army.

Subscriptions of £50 (being one year's upkeep) will entitle the respective donors to have a plate (showing whose gift it is) attached to a bed in the "British Farmers'" Convalescent Home at the Summer Palace of Montazah, near Alexandria, for the wounded of our troops in the Near East. All subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary, Room 5, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Bermondsey, S.E. The forty-third list, which brings the record up to November 19, shows that the British Farmers' Red Cross Fund has reached a total of £112,598 6s. 11d.

On Monday the British Farmers' Red Cross Fund sent a cheque for £5,000 to the British Red Cross Society, to be expended by them on further stores for Serbia.

The Secretary of the Serbian Relief Fund has received two cables from members of Mrs. Stobart's Hospital unit. They are dated October 28, and were dispatched from Rashka. They read: "All's well." It is therefore concluded that the hospital has retreated to Rashka.

The Wounded Allies' Relief Committee of Sardinia House, Kingsway, has ascertained, through the Foreign Office, that its Serbian Hospital Unit, under Dr. Aspland, was a few days since at Vrnjatchka Banja, which is about forty miles due south of Kragujevatz. The unit, which consisted of a complete 600-bed hospital, is presumably retreating with the Serbian forces.

The London Branch of the Australian Natives' Association held a reception at the Anzac Club, Horseferry Road, Westminster, on Saturday afternoon, in honour of certain members of the Australian Imperial Force who recently received the Victoria Cross for gallantry in the Dardanelles campaign. The names of these V.C. heroes are: Lieutenant H. V. H. Throssell, Lieutenant F. H. Tubb, Lieutenant W. J. Symons, Corporal C. R. G. Bassett, Private Leonard Keyzor, and Private J. Hamilton. Corporal Bassett, who was detained in the North of England, and Private Keyzor, who has recently undergone an operation in a London hospital, were unavoidably absent. Mr. Steel-Maitland, Under-Secretary for the Colonies, and Sir George Reid, High Commissioner for Australia, delivered appropriate addresses, which were received with great enthusiasm.

A special appeal is made on behalf of the Sailors' and Soldiers' Tobacco Fund for a million shillings in order that each man at the front, whether Flanders, the Dardanelles, the Persian Gulf, or Africa, may be supplied with ½lb. of tobacco as a Christmas gift. The Fund has, to date, sent ½lb. to each of 37,000 soldiers. The headquarters of the Fund are at Central House, Kingsway, where contributions will be received.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

Reuter's Agency is informed that Mukhber-es-Sultaneh, former Governor-General of Southern Persia, who was recalled from his post by the Persian Government in deference to the wishes of Great Britain, has been succeeded by Prince Musrat-es-Sultaneh, an uncle of the Shah. His Highness has left Teheran for his post, accompanied by an adviser whose views are strongly in favour of England and Russia.

Under date of the 22nd inst., the Sofia correspondent of the *Frankfürter Zeitung* telegraphs:—"The Dutch Government has recalled M. Schmolck, its diplomatic representative, who was entrusted with the care of the Allies' interests in Bulgaria, and will replace him by Baron Meiville. It will not be wrong to assume that in recalling M. Schmolck the Dutch Government has complied with the wishes of the Bulgarian Government." M. Schmolck was formerly Councillor of Legation in Constantinople.

Djavid Bey, formerly Turkish Minister in Belgium, has been appointed Minister at Stockholm, and is to establish a Turkish Embassy at Copenhagen.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 2s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTH.

SILLEY.—On November 19, 1915, at 70, Kingsdown Avenue, West Ealing, to Mr. and Mrs. Cecil C. Silley—a son.

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THE NEAR EAST.

Editorial and Publishing Offices:
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Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, LONDON." *Telephone No.* 618 London Wall.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1915.

RECRUITING IN THE NEAR EAST

The Entente Powers are still short of armies in the Near East, and the "voluntary system" by which it was hoped to secure the enlistment of Greece has shown signs of breaking down. All the features with which the United Kingdom has become familiar in similar circumstances have been reproduced in the international sphere. Greece, eligible, unmarried, holds back because Roumania has been placed on the waiting list. But Roumania, elderly and married, has advanced pleas which have been accepted; in any case munitions claim her attention for the present. Greece has no excuses to urge on her own behalf. Conscription is for the time being taboo; but on this point the Allies, no less than the British Cabinet, find themselves divided. A compromise has been effected. A certain liveliness would be added to the voluntary system and a time-limit would be set for its operation. The final efforts at persuasion were entrusted to M. Denys Cochin, French Minister without portfolio. If he should fail, conscription would follow through the instrumentality of Lord Kitchener. M. Cochin arrived in Athens and saw King Constantine. His mission, we must infer, was unproductive of the desired results, for his visit was at once followed by the announcement that the Allied Powers had "deemed it necessary to take certain measures the effect of which is to suspend the economic and commercial facilities which Greece has hitherto enjoyed at their hands." On the morrow Lord Kitchener reached the Greek capital. He, too, saw King Constantine and departed. The world waited to see conscription enforced. But the British analogy is apparently to be pursued yet further. Just as certain ambiguities of utterance interfered with the recruiting system in Great Britain and led to the postponement of the time-limit, so uncertainty has cropped up in the Allies' dealings with Greece. The suspension of "economic and commercial facilities" is found to be capable of being whittled down to the right of search practised in the Atlantic and North Sea. It is far from imposing upon Greece the compulsion which must have followed from an effective blockade. We must wait, therefore, to see whether we are witnessing merely a postponement of the time-limit, or whether the anti-conscriptionists have won the day and the "single eligible man" is still to be allowed to repudiate his obvious duty.

Even in the face of the most amateur handling of the Balkan problem we cannot bring ourselves to despair of a final favourable issue. But it seems hard for the Allied Governments to break with a policy of vacillation. If Greece's co-operation was worth bargaining for last January or a few weeks ago, it ought surely to be insisted upon when the Allies are hard put to it to save one of their number from annihilation. But at this very point a *communiqué* is issued stating that "it in no wise enters into the intentions of the Powers to constrain Greece to abandon her neutrality, the maintenance of which she appears to consider best calculated to serve her interests." Serbia and her treaty with Greece are forgotten. Last month it was thought worth while by the British Government to sacrifice Cyprus and its Moslem minority in order to make King Constantine honour his obligations to Serbia. To-day there is to be no question of constraining Greece to abandon her neutrality. The Powers, however, are exercised in mind regarding "the attitude adopted by the Hellenic Government towards certain questions closely affecting the security of the Allied troops and their freedom of action." These are "two privileges to which they are entitled in the circumstances in which they landed on Greek territory." As the Allied Powers admit that they consider Greece, or rather King Constantine, capable of a second breach of faith, this time towards them, it would be thought that at last some drastic steps would be taken to clear up the situation. A circumlocutory *communiqué* is issued from the British Legation in Athens imposing "disabilities upon the arrival of merchandise in Greece." In times past to protect Turkey we have not shrunk from a pacific blockade of Greece. To protect the safety of our own men landed on Greek soil at the request of the Greek Government the nation had the right to suppose that at least something as drastic would be enforced to-day. But the policy of vacillation dies hard. The circumlocution of the British Legation at Athens requires to be annotated in London: "No Greek ships are being seized or held up in the ports of the United Kingdom, and no blockade of Greek ports has been instituted or is in force," and the mystification of the man in the street continues. If after the mission of M. Cochin the security of the Allied troops was still in doubt, no step would have been too drastic in order to safeguard them. If, on the other hand, we admitted the right of the Hellenic Government to prolong the negotiations until Lord Kitchener arrived on the following day, then there can have been little call for exercising any pressure on Greece. All that can be said in regard to what has actually happened is that the Allies' immediate demands have been restricted to requiring guarantees for the security of the Allied troops in Greece, and the Greek Government has now given these guarantees.

From the day when M. Venizelos was compelled to resign until the moment when Lord Kitchener set foot in Athens there can hardly have been any real change in the situation in Greece. The country is dominated by the King's policy, which is dictated, as has frequently been maintained in these columns, more by fear of the Germans than by love of them. Nothing that the Allies could ever threaten would convince King Constantine that he was likely to suffer as much from the Entente Powers as he would from the Germans in the event of throwing in his lot with the losing side. To overcome his fears it became necessary to impose a more immediate menace to the King's equanimity than the Germans could. This was only to be done by the exercise of sea power, but it ought to have been done many weeks ago. The efforts of Entente diplomacy have, it is to be feared, been such as to convince the Balkan States that the Allies are incapable of resolution or of resorting to drastic action. The position in the Balkans required the Entente Powers to welcome any opportunity of removing this impression. Definite action in regard to Greece—forcing King Constantine to declare himself in one way or the other—would have done as much to dishearten the Bulgarians as a signal defeat. The friends of the Entente in Roumania would have taken note and felt encouraged; while, if there should be any movement in Turkey with the object of escaping even at this stage from German thraldom, it could not have failed to have drawn support from a sign of a vigorous initiative on the part of Great Britain and her Allies. Can it be supposed for a moment that, if the Entente Powers had shown themselves bold to conceive and quick to execute, there would have been occasion for them to become alarmed over "hints" of action by Greece likely to affect the security of their troops? The diplomacy of the Allies still seems to believe in watertight compartments. The dealings with Greece do not concern Greece alone; they affect every Balkan State, and may thus exercise a marked influence on the course of the military operations. We are of opinion that if the future peace of the Near East is to be assured, Greece must still vindicate her honour by taking part in the war. As the British Cabinet has steeled itself to contemplate compulsion as an alternative to voluntary enlistment, we will hope that, similarly in the international sphere, no stone will be left unturned to hasten the moment when Greece will do justice to herself.

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MESOPOTAMIA IN TRANSITU.

By Sir Lionel Jacob, K.C.S.I.

The troops of the Empire fighting their way from the Persian Gulf towards Baghdad, with all the almost intolerable hardships and discomforts of the past hot weather in addition to their anxieties, will not have found the same soothing consolation in the sound of the word Mesopotamia as did the old lady of tradition. They have had a near view of an exceptionally desolate and uninviting country, which those at a distance see in the mind's vision "foreshortened in the tract of time." Seen in that way, Mesopotamia has its glamour. In it lay the Garden of Eden, and, watered by the four streams, the Pison, Gihon, Tigris, and Euphrates, the country is known to have been one of great opulence and prosperity. "Cursed be Pharaoh, who said in his pride, 'Am I not King of Egypt?' If he had seen Chaldea he would have said it with humility," were the words of Maimun, the son and successor of Harun-el-Rashid. Egypt was wealthy and green with cultivation even in those days, and the superior affluence of Chaldea may be inferred from the comparison. Indeed, from the ruins of the old canals, and cities such as Opis, Baghdad, Ctesiphon, and Babylon, it is evident that the tract possessed great agricultural resources. Also, when Alexander of Macedon marched his army from the Hellespont to the Hydaspes, he found the plains of Mesopotamia fertile and densely populated, or he might have progressed no further. Loyal and devoted to their leader as were his soldiers, if they had seen Mesopotamia as Sir John Nixon's forces have seen it, it is not improbable they would have forced Alexander to return, just as they forced him on the banks of the Beas with all India at his feet, because a scorching and a barren desert lay between.

But it is just as certain that at some period something occurred to change a rich and productive country into a sterile waste of alkali swamps and shifting sands. That something must have been an irrigation disaster. Precisely, as Egypt without irrigation from the Nile would be a mere sandy plain, so also were the conditions of Chaldea. It depended on irrigation, and deprived of it, it was—as a civilised country—wiped off the face of the earth. The Tigris apparently abandoned the channel in which it had flowed for many centuries for its present course. In that sudden change it engulfed cities and villages, canals and cultivation, men and animals, in one wide sweep of devastation; but because we have this picture of Chaldea's evil day, there is no reason why the former prosperous conditions should not be restored. The fact that the Sublime Porte has done so little during the four hundred years of its rule means nothing at all. Sir William Willcocks might shout himself hoarse before the Turks would re-establish Eden, or make the gardens of Babylon blossom once more like a rose, but with the British the future would be quite certain. There are no engineering difficulties the hydraulic engineers of the day would not readily surmount, and it would be strange if the science of the twentieth century failed where the wise men of old succeeded. Sir William Willcocks has, it is believed, estimated that for an expenditure of thirty millions sterling an annual irrigation of 3½ million acres could be secured, increasing the value of the land from practically nothing to over a hundred millions sterling, with a gross annual value of crops of about forty millions. There is no reason to suppose that this is too sanguine an anticipation. But the engineering alone is not the only heavy item of the undertaking; the indigenous Arabs are notoriously bad cultivators; colonists would have to be introduced, and if the Panjáb need expansion for its energetic surplus population, no part of the world is more suitable for the purpose than the twelve million acres of the Tigris-Euphrates delta.

The end of the war is not, however, in sight, much less the territorial redistribution to follow it, and it would be "counting chickens" to rely on what may possibly happen to Mesopotamia in the dim future. In the meantime there appears to be one point which calls for more immediate attention. Sir John Jackson, in a lecture delivered before the Royal Institution in May last, laid stress on the navigation difficulties of the Persian Gulf. He said that dredging, and not only dredging but training groynes to reduce waterway and increase scour, would be required, and that when the irrigation potentialities of the Tigris and Euphrates had been fully exploited he foresaw that these rivers would be less navigable than they now are. For that reason he advocated that the Baghdad railway should be extended to Koweit. In short, he had discovered what engineers in India had found out before him, that when eastern rivers are tapped by irrigation canals navigation is likely to suffer at certain seasons in the year. The proper combination in such cases is water for irrigation and railways for transport. But in the meantime navigation is important, and it suffers, although the great irrigation scheme is still in the air.

Baghdad is some five hundred miles from Busreh, and Sir William Willcocks has pointed out that the river Tigris is the only means of communication worth the name between the capital of Mesopotamia and the outer world. If this navigable channel were interrupted, Baghdad would be isolated, and from the conditions of the river this is more than a remote possibility. There are several places where, in the dry season, navigation is very difficult. Steamers have to be handled with great skill, and are often delayed. In some years the mails have to be conveyed in launches, as the larger steamers cannot be employed. These are the natural vicissitudes to which all Eastern rivers are subject, but Sir William Willcocks has explained that the difficulties can be to a large extent remedied at comparatively small expense. There are three branches of the Tigris river—the Chala, the Majar Kabir, and the Machera, which are a serious menace to the existence of the main stream. They act as a safety valve at times of high flood, but they also drain off water from the river in the season of low supply, and regulators at their heads are necessary if communication between Baghdad and Busreh is to be steadily maintained. The cost of the works, to provide for the free escape of floods, and to prevent water at a low level from so escaping, has been estimated at about £33,000, or about £44,000, with a special allowance for unforeseen contingencies. The British forces are now nearing Baghdad; it is essential that communication with the Gulf should be maintained, and whatever may be the ultimate fate of Mesopotamia in the matter of irrigation and railways, this small expenditure in navigation interests might well be incurred.

CTESIPHON.

Ctesiphon, at which point the latest fighting between our Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force and the Turks is reported to have taken place, lies on the left bank of the Tigris, and is famous chiefly for the ruins of Chosroes Palace. The great arch of these ruins is over a hundred feet in height, and the wall of one wing of the palace still left standing is about the same height. The ruins are almost opposite those of Seleucia, which, though equally famous, are not in any way imposing. Both sites are covered with mounds. These, though of no great height, assume considerable importance in such a flat country; and this fact probably induced the Turkish general to select the spot for what, we may hope, will prove his last stand outside Baghdad. Ctesiphon is some eighteen or twenty miles by road from Baghdad, and has always been a favourite point for excursions from the latter city on the part of English and other European residents.

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H.M. KING OF SPAIN

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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

RAYS OF HOPE.

If we were to follow a custom prevailing in this country of emphasizing the losses of our friends, as gathered from enemy reports, the situation in Serbia to-day would be utterly forlorn. Day by day the Austro-German forces in the north have captured thousands of Serbian prisoners and an almost equal number of Serbian guns, whereas the Bulgars, not to be outdone, have marched from victory to victory with flashing brilliancy, and hold Serbian prisoners galore. At this rate, the Serbian army must now be decimated, unable to offer any resistance to the invader, much less to inflict reverses on him. It is a wonder, therefore, that fighting has not ceased entirely.

Happily, the picture painted for us by the enemy is exaggerated. The hour of peril has, admittedly, not passed away, but the gloom is not so impenetrable as some would have us believe. There are things happening in the Balkans about which we as yet know little; so long as our communications through Salonika with Serbia remain intact and Voivode Putnik's army is unbeaten, there is hope.

Kossovo.

Chief interest centres again in the Kossovo Polje. From the very first we predicted that this historic plain would loom large in the present campaign, and were not mistaken. The great battle of Kossovo—either on the plain itself or in its immediate vicinity, preferably to the immediate west and south-west—is preparing; perhaps even it has already begun at the time of writing. If, however, by any chance it should not take place, it can only mean that Voivode Putnik has decided in the last moment to retreat into Albania and thus, temporarily, to throw up the game. We doubt whether he will choose this course, and operations during the past week seem to argue against it.

There are two north-south routes through Serbia, one in the east formed by the Morava and Vardar valleys, and one in the west along the Mitrovitza-Uskub line. For obvious reasons the retreat of the main Serbian army from the north could not be consummated along the former route; it had of a necessity to take place in the direction of Prishtina, pursued by the Austro-Germans from the north and pressed by the Bulgars from the east, and if possible, checked by them from the south. The past week has seen the development and counter-development of these operations.

The Austro-Germans.

The advance from the north has been slow, but it has culminated, as was foreseen, in the capture of Novi Bazar. Mackensen's centre, proceeding up the Ibar Valley to Raska, and his right advancing from Vishegrad, have thus been able to join forces in the upper Ibar, about ten miles north of Mitrovitza. The left army, having advanced up the Toplitza from Nish, seized Kurshumlia, whence a road runs south through Prepolatz into the Lab Valley, and thence on to Prishtina. The most recent enemy reports claim that Prepolatz has fallen and that the Lab valley has been reached; moreover, that Mackensen's right wing has approached to within a few miles of Mitrovitza.* The iron circle on the north is, therefore, drawing closer without, however, having impaired Voivode Putnik's vital position somewhere between Prishtina and Prizrend. As pointed out by the *Times'* Special Correspondent in Monastir (November 21), "the retreating armies (Serbian) have suffered relatively little loss either in men or in material; their *morale*, in spite of great hardships and privations, is unshaken; the losses they have inflicted on the invaders have greatly exceeded their own, which are estimated at not more than 3 per cent. of their total strength." King Peter, moreover, the aged hero-king of Serbia, is with his army on the plain of Kossovo, cheering his soldiers and urging them to valorous deeds. Besides, it can be taken for granted that Montenegrin troops have joined the Serbs at Kossovo.

The Bulgars.

Mackensen evidently intends leaving nothing to chance, and, not content with driving the Serbs southwards, has ordered the Bulgars to advance westwards from the Morava to Kossovo. Two ways are open to them, one from Leskovatz up the Jablanitza to Leban, thence in a south-westerly direction to Prishtina and the other from Vranja along the Upper Morava to Gilan, and thence in a north-westerly direction to Kossovo. In the first-named sector, the Serbs have won a fine victory over the enemy at Lebana, and have driven him back; but whether they themselves will be able to tarry here with the Germans advancing from Prepolatz, along their line of retreat, is doubtful. In the second sector the Bulgars have taken Gilan, but have not been able to advance beyond.

From the south, also, the Bulgars are still attempting to push from Uskub northwards through the Katchanik Pass to Kossovo. Their losses here are reported to have been exceedingly high, but the Serbs still hold their commanding positions in spite of all the enemy's attempts to dislodge them.

The above, then, is the military position in and around the Kossovo Polje. Developments are anxiously awaited; but it is our opinion, frequently expressed, that we can place the same faith as the Serbs in Voivode Putnik, and trust that he has carefully matured his plans, and will give battle in that part of the field and at the time chosen by him. May the God of Battles fight on the side of the hero people whose fight is our own fight!

Southern Serbia.

A week ago to-day the situation in Southern Serbia was perilous indeed. Prilep, on its five roads, was on the point of capture, the Entente Consuls (exclusive of the British Consul, who remained at his post) in Monastir, had left for the Greek frontier, and the Babuna position held by the Serbs had been broken by the Bulgars. The Allies—or, rather, the French, for, up to the present, our forces have not participated actively in any engagement to the west of, or along, the Vardar—had failed, by a few hours only, to link up with the Serbs, and could, therefore, only hold desperately on to their line. As predicted, the defeat of the Serbs at the Babuna Pass obliged the shortening of the French line, and Gradsko was abandoned, the position farthest north now held by them being the left bank of the Cerna, a tributary of the Vardar. The fighting in this region has been obstinate, and the French defence of their positions against overwhelming Bulgar forces, forms one of the bright military pages of the war. Mr. Ward Price in his dispatches from this front has rendered eloquent justice to the valour and intrepidity of the French troops in the immediate vicinity of Krivolak.

In spite of their victories in Southern Serbia, the Bulgars have been unable during the past seven days to take advantage of their successes. This is mainly owing to two causes: (1) The strong French wedge along the Vardar, which the Bulgars are unable to break or capture; and (2) the development of the military operations to the north, east, and south of Kossovo. Mackensen has staked everything on the success of his strategy in this region, and he has had to rely mainly on Bulgar co-operation. For this purpose the southward push from Uskub along the Vardar, Treska, and Markovo has been turned towards the north, in the direction of Kachanik and Gilan, and the Serbian Southern Army, operating between Krushevo, Prilep, and Monastir, along the upper Cerna, has had a respite. This is one of the bright spots in the week's operations, as it enables the Allies to strengthen their positions and to make a further attempt to reach the Serbs westwards along the right bank of the Cerna. Moreover, if the worst should come to the worst, in the Kossovo region, the remnants of Marshal Putnik's army can pass through Albania southwards to Ochrida and Monastir, and thus strengthen the Allies' position in Southern Serbia, and prepare for future advances from the south against the invader.

Rays of Hope.

From the foregoing it will be seen that, in spite of the gloom which is hovering over Serbia, there are rays of hope—hope that Voivode Putnik will surprise the enemy again, as he did last November, and hope that the Anglo-French army will, in view of present circumstances, be able to lengthen out its line westwards, and, together with the remnants of the Southern Serbian army, hold on to the right bank of the Cerna River, along the whole of its tortuous length.

* Since writing the above, the enemy reports (Thursday) claim that Mitrovitza and Prishtina have fallen, and that the Serbs have retreated across the Sitnitza, a small river flowing through the Kossovo Polje in a northerly direction; further, that the Serbian Government has removed to Scutari in Albania. The fall of Mitrovitza is only a natural sequence of the fall of Novi Bazar, and the fact that the Germans only claim to have taken 700 prisoners shows that the place was evacuated. Regarding the fall of Prishtina it is to be assumed that it was evacuated in order to enable the Serbian army unimpaired to take up its last stand on Serbian soil in strong positions to the west of the Sitnitza River.

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THE FRENCH FRONT IN SERBIA.

Mr. G. Ward Price, the Special Correspondent of the London Press with the Allied Powers in smitten Serbia, has sent two exceptionally interesting despatches, dated November 18 and 21, giving a summary survey of the situation. We reproduce the following extracts:—

The only troops of the Allied Forces in the Balkans which have so far been in action are the French. The engagement, in which they have fought, and the positions which they at present occupy, bear witness to the energy which General Sarrail showed in grappling with an eleventh-hour situation. They are evidence, too, of the determination with which his subordinate generals boldly attacked the enemy in greater numbers in a most difficult country and under special handicaps, some of which I shall refer to later. Without waiting for the whole of their force to be transported up country, and as each detachment arrived at railhead, General Sarrail immediately took the offensive. The principal aim in this was to bring help to the Serbians by forcing a way through to them, where they were holding on to the Babuna Pass before the Serbian Army was thrust back by sheer weight of numbers, and out of reach of the French. At one moment this junction was within ten miles of being made. It just failed, and the responsibility for failure rests neither upon the Serbians nor on the French, but rather upon a whole chain of circumstances which led to our forces not arriving in the Balkans till the Serbian Army was already overwhelmed.

The first thing General Sarrail did when he arrived at Salonika on October 12 was to push troops as fast as possible up the railway. The first French railhead on the line from Salonika northwards was made at Strumitza station, which is just before you come to the Demir Kapu ravine. This was another weak spot of the vital railway line, for here is the only place where the line crosses the Vardar and runs along its eastern or Bulgarian side for some distance. General Sarrail threw out detachments along the heights towards the Bulgarian frontier, and then pushed still further up the railway, past the Demir Kapu ravine, to Krivolac, where, after some fighting, the French have established a strong bridgehead on the east side of the Vardar, which forms another bastion in their present triangular position.

Now came the moment to attempt what was the first objective of our forces in the Balkans, to join up with the Serbians, who by this time had fallen back down the road south-west from Veles into the Babuna Pass, and were making a stand there. From Krivolac, General Sarrail's furthest point along the railway, the Babuna Pass lies about twenty-five miles due west across country. But the distance is no indication of the difficulty in getting there. The French forces that set out to try and fight a way through to the Serbians had to leave the railway and march along a single up-and-down road that runs south-west from Krivolac through Negotin and Kavadar, to where the long wooden bridge of Vozarci crosses the swift, unfordable Cerna River, a tributary of the Vardar. Passing this single bridge, they had yet to cross another few miles further on over the Rajec mountain torrent that falls into the Cerna, and, having thus marched with all their supply and ammunition eighteen or twenty miles, and crossed two precarious wooden bridges, which were the sole possible line of retreat, they were at last able to attack the Bulgarian left flank in its entrenched positions along the mountains running parallel with the Cerna River that form the back wall of the Babuna Pass, in which the Serbians were holding back the Bulgarian main army that had come pouring down the road after them from Veles to Monastir. As late as November 15 there was desperate fighting between the French and Bulgarians here, our Allies being outnumbered by three to one. The Bulgarians hurried back reinforcements from the army that was advancing down the Monastir road; they had excellent artillery positions, and the French attack, chiefly through sheer and unavoidable lack of reinforcements, failed to carry Mount Archangel, the key of the Bulgarian position.

The attack would doubtless have been renewed had not the Serbians in the Babuna Pass meanwhile been compelled to give way and fall further back towards Monastir. The possibility of joining up with them by forcing a way across mountains having thus gone, the objective of the French offensive disappeared with it, and since then they have been content to defend the bridgehead on the left bank of the Cerna, which their advance had established. . . .

The forces of the Allies so far present in the Balkans have been able to do no more than support the heroic Serbian Army in its stubborn retreat under the pressure of numbers by holding back the left wing of the Bulgars between Prilep and the Vardar river, in the extreme south of Serbia. As for doing anything from here to hamper the Germans in the undisturbed use of the railway line for the transport to Turkey of munitions, which will considerably increase the difficulties of our position in the Dardanelles, it will be long before that is possible. The distance from the nearest point where we are resisting the Bulgars to the railway is 120 miles as the crow flies, and in country like this, 120 miles is a long way. . . .

In the meanwhile the present is more a time for preparation than for execution. On the left the Serbs, who have withdrawn from the Babuna Pass, may make another stand in the plain in front of Monastir. In the centre the French are holding the Bulgars in check on the left bank of the Cerna river, and on the extreme right, where the French hold the heights along the Bulgarian frontier, a part of the British Contingent is in reserve in the second line. . . .

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

British Advance on Baghdad.

The *Morning Post* (November 25) publishes an interesting article on the British advance to Baghdad. In describing the battle of Kut-el-Anarah the writer shows how near utter destruction were the Turkish forces on that occasion. The enemy occupied a position of great strength, from which he was driven by a well-conceived attack, in which our men fought magnificently:—

Unfortunately, night fell before the British force had been able completely to surround the enemy's left wing, on the east bank of the river; and, thanks to this fact, part of this left wing and the whole of the right wing managed to make good their escape.

According to statements made by Turkish prisoners, the Turkish left—to which our main operations were directed—had been regarded by the commander as an impossible line of attack. In dealing with the quality of our enemies, the writer says:—

The Turkish leadership was not bad, and the Turkish regulars appear to have fought as steadily and as well at Es Sinn as they did further south at Shaiba, where it is on record that in falling back from their front trenches the men merely walked, several of them smoking cigarettes quite calmly. But the Arab levies, who at the best of times have no love for the Turk, are described as being "fearfully sick of the whole business," and deserting on every possible occasion. The Arab, in fact, seldom fights really well except when he is fighting for his own hand, for his grazing grounds or his wells. Of course, he is generally ready enough to join in a "scrap," but the present fighting in Mesopotamia is not at all to his taste: it is far too grim and serious. These facts are worth bearing in mind in view of General Nixon's manifesto to the tribes, the text of which was circulated by Reuter's Agency last week. The Turk, however, is made of sterner stuff than his Arab ally, and he proved it after the unpleasant surprise he received at Es Sinn.

The article includes many extracts from letters written by officers from the fighting line, and the quotation which we give below follows a lurid description given by one of these correspondents of the miserable state of Baghdad at the present day:—

That a British occupation of Baghdad would be welcomed by the *Baghdadis* will hardly be questioned by anyone who knows the city and the people. That it would in a very short time become equally popular with the people of Irak generally is likewise sure, for our reputation in that region has stood very high for three-quarters of a century, and not even the insidious work of a host of German agents has been able to impair it seriously. Such an occupation would, if it became permanent, restore prosperity to the land and peace to its people, and it would also bring into cultivation once again one of the most fertile regions in the world. There is, therefore, every reason to hope that the work to which we have set our hand will be carried through to a finish; that the Union Jack will be planted in Baghdad by the gallant men who have carried it forward triumphantly in face of odds and difficulties that are, perhaps, hardly realised yet in this country; and that, once planted there, there it will remain permanently.

Strategical Significance of Serbia.

In the first of a series of articles on the Crisis in the Balkans which appeared in the *Nineteenth Century* (November) Dr. Niko Zupanié deals with the strategical significance of Serbia in the present war. He thinks that this significance is insufficiently understood by the Allies, and more especially by Great Britain:—

A little reflection, however, will show even to those who have not studied the map that Serbia occupies a position of the very greatest importance in the present war. . . . The fact that the German Government is directing the armies of four States against little Serbia should suffice to show that the German strategists attach vast importance to her downfall, that they believe that the issue of the war may, perhaps, be decided in that country. Possibly the German strategists are right. It is not inconceivable that the world war will be decided by another Battle of Kossovo.

The writer next deals with the geographical-strategical factors of the country, and passes on to a brief history of the rise of the Serbian nation, and shows it to have long been the stumbling-block in the way of German ambition:—

Indiscreet Pan-Germans have published books and maps depicting a Greater Germany stretching from Hamburg to the Per-

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sian Gulf, or even from Antwerp to Aden, long before the present war began. The present war might conceivably make the hopes and dreams of the Pan-Germans come true. The Berlin-Baghdad railway was not merely an economic undertaking, but it could be carried out only if Serbia, which holds the pass, could be incorporated in some form or other in the Austro-German combination. This explains the unceasing hostility of Austria-Hungary, which no doubt acted on Germany's behalf as has already been stated, and it explains why the Dual Monarchy declared during the Balkan war that she would make war upon Serbia if the Serbians retained the ports on the Adriatic which they had conquered.

Dr. Zupanic laments the irresolution of the Allies at the time of Bulgaria's mobilization, but hoped, at the time when his article was written, that the Serbian army might still be saved:—

But every moment counts. As I ventured to say in the beginning, a few weeks, and perhaps a few days, may determine the fate of Serbia; and Serbia's downfall, as I have endeavoured to show, may have the most far-reaching consequences. It may determine the issue of the war, and with it the future of civilisation.

Slatin Pasha's Prophecy.

The *Morning Post* (November 23) quotes from the *Temps* the following interview which Slatin Pasha, the late Inspector-General of the Sudan, recently gave to the Editor of the *Berlingske Tidende*:—

Egypt is plainly defensible if the people do not rise against the British, which, however, might very well happen. The population is Egyptian, and composed of peaceful agriculturists, but when once an agitation starts anything becomes possible. However, the conquest of Egypt is not the only danger for Great Britain. It will be possible for the Central Powers, by means of a Zeppelin bombardment, to destroy the locks of the Suez Canal and to stop all traffic through it.

The establishment of free communication between the Central Powers and Constantinople will necessarily bring the Egyptian question definitely into practical politics. In Austria-Hungary we are wondering if England will allow matters to drift as far as that. We do not think so. On the contrary, the Austrians seem convinced that England will not dare to continue the war when communications are effectively established between Constantinople, Berlin, and Vienna. Despite everything that happens, the attack on Egypt will be the next great enterprise of the Central Powers.

France and the Near East.

The *Morning Post* (November 22) publishes some interesting extracts from the French Press regarding affairs in Greece. Our first quotation is from an article, written three weeks ago, but only just received, from the special correspondent of the *Echo de Paris* in Athens:—

That the King is King he owes to M. Venizelos. That Greece has come victorious out of her last two wars and that she was able to take Salonika he owes to M. Venizelos. From the German standpoint that is quite enough to explain why M. Venizelos must go. . . . When the war broke out France occupied a privileged position in Greece. The country unquestionably was unanimous in its good wishes towards us and unanimous also in regretting that its King, whom it adores and whom it calls Constantine the Victorious, should not share its views. . . . The King is obsessed by the single thought that no Greek soldier should fire a shot at the Germans.

M. Gustave Hervé, writing in the *Guerre Sociale*, insists that the troops in Salonika should be reinforced, and maintains that this could be done at the expense of the home front, which, he claims, is stronger than is necessary. His article opens in the following words:—

Can we help thinking of the heroic Serbian people whom the Austro-Germans, with their Bulgarian accomplices, are engaged in assassinating? Is there a single one of us who does not think several times a day with anguish of our people who are there in Macedonia facing the Bulgarians, with the chance of Greece plunging a dagger into their back?

"Polybe," writing in the *Figaro*, says:—

We were summoned to Salonika by the man who had the right to speak in the name of the Greek nation and Hellenism. We are there by virtue of the treaties which impose on us the duty of defending Greece against Turkey with her helmet, Germany, and Bulgarian with her turban. We, the English and ourselves, are there until we have concluded our peace, as was the case at Malakoff.

Bulgarian Responsibility.

Mr. James W. Ozanne, writing on Germany's latest adventure in the *Nineteenth Century* (November), devotes the greater portion of the beginning of his article to a résumé of events in the Balkans over a very considerable period of time. The author's remarks date, indeed, from a week before the battle of Sedan was fought. The writer considers unity to be the one essential to ultimate victory, and deprecates the "tendency in certain quarters on our side of the Channel to disparage, carp, and criticize, as if the task with which our Government was confronted in that fateful August week was not well-nigh superhuman." Mr. Ozanne thinks that our own errors and those of our Allies are as nothing in comparison with those of our Teutonic enemies. He concludes:—

At the present date very harsh things are being said of our diplomacy by critics at home, as if it is to blame for the black ingratitude shown by Bulgaria in ranging itself against its liberator to whom it appealed time after time, and not in vain, when the folly—to use a mild expression—of its own selfish Tsar had dashed it from its proud eminence and brought upon it shame and something very like ruin. Right-thinking Bulgars are the last to adopt such a view, as they well know the man with whom we have been dealing, and the indignant protests which they have raised more than exonerate the diplomacy of the Allies. *Quem Deus vult perdere prius dementat.* Surely such megalomania comes under this category; and ambassadors are not physicians.

An Appeal to England.

The following quotation is taken from a forcible appeal to the British nation which appears in the *Southern Slav Bulletin* (November 20):—

Before the overwhelming forces of the enemy the hard-pressed Serbian army, red with the blood of battle, but strong and intact, carrying with it the aged King and the Government of the country, is retiring into the God-given mountain strongholds of the Balkans, where the struggle can be prolonged and maintained until it ends in victory or death. Into those rock-bound and almost inaccessible fastnesses it is followed by hundreds of thousands of unarmed and defenceless women, old men, and young children. *They must follow*, for they are flying for their lives from the slaughter, flying so that by saving themselves they may save the nation and its future. Amid these lofty mountains and grim passes the Serbian army, from the first man to the last, will redeem its sacred pledge.

The writer recognises with gratitude the generosity of the British public towards Serbia in the past, and issues the present appeal for military aid, and plain, material assistance in full confidence that the British Empire will not be insensible to the urgency of Serbia's need.

An Enemy Opinion.

We take the following quotation of an enemy's opinion of Britain from the Budapest paper *Az Est*, as reproduced in a recent number of the London *Sphere*. The paper comments upon the fact that our Eastern ally is being driven back, but says that the Englishman, "unlike the good business man he is so persistently deemed, will now do his utmost to settle down to a three or four year war," working with bull-dog tenacity to crush his enemy in the end.

When that end may come is no concern of his. He began the business. He will see it through. In this strange phase of the English character there is enormous strength. We may be sure that if all the belligerents are beaten into insensibility he will still hammer away with bleeding fists, tired and exhausted. England in her persistence will never stop, even if she knows that the longer the war lasts the more she will bleed, even if she knows that all possible gains at the finish will not make good half of what she has lost. . . . Those Germans who look forward to an early peace in this world with longing hearts must turn their eyes on England hopelessly, for as long as the sun of peace is not rising in the isles to the west of us, there is no hope for peace. And England, secure in her citadel, behind the bulwark of her fleet, can go on and on and on.

Articles to Note.

"The Crisis in the Balkans: A Postscript," by Alfred Sharpe, and "The Real Austria," by Caroline F. M. Zanardi Landi, in the *Nineteenth Century Magazine* (November).

"Napoleon's Dromedary Corps," by L. FitzGerald, in the *United Service Magazine* (November).

"The Picture at Yildiz: The Sad Chronicle of Our Diplomacy in the Levant," in the *World's Work* (November).

"Bagdad Supplement" to the *Standard* (November 23).

"The Allies and Greece," by a Student of War, in the *Manchester Guardian* (November 23).

"Germany in Asia. II.—The Bagdad Railway," by Evans Lewin, in the *Evening Standard* (November 22).

"Russia's Move to Teheran," in the *Field* (November 20).

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Situation in Persia. Nov. 18.

Replying to questions put by Sir G. SCOTT ROBERTSON and Colonel YATE, Lord R. CECIL said that so far as the Government had information, the Shah was still at Teheran. He was afraid he could not tell the House when the German, Austrian and Turkish Ministers had gone.

Greece and the War.

Sir E. CORNWALL asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs if he could lay on the Table of the House papers dealing with the attitude of Greece during the war and in the course of the recent negotiations; and if he could state whether the Foreign Office had official knowledge of the Greco-Bulgarian Treaty, announced to have been signed on October 15.

Lord R. CECIL: Papers will be laid eventually, but I cannot undertake to lay them now. The answer to the last part of the question is in the negative.

Dardanelles Sick List.

Mr. TENNANT, in reply to a question addressed to him by Mr. JOYNSON-HICKS, states that up to date about 55 officers and 1,700 other ranks have died with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force from causes other than wounds. These figures include the Royal Naval Division.

Food for Serbia. Nov. 23.

Sir E. GREY, replying to Sir R. COOPER, who asked what had been done by the Government to protect the Serbian people from starvation, said:—Everything possible has been done, and his Majesty's Government are actively engaged in endeavours in concert with their Allies to provide early and sufficient supplies of food.

Persian Disorder.

Mr. GRANT asked whether the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had received official information to the effect that his Majesty's Consul and the manager of the Imperial Bank of Persia at Shiraz had been made prisoners, and, if so, by whom and by whose orders.

Sir E. GREY: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The arrest of the persons in question and seizure of property was carried out by the gendarmerie, but without the knowledge of the Persian Government. It was an act of unprovoked brigandage. Details have only just been received, and when possible a fuller communication will be made to the Press. Information has also been received that the gendarmerie, under its foreign officers, is in open revolt against the Persian Government and cut telegraph lines, and seized and robbed road toll-houses and offices. Our information is that all this has happened in defiance of the Persian Government, who resent the conduct of the gendarmerie and their officers.

Entente Payments to Greece.

Sir A. MARKHAM, having asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs: Whether, seeing that the treaty of 1863 between Russia, France, and this country, of the first part, and the National Assembly of Greece, of the second part, provided under Article X. that the three Great Powers would each make a payment of £4,000 per annum as a personal donation to the King of the Hellenes out of moneys due to them by Greece, these payments were still being continued, or if the capital moneys owing to the three Powers had been repaid,

Sir E. GREY, in a written reply, states: The payments referred to ceased with the death of King George of Greece in 1913. The Greek debt to the three Powers is still in process of discharge.

Greece and the Entente. Nov. 24.

Sir H. CRAIK asked whether the Treaty of 1863, which confirmed the gift of the Ionian Islands to Greece, and by which, at the same time, the independence of Greece as a constitutional monarchy was guaranteed by Great Britain, France, and Russia, retained its binding force, in view of the present relations between the Greek Government and the Parliament, the powers of which were now virtually in abeyance.

Lord R. CECIL: I do not think it can be said at present that the conditions of the Treaty have been violated.

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The Postmaster-General announces that the address of all letters and other postal packets intended for members of the British force operating from Salonika should include:—(i.) Regimental number (if known), (ii.) rank, (iii.) name, (iv.) squadron or company, (v.) battalion, battery, regiment (or other unit), Staff appointment or Department, (vi.) Salonika Force.

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THE ARMENIAN MASSACRES.

At a meeting held at Newport (Mon.) on Monday, under the presidency of the Bishop of Llandaff, to protest against the Armenian massacres, a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury was read. In this the Primate, referring to "these appalling massacres, cruelties, and wrongs," said: "If we as a belligerent Power are unable to take effective action in the matter we can at least do our utmost to secure that non-belligerent nations shall be awakened to those fearful realities. We want not merely to render impossible the continuance of the present horrors, we want to prevent their recurrence in years to come. To that end every effort that we can make is worth while. I shall take every suitable opportunity of calling attention to the subject and of bidding men and women weigh the true meaning of these vast and organised iniquities perpetrated by Turkish hands and apparently with the connivance of their German Allies."

Bishop Crossley, in a speech describing the massacre, said it was the most awful picture which had ever been put before the world. He did not think the British people realised it, but he hoped that the people of the United States would vindicate the cause of justice. The Armenians, the oldest Christian nation in the world, were being exterminated because the Young Turkish Party wanted to get rid of the most enterprising and best business people in their midst.

DIRECTORY—*continued from page* 104.

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DIRECTORY

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

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C

Greek shipping has been well to the front during the past week. On November 19, the British Legation at Athens communicated a statement to the Press to the effect that "in view of the attitude adopted by the Hellenic Government towards certain questions closely affecting the security of the Allied troops and their freedom of action (two privileges to which they are entitled in the circumstances in which they landed on Greek territory), the Allied Powers have deemed it necessary to take certain measures the effect of which is to suspend the economic and commercial facilities which Greece has hitherto enjoyed at their hands." This was generally taken to mean here that a state of "peaceful" blockade had been established against Greek ports, and that the loading of Greek ships in British ports would be summarily stopped. On Tuesday, however, the Foreign Office issued the following statement: "No Greek ships are being seized, or held up, in the ports of the United Kingdom, and no blockade of Greek ports has been instituted, or is in force."

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In the port of Cardiff (says the *Financier*) Greek vessels continue loading and sailing unhindered, and further charterings of Greek tonnage are reported for neutral ports or for the requirements of the Allied countries. A few weeks ago there were inquiries for a large quantity of coal for Greece, but the transaction appears to have been deferred in view of later developments, and at present there are no coal orders at Cardiff for Greece. The market is, however, brisk with charterings for Mediterranean ports, particularly Italian and Northern Africa. Freights maintain high record rates, tonnage shortage showing little sign of relief.

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The position, therefore, as regards Greek ships in home ports is that restriction in the way of loading is only applied to bottoms loading for Greek ports. As long as the attitude of Greece is a riddle, the Allies, in command of the sea-routes, have decided to control the passage of military and other supplies to Greece, such pressure, peaceful and yet firm, being applied (1) to the loading of Greek ships at home ports (or at the ports of allied countries) with a Greek destination; and (2) to the search of suspect craft approaching Greece. It is to be hoped that these precautionary measures will have the desired effect without interfering too much with the economic situation in Greece, at present anything but brilliant.

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Since writing the above notes the Greek situation seems to have eased. An official statement issued by the Greek Government on Wednesday evening, as reported by Reuter, claims that the Government's reply is "couched in very friendly terms, and gives satisfaction to the Entente demands and all the guarantees considered essential." I am glad to see that this is so, as it will immediately reflect on Greece's economic and shipping prospects. Thus, the Greek steamers at Malta have already been released, as the following official communiqué announces:—"The British Government has authorised the departure of Greek steamers loaded with corn and other goods which have been held up at Malta. The transmission of cables via Malta (adds Reuter's Agency) is also authorised." Greek shipping in British ports will also feel the immediate effect of a better understanding between Greece and the Entente Powers.

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In view of the opinion generally obtaining that the cupriferous deposits of Cyprus are practically exhausted, it seems strange to hear of the reported good work being done by the American copper-mining syndicate in Skouriotissa. "The total quantity extracted from these mines to date aggregates about 4,000,000 tons (says the U.S. Consul at Alexandria), and it is believed that after some necessary tunnelling has been completed the daily output of ore will approximate 1,000 tons." The figures appear to me to be "some" figures, to use an American colloquialism; neither has the percentage of copper contained in the ore been made public. However, I wish the company every success, principally because it will open the eyes of those who continually decry Cyprus to the fact that her mining resources have not been exhausted. Admittedly, it would be a shame for us if our cousins from across the Atlantic had come to show us that our prognostications about the Cyprus copper-fields were all wrong, but by all means let them do so. In the meantime, I read that the syndicate has applied for Government permission to lay a railway from its mines to the port of Karavostassi, so as to facilitate the shipping of ore.

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The formation in the United States, as announced by the *Times* New York correspondent, of the American International Corporation, with a capital of £10,000,000, is an event of transcendent importance. Following so closely on my remarks last week anent the practical steps being taken by the United States to prepare *now* for the coming trade war, this new organization comes as a conclusive proof that the great magnates—commercial, industrial and financial—of New York and other American cities have decided that the time has come for action. The new corporation is registered "to do international business and establish trade relations with different countries which will help to make a market for American products; to finance and promote development in foreign countries by American engineers and manufacturers of great public and private undertakings; to assist in financing rehabilitation of industries in foreign countries, and to undertake such domestic business as seems advantageous in connection therewith."

***

The scheme is a bold one. It is backed by large capital and such names among its directors as Morgan, Rockefeller, Stillman, Armour, Corey, Otto Kahn, etc. It proposes "to enlist the support and co-operation of American investors in foreign enterprises; to form, in financing old or new undertakings abroad, separate companies and offer American investors its own debentures, secured by bonds or stocks of foreign properties." That is the way to prepare for the coming trade war, and it is left to the Americans to be the first to initiate steps that will place them in the very front rank of the world's traders. Compare this attitude with ours. We are still discussing ways and means, and are trusting to our proverbial luck. Where is our international trade corporation backed by ten million pounds sterling? Where are our Rockefellers, Morgans, and Kahns, to give their valuable assistance to the cause? They are as yet unorganised, indifferent, too busy with other problems. In the meantime, the States spurt ahead, and in Germany the whole industrial world is taken directly under the powerful protection of the Government, and is preparing for its share in the world's trade of the future. Only we are inactive (except as far as schemes are concerned), and we shall regret it. There is only one thing to be done: we must follow the American lead without loss of time, and also form a powerful international corporation.

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Mr. J. F. Lynch, chairman of the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company, has written a letter to the *Times* pointing out that all published reports of the operations in Mesopotamia omit any reference to the fleet of steamers, tugs, and lighters belonging to the company in question. The statement is, I venture to say, hardly accurate, as reference has been made to them in these columns. These vessels with their crews, including British mercantile officers and engineers with an intimate knowledge of the difficult navigation of the rivers, have been employed in fighting and transport work in all the engagements on the Tigris and Euphrates since the arrival of the British-Indian forces in Mesopotamia, and, as Mr. Lynch rightly surmises, their assistance must have largely contributed to the success of the expedition.

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Reuter's Agency reported yesterday from Cairo:—"In view of the large purchases of agricultural and other produce by the military, a scheme is being considered to form a board on which the Egyptian Government will be represented, to safeguard the interests of Egyptian landowners and the fellaheen by preventing the depletion of their agricultural resources, at the same time enabling them to sell surplus stocks direct to the purchaser." The scheme seems to me to be a practical one if it can be carried out satisfactorily. At any rate, it is clearly our duty to guard the fellah against either the depletion of his stocks or his exploitation by middlemen. Incidentally, I see that the Egyptian Government have provisionally revoked the prohibition of the exportation of eggs, which can now be exported to places within the Empire. This will be a great relief to overstocked holders of eggs.

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It will be remembered that some months ago the Bulgarian Government invited tenders for the construction of four railway lines. No response having been forthcoming, the Government has now begged Austria to capitalise and construct the lines for her—a proposal that was, of course, warmly welcomed in Vienna. Germany, on the other hand, judging by M. Tontcheff's success at Berlin, referred to elsewhere, is only too eager to repay Bulgaria's treachery by financing her during the war. The more Germany has to pay out, now and later, the merrier. For the overdraft (partly used in paying servants), plus interest, will have to be met some day!

COMMENTATOR.

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Trade Methods in Roumania.

Openings After the War.

H.M. Consul-General at Galatz has published some important information regarding Roumanian trade, from which the following are extracts :—

Trade Returns.

The total value of the foreign trade of Roumania in 1912 (the latest year for which statistics are available) was £51,200,370, of which imports accounted for £25,516,220, and exports for £25,684,150, showing an increase in imports of £2,726,420 as compared with 1911, but a decrease of £1,984,650 in exports. The chief articles of import into Roumania are iron and steel, cotton goods, machinery, woollen goods, ready-made clothing and drapery goods, carriages, leather and leather goods, timber and articles made from timber, silk goods, fruits and groceries, chemicals and drugs, rubber and manufactures of rubber.

The chief competitors of the United Kingdom in the Roumanian market are Germany and Austria-Hungary. The former country in 1912 supplied nearly 38 per cent. of the total imports, and Austria-Hungary accounted for just under 22 per cent. The share of the United Kingdom, on the other hand, was under 14 per cent.

In 1912 Germany contributed goods to the value of £3,444,407, or over one-half of the total imports of metals, metal goods, and mining products imported into Roumania; the United Kingdom contributed £1,030,545, or less than one-sixth. In the case of iron tubing, Germany contributed nearly 95 per cent., and of bar iron over 60 per cent.; the share of Austria-Hungary in this latter article was 30 per cent., while that of the United Kingdom was less than 2 per cent. There does not appear any apparent reason why Germany should hold such a commanding position in the market.

While Germany occupies a leading position in almost every class of iron manufacture, it is in the case of small articles that German supremacy is most marked. Carpenters' and blacksmiths' tools, e.g., hammers, saws, planes, vices, squares, etc., are almost exclusively of German manufacture, and no British goods are to be found in the market. The total imports of locks, padlocks, and hinges in 1912 was 1,120 tons, and of this quantity Germany provided 770 tons, while only eight tons came from the United Kingdom. Many of the locks at present imported into Roumania leave much to be desired, and British manufacturers ought to have little difficulty in introducing a better class of article. These things may appear small in themselves, but they mount up, and the aggregate trade done in small articles of different kinds is very considerable.

Nearly all the iron obtained from the United Kingdom is in the form of sheets. The market for tin plates is almost exclusively in British hands, the import from the United Kingdom in 1912 having been £117,880 out of a total of £124,270. The United Kingdom also furnishes nearly all the galvanised sheets and the thinner black sheets imported, but the thicker gauges of black sheets are mostly obtained from Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Machinery.

The machinery imports in 1912 reached £2,614,443, of which Germany supplied £1,499,929, or over 57 per cent., Austria-Hungary £394,254, the United States £325,080, and the United Kingdom £222,649. German firms are thus far ahead of their competitors in this market, and their share in the trade shows a more or less steady increase. The proportion of the trade in British hands, on the contrary, is decreasing.

Hydraulic machinery came almost entirely from Germany and Austria-Hungary; railway engines from Germany and Belgium; oil engines from Germany and the United Kingdom; gas engines from Germany; machine tools from Germany and Austria-Hungary; printing, paper-making, and textile machinery practically all from Germany; engines for use in agriculture and threshing machines from Germany, the United Kingdom, and Austria-Hungary; reapers and binders from the United States; other agricultural machinery almost entirely from Germany and Austria-Hungary; sewing machines from the United States and the United Kingdom; typewriters also from those two countries; electrical machinery and apparatus nearly all from Germany.

Carriages.

Under the heading of "carriages" are comprised railway and tramway rolling-stock (except locomotives), motor-cars and motor cycles, and ordinary bicycles. The imports in 1912 reached £1,017,685, of which Germany contributed £380,514, France £202,554, Austria-Hungary £160,232, and Belgium £130,982. The import from the United Kingdom was only £51,745, or about 5 per cent. of the total, and was confined almost entirely to motor-cars. With the spread of luxury these are coming into much more general use, especially in Bucharest, and the market holds out good prospects. The trade at present is chiefly in the hands of Germany, France, and Italy, whose manufacturers seem to have been more energetic in pushing their makes than have their British rivals. The British cars which have been imported up to the present have generally given satisfactory results, and there seems to be no reason why manufacturers in the United Kingdom should not be able by energetic and well directed efforts to obtain a fair share of the trade. The plan adopted by the most successful of the foreign firms has been the establishment in Bucharest of depôts where a stock of cars is kept on view and where accessories and spare parts can be obtained and repairs carried out. British firms might find it worth their while to consider the adoption of such a system. The expense of running an establishment of the nature indicated might be too great for some individual firms, but a number of firms could co-operate and save management expenses by having one depôt where their respective makes could be kept in stock. In any case, the market is at present only in its infancy, and seems to be well worth nursing.

German Transport Facilities.

Among the disadvantages with which manufacturers in the United Kingdom have to contend in competing in the Roumanian market with their German and Austro-Hungarian rivals, one of the most obvious is that of geographical position. The fact that both Germany and Austria-Hungary are situated close to the market enables manufacturers in these countries to deliver goods much more rapidly and at less expense than their British competitors. The great bulk of the goods exported to Roumania from the United Kingdom have to make a sea voyage lasting from three weeks to a month, while most of those obtained from Germany and Austria-Hungary are sent direct by rail in a couple of days. As those articles are best suited for railway transport which are of high value in relation to their bulk, it is in these lines that the Germans and Austro-Hungarians are gaining ground and manufacturers in the United Kingdom losing it most rapidly. In the case of bulky goods, where the advantages of railway transport are less marked, there is a less apparent decrease in the share of the trade in British hands.

Trade Terms.

The preponderance of German and Austro-Hungarian goods in the Roumanian market is not, however, due to geographical position alone; the chief reason of this success is, probably, that German firms are more alive to the possibilities of the market, have taken greater pains to cultivate it, and are much better represented in Roumania than are their British competitors. British merchants and manufacturers have never looked with favour on the Roumanian market; at any rate, they have never shown anything of the keenness displayed by German and Austro-Hungarian firms to extend their business with the country. They have hitherto relied almost entirely on the services of commission agents to push their wares—that is on persons representing probably a large number of firms of different nationalities, and having few or no reasons for pushing the goods of one in preference to those of another. As a matter of fact, any preference that might exist would probably be for German and Austro-Hungarian goods, as nearly all the commission agents in the country are German-speaking Jews, and many of them are of German and Austro-Hungarian extraction. Continental merchants, on the other hand, generally send out travellers to obtain orders, and in some cases they have branches in the country itself. Such a system secures to the exporter a much better chance of doing business than the employment of agents on a commission basis. The establishment of a branch may not commend itself to some British firms on account of the expense, but a number of firms in any particular industry could combine to run an establishment in Roumania for the sale of their goods. All travellers and other representatives should be able to transact business in German or French (the former for preference), failing Roumanian. Catalogues should also be in one of these languages, and the metric system should invariably be employed in quoting prices.

Another point is the question of credit. As a general rule, in an agricultural country such as Roumania, where money is not plentiful until the crops have been harvested, credit is a necessary element in all business transactions on a large scale. Particularly is this so in the case of agricultural machinery and other expensive goods, which must be paid for directly out of the produce of the harvest. Both German and Austro-Hungarian firms generally grant more liberal credit terms than those offered by their British competitors. That they are able to do so is largely due to the fact that, being better represented, they have a more complete knowledge of the market and of the standing of their clients than have their British rivals. There is little doubt, however, that if British manufacturers had better representation they could discriminate to a greater extent between the different classes of clients and adopt a more elastic credit policy without fear. The fact that in Germany so many of the industrial concerns and commercial establishments are owned by limited liability companies is another factor which enables German firms to give easier credit terms than their British competitors. For these companies, with a big capital at their disposal owned by a large number of shareholders, are able to undertake operations on a more extensive scale and to run greater risks than firms with limited resources in which all the capital is in one or two hands.

Banks.

Among the other advantages which the Germans and Austro-Hungarians enjoy in competing in the Roumanian market, one of considerable importance is that the majority of the local banks are financed by, and in many cases are branches of, the large banks in Germany and Austria-Hungary. That being so, they naturally do everything in their power to further the trade of these two countries. Through them, manufacturers in Germany and Austria-Hungary can obtain continual information and advice regarding the state of the market, the financial position of their clients, and the credit which may safely be allowed them; they can also get their debts collected, and, in general, have their interests watched in many ways which would otherwise be impossible. There is no bank in Roumania which looks after British

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interests in the way that German and Austro-Hungarian interests are looked after by the banks financed in Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Notwithstanding this, it is considered that manufacturers in the United Kingdom, by taking greater pains to nurse the Roumanian market, could attract to themselves a fair proportion of the trade at present in German and Austro-Hungarian hands. It seems necessary, however, that they should send out representatives to Roumania to study the conditions of the market and ascertain the requirements of the people. There can be no doubt that, so far as quality is concerned, British goods are generally recognised as being superior to those of Continental manufacture. Unfortunately, the Roumanian public is apt to put smartness of finish and cheapness before quality and durability, but manufacturers must accustom themselves to this, and, whilst endeavouring to a certain extent to embrace in their own manufactures some of the points which seem to meet with popular favour in the products of their competitors, they should seek to educate traders and the public generally to appreciate the superiority of British goods. This can only be done by keeping the latter constantly before the Roumanian public. Advertisement may be resorted to with advantage in this connection, but it can only supplement—it cannot supplant—the benefits to be derived from personal explanation and demonstration by capable representatives.

Although existing difficulties in the way of transporting goods and transmitting money make the conduct of business with Roumania almost impossible, the present is undoubtedly the time to secure orders, for there will be a large demand for manufactured goods of every description as soon as these difficulties have been overcome.

The British Consul at Bucharest states that the United Kingdom manufacturer on the look out for an agent almost invariably picks the cheapest, no matter what his qualifications may be. Such a thing as a fixed salary would never be allowed, the idea generally being that a man on commission works more actively. The idea seems good, but not where one has to do with semi-Orientals. Unless the agent is very conscientious he soon puts himself in accord with the buyer or buyers to the disadvantage of the seller. This is done by the buyer objecting to the goods as not being up to sample and demanding a reduction in price, in which he is backed up by the agent; or also with the help of the agent, by the buyer going bankrupt altogether, an arrangement agreeable to all concerned, except the seller, being arrived at. On the German plan this kind of thing cannot occur. Either the agent is himself a German, chosen from those resident, or is a person sent by his firm to be always, more or less, on the spot. It is quite likely that a sub-agent is chosen from the local fraternity, as, if well kept in hand, he is very useful; but he is never left long enough to his own devices to play any tricks. Again, where the agent is a resident German, he is always placed on a fixed salary basis, with a commission as well; therefore he feels no need to try any of the devices as above explained.

In a word, the difference between the German and the British manner of working travelling is that German firms do not consider expense, whilst British firms do, and as a result, the latter not only secure less business, but suffer losses in the end. If the honest agents at Bucharest were more patronised, the Roumanian market would not have been avoided by British exporters.

Turkey and the War.

U.S. Consular Reports.

We reproduce to-day further extracts from the U.S. Consular reports from Turkish vilayets.

III.—TREBIZOND.

At the beginning of last year the business people of the Trebizond district were of the opinion that the year 1914 would make up to a great extent for the hard times and losses following the Italo-Turkish and the Balkan wars. After the European war broke out, however, these expectations came to naught.

Following the decree of general mobilization in August, the first step was the cancelling by importers of all their previous orders. In September, the busiest time for exports, the Dardanelles were closed, which stopped almost entirely all the exports and imports of Trebizond. In November an enemy fleet bombarded for the first time the city of Trebizond, which bombardment paralyzed all business, the people leaving for the villages and the market being kept practically closed.

Trade Returns.

There are no official statistics available showing the trade of Trebizond with foreign countries. The statistics of imports and exports given later in this report are those based on information received from merchants interested in each branch of the import and export trade, from the foreign steamship companies, banks, etc. It was difficult to secure the necessary data for last year owing to the abnormal conditions. The merchants have left the city for the villages in a great many instances, the foreign steamship agencies have been closed, the bankers rarely come to the city and at irregular intervals. Even the Imperial Ottoman Bank opens its doors only three days in the week, and that for three hours each day, and the market that we used to study keeps practically closed.

The influence of the war upon the trade, and particularly for this district the closing of the Dardanelles, is evidenced by the fact that the imports decreased in value from £1,649,000 in 1913 to £967,000 for 1914. The imports from July 1 to December 31, 1914, were valued at but £10,403. The exports decreased in value from £821,358 for 1913 to £351,260 for 1914. The exports for the last six months of 1914 amounted to but £78,285.

This district is an agricultural and not an industrial one; and although it remains undeveloped, it is rich in mines and forests, with vast and rich plains, and a considerable amount of water power. If proper attention was paid to the development of the country, and particularly to railroads, and to the improvement of communication and transportation facilities, it should not be long before this district enters into a prosperous era. War has brought the people in contact with modern improvements, such as automobiles, motor-boats, etc., and their advantage over the old system has been so evident that it is believed after the war is over there is going to be a considerable demand for the same.

Exhausted Stocks.

Another important point is that this district, unable to import, has used up all the available stock, therefore when steamship communication is resumed there will be a great demand for all the articles listed in the table of imports and for other articles. Owing to the depleted stock the price of leather has increased considerably. Fortunately for Trebizond, at the time the imports stopped there was a considerable stock in this market in transit for the interior, which for lack of means of transportation has been left and consumed here. It therefore follows that the demand for goods in the hinterland will be even greater than in the coast towns.

It is natural that after a crisis some changes are inevitable, and firms that intend entering into commercial relations with this market should take certain precautions with regard to granting credits; cash on delivery is the only acceptable term. Exporters should enter immediately into communication with importers and come into some understanding in regard to their goods, prices, and terms, so as to be ready to send their goods when steamship communication is re-established. Money is scarce throughout the district. Although the Trebizond branch of the Imperial Ottoman Bank paid in full all the money deposited with that institution, and most of the other banking houses have done their best to refund to their depositors, either totally or in part, there still remains unpaid a large sum floating on the market, at an interest of 9 per cent. and protected by the moratorium.

Crops and Shipping.

The tobacco crop of 1914 was of good quality and was over 1,000,000 pounds more in quantity than the crop of the preceding year. Tobacco exports from the Trebizond-Platana region in 1914 amounted to 500,447 pounds, against 3,315,259 for the preceding year. Fortunately tobacco improves in quality by remaining one or two years; therefore it is hoped that there will be no important loss on this article.

The annual crop of filberts for the whole district, usually estimated at 600,000 cantars (of 124 pounds each) of unshelled nuts, in 1914 was a record crop of 1,200,000 cantars, of which hardly 1-10th has been exported. The remainder is being held for a market.

Steam vessels numbering 662 and sailing vessels totalling 4,782, with a total registry of 694,131 tons, entered the port of Trebizond in 1914, as against 636 steam vessels and 5,261 sailing vessels with a total tonnage of 1,028,044 in 1913. Ottoman vessels—372 steam and 4,773 sailing—had the greatest tonnage, 251,948; French were second, numbering forty-two steam vessels with a total tonnage of 113,107; and Russian vessels had third place, numbering sixty-nine steam and nine sailing with a total tonnage of 104,022. The remainder were Austrian, Persian, Italian, German, British, Greek, Belgian, Roumanian, and one American of 782 tons registry. A considerable part of the above total registry of 694,131 tons was for military purposes, which makes the difference for commerce still greater compared with the preceding year.

The steamers that have called at this port since the closing of the Dardanelles have been from Constantinople, carrying mostly Government and Red Cross supplies. The amount of other goods brought by them has been insignificant. Some filberts have also been exported by these steamers via Constantinople-Dedeagatch, but the transit did not prove encouraging; besides being expensive, it took over three months from the time the goods left Trebizond to the time they were reshipped at Dedeagatch.

The International Institute of Agriculture estimates at 2,960,000 metric tons the Roumanian harvest of 1915, as compared with 1,260,000 tons in 1914. The harvest was excellent, surpassing by more than 600,000 tons the average of the harvests from 1910 to 1914. The crop of oats for the current year reached 380,000 tons, against 367,400 tons in 1914; that of corn, 2,800,000 tons, against 2,782,700 tons in 1914; barley, 516,000 tons, against 536,600 tons in 1914; rye, 80,000 tons, against 49,700 tons in the preceding year.

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Engineering Notes.

Combined Machine Tools.

The value of a machine-tool which combines in its construction and handling the capacities of various other tools, is particularly appreciated in factories and workshops where either want of space or a consideration of outlay hinder the acquisition of separate machine-tools for each kind of work. Such disadvantages are very frequently experienced in the East, where, owing to a comparative scarcity of engineering workshops for repairs, etc., every well-managed factory employing machinery is obliged to provide a workshop on the premises equipped, as a rule, with one or two of the more expedient machine-tools for doing the necessary repairs which at times may be needed. On the other hand, it often happens that engineering workshops, which depend more or less on casual work, and which have not sufficient work for the continuous employment of certain machine-tools, prefer rather to do without them than to embark on an outlay which they often cannot afford; and thus on occasions when such machines are mostly needed they are obliged to make shift with dilatory methods which, of course, do not always secure satisfactory results. It is obvious, therefore, that a machine-tool which is capable of being converted into various other machines is a most economic and very efficient equipment in such factories, engineering workshops, as well as in motor garages, and, generally speaking, repair works. As an example of the utility of a combined machine-tool we may refer to a new and very interesting machine.

A Universal Machine.

It is a lathe of massive construction and high-class workmanship. It can turn any diameter from ¼ in. up to 36 in., the speed for this great range of work being easily regulated from 270 revolutions per minute to 5 revolutions per minute. Its centre height can be varied from 7 in. to 18 in., and it is as easy to handle as any ordinary screw-cutting lathe. By the removal of two nuts and the slide rest it is instantly converted into a very efficient boring and drilling machine, with all the usual conveniences of such machines. By the attachment of the necessary upper bar and centre the machine is converted into a milling machine of practically the usual form. A powerful dividing head and supporting centre renders it a universal milling machine capable of cutting spur, bevel, mitre, and worm gears from the smallest size up to 40 in. diameter. The handling of the machine is very easy to an ordinary machine man, but in the hands of an expert a great variety of other work can be done. One of the special features of the machine is the ample dimensions of the bed which is box-formed, with large flat bearing surfaces. The saddle has self-acting sliding movements, and carries a slotted boring table with self-acting traversing movement, while a quick-change gear-box under the head gives three speeds, changeable by hand lever while the tool is running. Reversing for screw-cutting and feeds is done by a lever on the apron itself, instead of on the headstock. The usefulness of such a machine in a factory or workshop is obvious.

The Electric Battleship.

While there are nations at the present moment which, in view of the recent achievements of the modern submarine, are considering the inadvisability of spending their money on great battleships, America retains, apparently, a decided confidence in them and their superb efficiency. Her new battleship, California, which was launched last month, will be, from point of size, greater than any foreign battleship built or building, and will also be the world's first electric Dreadnought. The California and her two sister-ships, the Mississippi and the Idaho—the last two to replace the two of the same name sold recently to Greece—will each displace 32,000

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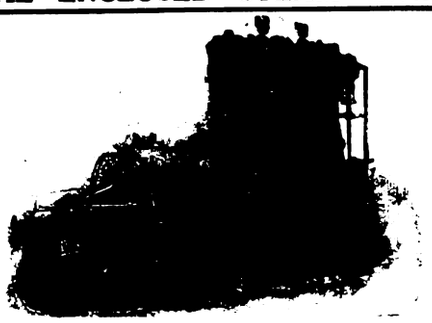

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tons. The California will be a ship of innovations, and will cost about 7,800,000 dollars without her armour or armaments, which is expected to cost as much more. Her length is 624 ft., her breadth 97 ft., and she will draw 30 ft. of water, while her speed will be twenty-one knots an hour. She will carry twelve 14-in. guns, mounted three abreast in a turret, twenty-two 5-in. rapid-fire guns, and will have four submerged torpedo-tubes. But the principal feature of the new Dreadnought is the machinery for propelling her by electricity. She will be driven by motors which will deliver electricity made by steam. The Navy experts believe that the electric installation is cheaper than steam propulsion, and reduces the weight of machinery. In outward appearance the California will be different to the present-day battleships, for instead of the blunt grey nose of the latter, her bows will be tapered into a graceful, yacht-like stem, her overhanging bow projecting more than 20 ft. beyond her cutwater and giving place for three anchors instead of two as on the present ships. When the new ship is ready for her trial, in 1917, she promises a most interesting study for the naval experts of the world.

Motor Gunboats in the Persian Gulf.

It is stated that Turkish motor gunboats have repeatedly been mentioned in the report of the fighting near the Euphrates. These boats are apparently some of those that were built in this country to the order of the Turkish Government some years ago, says *Motor Boat*, having a length of 18 metres, a beam of 3.25 metres, and being fitted with two 70 h.p. motors. With this machinery a speed of 11 knots is attained, and at this speed the radius of action is 600 miles. Each boat carries two quick-firing guns.

Monazite in Southern Somaliland.

Professor E. Artini reports, says the *Mining Journal*, that in the gravels of the river Giuba monazite is found in minute rounded granules of varying shades of yellow. From the normal alluvials of the river it was impracticable to extract the mineral in quantity sufficient for the chemical examination necessary to confirm the presence of monazite, but it happened that masses of the heavier elements became concentrated near the mouth of the Giuba. These black aggregations were especially rich in magnetite and ilmenite, with a specific gravity of 4.90, and included 56 per cent. of iron and 16.87 per cent. of titanic oxide. By means of a powerful magnetic separator the professor was enabled to obtain from 500 grammes of gravel 0.3 grammes of yellow sand that he succeeded in characterizing chemically. In the interior, in the sands of Lugh, he also encountered deposits in which was recognized the presence of monazite, though in very small quantities, analogeous in aspect to the gravels of the river Giuba, from which the latter were possibly derived.

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ALEXANDRIA PRIZE COURT

S.S. Lutzow (Ex Cargo).

His Honour Judge Grain has handed down from the Supreme Court, Alexandria, sitting in Prize, the following judgment:—

This cargo, consisting of five cases of cotton goods and other articles, was invoiced on July 15, 1914, from Arnold German, a Swiss subject at St. Gall (Switzerland), to German and Co., of Manila (Philippine Islands). A formal American consular certificate of invoice is put in, and also a copy of the original invoice, certified by the British Consul at St. Gall, showing that the seller is Arnold German, the Swiss, and the purchaser German and Co., Limited, of Manila. These goods are also invoiced by German and Co., a German firm at Hamburg, to German and Co., of Manila, the invoice being dated July 30, 1914.

The Procurator asks for condemnation of the goods on the ground that the presumption is that the property in the goods is in the enemy firm of German and Co., of Hamburg, as the bills of lading state that the goods are shipped by German and Co., of Hamburg, and one of the invoices shows that the goods are sent by German and Co., of Hamburg, to German and Co., of Manila. The Procurator urges that even if the goods did originally belong to Arnold German, the Swiss, nevertheless he has put himself into the hands of German and Co., of Hamburg, and lost the control of the property in his goods.

It appears that Arnold German was sending these goods for the purpose of finding out how this particular class of goods would sell in America.

In one letter, dated July 29, 1914, from German and Co., of Hamburg, to Arnold German, they ask if he desires to insure his goods against war risks, and inform him that the goods will probably be shipped in the s.s. Lutzow. This certainly makes it appear that Arnold German was looked upon by German and Co., of Hamburg, as the owner and consignor of the cargo.

The correspondence also shows that Arnold German was sending the goods to German and Co., of Manila, on approval, and that they had the option of taking up the goods themselves or selling them for Arnold German. Therefore, there is doubt that the property in the goods is in whoever is decided to be the seller and consignor, either Arnold German, the Swiss, or German and Co., of Hamburg, the enemy firm, and not in the buyer or consignee.

The reason given in the correspondence for the two forms of invoice I must confess I cannot understand. The letter from Arnold German states, "The invoice from German and Co., of Hamburg, is only used for United States Consul invoices and copies thereof, because Manila wants for the Customs House uniform invoices for all imports of the firm."

But, taking into consideration that the copy of the original invoice, certified as a true copy by the British Consul at St. Gall, shows that Arnold German was the seller, that the certificate of the invoices from the American Consulate at St. Gall (Switzerland) shows also that Arnold German is the seller; and taking into consideration that there is practically no evidence of any property in the goods having passed to German and Co., of Hamburg, beyond the second invoice and their names on the bills of lading, I am of opinion that there is sufficient evidence placed before me on behalf of the claimant to enable me to grant a release to him.

The order of the Court will, therefore, be for the release of the cargo in question to Arnold German, the Swiss, of St. Gall.

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ROUMANIAN REFINERY INDUSTRY.

Even if, in spite of the war, the production of oil in Roumania has maintained, and even exceeded, the figures for the corresponding period of last year, this cannot be said as regards the refining activity during the same period, says the *Petroleum Review*. While the production of crude oil in the country during the first six months of the year has amounted to 906,472 tons, as against 878,516 tons during the corresponding period of 1914, thus showing an increase of 28,956 tons, or 3 per cent., the refining industry has during the same period considerably diminished, for while during the first six months of 1914 there were treated in the refineries 880,143 tons of crude oil—that is to say, a quantity exceeding the production obtained during that period—during the six months of this year there were treated but 757,870 tons of crude oil, which quantity is less than the actual production by 148,602 tons, or, in other words, amounts to but 83½ per cent. of the total production, as against over 100 per cent. treated during the corresponding period of last year.

The cause of this lamentable state of affairs lies, naturally, in the difficult situation created for the Roumanian industry by the present events, and especially by the total closing of the sea and water-ways by which under normal circumstances 90 per cent. of the Roumanian exports are made. The exportation by land, which the Roumanian industry has managed to organise with enormous difficulty, naturally cannot absorb all the products obtained in the refineries. On the other hand, a certain number of products are totally prohibited for export. All this has resulted in the stocks in the refineries and export installations accumulating very rapidly, and this, in its turn, has rendered impossible the continuation of the refining industry to the full capacity of the refineries.

The following table shows the quantities of various products obtained in the refineries during the six months as compared with the same period of 1914:—

	1914. Tons.		1915. Tons.
Benzine	208,040	....	190,174
Kerosene	190,902	....	129,764
Lubricating oil	47,828	....	60,219
Residuals	422,335	....	365,084
Total	869,105	....	745,241

The percentage of the above quantities in proportion to the total can be seen from the following:—

	Per cent.
Benzine	25·5
Kerosene	17·4
Lubricating oil	8·1
Residuals	49·0
	100·0

The total quantities of products delivered for inner consumption during the six months amounted to 388,756 tons (not including 842 tons of paraffin), as can be seen from the following table showing the various products delivered:—

	Tons.
Benzine	14,679
Kerosene	21,584
Lubricating oils	21,752
Residuals	254,062
Paraffin	842
	312,919

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Tenders are invited by the Controller, Cairo Tanzim Department, for the supply of general stores required during the financial year 1916-1917. Date, December 1.

Tenders are invited by the General Post Office, Alexandria, for the supply of general stores for the financial year 1916-1917. Date, December 1.

Tenders are invited by the Inspector-General of Prisons, Cairo, for the supply of various articles and materials required for the prisons' workshops, such as English leather, brush materials, timber, coal, khaki drill serge, oils and paints, iron, ironmongery, Indian cotton yarn, yellow soap, tools, miscellaneous stores. Date, December 1.

Tenders are invited by the Controller, Cairo Tanzim Department for the supply of general stores required by the Giza and Gezira Water Works during the financial year 1916-1917. Date, December 2.

Morocco.

The Board of Trade understand that certificates of origin are required to accompany all goods imported into the French Zone, and that, so far as exports from the United Kingdom are concerned, the authorities in the French Zone accept certificates of origin issued by Chambers of Commerce in this country if drawn up in the form which is accepted by the French Customs authorities in the case of certificates issued by Chambers of Commerce in respect of certain goods exported from the United Kingdom to France. Particular attention is directed to fact that in the case of certificates of origin issued by Chambers of Commerce for goods exported to the French Zone in Morocco, the signature of the issuing authority must be "legalised" by the local French Consular officer.

The British Post Office agencies at Alcazar and Mequinez, in Morocco, will be closed on the 30th inst. Letters for these places should henceforth be prepaid at the international rate of postage of 2½d. for the first ounce and 1½d. for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce. Parcels cannot be sent.

Bulgaria.

A Supplement to the *London Gazette* of November 10 contains an Order-in-Council authorising the High Court of Justice and the Prize Courts in Egypt, Zanzibar, and Cyprus to institute proceedings in respect of all Bulgarian vessels and cargoes captured or detained by His Majesty's armed forces.

Malta.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Colonial Office, copy of a Government Notice (No. 234), dated October 21, which amends and prohibits the exportation of certain articles to destinations from Malta. The full list is published in the current issue of the *Board of Trade Journal*.

Cyprus.

An import and export firm in Cyprus, with branches in Alexandria, Port Said, and Cairo, is desirous of representing Canadian exporters, in Cyprus and Egypt, upon a commission basis. Articles specially suggested are wheat, flour, barley, roofing and flooring lumber, and leather. For further information application should be made to the Canadian Trade Commissioner's Office, Portland House, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The Board of Trade have been informed by the Chief Collector of Customs at Cyprus that, by an Order-in-Council (No. 646 of 1915) appliances and equipment for any Municipal Poor House in Cyprus are allowed to be imported free of Customs duty on the certificate of the Commissioner of the District.

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CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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Near East Markets.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, November 12.

The exportation of barley has been prohibited, and power has been given to carry out searches for hoards of the grain, as was provided for in the matter of wheat in February last. The local papers estimate that the wheat supply of the island will not suffice for island needs beyond next March, and they call upon the Government to take measures which will provide against future scarcity, especially by importation of grain from Egypt.

COTTON MARKET.

Liverpool. Thursday Night.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph:—

There has only been a quiet demand for cotton this week, and the amount of business reported has been comparatively moderate. Quotations of good and above in Joannovich and Sakellarides show an advance of 20 points; all others 5 points. The sales, which include 250 bales of Sudan cotton, are estimated at 2,600 bales, against 2,700 bales last week.

ADANA COTTON CROP.

The U.S. Consul at Messina reports:—

The Cicilian cotton crop in 1914 amounted to about 120,000 bales, some of it having been lost owing to scarcity of labour for picking. In the Smyrna district, the output decreased to about 16,000 bales. or about 50 per cent. of the 1913 crop. About 40,000 bales were exported to Germany and Austria, partly via Italy. The Adana cotton crop in 1915 will hardly exceed 50,000 bales, owing to smaller area planted and ravages by locusts, and the output is likely to be requisitioned by the Government.

It was thought at one time that the lace industry in Turkey would become a national asset of consequence, as the American demand was important. In 1912 the exports of cotton lace to the United States were valued at about £120,000. They were reduced in 1914 to £10,388. It appears that Syrian laces became discredited in America (1) owing to attempts to sell them as genuine Irish lace; (2) by using inferior qualities of thread when the American demand increased; (3) conservatism in styles which remained unchanged in spite of protests from consumers. It is possible that the industry may be revived after the war, if some foreigner should organize the production somewhat along the lines of Turkish carpet manufacturing.

THE SITUATION IN TURKEY.

A correspondent calls our attention to some statistical errors which appeared in our issue of October 29 under the above heading, from our Special Correspondent at Athens (October 13). The following are the necessary errata:—

Stocks of Mohair remaining in Constantinople were 2,000-3,000 bales.

Opium stocks in the interior were 6,000-7,000 cases, and in Salonika 150-200 cases.

The maize crop in the Ada Bazar district is estimated at 4,000-5,000 tons.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants. London, Nov. 25.

The news of the favourable development of the political situation in Greece, which has been telegraphed early this morning from Athens, produced a noticeable effect in the market to-day, and the prices are firm, with an evident probability that the tendency for a further advance will be lessened. Provincial and Pyrgas are quoted 40s., in bags 37s.; Gulf, cases, 45s. to 48s.; Patras, 44s. to 46s.; Vostizza, 45s. to 53s.; and smalls, 39s. to 45s.

Sultanas.

The available stocks are extremely small. The first shipment of new Afghan fruit has arrived, but that will not help much the situation. Smyrnas are quoted 85s. to 105s., Afghans 85s. to 90s., and Greek 98s. to 115s.

Figs.

There is only a fair demand, owing, it is believed, to the prices asked, which do not encourage buyers.

Dates.

There is a good demand, with fair business passing. Hallowee are quoted at 16s., Khadrowie 16s. 6d., and Sair 14s. 9d., but there is a probability of an advance.

Seeds.

Linseed commands rather more attention, and sellers in some instances ask a slight advance. London-Calcutta in any position has buyers at 66s. 3d., with sellers asking 66s. 6d. Bombay, November-December, 67s.. La Plata to Hull, ditto, 62s. 6d. Cottonseed is quiet. London-Egyptian, November, is quoted £11 15s. per ton. Hull spot £12, November £11 15s. Bombay to Hull spot, November-December, December-January, and January-February £10 5s., all sellers. Rapeseed is firm and sparingly offered. Guzerat, November-December, is quoted 65s. 6d.; and brown Cawnpore, ditto, pure basis 59s. 6d.

Oils.

Linseed oil is closing quiet, but not lower. Spot pipes £32, barrels £32 15s., November-December £32 10s., January-April £33, May-August £34 10s. Cotton oil is quiet. Crude spot pipes £34 5s., refined pipes pale £36, and barrels sweet £40 to £42, as to make. Rape oil is firm. Ordinary brown naked, spot £39, English, refined, barrels £42 10s. Olive oil is very firm. Spot Levant £52 per tun, ex stores.

Oilcakes.

Linseed cakes.—There is only a slight improvement in the demand, and values are firmly held up. Best London made are moving freely at £11 17s. 6d. to £12. East India seed pures are offered at £11 12s. 6d. to £11 15s. for arrivals. Fine seedy Bombay is quoted at £11 17s. 6d. to £11 18s. 9d., ex quay.

Cotton cakes.—A small quantity of Egyptian has been offered on spot this week at £9 5s.; and for December shipment £8 17s. 6d., ex steamer, was asked. English makes are held at extreme prices, £9 7s. 6d. to £9 10s.; and Bombay £8 17s. 6d.

Locust Beans.

The demand is good, but holders ask extreme prices, £8 10s. for whole and £9 for kibbled.

COMPANY MEETING.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.

The twenty-ninth ordinary general meeting was held on Tuesday at the bank, Clement's Lane, E.C., Mr. Henry Adair Richardson, the chairman, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. George H. Soul) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, at the outset of his remarks, expressed great regret at the loss which the bank had sustained through the death of Mr. Thomas Usborne and the retirement of Mr. J. Howard Gwyther, and warmly recognised the services which had been rendered to the bank by those gentlemen.

Continuing, the Chairman said:—It is my good fortune to-day to present you with the strongest balance-sheet I have ever put before you. This is what it should be in wartime, and satisfactory as showing the liquid nature of our business, especially as I can tell you that we have not unduly pressed any of our customers. Nor have we been hiding your talent under a napkin, for we are able to show a very good profit and loss account. We maintain our dividend, and out of the surplus profits of the last two years have provided in full for depreciation of securities, for all ascertained war losses, and put aside £20,000 for losses that may arise—and are pretty sure to arise—as the war goes on. The result has been largely due to a very gratifying increase in current accounts, the cotton crop having sold much better than seemed likely, and to the fillip that the large number of soldiers located in Egypt has given to business generally. It is a feather in our cap that we have kept the military accounts in Egypt. Too much praise cannot be given to our officers there for the able way in which they tackled the heavy extra work thrown on the staff, impoverished as it was by the drain on it for Army service; and to judge from the many flattering letters received from commanders of regiments, their efforts have been much appreciated.

In Malta and Gibraltar—where we have the Treasury accounts—we have, I believe, done very useful work. Under contract, we have to supply all the funds they require there, and in Malta, owing to the war, their requirements have been very large indeed—double what they were before the war, and now, I believe, they are three times as much. Our Malta branch has met all these demands, and has, I am sure, been of very great service to the country. Our newly opened branch at Khartoum has shown an encouraging profit.

Now, as regards Egypt. A year ago it looked very gloomy, with cotton at 5d. a pound, and not readily saleable at that; but Egypt has, after all, come through the year much better than might have been expected. The revenue showed a deficit of only £1,700,000—no very serious matter in itself. For the first few months of the war trade was at a complete standstill, and losses faced every one. Yet, so soon as the Government fixed a minimum for cotton values, things began to improve all round; the moratorium was brought gradually to an end, and the settlement of cotton contracts on the local Exchange—which promised to be a serious source of danger and difficulty—was ably and satisfactorily arranged; paper took the place of gold, and readily passed into currency (proving an excellent counter for marketing the cotton crop), whilst the large arrivals of soldiers put money freely into circulation;

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£5,000,000 sterling was transferred by the War Office to Egypt between February and August—to the great advantage of importers and others; while, with rising prices for cotton, exporters were in most cases able to make good their losses of the earlier months.

On the other hand, the cultivators of cotton have suffered severely, though there may be some little compensation in the cereal crops, and sugar cultivators must have done exceedingly well. The crop turned out to be only 6,300,000 cantars—a million cantars less than the estimates, but it was all sold for export—an encouraging fact for the future. Its value was, however, something like £11,000,000 to £12,000,000 less than the larger crop of the previous year. That is the dark cloud that will hang over Egypt for some time, but there is a silver lining to it, for cotton is now round about 10d. per pound, and it seems quite possible that, with the reduced crop of this year, the price may be maintained. At any rate, the process of recuperation is getting a good start. The necessaries of life produced in the country do not appear to have risen in price, and Egypt is much better off in this respect than many other countries since the war began. Trading generally has been conducted on a sound basis, and credits have been curtailed and shortened.

He afterwards referred to the principal figures in the balance-sheet, and called attention to the changes shown as compared with the corresponding entries a year ago, remarking that investments were nearly double, and, having now paid the instalments on the War Loan, stood at £840,000, of which £620,000 was Four-and-a-Half per Cent. War Loan written down to 98. He concluded by moving the adoption of the reports and accounts.

Mr. Alan Richardson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously; and resolutions were passed approving the payment of a dividend at the rate of 10s. per share, less income-tax, and re-electing the retiring directors and auditors.

The meeting closed with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, the directors, and the staff.

GERMANY'S LOAN TO BULGARIA.

Reuter's Agency reports from Amsterdam that, according to the *Lokalanzeiger*, the Bulgarian Finance Minister, M. Tontcheff, has successfully concluded in Berlin his negotiations with the German Government. A group of German banks, headed by the Disconto Gesellschaft, will advance sums to Bulgaria for covering her war expenses, these advances to be transformed later to a loan. In an interview with a representative of the *Lokalanzeiger* M. Tontcheff declared that the districts conquered by Bulgaria which ethnologically do not belong to Serbia will for ever be incorporated in Bulgaria. The Minister includes Nish and Monastir in this territory. Regarding the attitude of Greece, M. Tontcheff emphasised that the Entente will not be able to intimidate Greece, as King Constantine well knew that neutrality alone could be to the interest of Greece, and he was convinced that Bulgaria does not think of conquering Greek territory.

GREEK MORATORIUM.

With reference to an earlier notice intimating that the Greek Moratorium published by Royal Decree of July 26/August 8, 1914, was no longer in operation, but that exemptional measures of relief would remain in force until the end of the current year, H.M. Minister at Athens has forwarded translations of two Decrees dated September 11/24 and Sept. 30, October 13 respectively, relative to the re-establishment of the Moratorium in Greece. The first Decree re-establishes the Moratorium, and is in most respects similar to the Decree of August 17, 1913. The second Decree modifies the first Decree in certain respects. The translations of the two Decrees referred to above, together with a statement showing wherein the present Moratorium differs from previous Moratorium measures in Greece, may be consulted by British firms at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Two Greeks and one Roumanian were among the foreigners naturalised in Great Britain in October.

BULGARIAN FINANCES.

The following notes are from the British Consular Report for 1914, published last week:—

Financial Situation.

The Budget estimates for 1914 provided for receipts for £10,270,000 and an expenditure of £10,190,000. The total foreseen was not attained, as the European war upset calculations. The Government prohibition of the export of cereals and live-stock, forming three-fourths of the exports from the country, seriously affected the receipts. The peasants, not having sold their crops, limited their purchases; consequently, the heads of indirect contributions, excise duties and railway receipts all suffered. Imports were also much affected, and the customs receipts fell to a low level.

At the end of 1914 the consolidated debt amounted to £24,400,000.

The Budget estimates for 1915 place the revenues at £10,800,000 and the expenditure at slightly less. To attain this total it was necessary to obtain £950,000 from new sources. Excise duties are being provisionally levied upon wines, and export dues upon certain articles hitherto exempt. The most notable increases are those in the Budgets of the Ministries of War and Public Instruction.

Banks.

Leaving the Bulgarian National Bank and the State Agricultural Bank out of consideration, the capital and the interests of the principal banking houses in the country are mainly German and Austro-Hungarian. They are as follows:—

The Banque Générale de Bulgarie (dependent on the Pester Ungarische Commercial Bank), which in 1914 increased its capital from £200,000 to £600,000.

The Banque Balkanique, favouring Austro-Hungarian interests, and which during the year increased its capital from £240,000 to £400,000.

The Banque de Crédit, founded by the Disconto-Gesellschaft of Berlin.

There are also a number of banks with Bulgarian capital, of which the chief is perhaps the Banque Bulgare de Commerce.

Industries.

Native industries have made considerable progress and have rapidly increased during the past five years. The capital involved is estimated at £3,720,000, and is mainly Bulgarian; it is only within the last few years that foreign capital has begun to become interested. The production in 1912 was £4,407,000, the most important branches being those of food-products (£2,600,000) and textiles (£856,500). The major part of these products is disposed of within the country, only one-fifth being sold abroad. The principal industrial districts are those of Sofia and Tirnovo.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for week, 452 tons (including 208 tons recovered from sediment); Gemsah production for last week, 336 tons (including 109 tons recovered from sediment); Hurgada production for week, 438 tons (last week, 408 tons).

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN.—Production of crude oil for week ending 13th inst., 204 tons.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN PRODUCE. — The accounts of the Anglo-Roumanian Produce Company, Ltd., for the year ended December 31, 1914, show a loss of £3,138, which increases the debit balance to be carried forward to £54,916.

BANQUE EGYPTIENNE DE COMMERCE (in liquidation).—The postponed meeting of shareholders is to be held to-day in Cairo.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the eleven days ended October 31 amounted to £E6,556, as against £E5,526 for the corresponding period of last year.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Production for week ending November 13, 1,500 tons.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93⅛	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	85xd
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	78
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82⅛	73½	78§
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80¼	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	52
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	51
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	43
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	40
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	51
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	60
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	89
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	73
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Ss., £50p.	92	—	85 —xd
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94⅛	—	81xd
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73xd
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82⅛	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65⅛	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	—	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69⅛
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅛	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	—	3⅛
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅛	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88⅛	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅝	—	12
Do do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅝
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	90
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	⅛	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅛	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	⅛	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8⅛	—	6
Do. Pref.	4⅛	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅜	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
" Founders	⅛	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	7⅞
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	85
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	⅜
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	21/6
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99⅛	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bestar	⅛	—	15/-
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	9/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	—	2⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	88
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Nov. 17.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	6/-
Anglo-Persian	22/1⅛	⅛
European Oilfields	4/9	3/3
Roumanian	20/-	12/9

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Nov. 16.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	460
Canal de Suez	4050	3979
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	545
Turkish Unified 4%	59.95	—
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	89
Serbian, 1895	—	66.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 239.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Greece's position in relation to the march of events in the Balkans has not yet been satisfactorily regulated. In the collective *démarches* made by the Entente Powers the Greek Government was asked to withdraw its troops from the zone which the Allies were obliged to use in sending help to Serbia. The reply presented this week expresses the opinion that it would be impracticable to withdraw the Greek troops, as it would be impossible to keep them supplied elsewhere. At the same time it is pointed out that Greece's neutrality will continue to be benevolent to the Entente so long as her sovereign rights are not infringed and no restrictions of a military order are imposed. Such a reply is little calculated to satisfy the Allies, particularly if military exigencies require a large force to be based on Salonika for any length of time. Greece's difficulties arise from the fact that she chose to withdraw from the position she took up when she asked the Allied Powers to land troops at Salonika for her own protection and for that of her ally, Serbia. If she had played the part she then intended to play, and had sent her army to the support of Serbia, no controversy need have arisen over the control of Salonika and the railway. Greece's defection, however, imposes upon the Allies the necessity of landing a much larger force than was originally contemplated, and the question of the safety of these troops must overrule Greek susceptibilities.

To the British and French forces at Salonika have now to be added Serbian refugees, who will have to be provided for, and for whose welfare Greece is not likely to make herself chargeable. According to the latest reports, hundreds of refugees, many of them destitute, were arriving daily by the single train that still ran from Monastir. The train arrived at midnight, and as the majority of the refugees could obtain no shelter they had to wander about the streets in the piercing cold. Subscriptions for their relief had been started locally, but not one-tenth of the actual suffering could be relieved by this means. So long as responsibility for providing for these unhappy people is divided between the Greek authorities and the Allies they will fare ill. Their presence in Salonika is an additional argument in favour of the administrative control of the war zone being vested in the Allies. Any inconvenience experienced by Greece will fall very short of her debt to Serbia.

It is to be hoped that the negotiations with Greece will not be allowed to follow a course which will tend to confirm not only Greece but Roumania as well in the opinion that no decisive action is ever to be expected from the Entente Powers. If the claims advanced by the Allies are justified by the circumstances in which they find themselves, there must be abundant reason for insisting upon Greece's immediate compliance. The history of the Near East during the last fourteen or fifteen months is strewn with well-meant attempts to make words do duty for deeds. Negotiations with people to whom nothing but a show of force appeals have been carried on with the strictest attention to copy-book manners and maxims. The British Government and the British Press have been "kind" in turn to Turkey, Bulgaria, and Greece, and to those who are responsible for the destinies of those countries. The result in regard to the first two is to be seen in the graves of the Allied troops in Gallipoli and Serbia, which, if they could speak, would appeal for the adoption of other methods at this juncture, in case Greece, too, against the will and better judgment of her people, should be dragged down into the vortex of the Central Powers. One point must not be overlooked, that if the Central Powers and Bulgaria continue to respect Greek territory, *a priori* evidence is afforded of the existence of an understanding between them and the Greek Government.

The occupation of Monastir by the Bulgarians seems imminent, and with it the last hold of the Serbians on their own country will have been relinquished. A small triangle in the south-east remains in Anglo-French hands, with the River Cherna between them and the Bulgarians on the western side, and there is so far no report of the enemy being between Dibra and Ochrida. But with this exception the Austro-German and Bulgarian forces are aligned along the Montenegrin and Albanian frontiers. Montenegro is thus surrounded by the enemy on two out of three sides, and only a few score miles separate the invading armies and the Adriatic. The intervening country, however, offers more formidable

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obstacles than any met with south of the Danube. In their final withdrawal across the border the Serbians were compelled to sacrifice field artillery and heavy guns, and their losses on the plain of Kossovo were probably greater than at any other point in the long retreat. The degree of resistance, therefore, which they could oppose to the enemy in the event of further pursuit would depend mainly on the advantages which a force on the defensive in Montenegro and Albania has over the attack. German Headquarters have, indeed, announced the "close" of the Serbian operations. Our Allies will not trust to the enemy's bulletins for their intelligence regarding his movements, but the chances of the German statement representing the truth are enhanced by the early setting in of winter in the Balkans.

Whatever decision may be reached by the Entente Powers in regard to the nature of the military assistance to be given to the Serbians at this juncture, there can be no doubt that official measures will be required to make provision for the Serbian refugees in Montenegro, Albania, and Greece. Already something in this direction has been done; voluntary relief also has been organised for some time past. But it would seem as if arrangements for the succour of the hapless people who will be pouring into the three countries, for the most part destitute, must be on a more comprehensive scale than anything attempted hitherto. The need will be great and most urgent. It can only be supplied in time from Italy, and we should like to hear that the Allied War Council has already assumed charge of the matter, and is taking steps to make good to the Serbians something of what they have lost by the failure of the Entente to bring them military support in time.

The Allies' future military plans in the Balkans are naturally a sealed book. It is enough that these plans should be maturing, and that the advocates of a policy of leaving Serbia to her fate have been overruled. All that is known is that fresh troops are being landed continuously at Salonika, while a Russian army is being collected at Reni and at Ismail on the lower reaches of the Danube. The destination of this latter force forms the subject of the liveliest speculation, attended with some uneasiness among Germany and her subordinates. One thing is certain, that the Central Powers will have lost no time in making their preparations for defence. Austrian troops are being sent to Rustchuk, and Turkish divisions are said to be at Varna, Burgas, and Mustapha Pasha, thus following out the principle of avoiding as far as possible the chance of the Bulgarians finding themselves opposed to the Russians.

A speech delivered in Bucharest by M. Vintila Bratiano, brother of the Premier, of which a report appeared in the *Morning Post*, may be taken to reflect fairly accurately the Roumanian official attitude. M. Bratiano pointed out that the war would probably still be of long duration. As the Entente Powers could not afford, even temporarily, to allow the Central Powers to dominate the Balkan Peninsula, they would have to reassert themselves even after the occupation of the greater part of Serbia, and thus repair an oversight caused by want of preparation in time. This would, however, necessitate the use of large forces, if the Allies' action was to be effective, and the Balkans would then become an integral area of the European battlefield. It might be expected that next spring would see a large concentration of belligerent forces in Macedonia and Thrace. Such a development would give importance to the neutral nations bordering on the new theatre of war, and would render it necessary for such States to take up a position on one side or the other. A consideration of all these facts, M. Bratiano added, showed that Roumania was justified in the adoption of the policy which she had maintained thus far.

In spite of the correctness of this dispassionate utterance it is easy to see that the speaker's sympathies are with the Entente Powers. He justifies, however, the postponement of Roumania's participation in the war on the ground of the military situation. In other words, Roumania would in all probability have thrown in her lot with the Entente Powers before now, if the Russian withdrawal from Galicia had not taken place. It is now generally admitted that from Roumania's point of view the only satisfactory substitute for the reappearance of Russian troops in the Carpathians will be the concentration of an adequate Entente force in the Balkans. All the indications are in favour of the conditions on which Roumania's co-operation is to be based being fulfilled even before the period anticipated by M. Bratiano.

In a letter from a Budapest correspondent to the *Morning Post* reference is made to the intrigue and bribery practised by the Germans and Austrians in Roumania. It has been understood in Great Britain in a general way that something in the nature of a Press campaign has been carried on in the Balkans; but its actual ramifications, we believe, have been inadequately grasped even in official circles. There is good ground for saying that the correspondent's details are accurate, although he does not attempt to tell the whole story. From the Minister-Presidential Press Bureau at Budapest, runs the message, articles written by hired Transylvanian writers are being sent daily by the dozen to the Bucharest newspapers. "There are four or five papers there which receive regular monthly subsidies for publishing this stuff, and a special news agency is continually at work at Bucharest, whence 'Roumanian News' is distributed to all countries, neutral and belligerent alike. All the items appearing in the neutral Press about the Filipescu group are sent out by this agency under Austrian control. A Hungarian journalist who spent some time in Bucharest tells me that immense sums are spent there on the Press, and that individual journalists are also receiving subsidies from the German and Austrian Press agents. No money is too much and no labour is enough on the part of the agents working in Roumania to ensure the smooth working of the campaign undertaken to keep Roumania out of the war. This journalist tells me that more than thirty million crowns (£1,250,000) have been spent during the war for the Balkan propaganda."

During the present week the Home Secretary has claimed a day of Parliament's time for the purpose of discussing matter appearing in the Continental Press. Without entering into the merits of the controversy, it may be pointed out that, if in the past the British Government had paid as much attention to counteracting Germany's Press propaganda in neutral countries as it has to tracing quotations from British newspapers in the Press of belligerent countries, the German campaign of intrigue and bribery would have been far less successful. The subject is not one that can be profitably discussed in public, but the close connection of THE NEAR EAST with the sphere which this German campaign has made peculiarly its own entitles us to point out that a successful counterpoise to the enemy's activities could only be effected by application of a knowledge of local conditions and by work on the spot. There would have been no call to imitate German methods. The desired results could have been attained without offence to British prejudices. It was only necessary that the steps taken should be well informed and adapted to the purpose in hand.

Lord Kitchener's visit to the Eastern Mediterranean is over. On his way home he paid a visit to Italy and to the Italian front, and reached England last Monday after an absence of rather more than three weeks. The results of the tour have yet to be made known. Unfortunately his flying visit to Athens does not seem to have induced King Constantine and the Greek Government to make an unequivocal declaration of their faith. Whatever may be the nature of Lord Kitchener's report on the Dardanelles operations, there can be no doubt that his visit to Gallipoli Peninsula will have heartened the British troops. One passage in the report of his visit to "Anzac" sent by the official Press representa-

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tive with the Australian forces may be quoted. "He (Lord Kitchener) went through the front firing trench on the neck where the Light Horse had charged. The troops could scarcely be restrained from cheering him, although the Turks in places were within twenty yards, and the Anzac Staff had some moments of considerable anxiety at certain awkward corners all too visible to the Turkish snipers." Australians, the same writer adds, "do not cheer readily, but as Lord Kitchener, accompanied by Generals Birdwood and Maxwell and others, passed the crowd along the beach the men spontaneously called for cheers, and gave them again and again. It was purely a soldier's welcome."

The news that reaches this country of the operations on Gallipoli Peninsula continues to be of a meagre description. As a result of the opening up of communication between Berlin and Constantinople the Turks are receiving additional supplies of ammunition, and periods of "liveliness" become more frequent and more sustained. Any attempts at attacking the Allied trenches, however, are visited with heavy penalties, and both sides are developing subterranean warfare, in which for the present honours rest with the Allies. A recent report mentions that the Turks are showing themselves nervous and harassed by our aircraft, which bombarded the Constantinople-Dedeagatch railway line and damaged some of the works. The monitors and light vessels which are frequently bombarding the Asiatic coast, it adds, are constantly keeping the Turks on the watch, and they are obliged to oppose us with important forces.

A lesson in the advantages of sea power over land connection has been read to the Germans by one of their own newspapers in regard to the extravagant hopes being formed by the opening up of communication with Constantinople. "Whoever knows that the sea freight to Buenos Aires from Ruhrort (near the Rhine) is less than the railway goods rate from Ruhrort to Berlin will shake his head when he hears that masses of goods are to be thrown to and fro on the railway from Asia Minor to Hamburg. A single railway system from Baghdad to Berlin is not sufficient to support the burden of Germany's economic life." All this is true; but the fact remains that the possession of railway communication between Germany and Asia Minor is far too valuable an asset for our enemies to enjoy for any length of time without very resolute efforts on the part of the Allies to challenge it.

Rumours regarding the situation on the western frontier of Egypt have produced an official statement to the effect that the Grand Sheikh of the Senussi sect continues to maintain an entirely friendly attitude towards the Egyptian Government. The Grand Sheikh, whose stronghold is in Tripoli, repudiated the action of Turkey a year ago, but certain hostile agencies have been at work in the west, and have succeeded in inducing some of the western Arabs to commit minor acts of aggression against the frontier posts and our people. In pursuance of the Government's policy of removing any possible cause of trouble or friction, the smaller frontier posts situated at Sollum and Sidi Berani have been concentrated further east at Mersa Matruh, the terminus of the coast railway, where an ample force has been established for the protection of our Arabs against any such aggressive action.

Further reports of the battle of Ctesiphon confirm the fierceness of that encounter. General Townshend's troops are in possession of the battlefield, and the Turks have withdrawn to Diala, equidistant from Baghdad and Ctesiphon. In previous engagements the Turkish regulars have never failed to put up a good fight, but have nearly always contrived to escape the punishment suffered by their Arab allies. Consequently they have retired from stage to stage without any serious loss of *moral*, and have continued to contest the British advance stubbornly. At Ctesiphon they had received strong reinforcements, and were able to oppose four divisions to General Townshend's single division. It is reported that one of these divisions was annihilated. The British casualties were certainly heavy, the number of wounded alone being now put at 2,500. In view of the strength of the Turkish forces General Nixon will hardly have any other course open to him than to wait for further reinforcements before attempting to enter Baghdad. It will be better to wait indefinitely a few miles outside the city than to enter it and be compelled to withdraw afterwards.

In view of the fact that the Arabs have always suffered more heavily than the Turkish soldiers in engagements with the British forces, the text of a circular letter issued to the tribal Sheikhs in the Tigris line by order of General Nixon, read in connection with an account by Sir Mark Sykes of some aspects of the advance, is of interest. The letter explains the presence of the British force in Mesopotamia, and the gist of the message is contained in the final paragraph:—"In view of the above facts and assurances, it will surely be plain to you that, if you enter unnecessarily into this conflict between the Powers, you will put yourselves to unnecessary loss and difficulty, and you should, therefore, refuse steadfastly to be misled into abandoning an attitude of aloofness and neutrality, from which no harm can come to you." That the assurances given are not empty words is proved by Sir Mark Sykes's description of Kut-el-Amarah after its occupation by the British. It was Kut of the day before, yet with a difference. "Within an hour the women were chaffering milk, dates, and sweet limes, the merchants were offering contracts, policemen were patrolling dirty little streets, a governor was established in an office, tired troops were standing in the sun while billets were sought for them, and the Arab cultivators were dropping in to complain of a certain horseman who had ridden through a crop of beans, and of a supply and transport officer who had packed his belongings in a garden."

While the attitude of the Shah and the Persian Government is regarded as satisfactory, it has to be admitted that a lot of ground has to be covered before the Germans in the country and their agents and dupes can be brought to book. Prince Henry of Reuss, the German Minister at Teheran, is spoken of as Generalissimo of the armed hostile force, which includes the Gendarmerie, and included at one time most of, if not all, its Swedish officers. A split is reported to have taken place among the latter, but the fact remains that the force they controlled has gone entirely over to the enemy. What steps will be taken to deal with the rebels against the Shah's authority remains to be seen. Much will depend on the attitude of the more important tribes, which will, no doubt, be influenced by the show of force that the belligerent parties can muster. The presence of Russian troops ensures the safety of Teheran, but Kum and Hamadan are entirely in German hands. It is satisfactory to learn that the Swedish officers of the Gendarmerie are not the men originally loaned by the Swedish Government; they were obtained locally by the Persian authorities.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 16.

H.H. the Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan has left for a trip up the Nile as far as Assiut. The journey will be made on his private steam-yacht, which will be towed by another steamer. His Highness, who is accompanied by H.H. the Sultana and some of the members of his suite, will not land anywhere, neither will there be any receptions or ceremonies at any of the towns *en route*. The Sultan is only making this trip in order to obtain a rest, which he badly needs and richly deserves; for, as this correspondence during the past year will have shown, his Highness has, since his accession last December, taken a continuous and increasingly active part in Egyptian affairs.

The First Egyptian Honours List.

On the occasion of the Moslem New Year the first general distribution of grades and decorations under the new *régime* took place. The only awards made before were those bestowed on the Sultanic family, the Ministers, Advisers, and Under-Secretaries. The list now published contains nominations of Egyptians and Europeans to the various classes of one Order—the Order of the Nile—and promotions of Egyptians to pashaships and beyships. For the most part the distribution has been confined to those who possessed grades and decorations bestowed by the ex-Khedive, but there are a certain number of cases where the recipients held no such honours previously. The list appears to have given rise to little comment, the only criticism heard being in connection with the lower grades of the Order—the fourth and fifth—where, as a perusal of the names will show, the various administrations do not appear to have worked on identical lines in drawing up their recommendations, with the result that the list is here decidedly mixed and scarcely complimentary to some of the recipients. It is to be hoped that this will soon be rectified, and that a repetition will be avoided in the future. Simultaneously with this Honours List there has been issued a fresh table of precedence, which has had to be compiled in consequence of the creation of the new system of grades and decorations under the changed *régime*.

The Mixed Tribunals.

The time is now approaching when the Egyptian Government will have to deal with the question of the Mixed Tribunals, the mandate of which expires on January 31, 1916. It may be remembered that the series of quinquennial periods for which that mandate had been consecutively renewed came to an end in February last, when an extension of a year to the above-mentioned date was agreed to. The idea was that in the meantime the scheme for the unification of the various codes and jurisdictions should be elaborated and completed. The work is still going on, but is, of course, far from completion; for the task of conciliating all the interests is a stupendous one. It will very probably take far longer than was originally anticipated. Neither in other respects has the time come for the introduction of the reforms that such a scheme would necessitate; in any event, no radical alteration in the existing judicial system could be effected until the present war is over. In these circumstances, I understand that the Egyptian Government is about to circularise the Allied and neutral Powers holding capitulations, with the proposal that a further extension of one year to January 31, 1917, shall be made. There is little prospect of this proposal not being agreed to, and the Sultanic decree to this effect will be promulgated at the end of next month or the beginning of January.

I gather that the interior reorganisation, which took place on the renewal of the mandate this year, has given the very best results. The reorganisation consisted, as was pointed out at the time, in a reduction of the benches in the Appeal and First Instance Courts from eight to five counsellors and from five to three judges respectively, and the formation of extra courts by means of the counsellors and judges thus made available. For instance, in the Appeal Court three courts have been formed instead of two, and consequently one extra sitting per week has been held. In the Cairo First Instance jurisdiction there are now four instead of three Civil Chambers and two Commercial Chambers instead of one, holding altogether six sittings in lieu of five per week. Similarly in Alexandria, where there were previously but two Civil Chambers and one Commercial Chamber, there are now the same number of Civil, but two Commercial Chambers; whilst at Mansura, where there had been two Civil Chambers, one of which periodically had to constitute itself a Commercial Chamber, it has been possible to form an extra Civil and a special Commercial Chamber. To sum up, the reorganisation, which the Ministry of Justice had for long proposed as a possible means of setting a term to the congestion of affairs in the Mixed Courts, and which the latter, or more correctly a certain element in it, had opposed tooth and nail, has enabled the number of courts to be increased by over 50 per cent., and a corresponding addition to be made in the weekly sittings. It will be interesting to see whether the statistics, which the Procureur-General publishes as an annexe to the Judicial Adviser's Report, confirm the expectations that the reorganisation aroused.

Cairo, November 23.

The Sultan's River Trip.

H.H. the Sultan is, as reported in last week's letter, at present on the Nile. According to the last advices the Sultanic cortege, which consists of four large steamers and two smaller ones, had passed Minia. All along the route the villages have been most profusely decorated, and the villagers have turned out *en masse* on the river bank to greet their ruler as he passed southwards. Orders had been sent ahead that no preparations, such as are customary on these occasions, were to be made, and it was intimated that the Sultan would land nowhere; but while in the first instance the orders have been freely ignored, in the second his Highness has broken the rule he had laid down for himself, and has landed at several points. One would like to feel that the warmth of the reception which he everywhere received from the population is an indication that the country is grateful for the security and prosperity which it enjoys, and that it appreciates the new régime which has given it a sovereign worthy in every way of the high post that he fills.

The Khedivial Wakfs Scandals.

Judgment was delivered this week in the two cases in which Ahmed Khairy Pasha, ex-Mudir of Behera, first, of malversation of wakfs, and, secondly, of mistor of the Daira of Prince Seif-ed-Dine, was accused, first, of malversation of *wakfs*, and, secondly, of misappropriation of interest money belonging to the Daira; Hussein Pasha Moharrem, ex-Under Secretary of State for War and late Curator of the Daira, was accused of mis-spending £E52,000 of the Daira funds; and Ahmed Bey Saddek, Sub-Director of the Daira, and Osman Bey Moharrem, engineer in the Ministry of Public Works, were accused of complicity with Hussein Pasha Moharrem. The Court held that Osman Bey Moharrem was not guilty, and also acquitted Khairy Pasha on the first charge, in view of the fact that when he resigned the trusteeship of the Khedivial Wakfs the ex-Khedive, from whom he held his mandate, had given him complete discharge thereof, and had accorded him the customary indemnity. Ahmed Bey Saddek, who is still in Europe, but for whose extradition, it is to be hoped, the Egyptian Government will press, was sentenced by default to eighteen months' imprisonment, the Court

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holding that all the irregular transactions were carried out by and through the Sub-Director of the Khedivial Wakfs, who acted throughout as the ex-Khedive's agent, and could not possibly in the short time have saved from his salary, which was his sole income, the £20,000 that stood to his credit at the Banco di Roma just before the war. The Court found Khairy Pasha guilty of the second charge and Moharrem Pasha guilty of mis-spending the £E52,000, and sentenced them to three and ten months' imprisonment respectively; but as there was no proof that either of them had personally benefited from the sums mis-spent, it decided to allow them the benefit of the First Offenders' Act.

Both Khairy and Moharrem Pashas have appealed against their sentences, although it is generally conceded that they have been treated with all the leniency that the peculiar circumstances of their cases demanded. In this connection it is curious and interesting to note the change which local opinion has undergone. When in January an inquiry into the two administrations was ordered, Egyptian Moslems somewhat resented this action, as, albeit they were well aware that the ex-Khedive had been at the bottom of the irregularities that were said to have been committed, they regarded it more as an act of spite against him than as an act of justice on behalf of those interested in these administrations. In proportion as the Public Prosecutor developed his case, however, their attitude commenced to change, and it is no exaggeration to say that to-day the Egyptian Moslems are overwhelmed with disgust at the systematic and callous abuse of trust and the dishonesty which they now see were inspired and oft-times personally committed by their late Sovereign.

Before leaving this subject I should like to pay a tribute to the excellent manner in which the case for the prosecution was prepared and presented. The inquiry was admittedly an intricate and delicate affair, and the nature of the subsequent trials, with their array of witnesses of Ministerial and similarly prominent rank, was quite calculated—as those who know Egypt will agree—to disconcert the Public Prosecutor's representative. Both the inquiry and the prosecution were handled with admirable tact and firmness of purpose, and the young *substitut*, Zaki Eff. El Ibrachi, who was responsible for both from start to finish, is deserving of the highest commendation. It is to be hoped that the authorities will seize an early opportunity to show their appreciation; for, apart from the fact that El Ibrachi Eff. has succeeded in attaining the end he had in view, it is not often that a young Egyptian is found to possess the *sang-froid*, ability and strength of character that he displayed in these very exceptional circumstances.

El Orwa El Woska.

A week or so ago I referred to the dissatisfaction that had been aroused in Egypt in Moslem circles by the serious situation of the "El Orwa El Woska" Society. This society is the most important Moslem charitable and educational institution in the country. Its centre of activity is Alexandria, but it has also one or two schools in the provinces. Under the auspices of Mohammed Said Pasha, who was its first president, the society had a very successful career, but since his resignation, on his appointment as Minister of the Interior, some seven years ago, it has steadily gone downhill, and so serious were the complaints made in regard to the administration that the Prime Minister, Rushdi Pasha, appointed a commission to conduct a semi-official inquiry. The commission has presented its report, which, after enumerating the defects of the existing organisation, has pointed out that if, as it threatened to do, the Government withdrew its annual subvention—between £E8,000 and £E10,000—the society would have to suspend operations, since, even with that subvention, it with difficulty balances its budget. In these circumstances the Government has decided to continue its financial support, but on condition that the director of the schools is nominated by the Ministry of Public Instruction, that Government inspectors inspect the schools and the accounts of the society, and that the Government shall have four delegates on the board of directors. In addition, the society has persuaded Abani Pasha, ex-Minister of War under Mustapha Pasha Fahmy, to accept the presidency. Now that these reforms have been agreed to, "El Orwa El Woska" should once again fill the useful and successful rôle amongst the charitable and educational enterprises of the country which formerly fell to its lot. The sad state into which it had degenerated was entirely due to the fact that its board of directors consisted of men who were in the first place too busy to give the proper time to its affairs, and who, even if they had been free, did not possess the knowledge or experience necessary for the successful administration of such an institution. The new arrangement has given complete satisfaction to the Moslem community, which lives in the hope that some similar reform will be effected in the Egyptian University, the managing committee of which, in many respects, appears to show the same weak feature as that referred to as characterising the board of "El Orwa El Woska."

PORT SAID NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, November 23.

Recent events in the Balkans, followed by the retirement of the Serbians and the establishment of communication between the Central Powers and Turkey; the urgent German need for further startling diversions; and the rapid approach of winter are all factors favourable to the belief, generally expressed here, that a second "invasion of Egypt" will take place this winter, probably in the shape, this time, of a German-led Turkish advance on the Canal in formidable numbers. Turkish troops are said to be concentrating on the border, and activity in the Canal zone certainly lends colour to the whispered rumours of coming hostilities on a large scale.

It is thought that last winter's attack by some 12,000 Turks will be a small affair by comparison with the expected campaign, although the situation may undergo a complete and rapid change in consequence of Allied operations in the Balkans. Little anxiety, however, is, or could be felt here; but we certainly anticipate an exciting winter, and it is thought by some that hostilities on the Canal will not be long delayed.

THE KHEDIVIAL WAKFS SCANDALS.

With reference to the article which appeared in The Near East of July 30, 1915, under the heading "The Khedivial Wakfs Scandals," we are informed by the Chairman of the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Co. and the Gharbieh Land Co. (the two agricultural companies referred to in that article) that many of the statements therein contained are untrue, and calculated to cause serious injury to the reputation of the two companies and their respective boards of directors.

We are further informed by the Chairman that the action therein referred to as having been brought against the two companies by Mohammed Pasha Said, as Curator of the Daira of H.H. Prince Seif-el-Din, has been abandoned, and that the Advocate of the Daira has been expressly instructed to withdraw the allegations upon which that action was based.

As the statements to which exception is taken are not specified, we are unable to publish a correction; but we take this opportunity of giving the fullest publicity to the facts that: (1) the action referred to was settled out of court; and (2) the allegations upon which that action was based, and to which reference was made in the article of July 30, were subsequently withdrawn. We would express our regret for any inaccuracies in our summary of the case, and trust that no damage has been done to the companies in consequence of those inaccuracies.

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SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, November 16.

Lady Wingate arrived at Khartoum on November 9 from Cairo, having travelled across France to Marseilles and thence to Port Said via P. and O. s.s. Kaisar-i-Hind. Other arrivals by the same train were Miss Willis, who will spend the winter with Mr. C. A. Willis, Assistant Director of Intelligence; Mr. Turner, from Natal, prospecting for business on behalf of Natal coalfields; and Mr. Nicholls, Inspector of Um Ruaba, returning to duty after a change in Egypt and a spell of temporary duty at Halfa.

Arrivals by the train reaching Khartoum on November 12 included Major L. O. F. Stack, C.M.G., Civil Secretary of the Sudan Government, who has been to Cairo on business, with his wife. Captain Burgess, the police magistrate of Khartoum, also returned with Mrs. Burgess; he has been employed at Ismailia as Provost-Marshal since his return from England. Mr. Hewins, also accompanied by his wife, was on this train; he is the Director of Commercial Intelligence and Secretary of the Economic Board, and is much concerned in the development of Sudan trade.

The Bishop of Khartoum, Bishop Gwynne, has been on duty in the trenches and elsewhere ever since the war began, and his chaplains carried on for some time, but were, unfortunately, incapacitated by sickness, two at the same time, whilst a third had finished his period of service and returned to England. The Sudan was thus left without any clergyman for a period until the arrival of the Rev. Mr. Benham from Cairo, where he is chaplain to the forces. He kindly officiated at the Cathedral when possible. Now, however, he has been ordered back to Cairo, and fortunately the Rev. C. H. Robins, who retired earlier in the year, as described above, has returned with his bride to take up his old duties.

(From a Correspondent.)

Khartoum is fast filling after the autumn recess, and the return of Lady Wingate from Europe marks the commencement of the season. Most of the officials on leave have also reported, these including the Governor of the Province, Mr. R. E. More, who, with Mrs. More, has been on short vacation. Mr. More, one of the few civilian Provincial Governors, has had nearly fourteen years' experience in the service of the Administration, and his work has met with very general approval. The gradual improvement of the town under his governorship has been very marked, especially in the direction of sanitation and water supply. The former Governor, Major E. A. Stanton, a very popular official, was responsible for much of the preliminary work carried out; finding the place little better than a pest-hole, he left it a clean, healthful and pleasant city. The Municipality, which now has charge of all things, was established in 1901.

Judge and Mrs. Fleming have returned to Khartoum, and the Law Courts are again becoming full of business. Mr. M. Fleming has been a judge of the High Court for a good many years, and in the service of the Government since the end of 1904. He has been in sole charge of the bankruptcy work in Khartoum, and in the course of his experience he has had to deal with several important bankruptcies, including that of Mr. Angelo H. Capato.

Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, M.A., who has just returned to the Sudan after a brief holiday, is the newly appointed Director of Education and Principal of the Gordon Memorial College, *vice* Mr. James Currie, C.M.G., resigned. He had long occupied an important post in the Egyptian Ministry of Education, and possesses every qualification for the office. Mr. Crowfoot's academic record at Oxford was brilliant, and, before entering the service of the Egyptian Government in 1901, he was on the staff of Birmingham University. He has invariably proved himself successful in his administrative and other duties, and is no stranger to the Sudan, having been Mr. Currie's assistant at Khartoum from 1903 to 1908. Mr. Crowfoot has a good sound knowledge of scientific archæology, and takes a keen interest in the subject. This is of special importance to the Sudan; for archæology and conservation of ancient sites and remains in that country are under the control of the Director of Education.

NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, November 10.

The Situation in Smyrna.

It will be a satisfaction to many to learn that the situation in Smyrna continues to be perfectly tranquil; the pro-Entente feeling still exists, and everybody is anxious for peace. The Vali, Rahmi Bey, still maintains towards the English and French the benevolent attitude he has shown ever since the outbreak of hostilities; in fact, apart from the want of many necessities of life, life in Smyrna apparently presents no great discomfort or hardship. There is naturally much poverty amongst the lower classes, and bread is dearer and more scarce, but meat, fruit, and vegetables are plentiful and cheap.

Bulgarian Help for Constantinople.

There is not much news from Constantinople. According to latest reports, bread was again scarce, and petroleum 20 piastres the oke. Two steamers, the Rodosto and the Dobrov Nik, have arrived with coal from Zunguldak, and the Goeben was escorting other colliers to the Black Sea to bring in further supplies.

Eighty-five wagons of coke are reported to have arrived from Bulgaria, and more was expected, bringing the quantity up to 3,000 tons, for use in the munition factories. A number of Bulgarian workmen, said to be 200, have also arrived, and are being employed in the Admiralty and at the Zeitoun Bournou factory. Some Bulgarian gunners have also been sent to the Dardanelles. Four Bulgarian torpedo-boats have also arrived in Constantinople, and some Germans and Turks have been put on board them.

The Question of Ammunition.

The Turks appear to have used up all the scrap-iron they could collect in Constantinople for the manufacture of shells, and now, it is said, they are breaking up all the old machinery in the Arsenal.

Munitions and supplies are sent almost daily to the Dardanelles by steamers, lighters, and other craft; and some of the Bosphorus passenger boats are now being employed for this purpose. The Turks appear to be accumulating large supplies of ammunition at the Dardanelles, and it is rumoured that as soon as they receive some heavy guns from Germany a determined effort will be made to drive the English into the sea.

Von der Goltz's Mission.

There has been much speculation with respect to Von der Goltz's expedition to Asia Minor. Some say it is to organise a force to go to the help of Baghdad; others, to prepare for the second attack against Egypt.

On October 27 a long train left Haidar Pasha for an unknown destination, carrying German and Turkish officers, munitions and war materials. Von der Goltz was unable to leave that day owing to the funeral of Baron Wangenheim, and was to have left by another train.

Ministerial Changes.

There have been some changes in the Ministry at Constantinople. Prince Said Halim, who has acted both as Grand Vizier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been relieved of the latter office, which is now occupied by Halil Bey, formerly President of the Chamber of Deputies.

The Chamber is now presided over by Hajji Adil Bey, formerly Vali of Adrianople. It is said that Talaat is to become Grand Vizier, and that Prince Said will be appointed "Khedive of Egypt." The Turks appear to be counting their chickens very much before they are hatched!

Note for Philatelists.

Philatelists will be interested to hear that there are apparently no more ten-para stamps of the current issue, as the Turkish Post Office is now issuing some ten-para stamps of a previous issue, on which a star and a crescent and the year 1331 have been printed.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, November 12.

The New Cabinet.

Like the French Cabinet, the Greek Cabinet consists for the greater part of old men, and the recent changes have added two more octogenarians to the number. M. Skouloudis, the new President, is 79 years of age, though he retains both his physical and intellectual faculties in a remarkable degree. He is a man who, by reason of his wide culture and ripe experience, has rendered great services to his country. The other, M. Michelidakis, is the ex-President of the Revolutionary Assembly in Crete. He at first refused the portfolio of Public Instruction, on the ground of ill-health and owing to his advanced years, but, as he possesses great electoral influence in the country, the Government urged him to accept it, and he at length agreed.

The Dissolution of the Chamber.

Opinion in the Cabinet was divided on the question of the dissolution of the Chamber. It was chiefly M. Gounaris who exerted himself to bring about the dissolution, in order to profit by present favourable circumstances to obtain a majority. The Minister of War, General Giannakitsas, the hero of the incident in the Chamber which brought about the ministerial crisis, and Admiral Coundouriotis, Minister of Marine, were both opposed to a dissolution. As for the President, M. Skouloudis, he also wished and tried to prevent it. It is said that the King was equally anxious to avoid fresh elections at such a time. M. Venizelos, for his part, did everything he could to help the Government to meet the Chamber. He even went so far as to consent that the Chamber should not be convoked until November 16, when, according to the Constitution, the parliamentary session might have been closed. But the dissolutionists were intransigent, and rejected every proposal for a settlement. So, after having for five days made vain efforts to get a certain number of Venizelists to repudiate their chief and join the side of the Government, hoping thus to form a majority, they ended by publishing yesterday evening the decree of dissolution. The impression created was deplorable. The Venizelist Press characterises this move as a *coup d'état*, carried out in defiance of the country. It is indeed but a parody of elections, since the vital part of the population of the country is mobilized, and those who have the right to say whether they want war or not are absent. M. Venizelos has not yet decided whether or not his party will take any part in such elections. A definite decision will be come to in a week's time. It is, however, very probable that his party will abstain from taking any part, as a protest against such a state of things.

The German Demarche.

The Greek Government has been placed in a very perplexing position by the *démarche* of Herr von Jagow, by which he informed the Greek Minister at Berlin that should Greece fail to disarm Serbian or Allied troops who might be driven back upon her territory, the Bulgarians and Germans would be obliged also to invade Greek territory in pursuit of their enemies. A communication to the same effect, and having the same object, was made nearly a month ago by the Turkish and Bulgarian Ministers, but M. Zaimis paid no heed to this. However, soon after Germany, in turn, raised the question, M. Zaimis made a vague reply, and the matter was allowed to drop, as such an eventuality seems hardly probable. But recent events have led to a *démarche* on the part of Germany.

The Attitude of Greece.

After lengthy Cabinet Councils and other deliberations, the Government, in spite of all denials published, would seem to have given a reply in a sense satisfactory to Germany. Moreover, the Government has informed the Entente Powers that Greece will disarm Serbian as well as Allied troops. These declarations have made a painful impression in Allied circles, and more especially in Serbia, the ally of Greece. And, as in this matter Greece seemed to have in mind more especially the Serbs, the Ministers of the Entente informed M. Skouloudis that their Governments made no distinction between the Serbian troops and the French and British troops, and that any action taken against the former would be considered as being directed against the Allies themselves. They also reminded the Greek Government of the assurances of benevolence given even after the disembarkation of their troops at Salonika, and laid stress on the fact that these promises constituted an obligation on the part of Greece to treat the troops in a friendly manner. In short, the Greek Government was pressed to declare its intentions positively for the future guidance of the Allies, who did not wish to be taken unawares, should the case arise. The terms employed seem greatly to have impressed the Government, who, it is said, in view of the grave dangers to which their country might be exposed, ended by making it understood that they would not insist on the stand they had taken up. One Government journal suggests that the best possible solution of the problem would be to allow both sides to cross the frontier if need be, and to fight it out on Greek territory!

ODESSA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, November 4.

General Dimitrieff Interviewed.

Radko Dimitrieff, the famous Bulgarian general who from the beginning of the war has been serving with the Russian army, has just granted an interview to the representative of the *Novoye Vremya*. He said:

It is necessary to let the Bulgarian people understand that when fixing the new boundaries in the future the Powers of the Quadruple Entente will be guided by magnanimity and equity. The Bulgarians are being assured at present that the Russians and French are going to wipe out their country. It is necessary to undeceive them. If this is done, I am convinced that the history of the battle of Leipsig will be repeated, when the Saxons, fighting on the side of the French, went over to their opponents and turned their guns against them. If the French and the British, before putting in action their guns and rifles, will appeal to the patriotism and duty of the Bulgars, it may perhaps avert further bloodshed. I think in any case the Bulgarians will not show much fight against the Russians, coming, not as oppressors, but as deliverers from their German enemies. If my voice reaches Bulgaria, my late command, the Third Army, will have regard to it.

To the question as to whether he would be willing to place himself at the head of the Allies' troops, he replied: "At the head of the Allied troops, even at the head of the Russians, brothers by race, it would be difficult for me to fight against the Bulgarians; but if there is a change in Bulgaria and an uprising against the present Government, and if the nation is without a leader and calls upon me, I am ready to lead the troops —of course, against the Germans."

Bulgarians in Russia.

The Russian Government is meantime treating the many thousands of Bulgarians residing in Russia in the same way as it is treating other enemies of Slavonian race, *i.e.*, as friends, and is not putting into operation against them the measures found necessary against the Germans. Even against the Germans severe measures would never have been resorted to had not Germany started from the very first day of the war treating enemy subjects within her borders in a way that might have been appropriate a few hundred years ago, but which is quite unheard of in these times. This has naturally called down retaliation from all the Allied Powers, and it indicates a very short-sighted policy on Germany's part, when it is remembered that there are much greater numbers of Germans in the territories of the Allies than *vice versâ*.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF

A CRIMEAN VETERAN'S RECOLLECTIONS.*

Dr. T. Buzzard is one of the few survivors of the heroic army which besieged Sebastopol in 1855-6, and his account of its exploits, based on letters sent home from the front, has all the freshness of a contemporary record. It is matter of history that England's heart was profoundly stirred by Dr. William Russell's disclosures in the *Times* of preventible suffering from cold and hunger, which caused a far higher mortality in the besieging force than the incidents of actual warfare. After remedying the more glaring lapses of our supply departments, the War Office bethought itself of the Turkish contingent, 20,000 strong, which was even worse provided with necessaries than the British Army. It gave a retired Anglo-Indian medico named Fuller temporary rank as Inspector-General of Hospitals, and authority to organize a British medical staff for the benefit of our Turkish auxiliaries. Dr. Fuller secured the services of four youthful surgeons, who had just emerged from studentship; and our author was one of the devoted band. In March, 1855, they sailed for the Near East with a plentiful supply of hospital requisites. On reaching Constantinople they found that the War Office, with its usual negligence, had omitted to notify the Divan of its proceedings. Thus the British staff did not receive recognition until the very eve of peace, while their native colleagues regarded them with intense jealousy. On the other hand, Omar Pasha, the Turkish Generalissimo in the Crimea, received them with open arms. This soldier of fortune was a Croat convert to Islam, still in the prime of life, and possessing a restless energy which stood in marked contrast with the oriental impassiveness of his subordinates. He was a great talker, given in his spare moments to joking, chess, and fishing with a worm. Such picturesque personalities as his were, indeed, oftener met with sixty years ago than in the swarming human hives of the present day. A passionate lover of music, he maintained a large German band which filled the Turkish encampment with Verdi's haunting strains. His British officers were a splendid set of fellows, who commanded heart-whole devotion from their men. Of the latter, Kinglake wrote:—

> So ready and so deep is their trust in any of our countrymen who will take the trouble to lead them, that if Turkish soldiers be camped within reach of the enemy the coming amongst them of a few English youths supplies the one thing needed.

It is impossible to read this passage without a feeling of poignant regret that a wholesome influence should have been supplanted by one which may involve the Ottoman Empire in irretrievable ruin. Dumas the Elder would have found ample material for one of his stirring romances in the foreign officers on Omar Pasha's staff. France, Italy, Poland and Hungary were represented by swashbucklers of the Athos, Porthos and D'Artagnan type, most of whom "had left their country for their country's good." But Dr. Buzzard formed a high opinion of the Turkish soldiery, whose patience under appalling maladministration, and stubborn courage in battle convinced him that, given efficient leadership, they would have accomplished greater things.

Omar Pasha's army was encamped on rising ground to the east of Balaclava Valley, and three miles south of the Fediukin Hills, then in the enemy's occupation. It is interesting to compare the defences which sufficed sixty years ago with the elaborate protective system necessitated by modern warfare. An attacking force

> would have to cross a plain a mile or more in width—then comes a steep ascent well covered with clumps of thick brushwood, and lined by our sentries: then a series of *trous de loup*, i.e., pits, about three feet in diameter and six in depth. There were three or four of these placed so closely together as to make it very difficult to pick one's way between them, the ground being, as it were, honeycombed with obstacles. Should he succeed in passing them without tumbling in, the assailant had to cross a deep ditch, and find himself confronted with a wall about five feet in height, guarded by sentries, and with 68-pounder cannon protruding through the embrasures.

The Turkish contingent had taken no part in military operations since the battle of Balaclava, fought on October 25, 1854, but a few weeks after his arrival Dr. Buzzard received orders to accompany the expedition against Kerch, led by General Sir George Brown.

Our author witnessed the battle of Chernaya, on August 15, 1855, when the Russians made a last despairing effort to capture Balaclava. Their attack was met by French and Sardinian troops, with help from the British artillery, posted on the Fediukin Hills, which had been wrested from the enemy. Just after daybreak a dense column was seen breasting the slope in admirable order. The first line was overwhelmed by a murderous cannonade, and driven back in some confusion on their supports. But the assailants quickly re-formed, and attempted another advance. The officers were seen ahead of their men, cheering them onwards, while dark masses, resembling lumps of earth, suddenly appeared in the rear, which the doctor's field-glass revealed as heaps of dead and dying. On reaching the Allies' position, they were met by a fierce bayonet charge, which hurled them back to the banks of the River Chernaya. For a third time the dauntless Russians advanced to the attack, only to be again overwhelmed by superior numbers. Before 8 a.m. the death-knell of Muscovite resistance sounded.

After the fall of Sebastopol on September 7, 1855, Omar Pasha was allowed to transport his army to the eastern shore of the Black Sea, in view of raising the siege of Kars. They wasted precious weeks at Sukum Kaleh, and then were transferred to Trebizond, a port whose nomenclature evokes memories of comic opera. In the winter of 1855 it was the scene of countless tragedies. Thither came a stream of sick and wounded Turks:—

> Starvation, scurvy, fever, and frostbite of an indescribably severe description, were to be found amongst the large majority of the sufferers. . . . The splendid patience and fortitude of these poor Moslems, not, be it understood, in exceptional cases, but as a rule, was of a kind that I have rarely, if ever, seen equalled. Their gratitude, too, for our efforts to relieve their sufferings were no less marked.

Hospitals capable of accommodating 2,000 patients were improvised, and the British medical staff proved more than equal to the emergency. But it soon became clear that Omar Pasha was too late in the field. After a heroic defence against overwhelming odds, the garrison of Kars, commanded by General Williams, was forced by starvation to surrender, and received chivalrous treatment from their victors. In consequence of this untoward event, Dr. Buzzard enjoyed a brief interval of respite from absorbing duties, which he utilized in an excursion to the desolate mountains south of Trebizond. While riding through a trackless pass, many miles from human habitation, he was beset by wolves, and owed his escape to amazing presence of mind:—

> They clustered round my horse, and as he began to take a few steps, advanced with howls, and made as though they would fly at his throat. I pulled up, and after remaining quite still for a minute or two, again let him move cautiously forward. This action produced a more threatening attitude on the part of the animals, and to add to my discomfort, I could now perceive the horse under me in a state of violent tremor.

The doctor was in a sore dilemma. If he used his only weapon—a loaded riding whip—he would infallibly be torn in pieces. If he tried to gallop off, the pack would soon overtake his tired and frightened horse. The only chance of escape was to rein up and remain as still as an equestrian statue. These tactics puzzled the voracious brutes, which sat in a circle gazing with bloodshot eyes at their quarry. After a few minutes, which seemed centuries to one whose life was in deadly peril, a wolf turned and trotted slowly away, followed by his comrades.

Peace with Russia was proclaimed in April, 1856, and it sounded the death-warrant of the British medical staff. By dint of hard work, professional skill, and sympathy with their patients, they had overcome the jealousy of their Turkish *confrères*, and the manœuvres of Constantinople intriguers. Dr. Buzzard, indeed, thinks that if the war had been prolonged they would have been placed in charge of the entire Turkish medical service.

* "With the Turkish Army in the Crimea and Asia Minor, a Personal Narrative" by Thomas Buzzard, M.D., F.R.C.P." (London: John Murray, Albemarle Street, 1915. Price 10s. 6d. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Constantinople, Old and New, by H. G. Dwight. Illustrated. (Longmans, Green, and Co., 21s. net.)

Egypt of the Egyptians, by W. Lawrence Balls. Illustrations and Maps. (Pitman, 6s. net.)

Cleopatra a Gipsy, by Arthur F. Wallis. (Sampson Low, Marston, and Co., Limited, 6s.)

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BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Macmillan published last week "Letters from a Field Hospital," by Mabel Dearmer, with a memoir of the author by Stephen Gwynn. Mrs. Dearmer, it will be remembered, went to Serbia to nurse the sick and wounded, and herself succumbed to typhoid.

Another book recently published by Messrs. Macmillan is "The Annual of the British School at Athens. No. XX. Session 1913-14." This work is printed for the subscribers and sold on their behalf, at the price of 21s. net.

Mr. Grant Richards has just published "Petrograd, Past and Present," by W. Barnes Steveni. The price is 12s. 6d. net.

Volume two of the Catalogue of the Greek Papyri in the John Rylands Library, Manchester, has just been issued from the Manchester University Press. Edited by Mr. J. de M. Johnson, Mr. Victor Martin and Dr. A. S. Hunt, it is devoted to papyri of the Ptolemaic and Roman periods, and is illustrated with between twenty and thirty plates The price is one guinea.

A useful publication of the Oxford University Press is "The Balkans: A History of Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece, Roumania, Turkey," by Nevill Forbes, D. Mitrany, Arnold Toynbee, and D. G. Hogarth, which is pjublished at 5s. net. It is in the Histories of Belligerents series.

Messrs. Bailliere, Tindall and Cox have published (6d. net) "Infectious Diseases in Serbia," by John Furse McMillan

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

An Englishman just returned from the Balkans tells us of a generous tribute paid to the British gunners at Belgrade by a Serbian. The Huns, it seems, had brought up some of those monster guns on which they place so much reliance, and our gunners at one spot found themselves hopelessly outranged. But they continued to "try," and stood to their guns to the last, although the enemy shells were falling round them and amongst them incessantly, and playing fearful havoc with them. "I could never have believed," said the Serbian, to my informant, "that any men could have shown such courage!" And that, coming from one of a nation that has crowned itself with such well-merited glory, strikes me as one of the finest compliments paid to our brave troops.

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I am sorry that General Townshend's force was not able to hang on to those advanced positions of the Turks at Ctesiphon which it had captured. But I am not surprised. And as to being downhearted, nobody who has followed the fortunes of our splendid Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force is likely to be anything of the kind. It was just a bit of bad luck, and in due time the withdrawal will be converted into another advance—*inshallah!* To me the wonder is, not that General Townshend and his men have not got to Baghdad yet, but that they have got so near it already. The withdrawal is easy enough to account for. You remember, no doubt, that about a fortnight ago the German papers were talking about the fall of Baghdad being imminent, but at the same time they spoke about the strong reinforcements that were on their way to the help of the hard-pressed Turks, and expressed the hope (very natural from their point of view) that these reinforcements would arrive "at the right moment." Well, they have evidently done so; while the reinforcements which are, no doubt, being sent on to General Nixon have not yet had a chance to show what they can do.

***

In such circumstances, it seems to me, it would have been folly to press on. I imagine that our troops will now take up a position in which the gunboats can most effectively co-operate with them—that is to say, on one of those peninsulas of which the tortuous Tigris makes so many in its windings—and there sit down and take a well-earned rest until reinforcements join them. The rise in the river, unless it should be such a high one as to flood the country out, would be all in our favour, as it will make it easier for us to bring up supplies by water, and give the gunboats a better chance to command the banks effectively with their fire. Therefore, I think our troops can afford to wait for their "right moment," and we, for our part, can afford to wait for news with a reasonable expectation of its being good news.

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The British occupation of Busreh has resulted in something uncommonly like a return of those palmy days of the good Haroun er-Rashid to which the Arabian story-tellers so often make mention. This is clear to me, after reading, in the *Busra Times*, the announcement of an entertainment that was to be given, on October 9, at The Palace of Variety Theatre—which, for the benefit of any reader who feels tempted to undertake a journey Busrehwards, I may add, quoting from the announcement, stands "(Near the Customs House, Ashar)." Alas, that in my Busreh days I never dreamed that Paradise with all its Peris would one day be brought down to earth in the neighbourhood of the (then) never-too-salubrious Ashar! Had I done so, I should assuredly have paid heed to the urgent entreaty of the announcement:—

> Once again! Once again!! Once again!!!
> Be sure that you do not miss this opportunity, for, have your seat reserved at once, and mind you, there will be quite a rush this time.

I should have taken part in the rush, and have had my "seat reserved at once," even though it would have been something in the nature of a record in the way of advanced bookings.

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For, clearly, the entertainment must have been one of unparalleled magnificence, consisting as it did "of numerous dances, performances and comic acts, which will make each and all roar with laughter; in fact, nothing can be more perfect." This seems a rather tall order, perhaps, but, then, we are assured by the Busreh disciple of the late lamented Mr. Crummles that the "world-famed artistes are again endeavouring their best in your behalf to entertain you in every possible way." And consider the cast:—

> M'lle. Samieh, the charming singer and dancer of the Aleppo world.
>
> La Bella Tara, Busra's idol indeed, you cannot take off your eyes from her. A regular Aleppo.
>
> M'lle. Nedjma, there is not a dull movement from start to finish. Do'nt miss her dances.
>
> Comedian Salem, the irresistable comedian. The funniest of clowns. The most popular of all.

The thought of "Comedian Salem," I admit, does not attract me greatly; but the ladies! Why, why was I not in Busreh on October 9? Why should M'lle Samieh, of the Aleppo world, waste her charms on the "Soldiers and Sailors in uniform" who are privileged to gaze on them in return for the paltry sum of "Rs. 1"? Why should "civilians" for twice that sum be enabled not to miss the exciting dances of M'lle. Nedjma? Above all, why should La Belle Tara, the regular Aleppo, remain Busreh's idol only, when we would so gladly make her ours, even though we could not take off our eyes from her—as I, for one, am quite ready to believe? A regular Aleppo, indeed! If THE NEAR EAST next week announces in its "Personal and Social" columns that "Corsair" has left London for Busreh, you will know the reason why.

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To judge by the tone of the wireless message regarding the opening of the Roumanian Parliament, Berlin appears to hold curious views concerning the possibilities of Roumanian behaviour. "Only one member," states this message, "made a scene, and his ears were boxed by the other members in his immediate vicinity." It is gratifying to notice that only one member misbehaved himself; it is equally gratifying to find that he was *strafed* with such promptitude. The *strafing* was done, too, in such a kultured and gentlemanly manner. Presumably he got it right and left, a double-barrelled affair that left his head buzzing; there was no unseemly crowding, no leaning over by other outraged and indignant members. In many of their wireless dispatches the Teutons give evidences of a greater fund of humour than they themselves are aware.

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We are told that it is "ridicule that kills," and I fancy that one of the main causes of German hatred for Britain and the British soldier is that they fail to take the ponderous German as seriously as he would wish. Even the "Hymn of Hate" lost its favour in his eyes when he found that it was quite as popular in the British trenches as it ever was in Berlin. The "'Ymn" was, indeed, until abandoned by the Germans themselves, the one song common to the trenches of Briton and Teuton. In America Mr. Punch's audacity in braving German threats of vengeance, and in continuing to shower ridicule upon the Kaiser and his satellites, led to serious alarm among the Germanic party in that country, so, with the guile and underhandedness that we have gradually been forced into associating with the German name, they raked up ancient cartoons of *Punch*, published many years ago, and served them up as expressions of British opinion of America and the Americans. Chance, however, took the secretary of the famous journal to New York three days after the spurious edition of *Punch* appeared on the bookstalls, and his interview with its discomfited publishers left them chastened men—liars caught in their lying. I often think that it would be a good and patriotic thing if *Punch* were to be distributed broadcast, with its letterpress translated into the vernacular, throughout the countries in the Balkans, which are prone to be overawed by the splendour of Teutonic majesty.

CORSAIR.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—As one who takes a deep interest in this fascinating island, may I express some ideas on the political situation? One fact is quite clear, that Cyprus is not satisfied. We have been there for thirty-seven years, and still the people call out for other rule. Why? The question is similar to the Irish one: Why has Ireland been disloyal? Why are Irish-Americans the most dangerous of British foes? Because in Ireland, as in Cyprus, we did not sufficiently consider national sentiment. We named their city bridge "Carlisle" bridge. We called their fishing village "Garrison." Ireland now is prosperous, and nearly satisfied, because Gladstone, Balfour, and Wyndham gave Ireland nearly what she wanted. South Africa is loyal, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are loyal, because they are self-governing communities under the British flag.

We have not given Cyprus sufficient self-control. Hence, on every occasion Greek flags fly in thousands. The people think they want union with Greece—but they don't quite know what they want. What they really want is power to express their national sentiment, and carry out their national conceptions in home affairs. Greece does not want Cyprus. The island is too far away, and would need a stronger naval Power than Greece can be to secure its protection. Greece wants stability nearer home—north of Salonika and east of Salonika.

To hand Cyprus over to Greece would be unwise. The Turks would be dissatisfied. Our Imperial position facing Egypt would be menaced. Why not rule Cyprus on thoroughly national principles? Send less English officials, there, and pay well those you send—and let more Cypriots (not imported Greeks) be employed in governing their own country. If you fear nepotism, then link Cyprus to Egypt. Let the English representative in both countries be the same man: and let Cypriots be employed in Egypt, and Egyptians in Cyprus.

This seems the true solution of a question which must be solved. A wise, strong, yet firm, delicate hand is needed, like the hand of Kitchener: and plenty of self-government, local nationalism—green flags, any kind of flags, side by side with the Union Jack, which must be supreme in all Imperial questions.

Not long since I was told by a leading Turk that what he would like to see is what I have sketched, or something like it, *all through Turkey*. Turkey self-governed, but suzerained by England.—I am, etc.,

A Lover of Cyprus.

Surrey, November 28, 1915.

"BARBAROUS SERBIA."

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—In your paper of November 19 you reprint some passages from an article published by a young American student in the New York *Independent*, and entitled "Barbarous Serbia."

The passages referred to are calculated to be needlessly hurtful to the feelings of the heroic and intensely patriotic Serbian people, and after a residence of over six months in Serbia, when I visited the country from north to south, I can only say that Mr. Palmer Smith's opinion is diametrically opposed to the opinion I have formed after careful observation. I found the Serbian people—not only the young, but the older people also—eager to learn and to follow English ideas on sanitation and otherwise. The peasant population I found far above the average in intelligence, and their faces alone are sufficient proof of the fact. It should be borne in mind that the best blood of the manhood of the nation is serving with the army or has been removed by war or disease. In spite of this condition of affairs, I found the remaining population ready and willing to learn, but the process naturally requires tact and patience, and it is not perhaps sufficiently realized that a bad schoolmaster makes a bad scholar. A further index of a country's intelligence is to be found in its proverbs, and America might consider itself fortunate if it possessed a collection half as comprehensive or dignified as the sayings of the Serbian people.

Mr. Palmer Smith's studies from the medical standpoint I am unable to criticize, but the people, young and old, have the clearest skins and complexions I have ever seen, and his statements would seem to need verification. Then, again, young American students would be wise to consider some of their own country's "doorsteps" a little more closely before indulging in too severe strictures of their less fortunate neighbours, who have had few of the advantages of the great Western people, and who possess still fewer of their defects.—I am, etc.,

Chas. T. Jenkin, M.Inst.C.E.

BULGARIA AND THE PRINCIPLE OF NATIONALITIES.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—In my former letter to you under this heading the word "contested," in reference to the 1912 treaty "zones" in Macedonia was an obvious slip for "uncontested," which I regret.

As regards the treaty itself, I have not only studied its text as published, but have discussed it several times with those who possess first-hand knowledge of the circumstances attending its conclusion, and of the actual official text. I neither asserted nor implied that its provisions contain any reference to an Adriatic outlet for Serbia. The governing motive, however, for Serbia in concluding the treaty was the imperative need for such an outlet, and it was in return for future Bulgarian help in this direction that she made to Bulgaria concessions in Macedonia of so far-reaching a character. This was perfectly understood by the Bulgarian statesmen concerned in the discussions preceding the agreement. When, then, in early November, 1912, Dr. Daneff went to Budapest and dissociated Bulgaria from Serb aims for the possession of a port, Serbia no longer felt it incumbent upon her to pay the price, consideration for which had not been received.

Messrs. Andrews and Turner will, I hope, allow me to protest against their turning a statement, made in general terms, about the nature of so much that has appeared in the periodic Press in reference to Serbo-Bulgarian relations, into a specific accusation against The Near East or its contributors. I was not thinking of The Near East at all, and should hardly be a regular reader if I considered its contents bemusing. I must also disclaim any bitterness. To say that it is difficult to discuss certain propositions without bitterness is not to acknowledge, as the writers somewhat curiously seem to consider, that one is discussing them with bitterness; rather the reverse.

As to Serbia's offer, my authority is unimpeachable for the statement I made. Serbia, in the beginning of September, offered the whole of the uncontested "Bulgarian" zone with the reservation of Ochrida, and, so I understood, of Prilep.

Mr. Andrews and Mr. Turner, in saying that the cause of Bulgaria's action was her grievance under the Treaty of Bucharest—the result of her own policy—imply, I gather, that she went to war for the sake of the addition of these two towns to Serbia's offer, and they would seem not to condemn her action on its merits. In view of all that passed, Bulgaria's attack on her allies, the result of the ensuing war, and the cutting of the Vardar railway in this present war, I do not think—apart altogether from the merits of the Macedonian question—that such action was anything but grasping and unreasonable. Her "grievance," even upon her own interpretation of it, had been adequately and generously met. But, sir, it is surely futile now to argue that Bulgaria's action has been due to regard for the principle of nationality or to grievances under the Treaty of Bucharest. M. Rizoff has, unfortunately for his compatriots, given the whole case away. In an interview with a Berlin paper, reported at some length in the *Westminster Gazette* for Wednesday, November 17, he stated that one of the governing motives of Bulgaria was to prevent Serbo-Croat union, as such union would make the Southern Slavs more powerful than Bulgaria, which the latter could not permit. That admission seems to dispose of the excuses still put forward for that State.

I should not have returned to the matter at such length but for what, I consider, would be the unfortunate effect that would be produced in the Balkans if it were thought that even now English people are prepared to sacrifice Serb interests to Bulgaria. To put it in its briefest form it would be this, that to be allied with the Entente Powers would not protect national interests even in the case of success since they might be sacrificed to those of a rival and hostile Power, while, on the other hand, openly to join the Central Powers would not preclude the gaining of what is desired at the hands of the Entente itself. In short, to side with the latter might bring disappointment in either event, while to side with the former would bring realization. To give currency to such an idea would greatly increase our difficulties—even to-day I see by the *Morning Post* that the Greeks are still distrustful of the alleged continued Bulgarophilism of the British Government.

We have enough to do to help ourselves and our Allies without considering our enemies. I am wholeheartedly in favour of the principle of nationality, but if Bulgaria fights against us to obtain the hegemony of the Balkans she must, I fear, abide the result.—I am, etc.,

Canterbury, November 26. A. H. L. Taylor.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (New Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. Dec.	1915. Nov.		1334. Moharr'm	5676. Kislev.
3	20	Friday	25	26
4	21	Saturday.....	26	27
5	22	Sunday	27	28
6	23	Monday	28	29
7	24	Tuesday	29	30 Tebet.
8	25	Wednesday	30 Safer.	1
9	26	Thursday	1	2

We regret that by a slip of the pen we stated last week that yesterday (Thursday, December 2) was the birthday of Prince Peter of Greece, the son of Prince George and Princess Marie. The Prince was born in Paris on December 3, 1908.

A Russian official telegram reports that the Shah of Persia has left Teheran and is staying at his shooting box at Farakabad, about six miles from the capital.

Lord Kitchener reached London on Tuesday on his return from his mission in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Reuter's Paris correspondent reports that on Monday morning Lord Kitchener had a long interview with M. Briand, the French Premier.

On Wednesday afternoon Lord Kitchener had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace. The audience lasted nearly an hour and a-half.

H.M. the King of Italy has conferred upon Lord Kitchener the Grand Cordon of the Order of SS. Maurice and Lazarus.

The Aga Khan has returned to London, and is staying at the Ritz Hotel.

General Sir Ian Hamilton had the honour of being received by the King on Tuesday.

Sir Murdoch and Lady Macdonald, who are at present in London, are returning to Egypt by the P. & O. steamer Caledonia, which leaves for Port Said on the 11th inst.

H.E. the Greek Minister, M. J. Gennadius, was confined to his room over the week-end through indisposition. He had, however, recovered on Monday sufficiently to go out.

M. Denys Cochin left Athens on Sunday morning, and at the Piræus embarked on the Greek cruiser Helle for Italy. Before his departure he was received in audience by King Constantine.

On Thursday of last week, at Heathside, North End, Hampstead, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Gabriel Lomas. Mr. Lomas, who is Vice-Consul at Rabat, became a Student Interpreter in the Levant in 1902 and was Acting Vice-Consul at Constantinople in 1905.

Last Friday, in Cairo, the wife of Mr. Kinahan Cornwallis, of the Egyptian Civil Service, gave birth to a son.

Last Saturday, at Leewood, Dunblane, Perthshire, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. R. van Millingen.

We learn that a marriage has been arranged between Captain G. E. Whittall, 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Whittall, of Bournabat, Smyrna, and Lorna, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Pears, late of Constantinople and now of London.

On Monday, at St. James's Church, Birch, the marriage was solemnized of Captain Eric Newton Oppenheimer, 2/9th Manchester Regiment, only son of L. J. Oppenheimer, 2nd Lieutenant 2/23 London Regiment, and of Mrs. Oppenheimer, of Alexandra Park, Manchester, to Isabel Aileen, second daughter of his Excellency General Charles Vinicombe Pasha and Mrs. Vinicombe, of Constantinople.

The marriage of Miss Violet Asquith, elder daughter of the Prime Minister, with Mr. Maurice Bonham Carter, took place on Tuesday afternoon at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster.

The Berne correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that the ex-Khedive, who is now staying at Geneva, has undergone an operation for an affection of the tongue.

We understand that Sister Wheatley has been recalled from service with the British Expeditionary Force in France, and has left England for service with a Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. Her previous experience of the Near East will doubtless stand her in good stead in her new field of work, and she will carry with her the good wishes of many friends now in this country who knew her in Turkey.

Captain George Ryfield Taylour, 2nd Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who was previously reported wounded, and is now believed to have been killed in action at Kleythoek, in Flanders, on October 19, 1914, was before the war in command of the British detachment of the International Forces at Scutari, Albania. He was the third son of the late Major-General Lord John Taylour and of Lady John Taylour, of 39, Argyll Road, Kensington, and grandson of the second Marquess of Headfort, K.P. Born in February, 1875, and educated at Wellington College, he entered the Army in 1897, and reached captain's rank in February, 1901. He served through the South African War, and was twice mentioned in despatches, and was decorated with the Queen's medal with six clasps. Captain Taylour fought in the battles of Vet River and Zand River, and in the actions near Johannesburg and Pretoria and at Diamond Hill and Belfast. He was captured by Boers while in a hospital train after a gallant defence, where he was wounded. On the outbreak of the present war he left Albania and rejoined his battalion at Malta. On October 5 of last year he sailed from England, and was believed to have been killed during the attack of the 7th Division on Menin while leading his company, and only about eighty yards from the German machine-guns. Extremely tall, he was a very good heavy-weight boxer and always a keen sportsman. When stationed on the West Coast of Africa he narrowly escaped from being killed by an elephant when engaged in big game shooting. Captain Taylour was universally popular, and is a great loss to his friends.

Lieutenant Charles Cornwallis Chesney, Indian Army, Reserve of Officers, attached 117th Mahrattas, who has been killed in Mesopotamia, was the youngest son of the late General Sir George Chesney, and a great-nephew of General Francis Rawdon Chesney, the well-known explorer and originator of the scheme for constructing a railway through Asiatic Turkey to the Persian Gulf. Lieutenant Chesney, who was born in 1885, entered the service of the East India Railway Company, and was officiating as district traffic superintendent at Howrah when the war broke out. After serving for some months with a regiment in Rajputana, he was transferred to the 117th Mahrattas, and accompanied them to the Persian Gulf. He had some time before his death been promoted to the adjutancy of his regiment.

A Cyprus correspondent writes:—A concert at Limassol, arranged by Miss Bolton, daughter of the Commissioner, in aid of the Red Cross Society, was very successful, a sum of about £40 being raised. Generous subscriptions have also been made in this and other towns in aid of the Belgian Fund.

A representative of the *Daily Express* who made inquiries at the Serbian Legation, the London offices of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, the Serbian Relief Fund, the Red Cross headquarters, and the office of the First British Field Hospital for Serbia regarding the fate of British doctors and nurses who have been working in Serbia, has gathered the following information:—The popular writers, Alice and Claude Askew, who are helping with the First British Field Hospital for Serbia, are known to be safe. The Second British Farmers' Hospital was blown up at Belgrade several weeks ago, but the nurses have now got safely down to Macedonia.

A vague message has come through to the London headquarters of the Scottish Women's Hospitals suggesting that Dr. Beatrice Macgregor, of Leopold Road, Wimbledon, who has been working at Mlavadovatz, was making her way to Montenegro.

One of the Scottish Women's Hospital units under Dr. Mary Blair has got safely to Salonika. The London unit of the same hospital, which was working at Valievo, is known to be safe. Mrs. Harley, sister of Field-Marshal Sir John French, and Dr. Louise M'Ilroy are reported to be at Ghevgeli. They were both formerly at Troyes, France.

The Serbian Relief Fund received last Friday a telegram, sent from Salonika by one of the members of Lady Paget's unit, stating that all was well with Lady Paget and her staff.

Mr. Greig, the British Consul at Monastir, who has been busy distributing relief for some time, has been assisted by his aunt, Miss James. Compelled to leave Monastir by the approach of the enemy, Miss James has succeeded in reaching Salonika.

Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell has received a memorandum from Lord Methuen, the Governor of Malta, suggesting that persons sending gifts to the wounded in the hospital at Malta should direct them to the Commissioner, Red Cross Society, Valetta, Malta, and put clearly on the consignment the name and address of the person who has sent the gift. It is added that if hitherto parcels have not in any case been acknowledged the reason is those gifts arrive with no indication where they come from or who has sent them.

The British Farmers' Red Cross Fund has sent a further sum of £5,000 to the British Red Cross Society for stores for Serbia. The grand total collected by the Fund up to November 26 amounted to £121,819 5s. 11d.

At a meeting held on Wednesday at the House of Commons, the Armenian Relief Committee decided to send a further £3,000 to the Mayor of Tiflis for distribution amongst the refugees.

Serjeant P. Berjeant, a member of the Imperial Ottoman Bank's staff at Alexandria, now serving with the French Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, was a short time ago awarded the Croix de Guerre with two stars, and we now learn that M. B. de la Morinière, of the same staff, has been decorated on the field with the Croix de Guerre.

On Tuesday, December 14, at a meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, to be held at 22, Albemarle Street, at 4 p.m., Sir Charles Lyall, K.C.S.I., will read a paper entitled, "Some Experiments in Adapting Arabian Metrical Forms to English Verse." The Right Hon. Lord Reay, K.T., will preside.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in Alexandria during the first week of December, between Harold E. Bell, son of Horace L. Bell, of Alexandria, and Violet, eldest daughter of Dr. Alexander, Porthcawl, Glamorgan.

H.E. Bernard Pasha, C.M.S., and Mrs. Bernard have returned to Khartoum.

The Rev. H. B. Rivington and the Rev. Lee-Warner are returning to the Sudan.

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Her Majesty the Queen and Queen Alexandra have graciously given their patronage to the Africa in London—Cape to Cairo Fair and Red Cross Fête, to be held at the Great Central Hall, Westminster, from December 15 to 18. The fair, which is being organised by *The African World*, is in aid of the Allied Red Cross societies and the Governor-General's Fund of South Africa, and the President is the Earl of Cromer.

Appealing for help for the children of Serbia, Mme. Vesnitch, wife of the Serbian Minister in Paris, who is on a visit to this country, writes:—"The women and children of Serbia are flying like hunted game before the invading German, Austrian, and Bulgarian armies. Every surviving able-bodied man and boy is in the field, bearing arms in defence of our independence and of the Allied cause. Numbers of women have fallen victims to the invaders, thousands have perished of cold and hunger. There remain the children, who are the only hope of the future of our race.

"It is for these that we appeal to the everlasting generosity of England to aid us in saving them from utter extinction. We need funds for the work. Contributions, great and small, should be sent to the Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, marked 'For Madame Vesnitch's Appeal.' These donations will be used for the children. We have arranged that the supplies purchased shall be forwarded in the quickest possible way to the spot where relief is most needed.

"I am authorised by Mrs. Asquith, the Marchioness of Crewe, the Duchess of Marlborough, and Lady (Arthur) Paget to state that this appeal has their entire sympathy and support."

Miss Lena Ashwell's Christmas production at the Kingsway Theatre, London, will be "The Starlight Express," by Mr. Algernon Blackwood and Miss Violet Pearn. Mr. Blackwood is well known in Egypt, where he has spent many winters, and he has also written largely on the country. "The Starlight Express" is a dramatised version of his famous novel, "A Prisoner in Fairyland."

A number of the leading Greeks in England are collecting contributions to provide motor ambulances for the service of the Allies in Macedonia and thereabouts. A substantial sum—some £6,000—has already been promised. The organisation is in the best possible hands, and the success of the movement may be regarded as assured.

This is by no means the first contribution that individual Greeks in this country have made to the cause of the Allies during the war. Many of them have subscribed liberally to the various funds, while a number of their sons and relatives are serving in the English or French Armies.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

The Sultan of Egypt has approved of Major Sir George Macauley, K.C.M.G., General Manager of the Egyptian State Railways, ranking henceforth as an Under Secretary of State.

Reuter's Agency is informed that the Roumanian Government has created a new Department of Munitions as a branch of the Bucharest War Office, and that it has been placed under the direction of M. Saligny, one of the most eminent Roumanian engineers.

Sir David Semple, Director General, Egyptian Public Health Department, has been granted two months leave of absence, to be spent in England.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces that Mr. J. Williams, Inspector-General, Ministry of Public Works, has tendered his resignation owing to ill health, and will be struck off from April 1 next, the beginning of the financial year.

Miralai Burgess Bey, Police Magistrate at Khartoum, has returned to the Sudan after having passed several months at Ismailia, where he acted as Provost Marshal.

M. Paraskevopoulo, formerly Greek Consul at Alexandria, left that city on November 17 for Cyprus, to take over the duties of Consul in that island.

ORDER OF THE NILE.

Our Cairo Correspondent forwards the following list of British and foreign Officials decorated with the "Order of the Nile" by H.H. Sultan Hussein on the occasion of the Moslem New Year:—

GRAND CORDON (FIRST CLASS).

H. Farnall, Esq., C.B., C.M.G., British Commissioner on the Public Debt Commission; G. Adamoli, Esq., Italian Commissioner on the Public Debt Commission, Sir Alexander Baird, Bart; F. T. Rowlatt, Esq., Governor of the National Bank of Egypt.

GRAND OFFICER (SECOND CLASS).

Captain G. G. Hunter, C.M.G., Director-General of the Coast Guards; Rear-Admiral H. R. Robinson, R.N., Director-General of the Ports and Lighthouses; A. King Lewis, Esq., C.M.G., Director-General of Customs; S. H. Wells, Esq., Director-General of the Technical and Commercial Education Department; Captain G. C. M. Hall, D.S.O., Traffic Manager, State Railways; R. G. Peckitt, Esq., Chief Mechanical Engineer, State Railways; Major J. S. Liddell, R.E., Inspector-General of Telegraphs; G. Morice Bey, Director-General of Public Security; C. H. Whittingham Bey, Inspector-General of Prisons; Colonel G. S. A. Harvey Pasha, C.M.G., Commandant of Cairo City Police; W. M. G. Bond, Esq., Vice-President of the Native Court of Appeal; A. Eeman, Esq., Procureur-General of the Mixed Courts; W. R. Williams, Esq., Inspector-General of Public Works, Headquarters; G. B. Ireland, Esq., Inspector-General of Public Works, Upper Egypt; P. M. Tottenham, Esq., Inspector-General of Public Works, Lower Egypt; G. C. Dudgeon, Esq., Consulting Agriculturist; C. Caprara, Esq., Secretary-General, Public Debt Commission.

COMMANDER (THIRD CLASS).

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BACK NUMBER OF "NEAR EAST."—Advertiser wishes to purchase copy of THE NEAR EAST, dated September 6, 1911, to complete Volume I.—Communications, stating price wanted, to A. S. M., THE NEAR EAST Offices.

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ROLL OF HONOUR.

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

The Editor of THE NEAR EAST *would be obliged if relatives of former British residents in the Near East who have joined H.M.'s forces would communicate additional names or other particulars for insertion in our Roll of Honour. Biographical details concerning those who have fallen in their country's service would also be appreciated.*

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co., Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Captain A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
BARRON, 2nd Lieut. J. B., Worcester Regiment, France.
BATH, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
BINNS, Lieut. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
BINNS, Lieut. Harold H., Royal Naval Division Headquarters, British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
BINNS, Lieut. W. Hylton, care of The British Consul, Brindisi.
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
BOND, Gladwyn J. T., Inns of Court O.T.C.
BOND, Trooper Sidney (1,779), Royal Horse Guards. (Wounded.)
BOND, Corporal R. (41,357), Headquarters Staff, "D" Battery, 79th Brigade, R.F.A., 17th Division, B.E.F., France.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Private Henry J., R.A.M.C., Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.
BROOK, Corporal George, 41356, D. Batt., 78th Brig. R.F.A., 17th Div., B.E.F., France.
BURN, E. R., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BURNS, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Accidentally Killed.*)
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C. Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CLEMOW, F. G., M.D., C.M.G., British Red Cross Mission, Plevlié, Montenegro.
CLIFTON, Capt. H., Interpreter, 11th Batt. Durham Light Infantry, 54th Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital, Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CORBETT, Lieut. H. C., M.D., R.A.M.C.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, York.
CUMBERBATCH, 2nd Lieut. H. D., 9th Batt. the Buffs.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. and Adjutant R. C., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., 262nd Battery, R.F.A., 84th Brigade, Colchester.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Battalion.
ELLIOTT, Flight Sub-Lieut. Clifford W., R.N.A.S.
EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GOUT, Captain Charles L., 2/4th King's Own Yorkshire L.I., Hyde Park Schools, Doncaster.
GOUT, Rifleman Evelyn, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian H., "A" Co., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade, Queen's E1 Ward, Bed 40, Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester. (*Wounded.*)
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HOLMES, 2nd Lieut. Gerald H., 2/5th Batt. Leicestershire Regiment.
HOLTON, Corporal Alfred, Royal Naval Division, Divisional Engineers.
HOLTON, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.
IRELAND, Private D. J. (3346), 15th County of London Regiment.
JACKSON, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
KERR, Miss E., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., H.M. Hospital Ship Brighton, British Expeditionary Force, France.
KEYSER, Lieut. A. G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Rifleman Fred., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. Hugh, 2/7th City of London Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Sub-Lieut. J. S., R.N.V.R., Hawke Battalion. (*Wounded.*)
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LE BAILLY, Lieutenant R. F., R.N.V.R., Recruiting Officer for Royal Naval Air Service, Brook Green Road, Hammersmith.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
MACKENZIE, 1st Lieut. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
MACKINNON, Private Eric, 9th Royal Scots Highlanders.
MACKINNON, Dr. Frank I., Lieut., R.A.M.C., St. George's, Malta.
MACKINNON, Dr. J. M., Captain R.A.M.S., British East Africa.
MACKINNON, Patrick, Sapper, Divisional Engineers, 1st Canadian Contingent.
MACRAY, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
MOORE, Miss K. M., Royal Red Cross, Serbia.
MORRISON, 2nd Lieut. J., 4th Seaforth Highlanders, B.E.F., France.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MUMFORD, P. F., Army Service Corps, R.E., Baldock.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NEWILL, 2nd Lieut. Sidney J. P., 2/7th City of London Regiment.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., The Military Hospital, The Castle, Edinburgh.
PEACOCK, 2nd Lieut. Frank, 4/4th Batt. London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers.
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
POYNTER, Lieut. Hugh E., No. 2 Base Supply Depot, Portishead, Somerset.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
ROBINSON, Lance-Corporal J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem. (*Killed in action.*)
RICE, Rifleman Cecil, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Died from Wounds.*)
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SAMSON, Seaman George McKenzie, V.C., R.N.R. (*Seriously Wounded.*)
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regiment, Woldingham.
SEMPLE, Rev. S. H., Chaplain with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
SIMMONS, Gunner H. C., 123rd Heavy Battery, R.G.A. (*Died from Wounds.*)
STEPLING, Rev. Canon, R.A.M.C.
STOCK, Lieut. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
SUMMERS, Lieut. H. C., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Europa."
SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).
THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
THOMPSON, John, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
THWAITES, Dr. H., R.A.M.C., France.
TORRANCE, Dr. D., R.A.M.C.
TRENTER, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.
VAN LENNEP, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
VAN MILLINGEN, 2nd Lieut. Charles A. M., 14th Rifle Brigade.
VAN MILLINGEN, Private R. G. C., 3rd Batt. London Scottish.
VERDOVA, Rifleman Egbert, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VERDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
WEALE, 2nd Lieut. W. W. C., 11th Batt. Devonshire Regiment. (*Wounded.*)
WELLS, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
WHEATLEY, Miss, Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. No. 21, Ambulance Train, British Expeditionary Force.
WHEELER, Captain P. F. C. d'Erf, 1st Dorset Regiment. (*Wounded.*)
WHEELER, 2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Nowell Popham d'Erf, 7th Dorset Regiment, Portsmouth.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, Private Kenneth, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers, Colchester.
WHITTALL, Private Roland, 10th Batt. Royal Fusiliers. (*Died from Wounds.*)
WHITTALL, Rifleman Walter, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Wounded.*)
WOODS, Harold, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
WRATISLAW, Captain J. C., 8th Leicestershire Regiment, 110 Brigade, 37th Division, B.E.F., France.

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BIRTHS.

EDWARDS.—On November 27, at 23, Grange Park, Ealing, the wife of Francis Millward Edwards (Egypt), of a daughter.

MILLINGEN, VAN.—On November 27, at Leewood, Dumblane, Perthshire, to Mr. and Mrs. J. R. van Millingen, a son, Reuel Duncan.

MCRAE.—On November 19, at Cairo, Egypt, the wife of Capt. H. St. G. McRae, 45th Rattray's Sikhs, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

HUNTER—GREENWAY.—At St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London on November 27, Major J. B. Dalzell Hunter, I.M.S., to Marjorie Phyllis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Greenway, 2, Whitehall Court, London, S.W.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1915.

THE TRAGEDY OF SERBIA.

Within eight weeks of the forcing of the passage of the Danube and Drina, Serbia, with the exception of a narrow strip to the south, is under the heel of the invader. The machine-like precision of the Austro-German forces has done its work, but the result would not have been attained if the Serbians had not received a "stab in the back" from Bulgaria. Against overwhelming numbers the army, which has even won grudging tributes from the enemy, has slowly given ground, contesting every point of vantage and inflicting heavy losses on its pursuers. The end, however, in the absence of adequate reinforcements, was inevitable. France and Great Britain, about the time when, after more than two months of careful preparation, the Austro-German attack was about to be launched, made up their minds to send troops to Serbia's assistance. But with only one port of disembarkation available and a single line of railway, ill-equipped, along which to send troops up-country, the task of bringing help to Serbia in time to hold up the invasion was soon found to be hopeless. The utmost that could be achieved was to prevent the Bulgarians from cutting off the retreat of the Serbian forces. But for the arrival of French troops, reinforced subsequently by British troops, Monastir would have been threatened and must have fallen at an earlier stage in the campaign. The Allied forces have not advanced far from the Greek frontier, but the pressure they have been able to exert from the Vardar Valley must have checked the Bulgarian thrust west and south of Uskub. The main bulk of the Serbian northern army has now crossed over into Montenegrin and Albanian territory. It remains an army in being, deprived no doubt of its heavy artillery and merely a shadow of its former self, but a force that may yet have to be taken into consideration when, rested, provisioned, and re-equipped, it begins, with the support of its Allies, the advance which, in spite of defeat and suffering, every Serb is confident will lead to the realisation of Serbia's destiny. Henceforth *Resurgam* is the watchword to which the Serbian people will respond. Schooled in the bitterest of all experiences, purified, it may be, in the fire that has spread over the country, Serbia we can but hope will emerge from her present trials a new nation worthy of the grander rôle to which the final victory of the Allies will call her.

The first task of the Entente Powers is to decide by what means the most effective help can be given to the Serbians. There are still the Austro-German and Bulgarian forces in Serbia to be reckoned with. German headquarters has announced that, "with the flight of the scanty remains of the Serbian Army into the Albanian mountains, our great operations against the same are brought to a close." The enemy's statements of his own intentions are not always to be trusted. In so far as the announcement betrays an unwillingness to follow the Serbians into the mountain fastnesses of Albania it may correctly represent German intentions, but that it spells inactivity for the Austro-German troops now in Serbia and closing in on Montenegro is not to be supposed. As one of the objects of the invasion of Serbia was to open up communication with Bulgaria and Turkey, so now the chief aim of the Germans must be to keep that communication open. With this end in view, they must either try conclusions with the Anglo-French forces which have crossed the Greek frontier, in connection with which operations a further pursuit of the Montenegrins and Serbians may have to be reckoned with, or they must allow the initiative to pass into the hands of the Allies as soon as these have received the requisite reinforcements. Only the fear of an attack from another quarter is likely to deter the enemy from following up his present advantage. It would seem, therefore, as if the Allies' openings would be determined by Austro-German action, and that instincts of self-preservation will decide the method by which relief has to be brought to the Serbians.

The part that Greece will play in these operations is still obscure. From the bid for her military support, which was to be obtained by the bribe of Cyprus, the Allied Governments appear to have reduced their demands to the minimum of benevolent neutrality with definite safeguards for the freedom of action of all Allied troops setting foot on Greek territory. Even so, the first reply of the Greek Government is now understood not to have been satisfactory, and negotiations which ought to have been carried through without any delay are allowed to be prolonged, in spite of the manifest disadvantage they entail to the Allies. We can only hope that, when the veil is lifted from these negotiations, it will be found that the policy adopted by the Entente Powers towards Greece has been more practical than can be inferred to-day from the seemingly barren results, which are all that can be discerned at present. It is difficult to suppose that the Entente Powers could ever be so confident of success with the forces at their disposal that they could remain indifferent to the co-operation of a Greek army of a quarter of a million. Even if such were the case, it would be worth while to consider the future state of the Balkan Peninsula. If peace were to be signed to-morrow, the storm centre of Europe would present an appearance far more lowering than that which it has shown at any time during the last thirty years. What are likely to be the relations between the States, if no attempt be made by Greece to atone for the betrayal which has brought Serbia so low; if Roumania is encouraged in a policy of opportunism, which won for her the Dobrudja without the loss of a single soldier, and has shown her ready to desert her countrymen across the Carpathians for fear the bloodless record should be broken? Is it to be supposed that the ultimate humiliation of Bulgaria alone will suffice to engender contentment in the Balkans? These political considerations ought to weigh as heavily with the Entente Powers as the views which purely military exigencies are likely to enlist. If Serbia were to be completely rehabilitated at the end of the war, and Greece had taken no steps to wipe out the memory of King Constantine's repudiation of the Serbian Alliance, there would be a fatal flaw in any peace to which the nations of Europe might append their signatures. The Entente Powers cannot afford to ignore this point in their negotiations with Greece. It is not merely a question of securing freedom of action for the Allied troops in Greece or of military requirements for a successful campaign against the Austro-German forces south of the Danube. It is a question of justifying the sacrifices which are now being made for the future of Europe. An appreciation of the relation of the Balkan Peninsula to the war at an earlier stage in the campaign would have brought Roumania, Bulgaria, and Greece on the side of the Entente Powers. There will be no justification, when the war is over, for the plea that future political considerations could not be taken into account during a time of war. Even if the political instinct of the Allied Governments does not prompt them to work for the future harmony of the Balkans, they owe it to the thousands of Serbians who have laid down their lives on the battlefield or in the heartrending flight before the invaders to see that out of their sacrifice shall arise a peaceful Peninsula.

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CYPRUS.

II.—Its Attraction as a Hill-Station for Egypt.

(BY OUR CAIRO CORRESPONDENT.)

Apart from its political and strategic importance Cyprus has an additional interest to the Empire in general and to Egypt in particular. The Valley of the Nile promises more and more to become an Imperial military base and training ground, and the proximity of a place like Cyprus should prove of great value from the point of view of the health of the troops. The military authorities have already recognised this advantage. Moreover, the climate and conformation of Egypt are such that, in the event of ill-health or over-work, residents are in nine cases out of ten forced to leave the country, if they wish to obtain a complete cure. Now Cyprus fulfils all the requirements of what in India would be called a hill-station, and if only it could be treated as such by the communities of Egypt the latter would not so often have to undertake lengthy and expensive trips to Europe.

Indeed, at one-third the cost and within thirty-six hours, one can be amid surroundings and in a climate that are as different from those of Egypt as they are pleasant and health-giving. The voyage from Port Said to Limassol—of historic interest since it was there that Richard Cœur de Lion was married to the fair Berengaria—takes but twenty hours, and under normal conditions is quite enjoyable. At Limassol customs and other formalities are not very disturbing, and as soon as they have been accomplished conveyances are brought and a start is made on the drive up to Troödos, the hill-station whither Government House and all who can get away from the plains rush as soon as the hot weather sets in. The conveyances available are really nothing more than victorias such as one sees in Cairo, only without rubber tyres. Three horses, instead of the traditional two, draw the vehicle, and what luggage cannot be got inside is strapped on behind. At first sight these conveyances make one wonder if they will ever reach their destination, and the mode of carrying one's goods and chattels seems highly precarious. Experience, however, shows that these fears are groundless, for so well do the Cypriots do their tying-up that seldom does anything fall off—and then it is usually when some nervous passenger has interfered—whilst so skilfully do they drive, that serious accidents are even rarer occurrences. It is stated that the motor service, which at present carries the coastal mails, will next year be extended inland, in which case the journey to the mountains will be considerably shortened.

For about two hours the route from Limassol lies along what is certainly not a good road,* past comparatively barren and deserted country. After about the tenth mile, however, there is more vegetation, and for miles the road winds up and down the hills, amidst field after field of grape-vines, which are cultivated on every spare bit of field and on terraces cut along the rock, and from which drivers and passengers help themselves freely.

At the end of the sixth hour one reaches Platres, the most important stopping place, and a summer resort much patronized by local residents and the Hellenic community of Egypt. Here starts the real hill-climbing, as can be gathered from the fact that the distance from Platres to Troödos is but three miles, and the difference in altitude 2,000 ft. The drive thence takes the best part of three hours, and is by far the most enjoyable, and at the same time the most exciting, portion of the trip.

Up hill, down dale, in and out of the mountain winds the road. At times gazing down into the valley, we see the road we have just covered; further on we glance upwards and catch a glimpse of a white streak, which the driver, unable to speak intelligibly in any known language, indicates is that which we have to take; and looking at the carriages and horses, and again at the white streak above, we wonder whether we shall ever do it. If—as seems quite probable, seeing the hairpin turns the road takes—the carriage overturns, we shall bump nicely from terrace to terrace until whatever remains of us and the carriage lands where we now are. But on we push; and we are well rewarded. The scenery becomes more and more delightful, and the sound of running water from some of the streams as we pass is most refreshing. The nearer we get to the summit the more exhilarating does the air become and the more buoyant do we feel, while with every yard the exquisite scent of the pines becomes more noticeable and more penetrating.

When finally we reach our journey's end, we readily concede that no finer spot than Mount Troödos could be found for a summer station. Situated 6,000 ft. above sea level, commanding the surrounding country for miles, it is just the place for the brain-fagged civilian, the nerve-racked soldier and the convalescent to obtain the rest, quiet and invigoration that he or she so badly needs. The view one gets from the surrounding country from various points is superb. On one side one looks across deep valleys to hills of almost corresponding height covered with pines and vegetation, and round which curve the roads and paths, cunningly cut, in the first instance, to give the easiest gradient and in the second to afford the best view and the quickest mode of descent and ascent. On the other side stretches out before one a marvellous tract of country with the sea clearly defined in the background. The entire panorama presents a picture that gives a curious combination of moorland and Central European landscape; while the mount itself, entirely covered with pines—it is to-day, thanks to the wanton destruction carried out by the olden Cypriots, practically the only wooded part of the island—with red earth, delightfully green bracken and fern underfoot, contributes, especially in spring and autumn, when the ground is covered with the most fragrant and dainty wild flowers, a charm that clings in the memory of every one who visits the hilltop.

Just behind the residential part of the hill lies the summit of Mount Troödos, called Mount Olympus, whither at sunset and on moonlight nights visitors repair to get a view of the surrounding country. It is in parts a stiffish climb, but the view from the summit well repays the exertion. From it can be seen distinctly Morphou Bay to the north, Limassol and the bay to the south, and on very clear days, the coast of Asia Minor to the north-east. We were on one occasion able to pick out a ship which had just landed its cargo, standing out in the sunshine like a toy steamer in the vast bay below.

For those who are able to take them there are walks galore and rides as well, all through the most delightful scenery; but for the weary in mind or body the best thing of all is to lie under the trees on one of the slopes, or half-way up to Mount Olympus. There, as one lies, one draws in with every breath the scent of the pine, so healthful to both brain and lungs. Absolute quiet reigns on all sides, a quiet that almost touches one, so complete is it, and that gives at first an uncanny, awe-inspiring feeling. Soon one gets accustomed to the absence of all noise and to the hush that seems to have fallen over the earth, and one feels curiously at peace with oneself and with mankind. Drowsily one recalls stories one has read of the "Mountain of the Gods," and conjures up visions that seem absolutely to have their place in these surroundings. Suddenly the dream-picture is broken in upon by a great whirring in the air, which, in a way, seems but to accentuate the illusion. It is as if Mercury was passing along on his way to summon the deities to one of those legendary meetings which the poetic exponents of mythology tell us took place on this very mount, whilst the rumble of thunder, which we hear behind us, might well be Jove expressing his impatience at the tardiness with which his fellow gods and goddesses are responding to his summons! The noise in the air is caused by some eagles or vultures winging their way across the valley. We are so high up, and the spot is so quiet, that the swish of their wings as they pass quite close overhead is most distinct.

The life on the mountain is healthful to a degree, and, although essentially British, is free from all social conventions. Indeed, therein lies its innate charm, and hence its great attraction to those who long to get away even for a brief respite from Egyptian life and surroundings. When excursions are not on the order of the day, the morning is spent as indicated under the trees until about noon, when all foregather at the tent of one of the officials to discuss the latest cables, or the local "gup," or to make plans for the future. Afternoon sees a general assembly at the Tennis Club, which, thanks to the munificence of the Government, owns a most attractive little club-house, and where some excellent matches were witnessed during the Troödos Tournament. In the evening there are impromptu and organized concerts in the hotel and elsewhere; but often everyone is so healthily tired, that "who's for bed" sounds as soon as (very often before!) dinner has been digested.

This year the residents arranged entertainments for the soldiers at the Convalescent Camp. It is no small matter to provide twice a week a two-hour programme that will always satisfy such a critical audience as one composed of Tommies, but the applause that greeted each turn showed that the entertainers had attained their object. It is not surprising that the men appreciated the efforts made to amuse them, for without exaggeration they could go a long way before they would find such a galaxy of talent as was congregated on Troödos this summer.

The convalescents, too, contributed their share, and some of them were really first-class singers and comedians. But, of course, the bulk of the items fell to the residents. A pierrot troupe, one of the best I have seen, held the

* I was subsequently informed that it is intended shortly to open another and better road to the hills.

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boards for two nights, so, also, did a voice-trial, which could not have evoked more laughter if Pélissier and his merry troupe had given it. Curtain-raisers and scenes from well-known London successes were given, and also a series of tableaux, the diversity of which was simply astounding when one reflected that Troödos is the end of the world in so far as shops are concerned, its "Bond Street" consisting of half-a-dozen grocery shops and its sole haberdashery being a tent kept by "Blind George," whose slender and simple stock has to be periodically "taken" and tidied up by kindhearted lady residents. The crowning feat was, however, the reproduction of an extravaganza a few nights before we left. The committee responsible for the entertainment was at its wits' ends to know what programme to give at the next "show." Someone suggested that they should write a play of their own. To the versatile brains that had scored so many successes the hint was more than sufficient. Rapidly the plot was sketched and parts allotted, and within the incredibly short time of forty-eight hours the "Extravaganza"—it was that with a vengeance and original to boot, even to the dresses—had been staged and produced. It proved a howling success, and the audience voted the "Four T's"—the troupe's name is too long to give in full—one of the best "stunts" any of them had ever seen.

With all this can it be wondered that the convalescents—albeit they longed to be at the Turks again—and the civilian visitors regretfully found the day come round when duty called them back to Egypt, and that everything conduced to make one's stay one of the most enjoyable and most recuperative holidays any one could have.

CYPRUS AND GREAT BRITAIN.

(From a Correspondent.)

Since the conditional offer of Cyprus to Greece lapsed, the Cypriot people have accepted with good sense the course of circumstances. At first there was considerable excitement throughout the Greek community. After a meeting, held in the palace of the Archbishop, at Nicosia, telegrams were dispatched to the Prime Minister and to both Houses of Parliament in London, expressing the gratitude of the Greek people. On November 5 the High Commissioner received the Archbishop and members of the Legislative Council at Government House, when an address was handed to his Excellency for transmission to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The reply of the High Commissioner has been communicated to the Press and people. After thanking his Beatitude and the members for their loyal expression and wholehearted sympathy with England and her Allies in the great struggle for liberty and civilization, his Excellency observed that, having regard to the reported official statements that the offer had been made and refused, and had lapsed, the Greek Cypriots would doubtless now recognize in the fullest manner their obligations as British subjects. "In particular he desired that they would avoid at the present juncture any public expression of racial sentiment that might be interpreted as derogating from their political allegiance, or disturb the susceptibilities of any of their fellow subjects, or lead to disquiet among the more ignorant and excitable classes of the population."

His Beatitude assured his Excellency that the Greeks would give no cause for unrest among the people; and other members of the deputation reiterated their acknowledgment of their status as British subjects, and asked for a continuance of the Liberal attitude maintained towards them by the British Administration. The Turkish community has continued to regard the course of events with complete loyalty and equanimity, notwithstanding the feelings of dissatisfaction to which late events might with good reason give rise.

THE EGYPTIAN INSTITUTE.

The *Egyptian Gazette* reports that at a private meeting of the Egyptian Institute, held at Cairo recently, the question of the enemy subjects who are members of the Institute was discussed. After a debate, it was decided to expunge their names from the list of the members of the Institute, as has been done by other learned societies in England and France. Among the members thus dealt with were Emil Brugsch Pasha, formerly the Conservator of the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities; Herr Ottmar von Mohl, formerly German member of the Public Debt Commission; Max Herz Pasha, formerly Chief Architect to the Wakfs Administration; and Professor Loos, of the Kasr el Aini School of Medicine. The decision to expunge the names of these members was unanimous.

A Syrian newspaper announces that the American missionaries in Egypt intend to establish a new university at Cairo, modelled on the lines of the American University at Beyrout. Provision will be made for the study of mechanics, agriculture, medicine, and pharmacy. A large sum, it is added, has already been collected in order to carry out the scheme.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Entente Loans to Greece. Nov. 25.

Sir E. Cornwall asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs what advances of money had been made, or promised, to Greece by the Entente Powers since the war started.

Sir E. Grey: I realise that this is a very natural question, but I regret that it is not desirable in the public interest at this moment to give details of financial transactions between this country and its Allies and neutral countries.

Bulgaria and the War.

Sir R. Cooper wished to know whether the British Minister in Sofia informed the Foreign Office about last March that Bulgaria would join the Central Powers, and that further negotiations with her would be abortive.

Sir E. Grey: The answer is in the negative.

Sir R. Cooper inquired whether the British Minister Plenipotentiary in Sofia was recalled in the early part of this year.

Sir E. Grey: He was not recalled. He was granted leave of absence.

Great Britain, Russia, and Persia. November 30.

Lord Robert Cecil informed Sir P. Magnus that energetic steps were being taken in various ways to counteract the effect of false statements made in the interests of the Central Powers in Persia and other countries.

Sir E. Cornwall asked whether Russia and Great Britain had now agreed to the moratorium requested by the Persian Government in respect of the payment of interest on loans made by this country and Russia.

Lord Robert Cecil said the British and Russian Governments were engaged in amicable negotiations with the Persian Government with a view to placing the latter in a position to maintain order in Persia and to uphold the duties incumbent upon a neutral State. Until these negotiations were further advanced it would not be in the public interest to make a detailed statement on the subject.

British Subjects in Serbia.

Lord Robert Cecil informed Sir Henry Dalziel that he had no information with regard to the safety or otherwise of British subjects in Serbia other than those connected with the different hospital units in that country. Sir Ralph Paget reported on November 1 that it was practically certain that some five or six British units (about 200 individuals) appeared to have been taken prisoners between Krushevatz and Kralievo. On November 26 His Majesty's Minister at Cettinje transmitted a message to Sir Ralph Paget to the effect that the Serbian military authorities had decided at the last moment that it would be safer for Red Cross units to leave Serbia for Montenegro instead of for Monastir through Albania, as originally intended. Sir R. Paget was endeavouring to make arrangements for shelter and food for hospital units along the roads, and hoped that the first detachment might arrive at Podgoritza on November 27. The following were the approximate numbers of the various units on the way:—Scottish Women's Hospital, 47; the Stobart unit, 22; the Wounded Allies' Relief unit, 13; and Second Farmers' unit, 9.

Mr. Chaplin asked if that statement included all the nurses in the different Red Cross units serving in Serbia.

Lord Robert Cecil said it was difficult to be certain, because the means of communication at present with our own representatives, whether Sir Ralph Paget or Sir Charles Des Graz, were so difficult. He would not like to pledge himself that it included all the nurses, but he hoped and trusted that it did.

Greece and the Allies.

Lord R. Cecil, replying to Sir E. Cornwall, said he did not think that any statement could be usefully made at present as to the exact understanding which had been arrived at between the Allied Powers and the Greek Government.

The Persian Gendarmerie.

Sir J. Rees having asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs under what leaders, whether Swedish, German, or other, the Persian gendarmerie were acting who had made prisoners of His Majesty's Consul and the manager of the bank of Persia at Shiraz,

Lord R. Cecil, in a written reply, stated that he was unable to add anything to the communication issued to the Press on November 24, as he had received no further details on the subject, except that the Persian Government had recalled the foreign instructor who was in command of the gendarmerie in Fars. The Swedish Government had always shown readiness in meeting any wishes expressed to them in regard to any Swedish instructors of gendarmerie when it was in their power; and there could be no question of the Swedish Government being in any way responsible for the conduct of the gendarmes or for anything the officers of the gendarmerie might or might not have done. The officers were, of course, not Swedish officers in the sense of being under the orders of the Swedish Government at all. The more correct description would be Persian gendarmerie instructors of Swedish nationality.

Lord Kitchener's Mission. Dec. 1.

Sir E. Cornwall asked the Prime Minister when he proposed to make a further statement as to the plans and mission of Lord Kitchener; and whether such statement would include a full report giving the House and the country all possible information which the military circumstances admitted as to our position on the Gallipoli Peninsula and the Balkan situation generally.

Mr. Asquith: Any such statement as my hon. friend contemplates would not be desirable at the present moment.

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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

Sursum Corda.

Since last writing the inevitable has happened, and Voivode Putnik's army has been driven back westwards from the plain of Kossovo. A week ago to-day we wrote that the brave leader of the Northern Serbian Army had two courses open to him: either to give battle on the left bank of the Sitnitza or to retreat into Albania. The latter alternative has been chosen. To argue now why this course was chosen would be superfluous, but, knowing as we do the heroic courage of the Serbs defending their country against invasion, we are inclined to think that either the numerical superiority of the enemy or the tremendous dearth of munitions on the side of the Serbs, or both, were the causes which led to Putnik's retreat into the Albanian fastnesses.

The situation thus created in Serbia is a weeping tragedy. Belgium, momentarily, is a strip of land, Serbia another, but if anything can outdo the horrors of Flanders, it is the tribulation of that brave Balkan people which, refusing to come to terms with an aggressive enemy at the eleventh hour of its trial, led its army out of the Sitnitza valley into Albania, there to recuperate and gather fresh supplies for the renewed attack at a later period.

The Serbian Plight.

To moralise over past events is out of place; to bandy words as to the reason why the Serbian tragedy should have been enacted is a forlorn consolation; to argue whether another military campaign would have been more successful than that which has just taken place is, in present circumstances, utterly worthless. We have all of us our well-defined opinions as regards the tragedy of Serbia, but it is wiser not to utter them. We are face to face with a new situation, as complex as any on the map of Europe, and it behoves us now to turn our eyes to the future rather than to the past. But before doing so, a few words as to the present. Hundreds and thousands of Serbs, of loyal fighters for the good cause, and their wives and children—especially the children—are destitute, homeless waifs wandering over the face of this earth in search of kindness and commisseration. Cruelties beyond words have been perpetrated by the Austrians blood-mad after their defeats of last November, by Bulgars thirsting for revenge, and by Germans because they practise frightfulness as a wild beast practises savagery. These people, these destitute victims of enemy persecution and Nature's harsh inclemencies, need all the help they can get. Let us show them that, though we were unable, owing to circumstances beyond our immediate control, to come to their help in time to save their hearths and homes, we have not forgotten them, shall not forsake them in this their greatest hour of need, nor will we be slow in coming to their immediate rescue.

The New Situation.

Two months ago the enemy line followed the Danube from its source to Orsovo; it then struck north-east around the Carpathians and the Roumanian frontier to where it reached the Russian line. Turkey was not linked up with the Central Powers, and even when Bulgaria fired the first shot against Serbia, the enemy's eastern line went no further west than the Serbian frontier. To-day the situation has altered: the enemy line reaches down the Danube beyond Rustchuk; from Constantinople westwards the enemy line reaches to the Sitnitza, thence northwards to the Drin and the Save. In other words, what was Serbian territory is now—with the exception of a small tract of land in the extreme south-east, another in the extreme south-west, and a strip of land along the Albanian frontier, broken in half at Prizend—enemy territory. Through it runs the main artery of communication between Berlin-Vienna and Constantinople, the control of which was Germany's main objective in undertaking the present campaign. It has been achieved, but the following remarks are appropriate. The railway from Hungary to Sofia crosses many bridges in Serbian territory, foremost among them being the long bridge across the Save near Belgrade, now utterly destroyed, with the river in flood; then the long bridge across the Morava, near Nish, equally destroyed; then a series of bridges and tunnels between Nish and Pirot which in all probability will have likewise been blown up. Thus, though the route, as such, is open, it will be of no practical use for months to come. As for flank attacks on the line from the west, from Montenegro and Albania, they have been temporarily rendered impossible by the final retreat of the Serbian Army. But it must not be forgotten that this is the most vulnerable, the only vulnerable point of the enemy line: as long as we hold Montenegro and Albania, and are able to supply the Serbian and Montenegrin armies with provisions, munitions and men if necessary, the German line is unsafe. The parallelogram Montenegro-Albania occupies the same position on the eastern front as Portugal did during the Peninsula Wars.

The situation in the south is, practically speaking, unchanged. The Allies hold their old line from the Cerna River to Doiran, though, as was to have been expected, they have retired from the left to the right bank of the Cerna. Prilep to the north-east of Monastir, the railway line to the south-east and Prizrend to the north have fallen, and Monastir itself, famous for its heroic defence, is on the point of succumbing. With its capture the south-west corner of Serbia will likewise have fallen into the hands of the enemy, and, with the exception of the Cerna-Doiran line, Greece will be surrounded by Bulgars and their kin.

Sursum Corda.

Such is the situation at present. The picture, admittedly, is a gloomy one, but the gloom is not impenetrable. The Serbian army is not wiped out: it has retreated. It can and will recuperate, but its supplies and provender must come from the Adriatic. Let this be fully and frankly realised, and the sooner steps are taken to organise a regular service of supplies through Albania, the sooner will the vulnerable point of the Berlin-Constantinople line be attacked with strong forces, and a New Serbia arise in the valleys of the Ibar and Morava. As for the southern campaign, it must be relentlessly pursued; our Cerna-Doiran line is the only obstruction in the enemy's path to the bays and harbours of Greece. It must be strengthened and held until the Serbs, aided by all the Allies, have reconquered Nish. They will do so, given the necessary equipments.

TWO MONTHS' CAMPAIGN..

The following diary of the war in the Balkans, from September 30 to November 30, is extracted from *The Times* "Diary of the War," published on Wednesday:—

September 30.—Von Mackensen masses 250,000 men and 2,000 guns on the Serbian frontier.
October 2.—Bulgarian forces massing on the Serbian frontier. German battalion attempting to cross the Danube at Semendria repulsed by the Serbs.
October 4.—Russian ultimatum to Bulgaria.
October 5.—Allied forces land at Salonika, at invitation of Greek Government.
October 6.—Austro-German invasion of Serbia begun; the Drina, Save, and Danube crossed.
October 9.—Belgrade occupied by Austro-German troops.
October 11.—Bulgarians cross the Serbian frontier. Semendria captured by the Austro-German forces.
October 12.—Greek Government declines to assist Serbia.
October 14.—Bulgaria at war with Serbia; war declared by Great Britain.
October 16.—Franco-Serbian forces repulse Bulgarians at Valandova.
October 17.—Bulgarians capture Egri-Palanka and cut the Nish-Uskub railway at Vrania.
October 18.—Austro-Germans take Obrenovatz on the Save. Fierce fighting between Bulgars and Serbs at Vrania.
October 20.—Bulgarians occupy Veles.
October 21.—Bulgarians occupy Kumanovo. Bulgarians repulsed by French troops near Rabrovo, south of Strumnitza.
October 22.—Bulgarians occupy Uskub; Bulgarians again repulsed by French at Rabrovo.
October 23.—Bulgarians cross the Timok and occupy Prahovo.
October 25.—Franco-Serbians recapture Veles, and threaten Uskub; Bulgarians retire on Ishtip.
October 26.—Austro-German and Bulgarian forces in touch at Ljubichevatz; Serbians retiring along the line Zaitchar-Kragujevatz.
October 27.—Uskub retaken by Serbians.
October 28.—Bulgarians capture Pirot; they occupy the Katchanik Pass on the Uskub-Mitrovitza Railway.
October 29.—Bulgarians recapture Veles; Strumnitza Station occupied by the French.
October 30.—British in action on the Ghevgeli-Doiran front; Bulgarian attack on Krivolak repulsed.
November 1.—Fall of Kragujevatz, the chief Serbian arsenal, to the Austro-Germans. Bulgarians advancing from Veles in the direction of Monastir; Serbians holding Izvor, between Veles and Prilep.
November 4.—Austro-Germans reach Parachin; Bulgarians defeated at Izvor by Serbians, assisted by French and British.
November 5.—Fall of Nish to the Bulgarians.
November 7.—Austro-Germans reach Krushevatz.
November 10.—French troops occupy Gradsko.
November 12.—Serbians retake Tetovo from the Bulgarians.
November 14.—Bulgarians take Krushevo and advance on Prilep: Tetovo again in Bulgarian hands.
November 15.—Serbian success on the Babuna front.
November 16.—Fall of Prilep. Bulgarians repulsed on the French front on the Tcherna.
November 20.—Fall of Novi Bazar. Bulgarian offensive against Monastir checked.
November 22.—French attack on the Krivolak front; Brusnik occupied.
November 23.—Fall of Mitrovitza and Prishtina: Serbian Army in retreat towards the Albanian frontier.
November 26.—Bulgarians cross the Tcherna and threaten Monastir.
November 30.—Prizrend taken by the Bulgarians.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Germany's Position in the Balkans.

In a leading article upon the Balkan position the *Times* (November 29) comments upon the modified tone of the German Press during the past few days, when the greater part of their Headquarters' report has been devoted to detailing the armies employed to crush Serbia:—

The enumeration of the armies employed to crush the poor little Balkan people, whom Austria-Hungary thought herself competent to "chastise" single-handed until a cruel experience taught her better, somewhat detracts from the glory of the operation, however calculated it may be to intimidate other Balkan States. It took a combination of von Mackensen's group, von Koevess's Austrian army—"reinforced by Germans"—von Gallwitz's army, and two Bulgarian armies on the flank to drive the Serbians to the mountains, into which it is apparently not thought expedient to follow them. All the available forces of two mighty Empires, treacherously aided by the whole strength of the most powerful of Balkan States, were summoned to the task, and boast that they have performed it, though they leave the Serbian Army "in being."

The *Evening Standard*, in dealing with the situation, says:—

But though Serbia has gone down to the tomb, it is in the hope of a splendid resurrection. That hope lies not only in the friendship of Allies who are solemnly sworn to obtain for her such restitution and compensation as her sacrifices merit. It is firmly based on the character of her people. Of the Christian races that fell under the dominion of the House of Othman, two only, the Serbian and the Magyar, have retained their full share of manliness. The Serbs are not traders like the Greeks, or usurers like the Armenians. They have fighting blood, as the Turk found before he crushed them.

The *Globe* (November 29):—

Serbia is, for the time being, utterly crushed, but whether the Berlin-Constantinople line of communications which the enemy proposes to restore will be quite so secure as the German public is encouraged to believe is a matter upon which we should like to have the candid opinion of General von Mackensen and his very competent staff. . . . The massing of the great Russian army on the north bank of the Danube is a factor which cannot be neglected. . . . There is an extremely unpleasant situation known as being between the Devil and the Deep Sea, and the German announcement that "the great operations against the Serbian army are brought to a close" reads to us as though the Germans have begun to realize its implications.

The *Pall Mall Gazette*, in a leading article, also shows the position to be by no means as secure as Germany might desire:—

The massing of Russian armies for the Balkans counts for a good deal in itself, and there are possibilities of Roumania jumping into the "flowing tide" of which Berlin is by no means oblivious. Germany, in short, may have all her work cut out shortly to keep what she has seized. If she does not celebrate her "triumph" now—and extract her popular thank-offering—another opening for those performances may not occur.

An Indictment of the Bulgarians.

Vasili Nemirovich-Danchenko, the well-known Russian writer, is contributing a series of articles to the *Russky Slovo* on Ferdinand and the Bulgarians. The writer knows his subject well, having lived and worked among the Bulgarians, and, moreover, his previously well-known great friendship for that country lends his present articles the more weight. The articles are of very great interest. An idea of them can be gleaned from the following few extracts:—

"We are not sentimental," boast the Bulgarians. They forget that from sentimentality to base treachery the distance is wide as the poles. They are not sentimental! What a pity we did not foresee this in 1876, and earlier, when they threw themselves at our feet, praying in tears that we should save their towns and villages from fire, their sons from the Turkish knives, and their daughters from outrage and dishonour! . . .

They complain that we robbed them in 1913 of the fruits of the victory in the Balkan Peninsula. I do not dispute that our diplomacy was then short-sighted. Nevertheless, instead of accepting our proffered mediation and retaining Adrianople and Macedonia, her Cains preferred to strike a robber's blow at Serbia. . . .

If you Bulgarians were magnanimous and honourable you would have risen as one man together with us. You would have cried out to the whole world, "Ah, yes, we were insulted and affronted, but we will forget all, and march together with all the Slavs." . . . Ah, but you are not a nation of knights, and everything knightly is foreign to you.

Perhaps it is better so. Now we are for ever freed from the anxious thought of you and your fate. We shall never forget that in the conspiracy of the rulers against their people (Roumanian, Greek, and Bulgarian) you, covered with our blood and bought with our sufferings, were the first to rise against us; that you, hissing our flag in the streets of Sofia and in the square on which the Tsar-Liberator looks down from his bronze horse on to your House of Deputies, that you yourselves cut the artery that bound us together. . . . And I, who worked for you, and with you suffered for your sorrows and rejoiced at your victories, with curses and repugnance wipe out from my memory every mutual recollection. . . . Do not excuse yourselves by saying that it is not your fault, that your Government is to blame. Every nation is worthy of its own Government.

A Neutral at Salonika.

To the *Independent* (New York) Mr. Elon Jessup, who was a member of the Columbia Relief Expedition which went to Serbia in the summer to aid in the distribution of supplies and farm implements, contributes an interesting article entitled "Is Salonika Safe?" On the whole he thinks that the Greeks have keenly resented the rigour of Britain's naval activities in regard to the examination of Greek shipping, and points out that "what Greece permits for the sake of continued existence as a nation and what she feels are quite different."

As a result of ships being held for days, and in some cases for weeks, the Greek steamship companies and merchants suffered heavy losses. Wherever possible the steamship companies made up their losses by taxing the cargoes. Many shipments to Serbia have been subject to such a tax. An anti-British feeling crept in and gradually grew in intensity. In Salonika we were accepted as English. Nothing was said, but there was no mistaking the furtive glances cast in our direction.

The Diplomatic Need.

The *Daily Chronicle* (December 2), in a leading article urging the consolidation, or pooling, of the Allied forces in order to be able to dispose of them to the best advantage, concludes:—

The outstanding need of the moment is a prompt and energetic military policy in the Balkans. Upon whether or not it is carried through depends to a large extent not only Greece's but Roumania's attitude. Following their conquest of Serbia, the Central Powers are certain to put extreme pressure on Bucharest. What Roumanian statesmen will need from the Allies in order to resist it are not clever diplomatic arguments, but the visible guarantee afforded by Allied military strength.

Baghdad and the Persian Bandits.

The *Times* (December 2), in a leading article under the above heading, reviews the detailed report of the battle of Ctesiphon, and thinks that—

It may be assumed that Sir John Nixon, who is in chief command in Mesopotamia, will probably await reinforcements before resuming his advance. His communications are good and safe. The river should be rising by now, and in peace time the passage from the sea to Baghdad itself usually took the little river steamers less than a hundred hours' actual steaming. The British can readily obtain all the reinforcements they require, and no doubt are receiving them. The really important question is whether the Turks can receive further reinforcements rapidly.

The paper considers that the reply to this question is that while men might be hurried from Constantinople, the transport of military supplies will only be undertaken with difficulty and delay.

Turning to the situation in Persia, the *Times* emphasises the fact that there is no disposition to blame the Swedish Government for the defection of some Swedes.

The officers originally nominated by the Swedish Government to form a force of gendarmerie in Persia have all returned. Those Swedes who are now in Persian service are there as private adventurers, and we may leave them to the public opinion of their countrymen. The Swedish Government disowns them. They have proved unfaithful to the Persian Government, whose salt they have eaten, and that is an offence unpardonable in the East.

The conclusions of the paper are summed up in the sentences which we quote below:—

It would be extremely unwise to regard the Persian situation lightly, but it would perhaps be equally unwise to take it too gravely at present. One good and successful thrust at the more vital positions of Germany in Europe, and all these melodramatic plots in the Middle East would vanish like smoke.

Tricks of the Trenches.

Under the above heading "Special Reserve" contributes an interesting article dealing with the operations at the Dardanelles to the *Pall Mall Gazette*:—

Directly you leave the beach, like a human mole you enter into a sap, and it is now possible to walk for four or five miles without coming on to ground level for more than three or four hundred yards.

So necessary is the work of the Sappers in this region that the slightest move on the part of either belligerent is usually followed immediately by the formation of new trenches. "The physical features of the place change every day, and even after a week's absence it is sometimes difficult to recognise a place through which you could have found your way blindfolded."

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The Turks appear to be well instructed and ingenious, as the following quotation will show:—

At one point they had a most ingenious arrangement, on the principle of the game often seen at country fairs, where you throw a ball on to a slanting board with holes in the surface and a trough at the bottom to catch the balls, which come trickling back, bobbing into the holes and out again in the most exasperating manner. The trench being on higher ground than the one our men were holding, a groove had been made down the slope, and at the bottom of this groove was another more or less horizontal groove, the two forming a sort of inverted T. The horizontal groove was in its turn pierced with little drainpipes, leading into the trench we had captured. One man, with a good supply of bombs, started them rolling down the top groove as fast as he could, and gravity did the rest. When the bombs got into the horizontal cross-groove they were lost to sight, and there was no way of telling from which of the numerous drainpipes one might emerge into the bottom of our trench. In this way one man could do more accurate work, and more damage, than a dozen skilled bomb-throwers.

"There were no overs or shots" in this game. "Every bomb reached the trench."

An "Artful Dodger."

Who is the most efficient driver of a bargain in the Orient? This is an often debated subject, and the following opinion of Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett in the *Sunday Pictorial* (November 28) will probably only serve to increase the controversial spirit:—

The Modern Greek is not a fighter. He is, in fact, the "Artful Dodger" of the Orient. He can run circles round the Armenian and the Jew in a deal.

From the context of his article it is evident that Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett does not hold a very high opinion of the Greeks, but in the concluding paragraph it will be seen that he is prepared to do full justice to any arguments which may be produced in support of the King's policy:—

In this world-struggle each nation is apt to consider its own paramount interests when dealing with the Balkan States. But there is another potent and honourable reason why King Constantine wishes to avoid a rupture with the Central Powers and their allies at all costs. There are still hundreds of thousands of Greeks living in Constantinople and in Asia Minor. The first shot fired against the Turks will probably lead to a general massacre of these unfortunates, who would thus share the awful fate which has been meted out to the Armenians just to keep "the Turkish soldiers amused and occupied," to quote Enver's reputed words.

Italy's Part.

"A Student of War," reviewing in the *Manchester Guardian* (November 27) a week of the war, is optimistic regarding the future of our Allies in the Balkans. He shows that an attack on the Allies is dangerous because Bulgaria cannot disregard the possibilities of a Russian invasion.

A considerable reduction of the Bulgarian forces in Southern Macedonia is, therefore, not unlikely. A further reduction must be made for the line of communications, which runs through a country which is still in all probability very hostile. . . . If the Allies act on the defensive, and have employed their long wait to advantage, there is no need why they should not manage to beat off the attacks. Defeat or a check will, under the circumstances, if Russia can invade in force, be exceedingly dangerous; if Roumania were to throw in her lot it would mean disaster. On the other hand, for the Germans not to advance but to wait expectantly would be hardly less dangerous.

The writer refers to the part which Italy is playing in the war, and of its effect upon the Balkan campaign.

The steadily increasing Italian pressure on Gorizia is very valuable, for it will prevent the Austrians from reinforcing the Balkan army to any purpose. The fall of Gorizia, which seems likely to come soon, will open a formidable campaign against Trieste, which the Austrians must resist with all their strength.

Articles to Note.

"The Problem of the Adriatic: Italy, Austria, and the Southern Slavs," by J. A. R. Marriott, and "Serbia—Yesterday and To-day": (1) "Belgrade, the Gateway to the East," by the Right Hon. W. F. Bailey, C.B., (2) "The Serbian Soldier in Action," by E. Hilton Young, R.N.V.R., M.P., in the *Nineteenth Century* (December).

"The British Expedition to Baghdad," by Lewis R. Freeman, in the *World's Work* (December).

"Pictures from Gallipoli," by Sydney A. Moseley, in the *Fortnightly Review* (December).

"The Vagaries of Downing Street," by L. J. Maxse, in the *National Review* (December).

"Baghdad" (Illustrated), by Harold J. Shepstone, in the *Ladies' Field* (November 27).

"The Dardanelles", Coloured Supplement to the *Illustrated London News* (November 27).

BULGARIA BEFORE 1878.

The story of Bulgaria was told by Dr. Seton-Watson at King's College on Thursday of last week. By the tenth century, he said, a Bulgarian Empire had been founded extending to the Adriatic. It fell in 1014, after a defeat by the Eastern Empire. Fifteen thousand Bulgarians who had been taken prisoners were blinded, except that one man in every hundred was allowed to retain one eye, so that he might lead his companions back to the Bulgarian Tsar, who was said to have died of horror at the sight. The barbarity of the period was almost consistently on the side of the Greeks, and the subsequent horrors of Turkish history were largely traditions of the Byzantine Court. Until the end of the twelfth century Bulgaria remained under the rule of the Eastern Empire, but then had another revival, and extended its territories until they reached the three seas—the Black, the Ægean, and the Adriatic. But Bulgaria fell before the rising power of Serbia, to which it became a vassal State; and the quarrel between the two races led to the undoing of both, and made possible a little later the entry of the Turk into Europe. No country was more completely crushed under the Turkish rule, for Bulgaria lay on the road from East to West, and was also the point nearest to Stamboul. All that was left to the Bulgarians was the church, and that was in the hands of the Greeks, who in 1637 succeeded in destroying the last fragments of the two autonomous churches of Serbia and Bulgaria. People became ashamed of being Slavs, and if you asked a peasant what he was he would reply, "I am a Greek." This explained the failure of Kinglake and other travellers to detect the presence of Bulgarians in Bulgaria even in the nineteenth century. In the early part of that century Venelin, who wrote books on Bulgarian history, pioneered a revival. His first book had led in 1835 to the foundation of the first Bulgarian school. These schools had spread rapidly, and the Bulgarians had since shown a greater passion for education than any other Balkan race. The national revival also showed itself in a demand for a national episcopate, and the first Bulgarian church was built in Constantinople in 1848. In 1873 the Bulgarian Exarchate was formed. The growing national consciousness was accompanied by various revolutionary attempts, and that of 1876 led to the Bulgarian massacres. Sir Edwin Pears drew the attention of Mr. Gladstone to these, and they were the first stage towards the Russo-Turkish war, which ended in the independence of Bulgaria.

THE EGYPTIAN FRONTIER.

Under date of November 27, Reuter's Cairo correspondent reports:—

The following official statement is issued here:

The Sherif-el-Senussi continues to maintain an entirely friendly attitude towards the Government, but certain hostile agencies in the West have succeeded in inducing some of the Western Arabs to commit minor acts of aggression against our frontier posts and our people.

In pursuance of the Government's policy of removing any possible cause of trouble and friction the smaller frontier posts have now been concentrated at Matruh, where an ample force has been established for the protection of our Arabs against any aggression.

GERMANY AND EGYPT.

The Copenhagen correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports in a message dated November 28:—"Travellers from Germany stated that all over the German Empire one hears the cry 'To Egypt,' where, it is believed, there is a possibility of attacking England. A Danish engineer who asked a prominent military person whether Germany intended sending an army to Egypt received for answer: "No, we shall only send 1,000 officers."

Public Opinion

Edited by PERCY L. PARKER

PUBLIC OPINION'S greatly increased and increasing circulation since the war began shows that it fulfils a most useful purpose to-day by way of inspiration and information. It gives a magnificent analysis of all the great problems—social, political, financial, and religious—arising out of this War of Nations which will alter the whole of life for the present generation.

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TWOPENCE WEEKLY

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THE E.E.F.

The annual meeting of the Egypt Exploration Fund was held last Friday in the Hall of the Royal Society, Burlington House, with Mr. J. S. Cotton in the chair. The report of the committee pointed out that the reorganisation of the society, carried out in 1913, had had to be modified owing to the exigencies of the war. The number of members had decreased from 321 to 260, and the society had lost a large number of foreign subscriptions. Expenses, too, had naturally gone up. The committee recorded their thanks to Mr. Cotton and Mr. Gardiner, who had kindly consented to edit the *Journal* at no cost to the fund. No work had been done in Egypt during the past winter by the fund as a whole, as it was not considered appropriate to appeal for subscriptions for the purpose. The American Committee, however, being under no obligation to save, had gone on with its special work at Balabish, under Professor Whittmore and Mr. Wainwright. The hon. treasurer reported that the income of the fund, apart from special donations for the Osireion work or other purposes, showed a decrease, as compared with the previous year, of £575, and that the adverse balance on the year was £658. Measures had been taken by the committee which should effect a saving of at least £450 in salaries this year, and, if the cost of publications did not exceed the average and the income did not fall further, the situation at the end of the current year should be rather better than it was in the year under review. No work in Egypt was proposed this season, either for the fund proper or the Græco-Roman branch, but the American Committee proposed to take up the exploration of a site in the Delta, Tell Tibelleh, near Mansûra. The public lectures of the society would go on as usual, and the memoirs would continue to appear when ready for publication.

AN "APPRECIATION" OF FERDINAND!

Lecturing last Tuesday at the Bishopsgate Institute on "Bulgaria and the Tsar Ferdinand," Mr. Oliver Bainbridge said that Ferdinand was twenty-seven years of age when he was called to the throne of Bulgaria, and had now reigned twenty-eight years. He had gone there knowing nothing of the country, its history or language, but he had faced all those disabilities and conquered them. Some newspapers said that he was egotistical and vain, and wanted people to pay obeisance to him, and complained because he had taken the title of Tsar. But that was the ancient title of the ruler of Bulgaria, and there were Tsars of that country (and of Serbia also) long before there were Tsars of Russia. So far from being egotistical, he was remarkably democratic in sentiment, and took great delight in going among the peasantry and talking to them. He was a brilliant man, but not a wise one; the late King Edward said of him that he was the most brilliant man in Europe and the most dangerous. Studying the history of the country since his accession, one must agree with the Infanta Eulalia of Spain that he had made modern Bulgaria. Thirty years ago Sofia was a poor, dirty little village, with only one decent building—that was a mosque, now used as a museum; to-day it was a magnificent modern city, with splendid buildings, and inhabited by 125,000 people. Ferdinand had invested his money in banks, railways, harbours, and the like, in the country; he had furthered agriculture and assisted in the erection of hospitals, schools, and similar institutions. Bulgaria had now magnificent school buildings; absolutely the finest school in the world was the William Gladstone School for boys in Sofia. He was not very fond of hunting or shooting; he was a great botanist, and one of his principal pleasures was the searching for rare plants.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C

Our Cairo Correspondent, cabling on Wednesday, announced that the Egyptian State Railways took over on December 1 the Helouan line, previously the property of the Egyptian Delta Light Railway. This confirms my recent prognostication in these columns on the subject. It will be remembered that originally the Government was to have taken over the line more than a year ago, but, owing in the first place to some legal land ownership question, and in the second to the outbreak of the war, the transfer was postponed. Both the Government and the company are to be congratulated on the conclusion of the operation—the former because it acquires a useful, short passenger and traffic line, and the latter because it can in future devote an undivided attention to its system of light railways in the Delta, with which the Helouan Railway stood in no direct, tangible connection.

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It will be remembered that two years ago THE NEAR EAST took up a strong attitude on the question of the linking up of Tripoli and Egypt by rail. At that time the ex-Khedive attempted to sell his Mariut line to a (nominally) Italian company, but in reality a German concern. His scheme was, however, happily frustrated, the Egyptian Government acquiring the line, without having, to the best of my knowledge, any intention to continue the line to the Tripolitan frontier. Now that Italy has come in on our side, the arguments against closer relations between Egypt and Tripoli no longer bear the same gravity, and it is, therefore, not surprising to read in the *Egyptian Gazette* that "it is stated that an Anglo-Italian company has been formed for the purpose of opening up communications. Representatives of this company propose to enter into negotiations with the Egyptian Government shortly. It is said that the company intends starting a regular service of automobiles between Egypt and Tripoli by way of Mariut." The motor-car service will, I feel sure, be quite adequate for all general purposes, and will do away with the enormous expense entailed in the construction of a railway line.

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Yesterday Reuter's Agency reported from Amsterdam that, according to a Constantinople telegram, the Turkish Budget for the financial year beginning March 14, which is now being discussed in Committee, shows an expenditure of £T36,817,125—that is to say, an increase of £T1,159,579 over the expenditure in the previous year—and a revenue of £T22,961,688, a decrease of £T1,874,749. The deficit amounts to £T13,855,437, and is £T3,034,329 higher than last year. In order to cover the great expenditure involved by the present war, loans will be raised by the Governments of Turkey's allies. For a portion of the loans banknotes have already been issued, and the issue for the remaining portion will shortly follow.

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According to another Amsterdam telegram from Constantinople, says Reuter's Agency, the Ottoman Government has submitted to the Chamber a Bill regarding a new tariff which replaces the present 15 per cent. tax of the value of imported goods by a tax of 30 per cent. for the duration of the war, and demands urgent settlement of this Bill. The President of the Chamber, Hadji Bey, emphasised the importance of the Bill, which completely revolutionises Turkey's previous financial and economical policy. The Bill was referred to a committee. The Government also presented an urgent Bill which authorises the Government to conclude a loan of £T2,112,000 with Germany for the completion of the Baghdad Railway.

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If a report current in Zurich, and sent out by Reuter's Agency yesterday, is correct, the Serbs deserve our heartiest thanks for an exceedingly smart bit of work. It appears that Budapest reports from Orsova tell of the fury and disappointment of the Germans at finding that the Serbians had completely destroyed, so far at least as any present working is concerned, the extensive and valuable copper mines at Bor, in Northern Serbia, the importance of which has frequently been emphasised in these columns. All the mining machinery, workmen's dwellings, furnaces, and workshops were, it appears, blow up by the retreating Serbians. They also prevented the working of the pits by destroying the pumping machinery and water-pipes, thus completely flooding the mines. To the further dismay of the Germans, they had carried off all the copper stocks on hand and the movable machinery. The German commander has brought a staff of engineers to ascertain if it is possible to put the mines in working order again within a reasonable period.

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According to a Swiss financial critic in the *Gazette de Lausanne*, who bases his statements on German data only, Bulgarian finance is completely under German control, the Disconto Gesellschaft managing everything, says the Berne correspondent of the *Morning Post*. Altogether Bulgaria has received £30,800,000 from Germany, £10,800,000 being in gold and £20,000,000 in war material, besides which a further £4,000,000 has been paid her for developing her mineral resources.

***

On December 20 the Khedivial Mail Steamship Company hold their annual meeting. These meetings have in recent years been characterised by some sharp criticism levelled at the board by shareholders opposed to the directors' extreme conservative policy. An echo of this dissension is to be found in the letter which is published elsewhere in this issue of THE NEAR EAST; but it is sincerely to be hoped that it is not a forerunner of opposition this year.

***

The fact of the matter is that present shipping conditions are such that the company which does not "go ahead" and take all measures that are necessary for its immediate future development will fall into a hopeless groove. This is perhaps applicable in a greater degree to the Eastern Mediterranean trade than to any other. At present the shortage in tonnage in these seas is hardly felt owing to the great decrease in trade, but this is only of a temporary nature. With normal times will come a great demand for tonnage, and to meet this demand adequate steps will have to be taken by the big firms interested in the Eastern Mediterranean trade. Prior to the war German shipping companies had acquired an almost pre-eminent position in these waters, and both the North German Lloyd and the Hamburg-Amerika Lines were doing their utmost to improve their services. Unless we are careful—as I pointed out recently in these columns—the same companies will leave no stone unturned after the war to regain their old position. It will be said: "We must not let them do so; we and our friends must boycott them." Such arguments are worse than useless, because they are not arguments. Where ships are wanted, whether for passenger or goods trade, they will be employed regardless of nationality, and the bulk of the trade will fall to the best conducted service—the most rapid, the most accommodating, the most obliging. Thus it was before the war, and thus it will be after the war.

***

These remarks have taken me far from the "Old Khedivial" and the subject matter under discussion, but they are, nevertheless, pertinent thereto. The company in question contains the germ of a big British Mediterranean shipping company, if the directors could only be made to realise it. Some of the shareholders do, but their voices have hitherto been fruitlessly lost. They understand that if the Khedivial does not hasten to step into the breach made by the disappearance of enemy shipping, its opportunity will have gone for ever, and it can end its days by plodding a wearisome pilgrim route to Mecca and Medina. May the gods (and the board) deliver it from such a fate! It is not for me to point out how the company can rejuvenate its services, but to argue that it cannot be done is to argue that no industrial concern is susceptible of expansion. Obviously, such is not the case, and I have no doubt that the directors of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company fully understand the steps that must be taken to transform the "Old Khedivial" into a new, enterprising, go-ahead concern, an asset to Egypt and the Empire, a line of great profit to its proprietors, and a serious spoke in the wheel of our enemies' machinations. Knowing this, they will act accordingly. I feel sure of it. Nevertheless, the meeting of the shareholders in about a fortnight's time is awaited with more than usual interest.

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I have received from Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons, Limited, their reproduction of the charming set of Christmas cards which have been specially prepared by them for their Majesties the King and Queen, Queen Alexandra, and the Prince of Wales. The King's card is an excellent representation of Bernard F. Prebble's painting, "A Glorious Chapter of British History," the subject of which depicts Drake's famous flagship the "Revenge." Both the Queen and Queen Alexandra have also chosen incidents of the past for their cards; the former is of "Queen Matilda Embroidering the Bayeux Tapestry," by Howard Davis, and the latter "Queen Margaret of Scotland Praying for the Victory of the Scottish Army." The Prince of Wales alone has chosen a modern subject in having reproduced the prow of a modern battleship. It is entitled "Guarding the Empire." All these cards are, by the gracious permission of their Royal owners, to be reproduced for the benefit of the public, and I congratulate the publishers upon the softness and excellence of their work.

COMMENTATOR.

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Bulgarian Trade in 1914.

British Goods Preferred.

The following are extracts from the report by H.M. Vice-Consul at Sofia on the trade of Bulgaria for the year 1914 :—

When studying the trade returns for Bulgaria for the past few years, one must bear in mind that the last normal year for the commerce of the country was that of 1911. In 1912 the last quarter was disturbed by war; commerce in 1913 was paralysed by the Balkan wars, while the latter half of the year under review saw the outbreak and continuance of the European war. During each of these three years also the Dardanelles have been closed for longer or shorter periods, severing all maritime communication between the Black Sea ports and the rest of Europe.

At the time of writing the latest returns issued are those for April, 1914. It may safely be asserted, however, that imports for the seven months from the commencement of the year up to the outbreak of the European war reached a total not previously exceeded. Exports, while showing an enormous increase over the abnormally low figures of the preceding year, were probably surpassed by those for 1912.

The available figures for 1914 show a rapid recovery from the economic depression caused by the Balkan wars. As the country is in the main agricultural. these latter did not leave as lasting an impression as would have been the case with an industrial country. At the same time it must be remembered that the population of Bulgaria was increased from 4,350,000 to 4,750,000 by the acquisition of her new territories.

The beginning of August saw the commencement of the European war. A moratorium was declared for three months on August 7 and, having been prolonged at the expiration of this period, was still in force at the end of the year. A week after the moratorium had been announced, the export of food staples and transport animals was prohibited, and additions were made from time to time to the list of prohibited exports.

After the closing of the Dardanelles towards the end of September, Dedeagatch, the port of Bulgaria on the Ægean, acquired an unwonted importance, but the existing facilities there were not sufficient to cope with the stream of commerce diverted to it. Moreover, the railway from Dedeagatch to the territories of old Bulgaria passes through Turkey, and so could not be used for the transport of British merchandise after the rupture with Turkey. The Bulgarian market was thus practically closed to British goods during the last three months of the year, which is precisely the quarter when commerce is normally most brisk.

Imports.

Imports for the first four months of 1914 exceeded those for the same period in 1912 by £1,376,000, an increase of 49 per cent. The largest increases are observable in the figures for Germany and Austria-Hungary. Imports from the United Kindgom have not kept pace with this general improvement, the figures up to the end of April, 1914, exceeding those for 1912 by the relatively small amount of £65,400. As usual, the principal imports from the United Kingdom have been textiles, coal, metals, machinery, and chemicals.

The first place in the import of textiles, formerly held by the United Kingdom, has now been taken by Austria-Hungary, which has profited by the difficulty of communications between the United Kingdom and Bulgaria for long periods since the autumn of 1912.

The British share in coal is steadily increasing.

Metals and metal goods come mainly from Germany and Austria-Hungary. The United Kingdom is maintaining its place.

Machinery imports dropped to a very low level in 1913 to the corresponding advantage of Austria-Hungary, but the previous position was regained in the early months of 1914.

The most satisfactory increase is observable in the import of chemicals, the imports for the first four months of 1914 equalling those for the whole of 1912 and greatly exceeding those for 1913.

Exports.

The following exports for the first four months of 1914 exceeded those of the two preceding years for the same period :—Tobacco (a large increase), raw sheep and lamb-skins, barley, cloths and serges, and wheat. Cereals were exported mainly to Belgium, and livestock to Turkey. Exports to the United Kingdom consist only of cereals, tobacco, attar of roses, eggs, and haricot beans. During the latter part of 1914 exports dwindled almost to vanishing point owing to the Government embargos on the exportation of most articles. In 1914 33,850 acres were planted with tobacco in all Bulgaria, producing 9,900 tons. The importance of the new territories for this industry is indicated by the fact that their share of this was 16,550 acres, yielding 4,900 tons.

Harvest.

The harvest in 1914, although fairly satisfactory, both as to quality and quantity, was not equal to those of the two preceding years. The weather conditions were less favourable, especially in Southern Bulgaria; in the north-eastern part of the country, too, the effects of the previous year's inundations which ravaged the fields were still felt. The production of maize, however, exceeded that of 1913 by 40 per cent.

In 1912 there were 1,388 miles of railway completed in Bulgaria, the number of passengers conveyed being 3,342,000. The weight of merchandise transported annually averages 2,000,000 tons.

Railway Construction.

The construction of the following lines are to be taken in hand in 1915 :—Radomir-Dupnitza-Gorna-Jumaia, with prolongation down the Struma Valley to the Greek frontier, Plevna-Lovetch, Dupnitza-Bobov-Dol and Gabrovo-Sevlievo.

Work is progressing on the survey and preparation of the Mikhailovo-Haskovo-Porto Lagos line. The following details supplement those given in the trade report for Bulgaria for 1912-13 :—The maximum inclination will be 15 per cent., and it is intended to establish stations every five to eight miles. As to Porto Lagos itself, where the construction of a considerable port is contemplated, the harbour is to have an area of 3,000,000 to 3,500,000 square metres, and will be protected by a breakwater 1,500 yards long.

Shipping.

In August the ports of Varna and Bourgas could only be entered during the day time and subject to certain restrictions. After the closing of the Dardanelles the following month all communication between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean was interrupted. Consequently, the shipping returns for Varna and Bourgas for 1914 must not be regarded as representative. Varna, moreover, suffered from the fact that its natural hinterland, the Dobrudja, had been ceded to Roumania by the Treaty of Bucharest.

During the latter part of the year the stream of European commerce which normally passes through the Black Sea ports was largely diverted to Dedeagatch, which became more active than ever before. It is, however, an open roadstead, and not suited for such an important rôle.

British Goods Preferred.

Speaking generally, Bulgarian merchants prefer British goods to any others. They often state, however, that the German and Austro-Hungarian firms know the market better, and offer more acceptable conditions. This is especially the case as regards credit. Buyers expect from three to six, or even nine, months' credit, according to the class of article and the size of the order. The Bulgarian is generally honest, and it is but seldom that a firm fails to meet its obligations.

Catalogues intended for Bulgaria should be made out in the currency and weights and measures of the country. German is the language most generally understood in commercial circles.

The imperative necessity of making no error in the Customs declaration, and the advisability of sending a sample previously to the Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance, should there be any doubt about the legal description of the goods or the duty to which they are liable, have been pointed out in previous reports.

The desirability of founding a British bank and a British commercial agency in Sofia still continues.

The present moment cannot be considered as very favourable for extending British commerce with Bulgaria. It is to be hoped, however, that such British houses as have already relations with the country will at least maintain them through this period, and that British commerce generally will now prepare the ground against the arrival of a more normal time by making its wares, prices and conditions known as widely as possible. When access to Bulgaria again becomes easier, a great opportunity should lie open to it.

KHEDIVIAL MAIL LINE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Some correspondence under the heading, "Alexandria's Link with Europe: Opportunities for British Steamship Lines," which appeared in the *Egyptian Gazette* of October 22 and 29, has been brought to my notice. I have since wondered whether these letters and the several articles and comments published in your esteemed journal in the earlier months of this year, have made any impression on the Board of Directors of the Khedivial Mail Line.

The annual general meeting of this company will soon be held, when doubtless some of the shareholders will want information as to what the Board consider are the prospects of the company after the war is over. Have they studied the question of the development of the company, of extending its services or improving the old-timed itineraries, or of increasing the fleet of steamers?

They have sold several of their old steamers, and the popular old "Saïdieh" was submarined in the Channel. In what manner will they replace all these? Or, taking a lesson from the Government, will the Board procrastinate and act when it is too late and when others have already cut them out? Some years ago the Khedivial Mail Line inaugurated a service from Alexandria to Marseilles, which the management was too timid to maintain, not having given the line a fair trial.

Another question before I close. Is it not strange, in view of the fact that the Khedivial Mail Line have been doing well during the past year that, whereas the shares of most shipping companies are quoted on the market at higher figures than they were twelve months ago, those of the "Old Khedivial," if I am not mistaken, to-day stand at lower rates? The Board and management must "wake up."—I am, etc.,

A SHAREHOLDER.

London, November 23, 1915.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons, Mr. Runciman informed Mr. Peto on Tuesday that the steamers of the Khedivial Mail Steamship Line were entitled still to fly the British flag. He understood that the steamship Menzaleh is chartered, but not on time charter, to Messrs. La Roda Hermanos, of Valencia. The steamship Tantah is on the time charter to the same firm, who claim that the steamship Benha is also chartered to them on time charter, but the owners dispute this. He believed there was some arrangement between Enrique Behn and Messrs. La Roda Hermanos. The Khedivial Mail Steamship Co. state that all officers of enemy nationality have long since been removed from their service.

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Suez Canal Dues.

New Regulations Concerning Payments.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, November 16.

A circular letter issued here this week by the Suez Canal Company to steamship companies' agents and banks notifies an important alteration in the "rules of navigation," relating to the method of payment of transit and other dues by the company's clients. Up to quite recently canal dues have been payable at Port Said, Cairo, Paris or London at the choice and convenience of the steamship owners, but the new regulation stipulates that they must in future be paid in Port Said at the company's office, but that the company are willing to accept payment at places out of Egypt *on conditions stipulated by themselves.*

The reason for this somewhat drastic change is to be found in the abnormal rise in the rate of exchange between Paris and London. Shipowners, during the past year, have not been slow to realise that by paying their dues in London each pound sterling they paid had a value in Paris for payment of Canal dues of from Fcs. 27.50 to Fcs. 28—according to the daily fluctuations in the rate of exchange. This rise in the exchange represents to the owners of a steamer whose Canal tonnage is, say, 5,000 tons, a saving of from £100 to £130 on each passage, as the following figures will show :—

Dues on 5,000 tons at Frs. 6.25 per ton	= Frs. 31,250
Paid in Egypt at exchange Frs. 25.27(par)	= £1,236
„ „ London „ (say) Frs. 27·75	= £1,126
Saving to steamship owner	**£110**

The notification of the change referred to is accompanied by a long explanation of the motives which have actuated the Company in making it, ending in a statement that they are prepared to accept payments in Paris from French steamship owners in francs, and in London from British owners in pounds sterling at an exchange rate of 26.40 frs. This represents to the Suez Canal Company at the present London-Paris rate a profit of 1.35 frs. in the pound, or on the above-mentioned steamer's passage £58, and the steamship owners saving is reduced by that amount.

The Suez Canal Company's argument that payment should be made where the service is rendered is undoubtedly a strong one, but as it has suited them in years past to receive cash payments in London and Paris, thus obviating the expense of remitting their receipts to Paris from Egypt at ruling disadvantageous rates, it is thought by some steamship owners that the company is acting in an arbitrary manner in declaring the dues now payable in Egypt, and accepting them in London only by what is termed exceptional arrangement at an exchange rate stipulated by themselves.

The dues of practically all British-owned steamers having, since the rise in the London-Paris exchange rate, been paid in London, for transmission to Paris, the Suez Canal Company, although they have received in Paris the exact amount of their bills, have, by the stoppage of receipts in Egypt, suffered considerable losses in remitting money from Paris to Egypt to maintain their services there, and it is this loss that they are covering by, as it were, sharing the exchange profit with the British shipowner. It remains to be seen whether the British companies, the Canal's most valuable clients, will accept the decree in a spirit of humble resignation, or whether the matter will be carried by shipping interests to a higher court.

It should be borne in mind that the Suez Canal Company is an international concern, and some feeling is likely to be aroused amongst British firms by the company's preference shown to French owners in accepting their payments in Paris, while refusing a similar facility to British firms. On the other hand, certain old clients of the Canal are satisfied with the treatment they have received from the company in years past, and are content to "share the plunder" with them.

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EGYPTIAN FINANCES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 16.

The September accounts of the Egyptian Government record a continuation of the improvement already shown in previous monthly statements. During the month the receipts were £E287,767 in excess of what they were a year ago, and only £E59,632 less than in September, 1913. Land Taxes increased by £E40,818, Customs by £E93,077, Legal Fees by £E31,410, Railways by £E109,087, Telegraphs by £E6,066, Post Office by £E5,316, and Domains receipts by £E8,440. Tobacco Dues (£E6,349) and Ports and Lights Dues (£E3,203), were the only heads that showed any important decrease. Expenditure during the month was reduced by £E115,820, the chief items showing economy being Irrigation £E41,963, Railways £E47,413, and War Office £E17,996.

The total revenue at the end of September came to £E7,144,023, and the expenditure to £E7,404,415, as against £E7,040,531 and £E8,752,092 respectively, twelve months ago, showing an increase in the former of £E103,492, and a decrease in the latter of £E1,347,677. It should be noted that, compared with the end of September, 1913, when things were normal, the expenditure has been reduced by £E1,578,201, while the revenue is only £E166,075 to the bad.

The September account brings the first half of the financial year to a close, and the following table may prove interesting as giving some indication as to how the actual figures are working out by comparison with the estimates for the whole year :—

Revenue Head.	*Position on Sept. 30, 1915. £E.	†Budget compared with preceding estimate. £E.
Direct taxes	+ 467,436	.... + 43,000
Customs	— 85,907	.... — 750,000
Tobacco Dues	— 5,367	.... — 300,000
Ports and Lights.....	— 103,694	.... — 236,000
Legal Fees.....	— 25,940	.... — 361,000
Railways	— 36,236	.... — 943,000
Telegraphs	+ 10,327	.... —
Post Office.....	— 11,270	.... — 80,000
Rent of Land	+ 22,903	.... + 3,000
Domains.....	+ 64,512	.... — 6,000
Military Exemption ..	— 21,800	.... — 40,000
Investment of funds ..	+ 384	.... — 32,000
Sundry Heads	— 171,856	.... — 130,000
	+103,492	.... —2,832,000

From this table we see that only in the case of Ports and Lights Dues and Military Exemption has the decrease on the half-year come anywhere near the proportion of the anticipated diminution, and that the item, "Sundry Heads," which includes such accounts as Sale of Land and Receipts of an "extraordinary nature," is the sole instance of the anticipated decrease being exceeded. On the other hand, items like Direct Taxes, Customs, Tobacco Dues, Railways, Telegraphs, Domains, and Post Office show such a marked improvement on the estimate, that they confirm the contention that the country is economically in an excellent condition. As it is, the excess of expenditure, which stood at £E1,711,561 on September 30, 1914, and at £E1,672,518 on the same date in 1913 has been reduced to £E260,392 only this year. The period, April to September, always contains the lightest collections, and it is highly probable that when six months hence the account comes to be balanced the current financial year will be found to provide a very pleasant surprise.

* Position in favour of financial year 1915-16 as compared with that at same date a year before.

† Preceding estimate was for financial year 1914-15

SUDAN FINANCES.

In connection with the detailed article published recently (November 12) in these columns by our Cairo Correspondent, under the title of "The Sudan and the War," the following statement, which appeared in a recent issue of the *Egyptian Gazette*, will be of interest:

The Sudan Government is now busy preparing its estimates for the forthcoming year. Owing to the locust invasion, aggravated by draught, and the economic crisis resulting from the war, it is expected that the Sudan Government, with its restricted revenue, will meet with exceptional difficulties in balancing its budget, more especially as the Sudan revenue, unlike that of other countries, is not susceptible of increase in the shape of raised imposts or the creation of new ones owing to the resources of the inhabitants being so limited. Given, however, the capabilities and long experience of the Financial Secretary, it may well be hoped that the balancing of the budget will be effected without recourse being had to the Egyptian Government for assistance, or to the contraction of a loan.

It may be remembered that the Sudan Government, in order to effect the balance between its revenue and expenditure for the current year, has been obliged to stop the granting of salary increases to its officials. It is more than likely, however, that it will not resort to the same measure in the coming year. The arduous character of the task of the officials in the Sudan makes its incumbent on the Sudan Government to exercise even greater indulgence in this connection than has been the case with the Egyptian Government in its recent economies.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Board of Trade are notified by the Colonial Office that, as a result of judgments given in the Prize Court of Malta on August 16 the Ottoman sailing ships "Aghios Nicolaos" and "Elleni" have been condemned as enemy property, and appraisement and sale ordered. The cargoes were to be dealt with later.

The Anglo-Roumanian Mercantile Company, Limited, of Baltic House, Leadenhall Street, E.C., is being wound up voluntarily.

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Engineering Notes.

Cement Testing.

A laboratory for testing cement has been established at the Scientific and Technical Research Department of the Imperial Institute. Certain countries have adopted an official specification to which all cement intended for use in the construction of public works must conform, and in some cases, as in Argentina, such cement must be certified by a laboratory recognised for that purpose by the Government of the exporting country. The cement-testing laboratory of the Imperial Institute has received the recognition of the British Government, and is prepared to carry out analyses and tests of British-made cement for contractors, engineers, manufacturers, and others desiring to export cement to Argentina and other countries where a Government certificate is required.

The Fuel Problem.

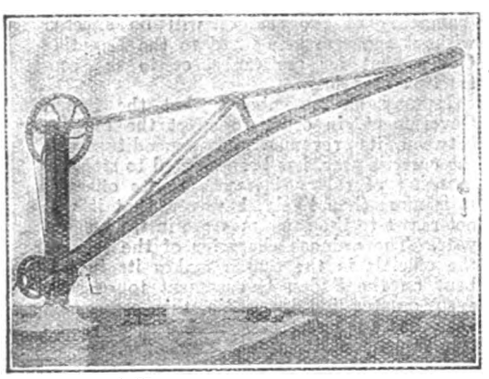
With the enormously increasing utilization of mechanical power in all branches of industry, agriculture, navigation, aviation, and other purposes too numerous to define, the problem of fuel supplies is daily becoming more difficult. Dr. Dugald Clerk told us the other day, in his very interesting lecture at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, that coal and oil constitute the basis of the world's present civilization, and he maintained that it was the duty of engineers to do everything they could to conserve the world's supplies of these two great power producers. In this direction, it is admitted, British engineers in particular have done, and are doing, more than others. For, as an example, whilst Watt's early engines required 6 lbs. of coal for each indicated horse-power hour, the modern reciprocating engine has a consumption of 2 lbs., and the steam turbine only 1½ lb., which is a great achievement in the economy of coal. However, Dr. Clerk said that out of 168 million tons of coal used annually for power production in this country, it was estimated that sixty million tons could be saved by the use of internal-combustion engines and turbines. At the same time, showing how dependent on coal the world was, and how little reliance could be placed on oil, he pointed out that even if all the oil available in the world—sufficient only for ninety years—were used for power production it would be capable of performing only 5 per cent. of the work done by coal in existing steam engines, or 15 per cent. if steam engines were replaced by internal-combustion engines. The fuel problem therefore is very important, and the urgent necessity of finding new contributory sources of fuel which would meet adequately the world's requirements is quite obvious.

The Use of Alcohol.

Last year a campaign was started here in favour of alcohol as fuel for internal combustion engines, but owing to the war which, then, broke out, very little progress was made. In Germany, however, some specially designed engines were made, running on alcohol alone, but at a rather slow speed; and some of them that were exported to the Near East it is said, have given good results. They were, as a rule, employed as stationary engines for pumping water, or in factories, etc. For high speed engines, alcohol alone has not proved quite suitable; but during the Russian occupation of the rich oilfields of Galicia, when the necessary supply of petrol for running the numerous engines in the German and Austrian Armies was not available, the Germans discovered that such high speed engines can work satisfactorily on a mixture consisting of equal parts of benzole and alcohol, as previously mentioned in these columns. In some quarters it is believed that this mixture gives even better results than benzole used alone.

British Experiments.

The proof, however, that alcohol, by itself, can be successfully used in ordinary internal combustion engines, is due to British efforts. The Royal Automobile Club conducted, some time ago, a prolonged trial of alcohol fuel



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produced in Natal—and for that reason called "Natalite"—which has given most satisfactory results in an ordinary petrol engine. The engine was of the four-cylinder type, with cylinders of 95 mm. bore and 130 mm. stroke, the volume swept by the piston being 921.47 c.c., while the volume of the combustion chamber was 340 c.c., giving a compression ratio of 3.7. During the running of the engine, which was fitted into a 1910 Charron car of 22 h.p. and weighing, laden, 32½ cwt., the amount of fuel used over a distance of 500 miles was 30.59 gallons, representing a mileage of 16.40 per gallon of fuel consumed or 26.20 ton-miles per gallon. These figures are considered quite good, bearing in mind the weight transported and the obsolete design of the motor; and a subsequent trial showed that petrol gave, approximately, the same mileage. Even if this had not been the case, there would appear to be everything to gain by using the alcohol fuel, as it is stated that the latter can be produced at a cost somewhere between fivepence and sixpence per gallon at the distillery.

GREEK CEDRATS.

Present conditions have made the port of Piræus for the first time an important shipping centre for cedrats, which formerly reached consumers through various foreign ports, says the United States Vice-Consul at Athens.

The cedrat is a citrus fruit used by orthodox Hebrews at the celebration of the Feast of Tents, following Atonement Day, and plays an important part in the ceremonies. Owing to the increasing difficulty with which good specimens are procured, the closing of certain former sources of supply, and the high prices demanded, much attention has been given to the Greek cedrat.

The tree itself is a variety of the *Citrus medica*, bearing a large fruit, not acid, and having a high and agreeable perfume. The tree is about the same size as the Mandarin orange. The greatest care is necessary for the proper development of the cedrat fruit from the time of blooming to the moment of picking, which takes place about the last of July. After the bud has appeared, all surrounding thorns are removed from the branch, even the nearest leaves are removed, and the young fruit is wrapped loosely in flax lint, lest it be marred by a scratch or blemish. For religious purposes it is of the greatest importance that the fruit be perfectly smooth and without excrescence. The stamens are an important part in the sentimental value of the fruit, and must be preserved intact. When mature the cedrat is packed carefully in individual compartments of a specially constructed box, each tiny compartment lined with flax lint, in which condition it is ready for the buyer.

Cedrat groves are located on slopes where the winter winds are cut off by protecting peaks, and where the temperature does not go too low, for the slightest frost withers the stamens, rendering the fruit no longer suitable for religious purposes.

The use of the cedrat in religious celebrations dates, according to tradition, from a period near the Babylonian captivity, and its use is zealously adhered to by orthodox Hebrews in various parts of the world. Each member of the congregation is supposed to possess on the ceremonial day at least one perfect specimen of the fruit, without fleck or blemish, and retaining the stamen.

Until the outbreak of the present war Trieste was the greatest cedrat market, but the closing of that port has shifted the market centre to Piræus, whence a large export is developing from the increased production which has taken place in the cedrat groves in the districts of Parga and Chimera, in Northern Epirus, on account of the blockade of the Syrian coast, whence a large amount of the crop was formerly sent to Trieste.

Competent ecclesiastical authorities pronounce the Chimera cedrats, grown in New Greece, to be the best in the world for religious purposes, the excellence of which variety is said to be due to a secret process of cultivation, which is jealously guarded by its fortunate possessors.

Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Tenders are invited by the Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms, boots, shoes, and tarbrushes. Specification may be seen and all information obtained at the above office, on any day, Sundays and official holidays excepted, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Date, January 3, 1916.

Tenders are invited by the Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs Department for the supply of 20,000 oak sleepers and 101,300 pine sleepers. The sleepers must be of very good quality wood, and preferably of one of the following species :—European and Japanese oak, Montenegrin, Swedish and Norwegian and Baltic red pine or any other species of oak or pine of equal quality. In default, tenders for sleepers of any other quality of wood coming from Japan, America, India, or Australia, would be taken into consideration. Copies of the specification, containing form of tender and form of bank guarantee, may be purchased, price 2s. each, from Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received up to 10 a.m. on December 15, by the General Manager, Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs, Cairo.

Messrs. H. W. Peterson and Co., Ltd., and Mr. Frederick Cree were recently the successful tenderers to the Egyptian Government for the supply of canvas and engine oil.

The Army Finance Department, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 120 tons of cotton seed oil, 9 tons of olive oil, 26 tons of caustic soda, 11 tons of silicate of soda into the War Department Stores, Tura. Date, December 7.

At the request of some of the Cairo members of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, a deputation of members of the Chamber waited upon the Director-General of Customs, and explained to him the position in which import merchants found themselves with regard to Custom's dues, and mentioned the difficulties they had to contend with.

The Director-General (says the *Egyptian Gazette*) expressed the pleasure he had in meeting them on the question, and explained that if an importer had a complaint with regard to the valuation put upon his goods by the Customs valuers, he could apply to the Controller of the section. Then there was the Local Director, who would give the matter his attention, and lastly it was open to him to appeal to the Director-General by letter, who would order an immediate investigation to be carried out by one or two of the higher officials of the Administration, and who would make a fresh estimation. The importer being present if he wished. This re-valuation being final, the importer could pay the dues either in cash or in kind.

Cyprus.

Declarations of the ultimate destination of goods exported to any foreign place in Europe or on the Mediterranean Sea, with the exception of those situated in Russia, France, and Italy, are required to be made to the collectors or other proper officers of Customs and Excise. A single declaration of ultimate destination may be used to cover any number of consignments by the same exporter from the same port by the same ship at the same time. The prescribed forms of certificate of origin for imports and declaration of ultimate destination for exports are similar to those prescribed in the notice to importers and exporters for the United Kingdom.

The Cyprus *Gazette* of October 27 announces that transhipment facilities will not be allowed to goods shipped by or to enemy firms or their intermediaries in China, Siam, Persia, or Morocco.

TRADE OPENINGS IN GREECE.

The British Consul, reporting on the trade of the Piræus and district, points out that the present is a propitious moment to push trade which has been in the hands of our rivals, namely, in textile machinery, aerated water machinery and accessories, agricultural machinery, ploughs, engines for steam, gas or oil, pumping and irrigating machinery, flour mills, oil-mill plant and olive-oil presses, water wheels, turbines, steam and oil tractors, brick and tile machinery, and other machinery for industrial and other purposes, electric motors and tools of different descriptions. Germany and Austria-Hungary were also doing very good business in cast-iron water-pipes, iron bars, black and galvanised sheets, wire, iron joists and girders, iron bars, angles, tees, roller shuters, corrugated iron, etc. In tools, implements, etc., Germany has had the lead not only on account of having sold much cheaper than British manufacturers, but because the German travellers studied what was required locally to suit the buyers, whereas the British designs were more than often unsuitable for this market. Austria-Hungary has been supplying Greece with more than double in value of the following compared with British imports :—Electro-technical appliances, electric conduction apparatus in boxes, electric motors, transformers, switch and contact devices, mounted fuses, etc., and also imported dynamos, motors, electrical fittings, electric lamps, high-pressure cable and transmission lines and electrolytic copper. Switzerland is a contributor for high-pressure wire. Electrical instruments have generally been supplied by the United Kingdom, low-pressure wire by Sweden, and transmission lines by Belgium. The reason of the success of our rivals has been, to a great extent, their sending very capable representatives with a practical knowledge of their duties, explaining to the buyers all they want to know about machines, etc., and ready to agree to any alterations to meet local requirements. Representatives of British firms are seldom seen in Greece. There have been many complaints at the slackness of delivery on the part of British firms, which has deflected much from them, and has enabled our rivals to step in and secure trade by prompt deliveries. With the exception of steam boilers, which are principally imported from the United Kingdom, all the machinery in the factories came from Germany. The reason, according to a Greek manager, is : "German agents visit us daily : they study our requirements and give exactly what we want. They inundate us with catalogues in French or German—in not a few cases even in Greek. The prices are invariably quoted with delivery in Athens. Weights and prices are given in the metric system, so that we can judge to a lepta how much we have to pay, and, best of all, goods are delivered on easy terms, payable at three, six, nine, and even twelve months."

German shippers continue to extend the same terms of credit that they gave before the war. On the other hand, British manufacturers who formerly gave credit, or who accepted cash against bills of lading on presentation in Greece, now demand either cash with the order or a confirmed banker's credit in London to guarantee cash before shipment.

To the further detriment of British trade with Greek ports, freights are now so high and uncertain that business has become practically impossible. The result is that Greek merchants are being driven into the arms of American exporters for such articles as they can no longer obtain from Germany and Austria-Hungary. Strange as it may appear, it is nevertheless true that merchants here have found it easier to obtain goods from America than from the United Kingdom, orders which have been sent there having been executed with great promptitude and without any change of terms. Thus a good opportunity has been lost by British manufacturers of securing the German trade.

Trade continues as usual, and the Athens and the Piræus markets are both remarkably strong and brisk.

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Near East Markets.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The following are extracts culled from letters which have been received this week from Cyprus:—

The early showers of October have not been followed by November rains, which are anxiously awaited for early ploughing and sowing. A considerable number of Cypriots risk the "xerovolo," or dry sowing, but the majority wait till the land is "khortasmeni," or well saturated. It is hoped that there will be a large increase of wheat cultivation.

The exportation of cattle and potatoes is now allowed, the latter conditionally. It is provided that a sufficient stock should be kept for local consumption, the prices of retail dealers to be regulated by the Provost Marshals of districts. The price of potatoes in Egypt is now very high (5 to 7 piastres and over, while that in Cyprus is 2 piastres and under), so that exportation to this market brings good profits. The potato crops are in most parts plentiful. This vegetable is now one of the principal articles of food in the island.

The vintage is disappointing, and below the average in quantity. The failure to sulphur vines attacked by mildew has not been the only cause of the inferior yield of grapes. Atmospheric conditions during critical months have been a contributing reason. The result of experiments in growing sultana grapes will be of no little interest. The vines, called here *Sultanina*, were introduced two years ago, and are being cultivated in the experimental vineyard of the Agricultural Department at Omodhos, a Nile village of the Limassol District, where a small muscatel variety has been grown for centuries in limited areas. The vineyard is in charge of an overseer from Smyrna, who has already prepared a few raisins on the spot. Should the trial succeed there may be a good opening for the production of these raisins.

So far there is little prospect of any general alleviation of the peasant's lot, as regards indebtedness to the money-lending class. The hopes that were based upon the establishment of an agricultural bank by the Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment Company have not been realised. It may be remembered that an agreement was entered into with the Government of Cyprus about nine years ago, which gave to this company the exclusive right of establishing an agricultural bank in Cyprus for fifty years. The bank was to open for business on or before January 1, 1907, the capital being not less than £100,000. The scheme appeared promising, and Sir William Wilcocks personally took great interest in it, spending some time in the island. A brilliant prospect appeared to be opening for Cyprus; but the result has been disappointment. Little, if any, money is now advanced, and outstanding debts are being gradually collected. The *Chiftliks* and properties which were acquired by the company have been almost entirely disposed of. Space does not permit any explanation of the causes of failure here.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, December 2.

Currants.

The market has been quiet this past week, and the prices are steady at late rates. The s.s. Erato with about 1,000 tons arrived, and is followed by the s.s. Drake with a similar quantity. The market in Greece is reported very strong.

Sultanas.

The scarcity of supplies continues. Small quantities of Afghanistan fruit arriving sell freely at full prices, whilst Greek and Cretan fruit that may be available command high prices.

Figs.

The demand is only moderate and prices are unchanged, although holders in some instances are willing to accept lower prices to effect sales before the approach of holidays.

Dates.

The quality of the new crop is very satisfactory, but the demand is moderate for the time of the year. Hallowes are quoted 15s. 9d., Khadrowie 15s. 6d., and Sair 14s. 4½d.

Seeds

Linseed is quiet and lower to sell, in sympathy with linseed oil. Calcutta for shipment is obtainable at 67s. 6d.; Bombay, December-January is offered at 68s. 6d. La Plata shippers ask higher prices, November-December and December-January, 62s. 9d.; January-February, 63s. Rape seed is very firm. Ferozepore, pure basis, November-December, quoted 60s. 9d.; Toria, ditto, 62s.; brown Cawnpore, ditto, 60s., and Guzerat, 63s. Cottonseed is steady but quiet. London-Egyptian loading is quoted £11 17s. 6d., and December shipment £11 16s. 3d. per ton.

Oils.

Linseed oil.—There is little doing, and prices are nominally 5s. to 10s. lower. Spot pipes, £32 10s.; December, £33 10s.; January-April, £34 7s. 6d.; May-August, £35 5s. Cotton oil is well maintained. Crude spot, in pipes, £34 5s., refined pale, pipes, £36; and barrels sweet, £41 to £43, as to make. Rape oil, is very firm. Ordinary brown, naked, spot, £40; English refined, barrels, £43.

Oilcakes.

Cotton cakes.—A quantity of Egyptian afloat is offered at £9, ex ship, while shipments of November-December are offered at £8 17s. 6d., ex ship. English makes command £9 5s. to £9 7s. 6d., and bombay £8 15s. per ton. Linseed cakes: Owing to the high prices asked, sales are moderate, and there seems to be no probability of lower values, owing to the short supplies of home, as well as foreign,, descriptions.

Locust Beans.

There is nothing offered, and quotations are only nominal at £9 for whole and £9 10s. for kibbled.

EGYPTIAN EGG TRADE.

In view of the announcement last week that the Egyptian Government had decided temporarily to permit the exportation of eggs from Egypt to parts within the Empire, the following account of the trade reproduced from the *Monthly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce, Egypt, will be of interest:—

The shipping of Egyptian eggs to Europe began about the year 1894, in a modest way. In 1900, when the first Customs returns of this trade were made up, they showed that during the year 13,232,000 eggs, valued at £E10,736 were exported. Comparing these figures, with present day figures, we find that during last year the following quantities were exported, viz.: 150,972,000 eggs valued at £E226,457, giving an increase twelve times greater in quantity and twenty-one times greater in value.

The following table gives the exports of eggs from Egypt for 1914, with destination, quantity and value:—

		£
Great Britain (including poss. in Mediterranean)	118,487,000	177,737
Austria-Hungary	6,375,000	9,563
France	23,021,000	34,527
Greece	143,000	218
Holland	936,000	1,404
Italy	285,000	428
Spain	1,260,000	1,889
Tripoli (Africa)	465,000	691
	150,972,000	236,457

The season for the export of eggs begins in November and continues until end of April of the following year.

A great number of native merchants up country are engaged in the egg business: they have numerous collectors who go around the country gathering the eggs, and these are packed and dispatched to Alexandria by rail for sale in the general market at Gabbari. Upper Egypt furnishes 70 per cent., Fayoum and Middle Egypt 10 per cent., Lower Egypt 20 per cent. of the total supply.

COTTON MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Liverpool. Thursday Night.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report: The demand for cotton continues to be quiet, and the amount of business reported is only moderate. In sympathy with the general tendency, prices improved, and quotations show an advance of 15 points for the week. Sales, which include 1,000 bales Sudan cotton, are estimated at 2,900 bales.

Manchester.

The turnover this week has been somewhat disappointing, and on a rather reduced scale from the last two weeks, chiefly owing to erratic fluctuations in the raw material.

GREEK FINANCES.

It is a pity, says the *Economist* in an able survey of Greek finances, that the Greek Government has not given more consideration to the bearings of the crisis on the national finances. The Allies' offer of a loan of £1,600,000, to help in meeting the expenses of mobilisation, follows a loan of £800,000 from France last April; and it should be very welcome at the present juncture. In 1898, after the catastrophic defeat of Greece by Turkey, the finances of the kingdom were placed partly under the control of an International Commission, and a loan of nearly £6,000,000, bearing 2½ per cent. interest, was issued under the guarantee of Great Britain, France, and Russia, while a reduction of interest was effected on the other external loans, amounting at that time to about £22,000,000. To meet the interest on these loans various revenues were placed under the control of the Commission, derived from Government monopolies, stamp and tobacco duties, and the Pirœus Customs, any actual annual surpluses over their estimated proceeds being divided—less an allowance for expenses—in fixed proportions between the Government and the holders of the older external loans. Since this settlement numerous other loans have been issued, amounting in the aggregate to £19,342,000, and secured partly on the Greek Government's share of the revenues assigned to the Commission, and most of them also on railway receipts and other assigned revenues, varying in each case more or less. At the end of 1914 the total amount outstanding of all these loans was slightly below £44,000,000, or about £10 per head of population, besides which there were currency loans to the amount of nearly £6,000,000. The "service of the Debt" figured in the Budget of 1914 for a little less than 45,000,000 frs., or about £1,800,000, while the "ordinary receipts" were nearly 140,000,000 frs., or £5,600,000, and the "ordinary expenditure," apart from the debt service, nearly 175,000,000 frs., or £7,000,000. Broadly, therefore, Greece has a debt of about £50,000,000, requiring for its service about £1,800,000 annually, and the deficit last year on the ordinary revenue was nearly £2,800,000. It is true that rather more than this sum was derived from the annexed territories and classed as "extraordinary revenue," but in these critical times it cannot be relied on. Nor, in the event of serious disturbance, can the surplus values, which have kept up satisfactorily during the present year. And, as the service of the loans is a first charge on the best half of the revenues, any additional expenditure cannot well be met except by new taxation or new loans.

The latest issue of the *Official Journal* contains a notice issued by General Maxwell to the effect that no payments can be made directly to persons interned in Egypt. Payments may be made to the account of such persons at banks in Egypt, but no bank may honour any cheque drawn by such persons unless the cheque bears the countersign of the Commandant of the camp in which the drawer is interned.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

EASTERN PETROLEUM.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Eastern Petroleum Co. (1913), Limited, was held on Monday at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Great Swan Alley, Moorgate Street, E.C., for the purpose of submitting resolutions providing for the amalgamation of the company with the Suez Oil Co., Limited, Mr. A. H. Bonnard presided. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the resolutions, said, *inter alia*, the scheme for amalgamation of this company and the Suez Oil Company has already received the support of a large number of shareholders of both companies, as shown by the proxies—representing about 100,000 shares—and many letters of approval which have been received—so many, indeed, that the success of the proposal is already assured. And, indeed, it would be remarkable if the shareholders did not make an effort to preserve their properties until better times. To sell them now would be suicidal, for in these days of gloom there would be few bidders for them, and they would not produce more than would pay the liabilities of the companies. But by entering into this scheme means are found to tide over these bad times, and to wait until hostilities cease. After the amalgamation the new company will possess large interests in Egypt of a most promising character, held under licence from the Egyptian Government, on some of which big development work has taken place. Among these licences are the areas of Jemsah Headland adjoining the properties of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields. The site of our first well there is within 125 yards of the big gusher which produced 3,000 tons a day when it first came in. These properties are the subject of a contract with a powerful group of financial people in the City, who are under agreement to do all the necessary drilling and development work to our mutual advantage. Other of our licences cover the Jubal Islands and Ranim Island, on both of which very extensive work has been done. Before the outbreak of war the Board had negotiated with people to provide the further necessary working capital, which it was hoped would bring this enterprise to a successful issue, and a draft contract was being drawn up, but on the outbreak of hostilities this project had to be abandoned—at any rate temporarily. A large interest is held by this company in the Fersan Island Oil Company, and in Java. As to the former, it is considered to be of a most valuable character, which reports from experts amply corroborate. It was only after long negotiations and much difficulty that the purchasers of the concession were successful in their efforts, the chief competitors being the German Government, who made strenuous efforts to obtain it, but, I am pleased to say, failed to do so. It is for these reasons that I urgently recommend you to come into this scheme of amalgamation and reconstruction.

The Solicitor read the draft agreement, under which the shareholders in each company will be entitled to apply for one share in the new company, credited with 9s. paid up, in respect of each share at present held by them. The resolutions were carried with two dissentients.

SUEZ OIL COMPANY.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Suez Canal Company was held on Monday at the Institute of Chartered Accountants. Mr. A. H. Bonnard presided, and having explained the circumstances in which the meeting had been convened, resolutions authorizing reconstruction and amalgamation with the Eastern Petroleum Company (1913), Limited, were carried unanimously.

COMPANY NOTES.

New Egyptian Company.

A general meeting of the holders of Debentures secured by Trust Deed dated February 3, 1909, and made between the company of the one part, and Leon Carton de Wiart (since deceased) and Reginald Quixano Henriques as Trustees of the other part, will be held at the registered office of the company, 13, Austin Friars, in the City of London, on Friday, December 10, 1915, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purposes, among others:—(1) of considering and, if thought fit, approving the appointment by the company of Victor Naggiar, of Alexandria, as a Trustee of the Trust Deed of February 3, 1909, in place of the said Leon Carton de Wiart, deceased; (2) of considering and, if thought fit, passing an extraordinary resolution, authorizing and empowering the said Reginald Quixano Henriques and the said Victor Naggiar (when appointed) as such trustees to concur in executing and to execute a supplementary trust deed in the terms of the draft (which will be submitted to the meeting) embodying the modifications necessary.

Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields.

The report of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., for the year to June 30 last states that the profit and loss account shows a gross profit from wells and refineries of

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£172,515, less Roumanian deductions for taxes in Roumania, etc., £6,635, the balance of Roumanian trading profit being £165,880. After deducting administration and general charges, bonus to Roumanian staff, etc., £11,396, and adding interest £1,319, there remains a balance of £155,803, out of which the directors have written off depreciation £46,862 and debenture discount and expenses £3,325, leaving net (subject to exchange) £105,616. The production of crude oil has amounted to 103,920 tons (including Chiciura), against 66,232 tons in the previous year. The disturbance due to the war still continues. The balance carried over (from the first and second years of the company's operations) was £93,866, which with the balance from this year, less exchange fluctuation £26,031, of £79,585, leaves a net amount standing to credit of profit and loss of £173,451. The directors propose to add to general reserve (raising same to £100,000) £40,000; create a new special reserve against possible lapses of some of the leases under the Law of 1904, £7,000; fire insurance fund, £5,000; reserve for taxes in England, £8,000; and carry forward £113.451. At Bana Moreni the indications continue favourable. The company's discovery of a prolific oil source under the Pontic formation in well No. 30 has had even greater consequences than at first anticipated and extensive areas of land in which the company holds important pieces have been brought with in the proven zone. At Chiciura, where the company through its subsidiary is one of the principal owners of oil lands, development has not progressed so rapidly as expected, owing chiefly to the shortage of labour during mobilization, but the directors see no reason to doubt the eventual success of this field. The company now operates over 175 kilometres of pipeline, over 50,000 tons of tankage, and is able to pipe the oil to its refineries both at Targoviste and Ploesti. As regards depreciation, the directors are of opinion that, having regard to the large reserve fund, it is not necessary to deal with the values of the lands, especially as there is no doubt that in many cases they stand at sums considerably below their intrinsic values. The directors consider that the depreciation, £46,862, written off the other items is ample. If the exchange had been normal the directors would have been prepared to recommend the payment of a substantial dividend.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

The directors submit the accounts for the year ending September 30, 1915. The form in which the accounts are submitted on this occasion has been simplified. The result of the year's operations, after making allowance for depreciation and contingencies, and bringing the Provident Good Service Fund up to £150,000, which is the company's actuarial liability, shows a balance of £499,863 11s. 5d., which includes £68,702 18s. 5d. brought forward from the previous year. The directors propose to divide this amount as follows:—5 per cent. dividend on the preference stock, £152,000; 10 per cent. dividend and 5 per cent. bonus on the deferred stock, free of income-tax, £269,681 2s. (of which 2½ per cent. on preferred stock and 5 per cent. on deferred stock was paid as an interim dividend in May last), or a total of £421,681 2s., leaving a carry forward of £78,182 9s. 5d. Notwithstanding the fact that a large number of the company's steamers was commandeered by Government for war purposes, and that thirty-one of the ships are still in Government service, no mail departure has had to be abandoned, and the services were satisfactorily maintained. though at much extra cost. The freight market ruled high during the last nine months of the year, but the company did not thereby benefit to any extent, their steamers for the most part being necessarily restricted in cargo capacity, owing to the high speed required by the mail contract, and the large space occupied by mails and parcels post. The amalgamation with the British India Company is working satisfactorily. Economies, as well as advantages to the public, are being gradually introduced. A non-contributory pension scheme has been inaugurated for the commanders and chief engineers, involving, with existing pensions an actuarial liability which has been provided for by the addition of £100,000 to the Provident Good Service Fund. The Board are satisfied that this will have the approval of the proprietors. A banking system for all the company's employees, afloat and ashore, has also been established, which appears to be appreciated. The directors regret to have to record the wreck of the Nile in the Inland Sea of Japan on January 11, and of the Nubia near Colombo on June 20, happily without loss of life in either case. They have also to report, with great regret, that the India, requisitioned by Government as an armed cruiser, was destroyed by an enemy submarine on August 8 last. In this case the vessel was manned by a Government crew, and there was, unfortunately, considerable loss of life. The loss of the Nile and Nubia falls on the company, but in the case of the India, she having been entirely taken over by the Admiralty and out of the company's charge, her loss falls on the Government. Two of the older steamers, Arcadia and Oriental, have been sold. The expense of working, maintaining, and running the steamers has increased enormously owing to advances in wages and to higher prices of stores and coal, while delays in loading and discharging at all ports have lengthened the duration of voyages, still further adding to the cost. The rates of charter for vessels commandeered by the Government have been very moderate, shipowners having displayed a patriotic disposition to assist the Government in the present great emergency.

The insurance against war risk has involved a premium of over £250,000. The attacks by enemy submarines on merchant shipping have occasioned the Board considerable anxiety, but the exertions, skill, and seamanship of the company's commanders, officers, and engineers, in cases where attempts to capture P. and O. steamers have been made, have so far saved the ships from disaster. No praise is too high for the elaborate and highly successful arrangements made by the Admiralty and British naval officers all over the world to guard and protect the merchant service. The company, like most institutions, has sufferec a serious loss through the fall in value of the securities in which its reserves are invested. It is difficult to say what the depreciation is in the absence of a free market, but it amounts to a very large sum, the greater portion having been caused by the war. There has been no opportunity to lay down new ships in the past twelve months, and the two mail steamers which are under construction, and which in the ordinary course would have been delivered this autumn, will not be completed for some considerable time, the builders having been obliged to devote their attention to Government work. Instead of investing the amounts set aside for depreciation in new tonnage, as would have been the case in normal circumstances, the directors have placed them, together with the proceeds of certain securities which have been sold, in the Government War Loan and Treasury Bills. The Board have no doubt that this will have the approval of the proprietors.

Ernest Haliburton Cunard, Esq., and Peter Williams, Esq., retire by rotation at this meeting, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Sir Thomas Sutherland retired from the Board at the end of last year, when Lord Inchcape was elected chairman. The Board desire to place on record their high appreciation of the services rendered by Sir Thomas Sutherland to the company over a period of upwards of sixty years, during thirty-four of which he occupied the position of chairman.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended November 10 amounted to £E6,475, as against £E5,265 for the corresponding period of last year.

KHEDIVIAL MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held on Monday, December 20, at 12 noon, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED.—Week ended November 20, 1,595 tons; week ended November 27, 1,500 tons.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—The annual meeting will be held at noon on the 15th inst. at the Cannon Street Hotel.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909..	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909 ..	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan ..	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	77½
Do. Pref. Bd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	67½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	65
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898(3½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	53	52
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	51
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	44½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	40
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	51
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902 ..	77	—	59
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £50p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855..	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	81xd
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73xd
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	83½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4½	—	3
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red...	83	—	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9½xd
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb. ..	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb...	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds..	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1⅛	—	1⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	90
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	½	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2½	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	½	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	6
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	½	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Bd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1½	—	1
" " Founders	½	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9½	—	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chgs. Debs. Rd.	97	—	85
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	½
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	½
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	21/6
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1½	—	15/-
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	—	10/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	—	2½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	90	—	88
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Dec. 1.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅛	6/3
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	⅛
European Oilfields	4/9	3/3
Roumanian	20/-	13/6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Nov. 30.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	—	460
Canal de Suez	4050	3979
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	545
Turkish Unified 4%	59.95	59.85
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	89
Servian 1895	—	69.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 240.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The British campaign in Mesopotamia, which, together with the conquest of German South-West Africa, has hitherto formed one of the few bright spots in our conduct of the war, has experienced a severe setback. After the battle Ctesiphon on November 22 General Townshend found himself compelled to withdraw in the face of the strong reinforcements which had reached the enemy. He had already lost heavily—4,500 casualties in all—in the attack on the Turkish position and in repelling the subsequent counter-attacks. The retreating expedition was followed by the Turks, and on the night of November 30 had to fight a rearguard action south of Azizieh against superior forces. The retirement, however, was carried out in perfect order. Two river gunboats were disabled by shell fire and had to be abandoned, but their guns and engines were rendered useless. General Townshend's force has now reached Kut-el-Amarah, which the Turks had already strongly fortified before it was captured by us on September 29, and has been still further strengthened in the interval by General Sir John Nixon.

It would be idle to attempt to disguise the national disappointment to which this reverse has given rise. The British public had been priding itself that in General Nixon they had found a commanding officer who was determined that no mistakes should be made in the operations for which he was responsible. Each stage of the expedition had so far been carried out successfully. The advance on Baghdad appealed to the popular imagination, and General Nixon's record warranted the belief that all would go well with the enterprise. All has not gone well. For the moment, however, there can be no question of any attempt to allocate blame, supposing blame is necessary. We may content ourselves with noting what has happened and in recording our disappointment. In his speech in the House of Lords on Tuesday Lord Crewe anticipated certain possible comments. The advance on Baghdad, he said, was not a rash military adventure; it had been contemplated some months ago, and "a sufficient force was collected to carry out the operation. It was clear to everybody that the early capture of Baghdad, if it could be effected, would be a great stroke in the war, not merely as a military move, but from the political results which would follow. . . . The force which was set apart for the purpose was by universal competent military opinion considered to be sufficient for it. No charge whatever could be brought against the leading of the troops, either the higher leading or the commands in general. It is evident that the troops behaved splendidly. The task, however, proved to be a heavier one than was anticipated, owing to the greatly superior forces of the enemy and their powerful armament of artillery."

Lord Crewe is not a military expert, otherwise he would have curtailed his references to the political aspect of the advance and told the House of Lords something about the intelligence on which General Nixon relied in pushing on to Baghdad. It is, of course, a contradiction in terms to say that "a sufficient force was collected to carry out the operation," and a little further on that "the task proved a heavier one than was anticipated, owing to the greatly superior forces of the enemy." A force is only "sufficient" in relation to the enemy's strength. Consequently the point of interest connected with the advance is the intelligence at General Nixon's disposal. How did it happen that the British expedition advanced to within twenty miles of Baghdad without learning that the Turks had received strong reinforcements?

In a letter from Athens, dated November 10, published in our issue last week, reference was made to Von der Goltz Pasha's expedition to Asia Minor. On October 27, it was stated, a long train left Haidar Pasha for an unknown destination, carrying German and Turkish officers, munitions and war material. An expedition commanded by the German Field-Marshal would hardly be confined within the limits of a single trainload, and it is probable that Turkish reinforcements had preceded him. As the British military authorities cannot be altogether without information of what is happening in Constantinople, we must suppose that General Nixon had already got wind of formidable reinforcements for the Turks being on their way. Was, then, General Townshend expected to forestall these, and, if so, was

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there a reasonable chance of his being able to hold Baghdad against them when they arrived?

It will be noticed that Lord Crewe referred to the enemy's powerful armament of artillery. His remarks and the emphasis laid in the reports of the retirement on the Turkish gunfire seem to indicate that the Turks were found to be unexpectedly strong in this arm. If that be the case, here is a point which may well call for elucidation. Quite early in the year, as we have good reason to know, the military authorities were informed of the despatch of heavy artillery to Baghdad. In civilian parlance, the guns, which had already accomplished half their journey, were capable of smashing any gunboat to bits. From General Nixon's report it is to be inferred that they fulfilled their description, *au pied de la lettre*. But if this piece of intelligence was passed on to General Nixon, as, of course, it must have been, how came it that General Townshend was allowed to advance inadequately equipped with artillery? Were his guns outranged or merely outnumbered?

Disappointment over the check experienced by General Nixon's expedition does not imply the least doubt as to its ultimate success. It is obvious, however, that much more attention will have to be paid to intelligence than hitherto. We can only suppose that, as frequently happens, native information has proved thoroughly unreliable. If this should be the case, it is probably owing as much to the shortage of intelligence officers of the type of the late Captain Shakespear, who know and are known to the Arabs, as to inherent defects in the Arab character. In regard to this point the situation will become still more difficult after the retirement from Ctesiphon to Kut-el-Amarah, which will have exercised a powerful influence on the native mind. A point to be cleared up when fuller reports are available will be whether General Townshend was adequately served by airmen. Very little mention has hitherto been made of the aircraft with General Nixon's expedition; but Turkish reports speak of six British aeroplanes having been captured. It is obvious that air reconnaissance will be invaluable for the purpose of checking or supplementing dubious native intelligence.

It is well to remember that at this season of the year the activities of the Turks and Arabs will not be the only subjects to engage General Nixon's attention. References to heavy rains in the upper sections of the Two Rivers have appeared during recent weeks. The Tigris begins to rise early in November, and in the event of exceptional rainfalls the flood-tide may assume such proportions that the country for many miles on either side of the river becomes uninhabitable. Abnormal floods of this nature occur periodically. If there should be one in preparation this year, General Nixon will hardly care to meet it even at Kut-el-Amarah. In regard to this matter, however, the movements of the enemy's forces will probably provide adequate warning.

One other point must be borne in mind in connection with the check administered to the Mesopotamia expedition. In the debate in the House of Lords on Tuesday Lord Bryce referred to the report, and Lord Crewe admitted that it was a fact, that German and Turkish agents had carried their skilful and unscrupulous propaganda into Afghanistan right up to the Indian frontier. So far these intrigues have met with very mediocre success. The Moslems of Persia, Afghanistan, and India may not be enthusiastic over a British advance to Baghdad, but the more fanatical elements, to whom the Turco-German appeal will have been made, will have argued that, so long as Great Britain is strong enough to defeat the Turks, there is not much scope for their activities. Anything in the nature of a reverse to British arms operating against Turkey will at once be used by Germany's agents to support their theory that the British Empire is breaking up. We must be prepared, therefore, for an increase in the unrest in the Middle East, and the advance on Baghdad should be resumed at the earliest possible date consistent with assured success.

The difficulty of the position in Persia has to be admitted. There are almost insuperable obstacles to such action as would put an early end to the anarchy now prevailing at German instigation and under German leadership; until such anarchy is suppressed, it must tend to increase by its own momentum. The British and Russian Governments would seem, therefore, to have to choose between bigger operations than they care to face at the present moment, and something approaching a formidable campaign involving the whole of Persia at a later date. It must be difficult for the two Governments to reconcile themselves to leaving Prince Henry of Reuss, the German Minister, and his fellow-filibusters a free field indefinitely. Sir Edward Grey has stated that what measures are possible are being taken. We must hope that the action of the Persian Government will gradually exercise a steadying influence on the Persian people over a widening area, and enable more and more effective steps to be taken to cope with the evil. The condition of the country during recent years will have provided the Germans with plenty of material to work upon in an attempt to stir up the more fanatical elements against Russia and Great Britain, but the more unrest they create the less can it be to the liking of the better class of Persian and to the merchants.

Any uncertainty that may have prevailed regarding the identity of the officers of the Persian Gendarmerie will have been removed by Sir Edward Grey's plain statement that they were not Swedish officers in the sense of being under the control of the Swedish Government; but they were men of Swedish nationality, employed by the Persian Government. This bears out what was stated in these Notes last week. The Swedish Government is thus relieved of direct responsibility in the matter, but unless we are to suppose that it has no means of making its wishes or orders known to its nationals in Persia, a certain moral responsibility attaches to it. Lord Crewe amplified Sir Edward Grey's statement by saying that over some of these "Swedish soldiers" the Swedish Government has a certain degree of control, if they are in possession of pensions. It is only fair to state, he added, that over these the Swedish Government in the most correct manner has always endeavoured to exercise a sound influence "and to prevent them from engaging in any unneutral manner." From this qualified praise we must infer that some of these Swedes make fitting associates of the Turkish and German agents in the country, and will require to be dealt with, in common with the latter, when Persia settles down to a more satisfactory existence. It is eloquent of the plane of civilization which the German nation as a whole has reached that it does not realise that Germany's action in Persia is the equivalent of what Great Britain's would be, if she hired a few gangs of Chinese ruffians to exterminate every German in China.

The situation in the Balkans remains thoroughly unsatisfactory. Monastir has been abandoned by the Serbians, Germans are in control of the town, and a Bulgarian force has cut the railway line with the object apparently of cutting off the Serbian retreat in the direction of Greece. The evacuation of Monastir has necessitated a retirement of the French forces holding Krivolak. These have fallen back some twenty miles on Demir Kapu, where a more favourable position is said to be available. The British troops holding Strumnitza have been subjected to heavy attacks by the Bulgarians, and have in turn withdrawn in conformity with the new French line. The whole Allied line is on the defensive. Further to the north the Bulgarians and Austrians are following the retreating Serbians; Jakova has been occupied by the former, Ipek by the latter. Both towns are in Montenegro. The German forces under Field-Marshal von Mackensen, or a large portion of them, are said to have crossed into Bulgaria, and to this extent the statement of the German *com-*

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muniqué that the operations against the Serbians had been brought to a close might prove correct. The Austrian and Bulgarian pursuit into Montenegro, however, continues. No doubt it is hoped that the appearance of these armies, even if they do not penetrate far, will have the effect of rousing the Albanians to finish the work of harassing the Serbians all the way to the coast.

King Constantine has explained his position to a correspondent of *The Times*. "At all costs his Majesty's desire was to keep his country from sharing the perils and disasters of the great European conflagration. The only circumstances in which he could consent to proceed to war were if the mortal existence of Greece were threatened, or if there was a certainty of victory so great that the rewards would justify the sacrifices. From the very commencement the King had given the most solemn assurance that Greece had not, and never could, cherish designs against the Allies. That Greece, and especially her King, could have been thought capable of treachery was an insult to that country and to its Sovereign. Greece's friendly feelings had surely been sufficiently demonstrated when she placed her railways and telegraphs at the disposal of the Allied forces which had disembarked at Salonika." If the King's statement up to this point covered the whole of the case, there would be much ground for his Majesty's contention that "the suspicions which exist regarding his political views and aims are as unjustified as they are cruel." But so far he was laying stress on an aspect of the question which was of little concern to the people of Great Britain.

The whole trouble, we can assure King Constantine, centres in the Greco-Serbian Treaty. This matter his Majesty was most anxious to make clear, and his words may be quoted at length. "The Greco-Serbian Treaty deals with a Balkan war, and a Balkan war alone. It was only to come into force in case either Greece or Serbia were attacked by Bulgaria alone. Clearly it did not refer, and was never intended to refer, to the case of Serbia being attacked by two of the great military Powers of Europe as well as by Bulgaria. What adequate assistance could Greece have given? The only result would have been the ruin of two countries instead of one." In regard to this explanation, it must be stated quite plainly that it is one which can never be expected to appeal to a Briton, or indeed to any citizen of the Allied States. King Constantine's contention is wholly incomprehensible. So long as Serbia was attacked by Germany and Austria, she made no claim upon her alliance with Greece. The Treaty, as King Constantine admits, dealt with an attack by Bulgaria, and directly Bulgaria showed signs of attacking Serbia had every right to expect that Greece would honour her pledged word. If quibbles were to be the order of the day, it was for Greece to explain to Germany and Austria-Hungary that in coming to Serbia's aid against the Bulgarians she was actuated by no feelings of hostility towards the Central Powers. There would have been no difficulty in placing an effective screen between the Greek troops and the Austro-German forces, with the result that no country need have been ruined, unless, indeed, Bulgaria. In betraying Serbia King Constantine committed an act which, we regret to have to believe, will never be forgiven him in Great Britain or by the majority of his own people. It is on account of that act that the suspicions which more properly attach to the Coburger Ferdinand or a Bethman-Hollweg have hung over him.

There is considerable force in King Constantine's argument that he received no help from the Entente Powers towards taking the decision to participate in the war on their side. "The attack on the Dardanelles," he urged, "was a gamble which might or might not succeed. But Greece's position did not allow her to run such a risk. Nor was the Balkan policy of the Allies at any time a very definite one. Suppose Greece had joined the Allies, and suppose that subsequently the Allies had decided to reduce their action or to retire altogether, in what position would Greece have been left? To become a second Belgium, at the mercy of her enemies." The same state of affairs prevails at the present moment, according to King Constantine. "The Allied Powers have made certain demands upon Greece regarding the Greek forces in Macedonia and upon one or two other points. We have replied by giving the most solemn assurances that nothing detrimental to the Allies need be feared from Greece. But before we can absolutely bind ourselves to a fixed and irrevocable programme, we are desirous of knowing the programme which the Allies have drawn up for themselves. In reply, we are told England and the Allies are at this moment deliberating, but that up to the present no fixed programme has been decided upon. Can Greece, in justice, be pressed to undertake measures of the deepest political and strategic importance under these conditions? Can she, in justice, be invited to remove her troops into other districts, so long as the Allies have arrived at no decision as to whether they will occupy and hold the evacuated region? Greece must know the definite plans of the Allies, though, whatever these plans may be, she will not abandon her neutrality."

It is to be feared that the final clause in King Constantine's statement militates against the rest of his contention. Clearly if Greece is not going to abandon her neutrality in any circumstances, the Allies need not be over-squeamish in their treatment of her. The main point in studying Greece's feelings ought to be to render it as easy as possible for her to redeem, even at this late hour, her pledge to Serbia. If she persists in an attitude wholly prejudicial to the Allies, which has already brought one of their number to ruin, it ought to be difficult for Greece to drive her own terms in any bargain with the Entente Powers. Wherever the fault lies, the negotiations between Greece and the Allies are being indefinitely prolonged, but with some indication that the latter are less pleased with the Greek attitude than they affected to be a few days ago.

FOR PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

In reply to a letter from the Secretary of the Imperial Merchant Service Guild respecting the transmission of money and parcels for British prisoners of war in Turkey, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs states that information has been received from the United States Ambassador at Constantinople that remittances of money should be despatched through the offices of the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva for transmission to the Ottoman Red Crescent Society at Constantinople, by whom the payment to the recipients will be effected. No information has yet been received from the Turkish authorities as to whether this applies also to the case of parcels. It is to be understood that the above regulation does not in any way preclude the public from taking advantage, should they prefer to do so, of the facilities afforded by the Prisoners of War Help Committee, 5, Southampton Street, Strand, who, under an arrangement recently announced in the Press, are prepared to receive any sums destined for this purpose, and to forward once a week to the Foreign Office the total amount handed to them, for transmission and distribution through the good offices of the United States diplomatic representatives in London and Constantinople.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 30.

The Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan returned on Friday from his trip up the Nile. He has expressed himself as highly satisfied with all he saw, and appears to have benefited very considerably in health from the change of air and surroundings. The High Commissioner and General Maxwell are also back once more in Cairo. Their absence was kept a dead secret, but since the Press Bureau has now permitted the local Press to refer to it, it is no indiscretion to state that both Sir Henry MacMahon and Sir John Maxwell went to meet Lord Kitchener, and were with him during his historic visit to Athens. So much interest has been taken in, and such importance has quite rightly been attached to, the British Secretary for War's visit to the Eastern Mediterranean area of the war by the local population that it is to be hoped some authoritative statement will before long be issued.

The Eastern Frontier.

Communiqués dealing with the two frontiers were issued this week. The first announced that a party of the enemy, which had approached the Canal, had been dispersed by an Indian mounted column, with the loss of one Indian trooper, the enemy losing seven killed and twelve prisoners. No undue importance should be attached to this incident. It is now more than six months since any official statements have been made with regard to the eastern frontier, and the natural deduction, which the man in the street might quite reasonably make from this week's *communiqué*, is that the Turks are once more showing activity. Such deduction is, however, entirely erroneous. Ever since the "invasion" last winter the Turks have maintained patrols in the Sinai; at first they consisted of Turkish soldiers, but later they were replaced by Bedouins from the borderland, who received a rifle, ammunition, and a small monthly payment, and in return were expected to report on our movements on the Canal. These patrols have throughout the summer prowled about the Sinai desert; our aeroplanes have known all about them; but, although they continually came close up to the Canal zone, they were left unmolested. On the 22nd inst. a patrol was signalled, and, for a change, it was decided to attack it; hence the encounter and the subsequent *communiqué*. The situation on the eastern frontier is absolutely unchanged, and this incident cannot be regarded as indicating that the Turks have resumed activities there.

Nevertheless, we must be quite prepared for a diversion to be attempted in the near future in the Sinai. It would, indeed, be foolish to think otherwise. Climatic conditions in the peninsula, even with the aid of artificial devices, will not permit of the safe passage of any large body of men until the turn of the year, but once that period is at hand we must expect, whether the Germans have reached Stamboul or not, that another attempt will be made on the Canal. It is the obvious course for the Turco-German combine to follow, since it will immobilize a large force of our troops; and unless we, in the meantime, take certain preventive measures outside Egypt there is little doubt that the new year will see "liveliness" once again on, or near, the Canal. Every preparation is being made on this side to meet this eventuality, and we can feel perfectly confident that the next attempt will be as unsuccessful as was the first one in February last.

The Senussi and the Tripoli Arabs.

The other *communiqué* dealt with the situation on the western frontier, which has undergone a slight change within the last week or so. That situation has hitherto been quite satisfactory, but has entirely depended on the attitude of the Sheikh El Senussi and the tribes controlled by him. El Sayed Ahmed El Sherif has always entertained friendly relations with the Egyptian Government, and has, especially since the outbreak of war with Turkey, repeatedly given proof of his desire to continue on peaceful terms with his eastern neighbour. Of late, however, there have been unmistakable signs that the Turkish and German agents, who were known to be at work in Tripoli, had been steadily undermining the Grand Sheikh's influence over certain of the Arabs, and had succeeded in inciting them to raids on the frontier. In these circumstances, as the authorities had no wish to provoke any incidents, it was decided to withdraw from Solloum and Sidi Barani the small outposts which in times of peace had been maintained at those points for purely political purposes, and to create a strong post at Mersa Matrouh. This, as stated, is purely a precautionary measure, and has been taken for the more effective protection of our own Arabs. There should be little fear of anything serious occurring on the western frontier, for the simple reason that, since the occupation of Tripoli by Italy, Egypt has been the sole source of supply for the Senussi, and any actively aggressive action on the part of the Tripolitan Arabs would definitely close this last channel, and so would react somewhat seriously on them.

The Disposal of Our Turkish Prisoners.

The taking of more prisoners on the Canal last week brings into prominence the question of the disposal of the very large number of Turkish soldiers who are now held here. These men are at present, and have been since their capture, fed, housed, and clothed at the expense of the Government. They do very little work, if any; and the question which arises is whether the Government could not turn their presence to more profitable account. The Germans use their prisoners for the making of roads, the ploughing of fields, etc., and there should be no reason why these Turkish prisoners, who in the main are drawn from the peasant and labourer classes, should not earn their keep by some honest work for the country which is paying for their maintenance. All "new works" have been stopped in Egypt, owing to the financial stringency caused by the war; but those works will inevitably have to be resumed after peace has been declared, whilst the country is also badly in need of roads. Could not these prisoners, instead of being allowed to eat their heads off at Tura, be turned on to the "spade work" necessary for the execution of the drainage schemes, or on to the making of some roads in districts where such means of communication are sadly lacking? If it sought to use these prisoners in this manner the Egyptian Government could scarcely, in view of the precedents in Europe, be accused of harsh treatment, and, whilst giving them a chance to earn their keep and a little extra pocket money, it would be effecting a double economy.

The Purchase of Army Supplies.

It is announced that in view of the large purchases of agricultural and other produce by the military authorities a scheme is under consideration to form a board, on which the Egyptian Government will be represented, to safeguard the interests of the Egyptian landowners and fellaheen by preventing the depletion of their agricultural resources and at the same time enabling them to sell their surplus stocks direct to the purchaser. This is a very welcome step, and one that ought rightly to have been taken sooner. The advent of an enormous army has naturally inflated the demand for locally produced foodstuffs. Fortunately in a way, Egypt, owing to the restrictions on the cotton area this year, has produced an abnormally large supply of cereals and other agricultural commodities; but unfortunately, although the cultivators have disposed of their holdings at fairly remunerative prices, they have not received anything approaching what the military authorities have had to pay for their supplies. The difference—at times a stupendous difference—has gone into the pocket of the middle-men and contractors, who accumulated supplies and worked the market as the spirit moved them. Under the arrangement foreshadowed by the official notification such a regrettable state of affairs will henceforward not be possible, and the military authorities will buy direct from the cultivators, thus assuring the latter a fairer return, and at the same time meeting their own requirements at more reasonable prices. Incidentally, it will protect the masses against the high prices which the speculative manœuvres of the contractors tended to create.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, November 24.

Greece and the Entente.

A very precarious situation has arisen as a result of the ill-advised declaration made by the Greek Government to the representatives of the Entente Powers, following immediately upon its assurances of benevolent neutrality. M. Skouloudis has informed the British, French, and Russian Ministers that, in the case of a retreat on to Greek territory, the Serbian troops would be disarmed, and those of the Allies interned. The confidence in the benevolence of Greece's neutrality with which M. Zaimis had inspired the Allies has been shaken by this declaration, which has made the Entente Powers suspect the intentions of Greece, who, they fear, may have a disagreeable surprise in store for them. Unfortunate misunderstandings at Salonika have had the effect of making the commander of the Allied troops there suspect the attitude of the Greek authorities to the extent of fearing that the Greek troops were preparing to surround the Allied troops at a given moment and attack them. One well versed in the situation at Salonika has told me that the Germanophil Jews there, hostile alike to the Greeks and to the Allies, have sown the seeds of dissension, and have helped largely to spread these mischievous rumours. True, the Greek Government soon thought better of it, and withdrew the declaration, having, it seems, declared instead that, in the case of Serbian or Allied troops being driven back on Greek territory, they would not be either disarmed or interned, but would be obliged to go to the coast to rejoin their ships. Needless to say, such a strange proposition, which was in direct opposition to the promises given to accord the Allies every facility, had no chance of being accepted, and has only served to increase the Allies' suspicions. The Entente Powers then thought it necessary to be reassured as to Greece's real intentions. It was in these circumstances that, after having vainly tried to obtain sufficient guarantees, they thought it more efficacious to publish in the Press a *communiqué* which, while stating that they had no wish to constrain Greece to depart from her neutrality, denounced in a veiled manner the attitude of the Greek Government as being a menace to the security of their troops, and making known their decision to suspend the economic and commercial facilities hitherto enjoyed by Greece. At the same time Greek boats, filled with wheat, were held up at Malta, and a strong Allied squadron made a demonstration at Milos, where the telegraph station was occupied. These measures made all the more impression, as the supply of wheat could last only for four or five days.

This communication was made and the above-mentioned measures taken by the British Legation on the eve of Lord Kitchener's arrival at Athens. The long interview he had with the King (who, it is stated, invited him to come to Athens) had very satisfactory results, and it seems certain that it was at this interview that the basis of an arrangement was reached.

The intervention of M. Denys Cochin having also contributed to this result, the Entente Powers handed a Collective Note to M. Skouloudis. The exact contents of this communication are not yet known in detail. The Note demands formal, written assurances that the Allied troops will not be disarmed or interned, and that they will have absolute security and freedom of movement, as well as all the facilities implied by Greece's promises of benevolence. In short, the Powers demand Greece's consent to Salonika being made the base of their military operations in the Balkans.

After a lengthy Cabinet Council, the Greek Government has to-day sent its reply to the Legations of the four Powers, giving the assurances asked. At the same time the coercive measures have been stopped and the vessels laden with wheat have left for the Piræus. It now remains to settle the details of this agreement. It is greatly feared in diplomatic circles that fresh difficulties will arise in the course of the discussion.

Lord Kitchener at Athens.

The visit of the British War Secretary was a very short and busy one. He arrived unexpectedly, and stayed only a few hours. The fine presence and tall figure of the great Field-Marshal, who was in full uniform, made him the admiration of all who had the opportunity of seeing him at the reception held in his honour by Lady Elliot at the British Legation.

The Venizelists and the Elections.

M. Venizelos, having definitely decided that his party shall abstain from taking any part in the coming elections, explained to his supporters at a meeting at his house last Sunday the reasons which had led him to this decision. Indeed, putting aside any other considerations, his participation in the elections would not be of any practical utility, since, even if he were returned again, as seems likely, it is very doubtful whether he would have a chance of applying his policy, or if there would not be another dissolution. Recalling the conditions under which the former elections were held, M. Venizelos pointed to the fact that his opponents never ceased declaring that his programme was war. Albeit the result of these elections had again placed him at the head of the majority, enjoying the confidence of the people, he had remained in power only until such time as the King thought that circumstances dictated a different policy. Then he had been obliged to resign, though the people had never withdrawn their confidence from him. Such a proceeding was characterised by M. Venizelos as unconstitutional, and the recent dissolution of the Chamber as being opposed to the fundamental laws of the Constitution. He regards the coming elections in the light of a political comedy, seeing that of the 730,000 voters who took part in the last elections half are under arms, and consequently unable to vote. The result of these elections cannot, therefore, be considered as representing the verdict of the people. In these conditions, the participation of the Liberal party in the elections would mark their approval of the comedy that is taking place, the principal actors in which would be in a position to say that the Greek people had approved their unfortunate policy, which has led to Greece failing in her duty towards her ally Serbia.

The Liberal Party's Manifesto.

M. Venizelos' supporters, having approved their leader's resolution, authorised him to address a protest to the people in the sense indicated above. Considering the way in which the crisis had been provoked, it constituted, in M. Venizelos' opinion, an abolition of the Liberal régime after fifty years of constitutional freedom. M. Venizelos maintains in the manifesto that the combatants of Bizani and Kilkis have thus been deprived of their political liberty. The following passages from the Manifesto, which criticise severely the attitude of the Crown, have created a great impression:—"Thus," says the Manifesto, "we are face to face with an obvious dislocation of the existing régime, which daily seems going to pieces. Successive dissolutions of the Chamber, with the object of imposing on the people a settled policy, inaugurate with us a system of government which could only be possible under a monarchical régime, such as that of Prussia, where the monarch is the sovereign organ of the State, a system which constitutes a radical negation of our Parliamentary régime. The Liberal party, in abstaining from these hateful elections, leaves with the Government all the responsibility for the deviation from the régime and for the misfortunes which the present policy may bring upon the nation, remaining free to take up the struggle for constitutional liberty later on, when the foreign crisis will be over. The restoration of the liberty of the Hellenic people is necessary if the State is to avoid the atrophy and obscure end which the definite establishment of despotism would lead to."

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Salonika, November 23.

M. Cochin's Mission.

The diplomatists continue to be exceedingly active, but the *démarches* of the Entente have not achieved the results aimed at, either because they have not been suitably made or because they have been counterbalanced by the German efforts. And perhaps for this reason the French Government has thought it advisable to despatch M. Denys Cochin on a special mission to Greece. On his arrival in Athens the illustrious Academician had a magnificent reception; wherever he went he was cheered, and the city was illuminated in his honour. He had numerous interviews—with members of the Government, with M. Venizelos, and with the Ambassadors of the Entente Powers—and he was also received in audience by King Constantine. Yesterday he arrived here, from the capital; and here also he had an enthusiastic welcome. As to the results of his mission to Greece, it would be a bold person who would predict regarding them in present circumstances.

The Germanic Advance.

Meanwhile, the Balkan campaign follows its course, though there are those who profess to believe that it is over as far as the Austro-Germans are concerned. The Franco-British forces are still in the field, available for the creation of a military diversion, but not in sufficient force, it appears, to attempt any move that calls for rapid and energetic action. We may hope, no doubt, that the Serbian armies, despite their present difficulties, will be able to extricate themselves and to resume the offensive; for they are splendid fighting men. But one cannot ignore the fact that the Germanic and Bulgarian forces have effected a junction, and sooner even than the Bulgarians expected; nor can we deny the strategic importance of this success.

Roumania's Attitude.

Roumania apparently maintains a Sphinx-like attitude. It is reported that she would be prepared to take action if the Entente would send a force of 600,000 men into the Balkans, in which case she would supply 400,000, thus making up an effective of a million, which would be able to deal to good purpose with the Austro-Bulgaro-Germanic forces.

It goes without saying that the Entente has been active in making representations at Bucharest; and the result of these representations is anxiously awaited. It is rumoured that the present Government contemplates resigning; and should this come to pass there would certainly be a great upheaval in Roumanian policy. Moreover, it must be borne in mind that most active military preparations have been ceaselessly carried on in that country, and Roumania would have to be remarkably rich to pay the expenses of a mobilization without any substantial reasons.

Possibly the preparations referred to are being made because the prospect of Russian intervention in the Balkans is becoming more and more certain. There is talk of a Russian landing on the Bulgarian coast, a landing which King Ferdinand's army is incapable of repelling. According to a Viennese report, 600,000 Russians are concentrated on the Danube, on the Roumanian frontier; and, according to news coming from various centres, Italy also is contemplating a landing on the Ægean coast of Bulgaria. In such circumstances Roumania could not still maintain a waiting attitude in the Balkan conflict.

Serbia and Albania.

Apropos of action in Albania, which seems more than probable, there are reports of concerted action on the part of Albanian bands and Bulgarian troops, and agents of the interested parties are carrying on a very active propaganda in Albania. But the situation of the Serbian armies, though critical, is not desperate, and official Serbian circles deny the rumour that Serbia contemplates making peace on her own account.

The Landing of Troops.

The landing of Allied troops still continues with the greatest activity. Five, six, and even ten transports a day unload great numbers of men and vast quantities of stores and munitions. The clearance of these troops can, however, only proceed very slowly, since railway communication is interrupted at several points. A certain number of aeroplanes have also left for Serbia during the past few days. The headquarters of the aviators is in this town, where a large aerodrome has been erected.

In spite of all the excitement caused by this constant landing of troops and the Greek mobilization, the people of Salonika are more concerned with another topic. There is a shortage of bread in the town, recurring periodically. Hungry people gather in front of the bakers' shops, which are inexorably closed. It was reported that this shortage was due to the arrival of the foreign troops; but this is wrong, for the newcomers bring everything with them, down to their field bakeries.

LADY BEATRIX WILKINSON ON SERBIA.

Lady Beatrix Wilkinson lectured last Tuesday at 9, Chesterfield Gardens on Serbia and the Serbians, the proceeds going to the Church of England Homes for Waifs and Strays. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides, and chiefly described the experiences of a party of English ladies who went out there to assist in hospital work and the distribution of relief. In the hospital where they worked they found some of the orderlies were undergraduates from English universities who had failed to pass the medical examination for the army; among these was a young man who had been cox of the Oxford boat. Others were Austrian prisoners, and these included the proprietor of the largest hotel in Buda Pesth. One of the most heroic things in connection with the war was, she said, the conduct of the English nurses at Uskub, who remained after it had fallen into the hands of the enemy rather than desert the wounded men in their charge.

A telegram from Athens states that 250 refugees from the Turkish Island of Moschonissi are reported to have arrived in Mytilene, fearing being sent into exile in the interior by the Turkish authorities. It is rumoured that disturbances have occurred at Moschonissi.

A semi-official denial is issued from Petrograd to the rumour that the Turkish warships Goeben and Breslau and a number of transports with troops have recently been seen in the western region of the Black Sea steaming towards the Bulgarian coast.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of the "NEAR EAST" to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, October 30.

(Delayed in transmission.)

Interventionists' Mass Meeting.

The great meeting of the "Federatzia Unioniste" has come—and gone. What effect it may have remains to be seen, but at the present moment it looks as if, after a fortnight's advertising and discussion, it had ended in a rather feeble flicker. That the Government was determined to back up the stringent regulations issued by the police was early in the day made clear; for two regiments of infantry were drafted into the city to reinforce the garrison, and anyone passing through the streets of Bucharest might have imagined that the capital was in a state of siege. The Austrian and German Legations had their military guards doubled, and the half-dozen police who usually protect M. Marghiloman's residence were reinforced by a company of infantry. Strong patrols guarded every street leading to the Palace, while reserves were posted at various spots in the vicinity, and the cavalry of the Guard was stationed in the rear of the Palace.

Long before three o'clock, the hour for which the meeting was timed, the Dacia Hall was packed to its utmost capacity, and a black sea of people surged outside the building. The Opposition had done everything possible to make the demonstration a success, and many sympathisers from the provinces had come in to swell the meeting, practically every Conservative and Takist of note being present. Among the principal speakers were Dr. Istrati, MM. Filipescu, Také Jonescu, Gradisteanu, and Xenopol; but their arguments need not be repeated, since they covered ground already familiar to your readers. After speeches inside and outside the building, a motion was carried calling on the Government to order immediate mobilization in order to prevent a junction of Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian forces, a junction fatal to Roumania's legitimate aspirations.

Street Fighting.

The meeting being closed, a surging crowd made its way up the Calea Victoriei. It was unmolested by the authorities until it reached the space before the theatre; but there its way was barred by rows of soldiers. Some of the leaders entered the Conservative Club, which is situated at a corner of the Calea Victoriei here, and from a balcony urged the crowd forward. A rush was made, and for a moment there was some stiff fighting of sorts, the mob using sticks and stones, and the soldiers the butts of their rifles and, occasionally, their bayonets. But the result was never in doubt; no headway was made, and the crowd had to content itself with hooting, whistling, and stone-throwing. From the balcony of the Conservative Club some speakers attempted to address the soldiers, calling on them not to fire on unarmed citizens, but rather to demand that they should be led against the Hungarians. These appeals, however, were lost on the troops, who were promptly ordered to mark time, thus drowning the voices of the speakers. Another rush was now made, and a few revolver shots were fired, and one soldier was wounded in the cheek, while others had their heads broken by blows from heavy sticks.

At about six o'clock the crowd was still as dense as ever, though probably half its members were merely sightseers, and appeared to be ready to spend the night in the open if necessary. But it was now announced from the club balcony that MM. Také Jonescu and N. Filipescu had gone to the Palace, presumably as delegates from the meeting, to demand an audience of the King. To pass away the time of waiting patriotic songs were started; and as the darkness deepened numbers of torches were handed out from the club windows, and soon the strange scene was lit up by their dancing light. Someone, too, brought up a gypsy band, and scores of people joined heartily in dancing the national dance, the "Hora"—a somewhat curious way of demonstrating.

At half-past eight the delegates returned. The King could not see them—as a matter of fact, he was at Cotroceni—but they had handed in a written demand for an audience. What to do? The troops stood firm as ever. The crowd began to thin out gradually. But a large body turned back to the Marghiloman party's club and the Liberal Club, where, amid cat-calls and hooting, the windows were smashed with stones and bricks, the police and military being powerless to prevent this ebullition of feeling. The windows of the *Minerva* newspaper shared the same fate. Then Bucharest, feeling hungry, went home to dinner, or supper, as the case might be; though a party escorted M. Filipescu to his residence, before which there was more dancing and singing. By ten the streets were empty, save for the military tramping back to barracks.

A Victim.

The demonstration was responsible for one death. In one of the rushes a young Jew was bayoneted by a soldier, and died later in hospital. The Union had intended to make his funeral the occasion for a further demonstration; but the authorities frustrated this plan by having the body hurriedly buried at night—an incident of which the Opposition journals made considerable capital, accusing the Government of being cowards and "body-snatchers."

MM. N. Filipescu and Také Jonescu were received in audience by the King on Tuesday, in accordance with the request referred to above, in order to acquaint his Majesty with the motion passed by the mass meeting. They were received separately, but, according to the papers, they both received the same reply, as follows:—

His Majesty is not, and has never been, opposed to the realization of national ideals and the reunion of all Roumanians; but as a constitutional monarch he keeps within the limits of the Constitution, and leaves the responsibility of the situation to the Government and Parliament.

The "Federatzia" declares its determination to continue its campaign unflaggingly, and meetings are announced for next Sunday in six of the principal towns, where the various leaders will again speak.

Serbian Refugees.

The inhabitants of the northern part of Serbia, now occupied by the Austro-Hungarian and German troops, are fleeing in all directions, and many have sought refuge on Roumanian soil. The Roumanian authorities have done everything in their power to help these unfortunate people, and have transported them on tugs and lighters across the Danube, whilst the inhabitants of the riverside towns have been most charitable in aiding those who are, in many cases, their blood relations, the inhabitants of the northern corner of Serbia being practically entirely of Roumanian origin. At Turnu Severin there are already 7,000 refugees, and at Gruia 3,000, apart from the numerous parties who have crossed the river at other spots.

Several of the Roumanian philanthropic societies have subscribed large sums for the help of these unfortunate victims of the war.

Smugglers Sentenced.

Some time ago it was mentioned in these pages that some people had been caught on the frontier when endeavouring to smuggle dynamite into Roumania, no doubt destined for Turkey. The Ploesti tribunal has now condemned the two German agents—Benuig, a Jew, and Tenhof, a Bulgarian—to a year's imprisonment, four accomplices to six months, and a woman, who was also an accomplice in a lesser degree, to a month's imprisonment.

A Defaulting Hun.

Sometime ago a certain German "agent" arrived here from Berlin, charged with the mission of securing the "neutral" Press, or as much of it as possible. He is now missing, and much wanted by those above him, as he has disappeared with about four million marks.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, November 18.

The German Invasion.

According to recent advices from Constantinople, preparations were being made there for the reception of the German Army. Many houses had been requisitioned for the German officers, and the whole of the Pera Palace Hotel had been reserved for the Staff. The Greek papers to-day announce the actual arrival there of the first detachments. It remains to be seen how the Turks will like their capital being occupied by the Huns.

Trouble in Syria.

There are rumours of an insurrection in Syria under the leadership of Jemal Pasha, formerly Minister of Marine. No definite information of what has actually occurred has yet leaked through, but there are indications of trouble amongst the Arab troops, and it is reported that the 6th Army Corps is being transferred from the Dardanelles to Smyrna. There are reports that a force of 30,000 men, under either Perteb Pasha or Halil Bey, an uncle of Enver, are marching against the insurgents in Syria; but the recent military movements in Asia Minor are shrouded in mystery. There is evidently some expedition being undertaken, but whether it is for the relief of Baghdad or to operate against the Syrian insurgents is not yet known.

Naval News.

One of the British submarines operating in the Marmora recently bombarded Zeitoun Bournou Munitions Works, but did not cause very much damage.

Three more steamers carrying munitions, the Bithnyia, Plevna, and Hanifié, have been sunk in the Marmora.

The Turks have salved the French submarine Turquoise, which was put *hors de combat* in the Dardanelles, and have taken her to Stenia. It was, however, rumoured in Constantinople that another German submarine had been captured off the entrance to the Dardanelles.

The Breslau has been repaired, and is apparently fit to go to sea again.

The Cost of Living.

In Constantinople it is feared that the approaching winter months will not only bring untold misery to the poor, but also inflict very great hardship and discomfort on the better classes. It is anticipated that meat will probably be sold by tickets, in the same way as bread and sugar. The authorities have now prohibited the sale of rolls of white bread, which were being sold at the high rate of six piastres the kilo. In future bakers may make loaves of a better quality than the ordinary bread, but they must be half a kilo in weight, and must be sold at not more than forty-five paras the loaf.

An effort was being made to accumulate a quantity of grain in Constantinople from the interior, but of late the Anatolian Railway, owing to want of fuel, has been running only one train per week for transport of merchandise. Such articles as onions, potatoes, and beans, which are fairly cheap in the interior, are at exorbitant prices in Constantinople.

Prisoners Well Treated.

Two of the batch of Englishmen who were deported to Kara Hissar some time ago have been allowed to return to Constantinople. They are Messrs. Willard and Lee, the former of the National Bank of Turkey, and the latter the keeper of the British Cemetery at Scutari. They say they had not a bad time, and were well treated. It is reported that several of the others, if not all of them, will shortly be liberated. On the other hand, Mr. James La Fontaine has now been exiled to Angora.

Most of the unwounded prisoners from the Dardanelles are concentrated at Angora and some at Afion Kara Hissar. It is difficult to obtain the names of these prisoners, or rather to identify them, owing to the muddle which the Turks make in writing foreign names in the Turkish language.

Parliament's Preoccupations.

Parliament is still sitting, but the reports of the proceedings that reach here are very brief. The Chamber has voted the credit demanded by the Minister of War for the construction of a railway from Rodosto to Muradli, and a line from Angora to Erzeroum. These kinds of enterprise are announced from time to time, but one never hears of any progress being made towards their realisation!

The *Hilal* announces that sixteen German professors have been engaged for different subjects for the Turkish University, and are to arrive soon in Constantinople.

An announcement appears in the Press that doctors of the enemy countries are not allowed to practise in Berlin.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The acknowledgment by the House of Lords of the telegram despatched by the Archbishop and Greek members of the Legislative Council has been received, and published in the local papers.

Refugees from Turkey.

Considerable numbers of subjects of the Allied Powers, who, through the energy and good offices of American representatives, are allowed to leave the Ottoman Empire, are expected in Cyprus. They will include refugees from Constantinople, Smyrna, Beyrout, and Messina. The Government is making arrangements for their accommodation in different towns. Mr. Bowring, the Treasurer, has been appointed to direct arrangements, and will be aided by an assistant in the several districts.

Kyrenia District Court.

In the Kyrenia district the people are exercised over a rumour that it is in contemplation not to appoint another British President of the District Court. Court work in this pocket district has always been comparatively light, whereas in the large Nicosia district the Court is generally overcharged with cases, with the result that work has often fallen heavily into arrear. The proposal is that an additional judge in the latter division should deal with cases in the Kyrenia Court as circumstances may require, visiting the district from time to time. There are in every district a Greek and a Turkish judge, who deal with certain cases, and who also sit singly as magistrates. The needs of the Nicosia division have long been recognised. So far there is no official announcement. The change here suggested is strongly deprecated by the Greek Press.

Local Opinion on the Offer of Cyprus.

Greek papers comment on the opinions expressed in England regarding the late conditional offer of the island to Greece. One paper states that it has 105 extracts from the British Press of October 23-27. They follow keenly Balkan events, and appear to consider that armed neutrality is not for the best interests of Greece. They comment anxiously on the impotence of the Greek Parliament during a critical period, on party bitterness, and on the fact that the genuine will of the people is not represented. What, it is asked, will be the position of Greece with a powerful and greatly enlarged Bulgaria, and a reinforced and rejuvenated Turkey, by her side? Was not Venizelos right in his view of Greek interests, and of the outlook should German tyranny ultimately prevail? By timely action Greece could have turned the balance. Cypriot Greeks, removed as they are from the heated party animosities that prevail at Athens, have a cool and clear perception of the situation. They trust that all will go well for Greece under the guidance of the King, who has done so much for the glory and enlargement of the country.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE TURN OF THE WHEEL.*

"The net political result of the Balkan wars and the Treaty of Bucharest, so far as the Balkans themselves are concerned, is that they have left an aftermath of wars of 'extermination' and the seeds of future wars of annexation."

Thus the anonymous, unknown author of "Nationalism and War in the Near East," one of the latest contributions to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, written before the great European war broke out, but published, together with some characteristic footnotes, long after the aftermath of the Balkan Wars had spread like some diabolic glow throughout the Old World. Much that is contained in the carefully planned volume has an historic interest only, and will serve as a useful, though astonishingly complex, compendium for future students of the Balkan Wars; again, other chapters are of special interest to-day as showing the connection between these wars and the present universal conflagration. That there is such a connection no student of contemporary history will deny, but to trace it to its causes is no easy proposition. Some indications are, however, contained in the book under review, and, therefore, it serves a useful purpose.

As the title of the work indicates, the author has been at some pains to develop the "nationality" forces of the various Balkan peoples working at the expense of the Turkish Empire. These forces are as old as the Near Eastern question itself. Left to themselves, they would doubtless have pursued a course radically opposed to that followed in 1913, but other external forces, both propulsive and restrictive, conscious and unconscious, acted upon them, and conflicts arose, which, after a few months' lull, burst out anew on the battlefields of Flanders, the Trentino, Poland, Albania, Macedonia, Mesopotamia, and the Caucasus. These external forces were "diplomatic"—that is to say, they were defined by the conflicting national aims of the two great groups of Powers interested in the fate of the Ottoman Empire in Europe. The result, if a graphic picture may be drawn, was the harnessing in the Balkans of wild stallions in two opposing teams, with consequences that have latterly proved disastrous to the drivers.

In the space at our disposal it is utterly impossible to do even partial justice to the theories and hypotheses of the author. Both are based on and deducted from historical facts and developments, and must be read carefully by the student of world movements. The average reader will find them confusing rather than concise, and will be lost in their depth of reasoning. This is a pity, because the subject matter treated is of more than usual interest, the more so considering that it touches the mainsprings of the present war. And it is, above all, in connection with the latter that we are here more closely concerned. Besides, we have it on the author's authority that his work was written before the Kaiser threw his glove in the face of Europe, and, this considered, it is surprising how accurately some of "The Diplomatist's" theories have been borne out by happenings. Personally, we are sorry that this should be so, if for no other reason than that it reflects on the judicious (*sic*) reading of events as evidenced by our Foreign Office. Surely what was foreseen by "A Diplomatist" (whoever he may be, and I think I could offer a shrewd guess) might have been foreseen by our own officials in Downing Street, and we should at least have been spared our Canossa in Sofia. That, in the eyes of the author, Bulgaria would perforce drift into the orbit of the Central Powers seems to have been a foregone conclusion—as has turned out to be the case—and it is, therefore, a pity we wasted so much time in persuading her to look through our glasses, thereby creating a certain amount of antagonism in Greece. Admittedly it is easy to be wise after the event, but, though this does not apply to "A Diplomatist," it certainly does not excuse our own Foreign Office for having been blind until the event. If anything, the author of the work under review has pro-Bulgarian sympathies (he certainly knows Sofia better than Belgrade, in which he errs in good, though most misleading, company), but, nevertheless, he is objective enough to understand that the very force of circumstances—more particularly the Dobrudja affair, and the growing friendliness between Turkey and Bulgaria brought about by similar sympathies and interests and a lack of antagonism—would necessarily lead to a reconstruction of Balkan politics, in the course of which Bulgaria would perforce come to an arrangement with the Central Powers whereby it could strengthen its strategic position (a vague term) and complete, or almost complete, the link between Berlin and Constantinople. This has happened; it ought to have been foreseen.

A second point of interest in "Nationalism and War in the Near East" is the clear indication, likewise arising out of force of circumstances, that Turkey would have to throw in her lot with Germany. Here, again, Russian antagonism to Turkish aspirations—or lack of such, for static forces can at times be as inconvenient as dynamic forces—was the guiding principle of Ottoman polity, and the fate that willed closer relationship between Russia and Great Britain willed likewise that Constantinople should look in the direction of Berlin. It may be true, it is true, that Austria and Bulgaria, the former in annexing Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the latter in declaring itself an independent State, were the first to profit by the extinguishing of the Hamidian *régime;* it may be true, and is true, that the next assault on the integrity of the Ottoman Empire was perpetrated by Italy—at the time a member of the Triple Alliance—but this notwithstanding, and notwithstanding the tremendous economic preponderance of France in the Empire, the Sublime Porte turned to the Teuton, the enemy of the Slav, for guidance. This brings us to our starting-point, the turn of the wheel. We have Austria and Bulgaria defying the Turks; we have Bulgaria fighting the Turks; we have the Turks, in collusion with Roumania, taking Adrianople from the Bulgars; and now we have Bulgars and Turks and Austrians fighting side by side. Truly, the top spins, and, spinning, reveals to us motives beyond the pale of diplomatic intrigue and prestige. As regards the latter, it is, or may be, a driving force; it may restrict or impel action to a certain degree, but, on the whole, its power is subordinate to stronger forces. A British Bieberstein at Constantinople or a British Hartwig at Sofia would hardly have altered the trend of Balkan or European politics. The reasons are obvious: Turkey saw, or thought she saw, in the long line from Berlin to Constantinople a safeguard; Bulgaria saw, or thought she saw, in Austro-Turkish backing a chance to dominate the Balkans. No diplomacy, however strong or able, could dissuade them from what was intrinsically a foregone conclusion; only arms can do so, and to arms we have had to recur.

A third point to be referred to is the growth in the Balkans of imperialism out of democracy, or the evolution (some, like the author, might call it degeneration) of nationalism into militarism. In Turkey it had become omnipotent before the war broke out; in Bulgaria it threw the country into the hands of the Court party; in Greece it hurled Venizelos out of power. How far it has evolved in Roumania remains to be seen. Nevertheless, it is curious to note that in Bulgaria, Greece, and Roumania the Court parties are satellites of the Court of Potsdam. In Bulgaria the party has triumphed along the whole line easily, because its ambitions were in accord with the aspirations of the people. In Roumania and Greece ,on the other hand, the parties in question are opposed to the national aspirations, and hence doubtless the hesitation of the past months.

Admittedly some of the above conclusions are not included in the book under review, however much they may have been inspired by comments or hints thrown out by the author. Lord Courtney of Penwith aptly remarks in his preface that the work is "thought-provoking," that it "invites to inquiry and reflection"—above all now that Bulgaria has joined the fray and Greece and Roumania are hesitating whether to do the right thing or not. We may not agree with many of the theories contained in the volume (the democracy thesis as applicable to international pacificism is, we believe, untenable), but, on the other hand, the quotation which introduces this review is characteristic of many others, as shrewd as they are accurate. Take, for instance, the following neat survey of the political result of the Balkan Wars on Europe:—

* "Nationalism and War in the Near East." By A Diplomatist. Edited by Lord Courtney of Penwith. (Clarendon Press. 12s. 6d. net.)

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It has "already caused a heavy addition to the armaments of Germany, France, and Russia. Every slow movement of the Slavonic hordes is met by some swift manœuvre of the Teutonic hosts. Only the restraining influences of the Western Powers can prevent the Balkan Wars infecting European nationalism with the war fever of its younger days." If, in connection with this, it is remembered that "German nationalism, considered as an underlying current too strong and deep to be affected by political distinctions between Austro-Germans and Prusso-Germans, or even by racial differences between north and south, is perhaps the greatest political force now operative," and that "Turkey, having lost Macedonia as an appanage, has gained Bulgaria as an ally," it can readily be understood why the Western Powers could not restrain German nationality, and why Turkey and Bulgaria relied on the latter instead of Western assurances backed by Russian complacence.

C. R.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I see that Charles Neufeld, one time prisoner of the Mahdi, is doing yeoman service to his fatherland by stirring the Arab races to join the enemies of England. At first sight it may seem monstrous that this man, who was relieved from years of captivity by British soldiers, and who, through the long years of his subsequent freedom, has thriven in Egypt, should turn upon his benefactors now; but it must always be remembered that he is a German serving his fatherland in the manner most pleasing to an Emperor who has gone out of his way to show his contempt for the petty things of truth and loyalty. And if it comes to that, there is nothing in the record of Charles Neufeld himself to lead one to suppose that the uncleanness of his present work will lie heavily upon his mind. When Kitchener entered Omdurman, Neufeld was found to be a prisoner heavily shackled, but there were always natives to affirm that he had not borne his burden long. Be that as it may, I know that he was never altogether above suspicion, although he was treated with uniform consideration by Englishmen, both of the Sudan and of Egypt. It is perhaps as well, indeed, that the authorities kept a watchful eye upon him long after the events of the Mahdi's time had been forgotten. A man does not become a reptile in a moment, and Charles Neufeld, slinking about the desert ways stirring the coloured man to revolt, is the meanest of reptiles now. Why he was allowed to leave Egypt, after, we are told, war was declared, I do not know. It is possible that he crept out of the country disguised as a native: that would have been easy. He is certainly not a "white" man.

***

As the war goes on I grow increasingly ashamed of my former acquaintances. Neufeld, Bernstorff, the unspeakable Rustem Bey—what an unholy crew to have shaken by the hand! And last week I saw the name of yet another acquaintance billed for the part of a bandit chief in far Persia—Henry of Reuss, twenty-eighth Prince of his house. I liked the boy when I knew him; he was so full of youth and high spirits. He was a musician, too, of no common attainments. He was travelling with his mother and two sisters when last I saw him; each played a different string instrument, and they sang "My Bonnie" and other well-known old songs in pretty broken English for my benefit. And now they are alien enemies, the four of them, and Henry 28th is busy with sedition in Persia. Truly there are things almost more horrible than bloodshed in the midst of war!

***

According to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, journalists are having a golden time in Roumania, where German patriots are showering wealth upon all writers who agree to support their cause. According to this paper, one lady journalist was offered £4,000 to cease upholding the Allies, while her amanuensis was promised half that sum should she induce her employer to accept the German terms. All newspapers, with three exceptions, are reported to have passed under German control, and as much as £12,000 and a pearl necklace have been offered for one vote for M. Marghiloman. If all this is true, it seems that the Huns must be more than a little uneasy regarding Roumania at the present moment. History does not relate the official attitude of the Allies in this matter. Perhaps they do not regard the Press as an important factor in Roumanian politics. Yet very recently it seemed as if at least one member of our Government was prepared with his last breath to defend the axiom that "the pen is mightier than the sword."

Our withdrawal from Ctesiphon to Koot-el-Amarah is not a subject for us to rejoice over, of course; but neither is it, I think, such a severe setback as the pessimists would have us believe. It was just a bit of bad luck once more; and I, for one, shall wait with confidence for the turn of the tide. For it seems to me that a force which can do what our little Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force has done already is not going to be sat upon for long by any Turco-German combine that was ever engineered, provided only that it receives adequate reinforcements. Mr. Chamberlain's statement on the subject is encouraging, and if our authorities think it necessary to press on to Baghdad, it is unthinkable that the requisite reinforcements will not be forthcoming, both as regards men and guns. The guns are obviously as necessary as the men, since it seems to be clear that the Turks had received very formidable additions to their artillery before the last fight.

***

The German rejoicings over the alleged treachery of the Arabs are—characteristic! The Huns would like nothing better than to think of our suffering as the result of treachery; but whether any considerable body of Arabs did play us false, and, if so, whether their treachery really had any serious effect on the fortunes of the day, we have no means of judging as yet; for, of course, the German reports are merely the offspring of the German wish. And the typical lie about the capture of "several flags amongst the booty," which has been promptly nailed to the counter by our own official announcement ("British troops never take colours into the field"), shows what value may be attached to the Teutonic statements.

***

On the whole, it looks as if the withdrawal, though a distinctly unfortunate necessity, may yet be regarded as one of the finest incidents of the campaign. For General Townshend is able to report that it was carried out in perfect order, and that his troops exhibited great steadiness. In such circumstances that is a fine testimony to the quality of men and officers alike. As to our having had to fall back as far as Koot, that is not at all surprising or distressing, considering that the country possesses no natural features that would provide any good standing place. Koot will do. But even if we find it necessary, or advisable, to fall back still further, we need not join the pessimists. As long as we hold Busreh and the Shatt-el-Arab firmly we can afford to wait. And the Turks and Germans can't. So let us possess our souls in patience.

***

In the Windsor Police Court last week an old soldier who had served under Sir Garnet Wolseley at Tel-el-Kebir, and afterwards with Sir Donald Stewart in the Sudan until 1885, was charged with stealing a coster's barrow. Before his service in Egypt the man had also served through the Afghan War; he held both the Afghan Medal and Star and the Egyptian Medal and Star, and his record was described as a "splendid" one. But the most splendid part of it, it seems to me, lies in the fact that, at the age of 67, he, finding himself still fit to serve his King and country, re-enlisted. Unfortunately, feeling certain qualms, I dare say, as to whether he would pass on the score of age, he took a little too much to drink; and afterwards, being not quite aware of what he was doing, commandeered the coster's barrow, apparently for no good reason at all. Or perhaps he may have taken it to help him get to the recruiting office. At any rate, what does such a small slip matter in the case of a man so emphatically of the type we want just now? After the Chief Constable had said all he could for the game old warrior, the magistrates very sensibly discharged him, expressing the hope that he would go back to his regiment and do good work, as he had done in the past. "I'll have a good try," said the defendant as he left the court. And I am sure all my readers will join me in wishing him the best of luck and a speedy return. What an example to the slackers and shirkers!

CORSAIR.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Dardanelles: Colour Sketches in Gallipoli. Written and drawn by Norman Wilkinson, R.I. (Longmans, Green and Co. 12s. 6d. net.)

Greek (Modern) Self-Taught. By Nicolaos Anastassion. 2nd edition. (Marlborough and Co. 2s.)

Year-Book of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington.)

"The Philosophy of Love." By Shaikh Mushir Hosain Kedwai. With Introduction by Prof. H. M. Léon, and Forewords by William Le Queux and Prof. A. Neville J. Whymant. (Blackburn: George Toulmin and Sons, Limited.)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—In your last issue "A Lover of Cyprus" states that the people (the Greek community *bien entendu*) of the island call out "for other rule." . . . "They think they want union with Greece, but they don't know what they want." He proceeds to enlighten them. His explanation seems somewhat vague, but he tells them, as I take it, that they want more "self-control," *i.e.*, home rule, or self government under the British flag, similar to that of our great Dominions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

Your correspondent has not, I think, grasped the situation. It is perfectly clear, and can be stated in a few words. Of the Greek population (of about 220,000) the rural classes, which form the great majority, are completely satisfied with British rule. They only want to cultivate their lands under a just and stable Government, and have no taste for politics. In the towns there is a party, headed by the Greek Archbishop and members of the Legislative Council, which clamours for union with Greece. It affects to speak for the whole Greek community; and through the press, the village schoolmasters, and by other means it endeavours to make the people follow its "patriotic" lead. This is the "other control" which they desire.

This Greek movement is a local manifestation of the Hellenic, or "national," idea, which aims at the progressive consolidation and expansion of the scattered Hellenic kingdom, and which inspires Greeks in all countries where they congregate. It is perfectly natural and proper, and no Englishman has reason to quarrel with it, provided it is held consistently with loyalty where loyalty is due. Its aspirations now include the hope that, as the Ionian islands and the "heroic sister" Crete have been united with the "Mother Country," so in its turn Cyprus may be similarly incorporated.

Your correspondent says that "they want power to express their national sentiment." Perhaps he is not aware that there is in Cyprus full liberty of the press, and that a large number of Greek papers give weekly, and profuse, expression to the views and aspirations referred to.

The Turkish community (about 60,000) is entirely opposed to this Greek agitation. They, too, have their feelings and claims; but they have always loyally accepted the situation which a convention with their Sultan brought about. They have frequently, and even since the annexation last year, expressed their appreciation of the benefits secured by British rule.

The opinion of "a leading Turk," which your correspondent quotes, is, to my knowledge, shared by many others. Turks in general would no doubt prefer independent Ottoman rule to any other (genuine reforms being at the same time advocated by all their best men); but if they cannot have this, they would much prefer British suzerainty to any other.—I am, etc.,

December 6, 1915. CRITIC.

PESSIMISM.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Cassandra is abroad in the persons of certain newspaper men and armchair critics, who ignore the late Lord Salisbury's advice to "study small-scale maps." There is really no excuse whatever for the pessimistic note which resounds in our Press and clubs. Everyone will admit that Napoleon knew something of military science, yet he pronounced campaigning to be a "series of mistakes," and added that "the general won who made the fewest." Let us try to establish a balance-sheet as between the Allies and the Central Powers. The Allies neglected ample warnings of a coming cataclysm, were absorbed in domestic squabbles, while a vast plot against their existence was being engineered. Of their diplomacy in the Near East the less said the better. This western campaign, after the battle of the Marne, became a deadlock owing to lack of munitions, men, and intelligent staff work. They have blundered badly in East Africa, the Dardanelles, Mesopotamia, and Serbia.

This seems a formidable list of indictments, especially when the credit side is ignored. But let us glance at the enemy's position. He plunged into war without any sound knowledge of the internal condition of our Empire and those of our Allies. He has waged it with a degree of savagery which excites horror and indignation throughout the civilised world. His inconceivably base intrigues in neutral countries have effected little in comparison with the pains and money expended in maturing them. His strategy contemplated the reduction of Paris and Petrograd, an invasion of England, the slow destruction of her naval power by attrition, that of her commerce by submarine attack, and the terrorisation of her people by aerial raids. In one and all of these aims the enemy has miserably failed, and his recent adventure in Serbia resembles the mad struggles of a wild beast against the meshes of a net from which there is no escape. His industry and commerce are being strangled by superior sea-power, his asylums are packed with women, driven mad by bereavements and starvation.

Contrasting our plight with that of Germany, we may well take heart of grace, and realise that no momentary setback can long postpone the doom so richly merited by her crimes. —I am, etc.,

SIGMA.

December 8.

HOSPITAL EXPERIENCES IN SERBIA.

Speaking last Tuesday in the hall of the New Constitutional Society for Woman Suffrage, Miss Ruby Logan gave an account of her experiences in Serbia last summer. A large building in Belgrade, originally a school, was placed at the disposal of the hospital unit, of which she was a member. It had to be got ready, and application was made to the Government for assistance, which led to a number of gypsy women being sent. Miss Logan said these were the most beautiful women she ever saw, but oddly dressed; one, for instance, wore a full white muslin dress trimmed with green ribbon. It was a question whether the English staff would not have been better without the assistance; for, apart from all the difficulties of language, the gypsies were extremely lazy. On one occasion when Miss Logan was busy polishing a window in a room where two of them were working with her, she noticed a strange quiet, and, turning round, found they had coiled themselves up in bed and gone to sleep. The orderlies at the hospital were Austrian prisoners, mostly weak from the effects of typhoid; an Austrian doctor told her that of one band of two thousand prisoners one-half had died from this dread disease. So many prisoners escaped by swimming across the river that the Serbian Government removed the others further into the country. Some of those who had been employed in the hospital wept at leaving the English people with whom they had been associated, and Miss Logan said that when she reflected that these were her enemies, the fact did more to bring home to her the extreme stupidity of war than any other of her experiences. The Serbians she described as an extremely charming people, and very grateful for what was done for them.

THE HISTORY OF THE EASTERN QUESTION.

Speaking last Thursday at King's College, Dr. Seton-Watson said that the Eastern question, in one form or another, dated from many centuries back. The arrival of the Turks in Europe gave it a new form, and it was only with the decline of the Ottoman Empire that it entered on the phase which led inevitably to the cataclysm of 1912 and the far greater cataclysm of 1914. The year 1571 might be considered as the one which saw the top of the Turkish wave. In that year the fall of Cyprus into their hands was the last of an unbroken series of conquests, but in the same year was fought the battle of Lepanto, which destroyed their naval power in the Mediterranean. In the following century they conquered other territory, and even appeared in 1683 before the gates of Vienna; but the Ottoman decline had already set in. That decline had been very prolonged, lasting over centuries. This fact was partly due to the "sick man's" powers of resistance—these had always been underestimated, and apparently were so to-day—partly it was due to the mutual mistrust and animosities of Christian States. At the time of the Reformation Protestant Powers leagued with the Turks, regarding Islam as a less deadly enemy than the Papacy; and subsequently there grew up the rivalry between Austria and Russia.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (New Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915.	1915.		1334.	5676.
Dec.	Nov.		Safar.	Tebet.
10	27	Friday	2	3
11	28	Saturday.....	3	4
12	29	Sunday	4	5
13	30	Monday	5	6
	Dec.	Tuesday	6	7
14	1			
15	2	Wednesday	7	8
16	3	Thursday	8	9

Monday is the birthday of Princess Marina of Greece, second daughter of Prince Nicholas, who was born at Athens in 1906.

Tuesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Albert.

Tuesday is also the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Paul of Greece, third son of King Constantine, who was born at Athens in 1901.

Next Friday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Alexander of Serbia, who was born at Cettinje in 1888.

Earl and Countess Brassey left London on Saturday for Egypt.

Lady Hamilton Lang left London on Monday for New York, where she will join her daughter, whose husband, Paymaster B. D. Rogers, of the U.S. Navy, has died in Hayti Island.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria visited Nish on Saturday.

H.E. the Hellenic Minister called at the Foreign Office last Saturday evening after the usual diplomatic visitors had left.

Last Friday, at 67, West Cromwell Road, the wife of Mr. Reginald Massie Graves, of the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, gave birth to a daughter.

On Wednesday of last week (December 1) at 40, Hauteville, Guernsey, the wife of Mr. T. J. Morris, of the Sudan Civil Service, gave birth to a son.

An engagement is announced between Captain Henry Somerset Wright, 2nd Manchester Regiment, now in the Egyptian Army, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Wright, of the Mardyke House, Cork, and Fern Hill, Clonakilty, Ireland, and Edith May, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Luke Hansard and Mrs. Hansard, of 27, Gledhow Gardens, South Kensington.

We regret to learn of the death of Comtesse Elizabethe de Zogheb, wife of Comte Michel Antoine de Zogheb, daughter of General Caspar Crowninshield, of Boston, Mass., which took place on November 28, at 19, Bruton Street, Berkeley Square.

The death of Sir George Francis Coventry Pocock took place at Ryde on Monday. Born in 1830, he served with the 30th Regiment in Bulgaria in 1854 and in the siege and fall of Sevastopol in the following year, when he was twice severely wounded, losing his left arm. He was mentioned in despatches, and received his brevet of major and the Order of the Medjidieh, 5th Class. He succeeded his father, the second baronet, in 1866; was twice married.

Last Sunday afternoon, in Theberton Church, the Archdeacon of Suffolk dedicated a stained-glass window to the memory of Lieutenant-Colonel Doughty Wylie, V.C., C.B., C.M.G., Royal Welch Fusiliers, who fell at Sedd el Bahr on April 25.

Major the Hon. Algernon Hanbury-Tracy, C.M.G., whose death from heart failure took place last Friday, was the second son of Lord Sudeley. In the Somaliland Campaign of 1901 he was attached to the Abyssinian Army. He served also on the Uganda Expedition, and in the South African War. In all these campaigns he was mentioned in despatches.

Colonel John Gerald Panton, C.M.G., late Royal Sussex Regiment and A.Q.M.G. West Lancashire Division, who died on Tuesday at a nursing home of heart failure after an operation, commanded the British troops in Crete during the rising of 1905, and for this service was made a C.M.G

Mr. William James Garnett, whose promotion to be a First Secretary in the Diplomatic Service is announced, was nominated an Attaché in 1902 and has served in Constantinople, Bucharest, and Teheran amongst other places. We understand that he was attached to the Legation in Sofia before war broke out with Bulgaria.

The Hon. John Francis Amherst Cecil, whose appointment as a Third Secretary in the Diplomatic Service is announced in the *London Gazette*, entered the service in 1913 and was appointed to Cairo in October of that year.

Mr. R. J. V. Astell, who is appointed a Third Secretary in the Diplomatic Service, entered the service in 1913. His first appointment was to Lisbon, whence he was transferred to Berlin. On the outbreak of war with Germany he was employed in the Foreign Office till September of last year, when he was appointed to Constantinople. He left Constantinople just before our declaration of war on Turkey, and has been employed at the Foreign Office since November, 1914.

Temporary Lieutenant H. Pirie-Gordon, D.S.C., R.N.V.R., has been promoted to the rank of Temporary Lieutenant-Commander.

The Press Bureau on Wednesday issued the following statement:—"Official report has been received to the effect that Captain Stanley Wilson, M.P., has been made a prisoner of war, while conveying letters from the Eastern Mediterranean to London. He was travelling in a Greek steamer, which was stopped by an Austrian submarine. It has been ascertained that none of the papers taken from him were of importance."

According to other reports, the Greek steamer referred to was the Spetzai, which was bound from the Piræus to Messina; and in addition to Captain Wilson, Colonel Napier, C.M.G., formerly Military Attaché at Sofia, was also arrested. Another English officer, belonging to the Red Cross, was allowed to remain on board.

Lieutenant-Colonel Napier, who is the third son of Baron Napier of Magdala by his second marriage, was born in 1864, had served in the Indian Army, and had been Military Attaché at Petrograd and Teheran before being appointed to Sofia. Captain A. S. Wilson is M.P. for Holderness, and a director of the Wilson Line.

Sir Edwin Pears distributed the prizes to pupils of the County Secondary School for Girls, Clapham Common, on Tuesday.

Mr. H. L. Andrews, who lately returned to London from Sofia, has now left England for Moscow, where he will take up an appointment pending an opportunity of returning to Bulgaria.

News has been received in England, through the good offices of the United States Ambassador in Constantinople, that Mr. E. G. Hensman, formerly of Olivet House Hotel, Jerusalem, who was amongst the British subjects interned at Urfa, was quite well at the time the message was despatched (apparently about the middle of November).

Since the above message was received the Foreign Office has been informed by the United States Ambassador that, in consequence of representations made by the United States Ambassador at Constantinople to the Turkish Government, the latter promised that the civilians interned at Urfa should be sent at once to Aintab, where it is hoped that the conditions of internment will be better, and where the American missionaries have been requested to give them such help as is possible.

Herr Karl Buenz, who has just been condemned in America to eighteen months' imprisonment for breaches of neutrality, was at one time—about four or five years ago—German Delegate on the Ottoman Public Debt Council.

M. David Mitrany will lecture, under the auspices of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, on "Roumanian Foreign Politics under the Hohenzollern Dynasty, 1866-1915," at 7, Grosvenor Crescent, London (by kind permission of Mrs. Worthington Evans), on Tuesday next at 3.30 p.m. A collection will be taken for the Prisoners of War Fund, which will be handed over to Mrs. Evelyn Grant-Duff at Berne.

"The War in Mesopotamia" will be the subject of a lecture to be delivered on January 12 next by Dr. L. W. King. Dr. King is a professor of King's College and is a great authority on Babylonia and Assyria. He is the author of a history of Babylonia, and is one of the chief assistants in the Assyrian Department of the British Museum.

Another lecture of especial interest to our readers will be on "The War in the Near East." This will be delivered on January 26 and will be by Dr. Burrows, Principal of King's College. The two lectures will be part of a course of nine to be delivered at King's College on Wednesdays at 5.15 p.m. Admission to the course will be free by ticket to be obtained on application.

At a meeting of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, which was held at the Royal Automobile Club on Wednesday afternoon, the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., presiding, contributions to "Our Day" amounting to £800,000 were announced. A vote of thanks to Egypt was carried, on the motion of Lord Ranfurly, seconded by Sir William Garstin. The latter said that Egypt had contributed nearly one-third of the total amount collected oversea for "Our Day," and it was certain that a large proportion of the money had been subscribed by the Mohammedan people of the country.

At the request of the military authorities the Y.M.C.A. representatives in Egypt have opened recreation tents on the Gallipoli Peninsula and the adjacent islands. At least ten huts are required immediately. The work is being carried on in co-operation with the chaplains, who have asked for pianos, camp song books, sheet music, and a cinema. Those interested are invited to communicate with the Countess of Chesterfield, Scudamore House, Regent's Park.

The British colony in Paris held a reception on Wednesday as a manifestation of sympathy for Serbia. M. Vesnitch, the Serbian Minister in Paris presided. A lantern lecture on life in Serbia was given by Mr. Barrett Braid. The proceeds will be handed over to Serbian charities.

The Hon. Mrs. Lionel Guest is collecting gramophones and records, puzzles, magazines, books and woollen comforts for the hospital ships coming from the Dardanelles, and would be most grateful for any contributions in kind or money sent to her at 44, Seymour Street, London, W.

Workrooms have been opened at No. 10, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, by Mrs. Reginald Ward Poole (in connection with the Serbian Relief Fund), for making and supplying hospital requisites for the wounded in Serbia. Ladies are invited to come on any day, except Saturday, to help in the work, between the hours of 10 and 1 and 2 and 6.

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Miss Maisie Dundas, whose marriage with Mr. Hugo Houstoun has just been celebrated at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, is a niece of Lord Lamington, who gave her away at the ceremony. Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig Holstein was among the guests, who quite filled the church. The Dowager Lady Lamington, the bride's grandmother, who is over ninety, and who has great-great-grandchildren, came with her daughter-in-law, Lady Lamington, and Violet Lady Melville.

Lady Grogan, who is a representative of the Central Serbia Relief Committee in London, and Lady Young were speakers at an afternoon tea given in the Town Hall, Maidenhead, last week in aid of the Serbia Relief Fund. The total realized during the day amounted to over £70.

A telegram from Geneva states that Prince Fuad, a cousin of the Sultan of Egypt, has arrived at Geneva on his way to England.

In aid of the Serbian Relief Fund, which provides food and necessaries for the starving and homeless Serbian women and children, and of which the Queen is the patroness, a Slav concert, consisting of Polish, Czech, Russian, and Serbian music, will be given in the Queen's Hall, on the 15th inst., at five o'clock. M. Safonoff, M. Mlynarski, and Mr. Thomas Beecham will conduct the London Symphony Orchestra. Mmes. D'Alvarez and L. Perelli, MM. V. Rosing, L. Strokoff, Benno Moiseivitch, and J. Bonell are to be the soloists. Some Russian sacred music will be performed for the first time in England by a choral society of 200 performers.

Amongst other payments which the Government of New South Wales has authorized the Hon. B. R. Wise, K.C., Agent-General for the State in London, to make from the collection in New South Wales on "Allies Day," November 19, are a sum of £3,000 to the Serbian Relief Fund and a sum of £1,000 to Lady Roper Parkington for the relief of distress in Montenegro.

Information has been received that a sum of £1,500 sent out by the Agricultural Relief Committee for Serbian peasants has been prevented from falling into the hands of the enemy, and will be distributed later.

According to the latest information received in Anglo-Persian quarters, the British Consul at Shiraz and the other Englishmen who were arrested there on November 10 are, says Reuter, still at Borasjun, where they are being well treated.

Early last week a steamer, in which the Y.M.C.A. had taken space for 300 tons of goods for the troops in Gallipoli, left Swansea. That portion of her cargo the gift of the Association consists of such delicacies as sardines, soup tablets, tinned soups, meat essences, tinned salmon, curry powder, dried fruits, figs, cornflour, porridge, and boiled sweets. In addition there are pipes, matches, hair clippers, and mouth-organs, Dutch ovens, stationery, pencils and pens, puzzles, and table games. The Association have also sent out three large marquees and two huts, with complete canteen equipment for each. All these good things should reach the men in about ten days' time.

Local Serbians, a Johannesburg telegram states, are joining the Union Contingent for service overseas.

At the "Christmas in War Time" bazaar at the Albert Hall the Serbian Committee, over which Mrs. Carrington Wilde presides, is endeavouring to present Serbia in miniature to the visitors, and decorations to maintain the illusion have been completed by the Serbian artist, M. Radovaric. In addition there is an exhibition of native Serbian work, including embroideries and costumes, lent by Mme. Vesnitch and Lady Whitehead. A *café chantant* is included in this section, and MM. Ounuraff, Rosing, and Kalmàn Ronay, and Mme. Coupland contribute towards the programme.

A meeting was held at the Town Hall, Liverpool, on Tuesday, on the question of the Armenian refugees. The meeting was addressed by the Lord Mayor, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., Sir Edward Russell, the Bishop of Liverpool, and Archbishop Whiteside.

A memorial service for Major the Hon. Sir Schomberg McDonnell was held on Tuesday at Holy Trinity, Prince Consort Road. The Bishop of London, Canon Edgar Sheppard, and the Rev. H. B. Coward (the vicar) officiated. The King and Queen were represented by the Hon. Sir Derek Keppel, Queen Alexandra by Colonel Streatfeild, Grenadier Guards, and the Duke of Connaught by Major Malcolm Murray. Lady McDonnell was unable to attend owing to indisposition.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* says:—The attitude of the King and Government of Greece may be dubious, but there has never been any doubt about the sympathy of the mass of Greeks in or out of Greece with the Allied cause. I am told that yesterday the Greek community in London placed orders for nine fully equipped ambulances of the Army standard, which are to be presented to the British Government for use with our Army in the Balkans. The London Greeks, many of whom are well-to-do merchants, have been generous donors to our war funds. The Ambulance Fund is being well supported, over £6,000 having been given already. Many Greeks here were born in England. The only son of M. Grannocopulo, the treasurer of the Hellenic community, is a lieutenant serving at the Dardanelles, and Lieutenant Rodocananchi has won the Military Cross.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday the Chancellor of the Exchequer replied in the negative to a question by Mr. R. M'Neill as to whether Sir Ernest Cassel represented the Treasury directly or indirectly, or acted in any capacity on behalf of the Government, in the recent negotiations for a loan in the United States.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

The Serbian Legation here announces that Dr. Ninchitch, deputy, and formerly professor at the University of Belgrade, has been appointed Minister of Finance in place of the late Dr. Lazar Pachou.

The *Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to appoint Major Hugh Stewart, C.I.E., to be his Majesty's Consul at Muskat.

Dr. F. M. Sandwith, Gresham Professor of Physic and Senior Physician to the London School of Tropical Medicine, has been appointed Consulting Physician with his Majesty's troops in the Mediterranean, and is leaving shortly for Egypt. Dr. Sandwith for many years held the appointment of Professor of Medicine at the Egyptian Government Medical School.

A Cyprus correspondent writes:—The new Hellenic Consul, M. Paraskevopoulos, is well spoken of. The retiring Consul, M. Lambros Enyáles, carries with him the esteem of the Greek community.

BACK NUMBER OF "NEAR EAST."—Advertiser wishes to purchase copy of THE NEAR EAST, dated September 6, 1911, to complete Volume I.—Communications, stating price wanted, to A. S. M., THE NEAR EAST Offices.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1915.

SECOND THOUGHTS.

Two points of importance emerge from the speech delivered last week in the Italian Chamber of Deputies by Baron Sonnino, the Minister for Foreign Affairs. In the first place he made the welcome announcement that Italy had formally entered into the agreement signed by Great Britain, France, Russia, and Japan, according to the terms of which the five Governments mutually engage not to conclude peace separately during the present war, and undertake that, when terms of peace come to be discussed, no one of the Allies will demand conditions of peace without the previous agreement of each of the other Allies. The latter clause of the Pact is especially notable, for it ought to go far to obviate ill-considered arrangements which in a comprehensive treaty are liable to make their appearance in the regulation of minor matters. Baron Sonnino then proceeded to outline Italian policy in regard to Serbia and Albania, and thus touched upon a subject which must figure among the conditions of peace. In passing it may be mentioned that the point made in these pages last week that, if the Allies intended to help the unfortunate Serbians who were making their way through Montenegro and Albania to the Adriatic, they must depute Italy to act on their behalf, was met by Baron Sonnino. We welcome his assurance that Italy could not remain deaf to the heartrending appeal that was coming across the Adriatic, and "she would speedily do what was in her power to bring help to the Serbian Army, ensuring, in agreement with her Allies, its revictualling and ammunitioning, and facilitating its concentration." On the question of general policy Baron Sonnino stated that the political and economic independence of Serbia had always been one of the pivots of Italian policy in the Balkans, and was vitally essential to Italy's existence as a Great Power. The political and economic absorption of Serbia by Austria-Hungary would present a grave and constant danger for Italy, and for that reason "she had laid down, in agreement with her Allies, as the irreducible outcome of the present great war, the restoration of the heroic Serbian people in the plenitude of its independence."

Italy's adhesion to the Allies' Pact and the fact that the Minister for Foreign Affairs in making the announcement chose to discuss Italian policy in regard to Serbia will tempt those who are interested in the welfare of the Balkans to look for special significance in the coincidence. It has been no secret that the appearance of Italy on the side of the Triple Entente brought little satisfaction at the time to Serbia, as it was understood that Italy's support had had to be purchased at Serbia's expense. The details of the agreement between Italy and the other Powers of the Entente have not been made public, but it has been generally accepted that the promises made to Italy in regard to the Dalmatian coast involved the disappointment of Serbian hopes. Serbia at one time had every right to contrast the favoured treatment of Italy with the absence of any definite assurances that her own claims in the direction of Croatia and Slavonia would be recognised. At a critical stage in Balkan affairs there can be little doubt that the grievance felt in Serbia over this very point played its part in the reluctance of the Government to make the sacrifices required of it in the interests of Balkan unity. In the past the Italians have shown an inclination to misunderstand the situation on the east of the Adriatic. They have been distrustful of the Slav, and have been too ready to subscribe to the Austro-Hungarian belief that he ought as far as possible to be squeezed out of existence. The war has revealed the fact that there are worse enemies for the Italians than the Southern Slavs, and that failure on the part of Italy to arrive at an understanding with the latter is likely to benefit the enemies of both. Baron Sonnino's remarks, it is to be hoped, indicate an appreciation of this fact on the part of the Italian Government. We should like to think, moreover, that when the time comes for the consideration of conditions of peace it will be realized that the preliminary agreement arrived at between Italy and the Triple Entente has been vitiated by the course of events, and will need to be revised in the light of a fuller knowledge of the Balkan and Southern Slav questions. There would have been more cause for optimism if Baron Sonnino had been less emphatic on the subject of "the traditional policy of Italy in regard to Albania." A matter of very great importance for Italy, he said, was the maintenance of the independence of the Albanian people, whose well-marked and ancient nationality had been vainly disputed and denied for an interested motive. It is difficult to reconcile this description of the Albanians with the records of the warring tribes inhabiting Albania, and many people will have expected to find Italy, while strengthening her hold on the Adriatic as a whole, willing to abandon her former designs on Albania, which were launched as a necessary counterpoise to Austro-Hungarian aggression.

If Italy intends to relax none of her claims on Albania, Baron Sonnino's remarks may have contained no message of hope to the Serbians in regard to the Dalmatian coast. In that case their cynicism, in view of the circumstances in which they were spoken, would be unworthy of one of Italy's leading statesmen. Conditions of peace, which require the previous agreement of each of the other Allies, can hardly leave room for a violation of the very principle for which the Quintuple Entente are fighting. The fact that Italy has delayed so long to notify her adherence to the Pact helps the belief that she has required time to adjust her views to the experience gained from the war. In another sphere also the Allies have an opportunity to vindicate the wisdom of allowing free play to second thoughts. Among the mistakes which have contributed to the failure of the Allies' diplomacy in the Near East must be reckoned M. Sazonof's premature insistence upon Russia's claim to Constantinople and to the control of the waterway connecting the Black Sea and the Ægean. The conviction that Great Britain and Russia had come to a hard and fast agreement on this subject inevitably caused more than one Balkan State to doubt the wisdom of throwing in its lot with the Triple Entente. At the same time it tended to stiffen the resolve of the Turks in a war which they had entered upon unwillingly. Suspicion would be disarmed and the ground cut away from under some German intrigues, if it could be made known that the future of Constantinople and the Straits was still an open question, and would only be settled after due consideration of all the interests concerned. It is not necessary to share the misgivings entertained in some quarters over the fate of Constantinople in order to recognize that the cause of the Allies would gain, if it were known that no vexed question arising out of the war was to be settled by premature agreements, but that all points at issue would be the subject of careful and well-informed deliberation before final decisions on them were reached.

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AN ENGLISHWOMAN IN EGYPT.

WAR TIME IMPRESSIONS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 19.

The return of the Residency and of the Sultanic Court to Cairo and the race meeting at Gezira last week remind us that we are now launched on another winter season. The summer has gone by quickly and pleasantly. The majority of Englishwomen who came out last winter have remained right through, and are none the worse for it. For many of us it has been quite a unique experience, and one which has turned out to be by no means unpleasant or trying.

How often have we dreaded a summer in Egypt; and if perchance a hot spell set in before the date fixed for our departure, how wearily have we counted the days to the sailing of our boat! The reason we have "survived" this summer so well is undoubtedly because we have had healthy and interesting occupation. Instead of the endless list of season fixtures which, closely following and often overlapping one another, used to weary and distress although they certainly fascinated us, we have all devoted our time to service to our country, some by actively helping in the hospitals, some by assisting to entertain and distract our gallant wounded, some by working to alleviate in one way or another the lot of those who have been sent here to be cured or of those who are still fighting on that terrible Gallipoli Peninsula, where so many of our personal friends have found their grave. It has been hard work, but none the less congenial and satisfying; for we have felt and seen that our efforts were fruitful and appreciated. Therein lies the secret of our present fitness, in spite of this radical departure from an ingrained habit.

It has often been said—and the assertion has as often been decried—that the reason we women of Anglo-Egypt always find it necessary to migrate north in spring is that the season's gaieties have run us down too much for us to stand the summer heat; and that if we had more healthful and intellectual occupation we should be the better in body as well as in mind, and so be able to resist the rigours of the climate. I dare now to hazard a forecast that, just as this terrible war will at its close show a greater levelling up of classes and introduce many welcome social improvements, so in years to come we shall find that there will be less tendency on the part of Englishwomen in Egypt to rush home at the first hint of the hot weather. Most of us had not known what a summer on the banks of the Nile meant, or, if we had, we had forgotten what it was like. *C'est le premier pas qui coûte!* We have now experienced it; we find its bark is far, far worse than its bite; in fact, we rather like it, and we shall not be in such a hurry in future to forsake Egypt at the close of the winter season. So that this war will not have been without its lesson even to us Englishwomen in Egypt.

Throughout the coming winter we shall be hard at it, carrying on the work that has fallen to our lot ever since this year began. To all appearances our assistance will be required in one way or another; for no matter how the tide of battle rolls in the Balkans, Egypt will for more reasons than one continue to be the hospital centre for the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. Of "season," as we have known it in the piping times of peace, there will be none. No one expects any tourists, except a few Anglo-Indians on their way to and from the Far East. A familiar touch may still, however, be seen at any time in the day in a short walk past Shepheard's and the Continental—the only two hotels that have remained open—where dragomans and hawkers of "genuine" Egyptian articles (mostly manufactured in Birmingham) throng as thickly as ever, attracted by the soldier element, which is immoderately free with its money and is proving a source of much profit to the Mouski dealers, who are inclined little to regret the ordinary winter visitors. Social intercourse will, of course, remain at its lowest ebb. We shall, as before, dine occasionally and quietly at one of the hotels to speed some parting soldier friends; on our "afternoons off" we shall fly to Gezira for golf and tennis, which are the things we miss more than anything else in the new circumstances of our daily life; we may perchance steal away to a race meeting; and now and again there will be other distractions, such as a concert or a variety show. But for the most part we shall, we sincerely hope, be busy where our hearts undoubtedly are—amongst the lads who are so nobly maintaining the prestige of our race and whom we all love, as much as their officers admire them, for the combination of manly qualities and childlike simplicity which they ever display.

What I wrote on my return from England last October applies equally well to-day to the state of affairs in Egypt. Outwardly Cairo has changed but little from what it is in an ordinary year. Of course, we miss more of the old faces every day, and the share of the work falling to those of our men-folk who cannot be spared has become proportionately greater; but generally speaking things have continued just as if no war was being waged. Even at the height of the "invasion" period there was nothing to denote that an enemy was at our gate, and at no time have we had any cause to feel anxious as to the state of feeling in the country. Indeed, it has been remarkable how the ordinary routine and interior administration of the country have persevered along the same lines as of old, and were it not for the motor-ambulances whizzing along with their loads of wounded and sick, the increased number of cars and buggies with "red-tabs" inside, and the crowds of "Tommies" in the streets, we should not know from outward appearances that any unusual state of affairs existed.

There has never been any want of provisions or ordinary commodities; to be sure, prices have risen somewhat, but the tradespeople have throughout been able to replenish their stocks or meet most of our needs without difficulty. We are inclined to grumble and growl about delays when such occur, but they have never been very great, and our mails have with but few exceptions arrived with a regularity that has conduced to the impression that the world was following its normal course of existence. The fact that, broadly speaking, life in Egypt has continued just as it was eighteen months ago, and that we have little felt the pinch or pressure of war, is surely the greatest tribute that could be found to the efficient manner in which our Navy holds and guards the high seas. The British public is too apt to overlook the part played by "Jack Tar," for the very simple reason that he rarely obtrudes himself on its attention; but those who are stationed as we are at the outposts of the Empire can appreciate better than anyone else what our sailors have done in their characteristically silent but thorough fashion, and we cordially subscribe to Rudyard Kipling's form of grace: "For what we are about to receive, thank God and the British Navy!"

Periodically we hear from home that people cannot realise that we are holding our own and must win through in the end, and that a despondent spirit is abroad. We out here cannot understand this. Perhaps it is because we are differently situated, and see more of the actual facts. At any rate, I can say this: we are all optimists. We cannot be otherwise. First, the climate conduces to that state of mind. And then there are our boys, the gallant lads who are keenly awaiting marching orders, or who have received their "knock" and are recruiting their strength or healing their wounds. The spirit among them is wonderful, and truly shames one's fears of failure or defeat. The women of England have ever had cause to feel proud of their men, and those to whom the Gallipoli contingents belong may justly carry on that tradition; for though the expedition has so far failed in attaining its objective, it has shown that the old indomitable courageous spirit of the British is as prevalent as ever.

I shall never forget the impression I obtained when the first batch of wounded from Gallipoli arrived at the hospital at which I was working. Not a murmur, not a grumble, not a protest from even the more grievously hurt as they lay about in the most uncomfortable positions, waiting to be checked off and admitted. One's heart bled for these poor fellows, but one felt indescribably proud that such were one's fellow-countrymen. The same applies without exception to all the thousands—Regulars, Colonials, "Terriers," and the New Army—who have since come to Egypt from the Peninsula. Every man-Jack of them exhibited the same hope, determination, and sure confidence in the result, despite the circumstances which might reasonably have been expected to have daunted their courage and broken their spirit. We who have had the privilege—I use that word advisedly—to work amongst and with the men who are fighting on the Gallipoli Peninsula can send a message of hope and comfort to those of our fellow-countrywomen at home less fortunately placed to judge, and can tell them that with a spirit such as that which these men have revealed the British nation need never fear for the result of any aggression on the Empire.

L. M.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
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DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

THE LACK OF A POLICY.

The veil which has been skilfully thrown over the military operations in the Balkans continues to impose a regrettable silence on those who would wish to comment on happenings as they occur. Serbian official communiqués, for reasons obvious to everyone, are conspicuous by their absence, those of the Anglo-French armies are laconic in the highest degree, and as for enemy reports, though verbose, they are not to be relied upon.

The Fall of Monastir.

As was to have been foreseen, the enemy forces captured the town towards the latter part of last week, though formal possession was only taken on Tuesday, the German, Austrian, and Bulgarian flags waving simultaneously over the fallen town. Happily, Colonel Vassitch, whose reputation as a skilful, daring, and obstinate leader has increased a hundredfold, was able to extricate the remnants of his army from the city before it was surrounded, and, instead of retreating southwards into Greece, withdrew westwards in the direction of Ochrida and the Albanian frontier, pursued by detachments of the enemy as far as Resna. Here strong positions were occupied by the Serbs, who could have held out some considerable time had it not been for the advance from the north of a second enemy force, which attempted to cut off Colonel Vassitch's retreat into Albania. Holding on to his position as long as possible, the Serbian commander finally continued his perilous march to the lake of Ochrida, skirted it on the east and north, and continued to Struga, from whence either Albania or Epirus can be easily reached. An unconfirmed report states that a part of Colonel Vassitch's forces retreated into Greece, and from there joined the Allies in South-Eastern Serbia, but we see no reason to place too much faith in the report.

Though the fall of Struga has not been announced, it is quite possible that it has already been captured. The latest official communiqué concerning operations in South-Western Serbia is a Bulgarian statement published in Sofia on Sunday. We reproduce it for what it is worth:—

Sunday.—A column advancing north of Monastir across Smilevo towards the road between Monastir and Resna defeated the Serbians after severe fighting at the Bigla Mountains, and occupied the town of Resna. A column advancing north of Monastir from Kitchevo to Ochrida captured, after a bitter resistance, a strongly fortified position near the villages of Medovo and Mramortze, and is now marching towards Ochrida. A column advancing from Kitchevo towards Dibra, after a sanguinary battle, defeated the Serbians at the watershed which follows the ridges of the Jama Mountains, and occupied towards noon Dibra, from which place our troops are pursuing the enemy in the direction of Struga.

The Vardar Section.

With the possible exception of fighting still going on in and around Struga, the whole of Serbia, exclusive of the lines held by the Anglo-French forces, is in enemy hands, and, from a military point of view, therefore, the country offers no immediate interest, whatever its strategic rôle may be in the future.

This, naturally, does not apply to the Vardar sector, where we are maintaining our hold in the extreme south-western corner of Serbia. The British position is to the north and north-west of Lake Doiran, and extends to the Vardar River, where it links up with the left of the French line, which continues northwards along the Vardar to a point which cannot be accurately determined

The first serious Bulgarian attack against the British line appears to have been made last Friday, says the *Times* in its able summary yesterday. It seems to have had no very definite result. "There are no statements as to what happened on Saturday and Sunday. The Bulgarians were again heard of on Monday, when, from points south of Strumnitza, they bombarded the entire British line. The bombardment was followed by an infantry attack, which the British repulsed. On Tuesday the conflict was resumed, but the public know no details of its character, except the single statement that the British casualties were slight." A Reuter report from Salonika (Tuesday) adds that the weather conditions have improved, but that "it is difficult at present to establish whether the Bulgarians intend pressing the attack, or what their strength is." An official report from Athens (Wednesday) declares, however, that "the Anglo-French troops are continuing their withdrawal towards the Greek frontier," which would mean, obviously, that we are shortening our line in conformity with the shortening of the French line. But are we?

Regarding the French line, it is not known how far north it now reaches. When last reviewing the situation—that is, before the fall of Monastir, it went as far north as the confluence of the Cerna and the Vardar, and nominally held the triangle formed by the two rivers as far south as the great bend of the Cerna towards the west. But from enemy reports it would appear that, after the fall of Monastir and the occupation of the Radobil heights to the west of the Cerna, the French shortened their line, even to the extent of abandoning their camp at Kavadar. This is an operation that calls for little comment, because the holding of the Cerna-Vardar triangle, in view of the occupation by the enemy of the whole of Serbia, and in view, moreover, of our own halting, hesitating policy, is of no immediate consequence. Had our policy been a stronger one, it would have been essential to our future progress in the Balkans to hold this position, admirably flanked as it was by the Doiran line. According to the latest official report (Paris, Wednesday), in the afternoon of December 5 the Bulgarians violently attacked the French bridgehead at Demir Kapu, on the Vardar, but the attack was completely repulsed. Whether the French line extends beyond the bridgehead mentioned—in which case the attack was on its flank—or whether the extreme north of the line does not extend beyond the ravine in question, is at present unknown outside military circles, but, in any case, it is obvious that the Allies still held Demir Kapu on Monday. Why, then, should a British "withdrawal" from the Strumnitza sector occur, considering that the French hold the main line of the Allies *at least* as far north as Demir Kapu? There can be only the two rational answers: either (1) that the enemy have amassed vastly superior forces against the Strumnitza sector, and have obliged us to withdraw, or (2) that the Greek report is untrue. In a day or two we shall doubtless know the truth. In the meantime, however, it may be pointed out that, according to all accepted versions, the bulk of the Austro-German forces has left Serbia for Bulgaria. This movement of troops was, nominally, attributed by Press writers to the reported invasion of Bulgaria by Russian troops. Our own opinion is that Mackensen, if he did lead his troops into Bulgaria, was more intent on leading them against the British in the Doiran sector than on fortifying Rustchuk. Any such concentration of forces in overwhelming numbers along the Struma would be bound to oblige the British troops to withdraw to the Vardar or risk being encircled. Besides, there is the danger that the enemy, penetrating from Monastir southwards into Greece, might cut off our retreat to Salonika—a move which would necessarily compel our immediate withdrawal from Serbia.

The Lack of a Policy.

A rapid summary of the Balkan situation gives the following picture: Serbia ceases to be a military factor—momentarily; Northern Epirus, Albania, and Montenegro harbour a footsore, hungry army in retreat, to whom supplies have to be shipped from Italy through a line of Austrian submarines; the Anglo-French army slowly shortens its lines until Ghevgheli is reached; Greece vacillates, and Roumania wonders; the enemy hastens the reconstruction of the Semlin-Pirot railway, and pushes us further back into an insignificant corner of the Balkan Peninsula. And why? Because we are pursuing a "no-policy" policy, a sort of let's-see-what'll-happen policy, a policy of indecision, vacillation, and hesitation. As the *Times* most rightly says: "We hear of tentative decisions and second thoughts, but we do not yet hear of any policy which is complete, emphatic, and final." In the meantime, and as a result of the foregoing, Austrian submarines hamper the victualling of the Serbian army; Italy looks askance across the Strait of Otranto; Serbs and Montenegrins are being driven into the most inaccessible fastnesses of the Albanian fold; the Franco-British *armée d'Orient* is apparently "withdrawing" to beyond Ghevgheli; Greece trembles on the brink, Roumania debates pros and cons, and the enemy build up, brick by brick, an armed fortress tunnel through the Near East which it will take years to destroy. And all because we have no definite policy, and are lost in a sea of conjecture, knowing not whither we are drifting.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Situation in Persia and Irak. December 7.

Viscount BRYCE asked for information regarding recent military units in the Persian Gulf region and the political situation in Persia. He expressed the opinion that in Persia the situation called for drastic action. In the East, there was nothing like force, and a display of force would be specially valuable because it would react in the West. It was impossible not to feel interest in a people who had done so much in the world as had the Persians, and he hoped that when the war was ended, some tenderness would be shown to the Persian nation.

The Marquess of CREWE said that two misapprehensions had been prevalent regarding the operations in Mesopotamia. There had been some free comment on the impropriety of advancing on a great citadel like Baghdad with only a single division. But the force under General Townshend was considered by the competent authorities to be sufficient in numbers for the task which it had to perform. It seemed to have been concluded that this was mainly a rash military adventure, perhaps undertaken by the General commanding on his own initiative, and not properly thought out, and perhaps not even fully authorized. That was a complete error. This advance on Baghdad was contemplated some months ago, and a sufficient force was collected to carry out the object. The task, however, proved to be a heavier one than had been anticipated owing to the greatly superior forces of the enemy and their powerful armament in artillery. It could not be questioned that the course which was taken—the determination not to attempt to pursue such advantage as had been gained in the actual fight in the neighbourhood of Ctesiphon, but to retire to a strong position lower down the river—was a wise one, and one which ought to be generally approved. Turning to Persia, and the great activity recently shown in that country by German and Turkish agents, he said it was evident that the German agents and the agents of the Committee at Constantinople had both proved skilful at their work, and they had shown themselves kindred spirits alike in principle and in practice. Their object and intention had been to force Persia into the conflict on the side of the Central Powers. Bribery had been freely used on a most lavish scale. In such a country as Persia bribery had to be conducted with actual cash and by the employment of the most dangerous agents that could be found. It must also be remembered that this propaganda had involved an appeal to the most fanatical elements in Persia, and there had been a free use of pretended conversions to the faith of Islam. Our appeal had always been made to rational elements of the Moslem world. These agents' appeals were made to the most ignorant and bigoted members of it. The next stage of the proceedings was the arrival in Persia of armed guards composed largely of Germans. They were assisted by a number of Turks, and formed a nucleus for the bodies of brigands and outlaws who were only too numerous in Persia. Then succeeded the campaign of attempted assassination. It had been evident for some time that the position of Persia as a neutral State was seriously threatened by these events. A new Government was therefore formed at Teheran, containing some stronger elements—men who were determined, if they could, to restore order. As soon as the new Government was formed the German Minister and the Turkish Ambassador fled from Teheran to the south, where they joined the turbulent elements of which he had spoken. In the meantime German intrigue had been busy with the force of gendarmerie which had been raised originally under Swedish officers. When that body was formed it was necessary that it should be officered by men from some country not specially or immediately concerned with Persian affairs or suspected of any ambition to become so. Some of these Swedish soldiers who had taken service under the Persian Government were under a certain degree of control by their own Government; and over these, it was only fair to state, the Swedish Government had always endeavoured to exercise authority and to prevent them engaging in any unneutral acts. Some of the others had not been to the same small extent under the control of their own Government, and it was perhaps scarcely fair to the Swedish Government to speak in general terms of "Swedish" officers. Although the greater number of the gendarmerie revolted there had been cases where they had remained loyal to the Persian Government, and had interfered to prevent riot. He believed it was the genuine desire of the Persian Government to restore order, and it was to assist them to do so that Russian troops were moved nearer to Teheran, which was visibly threatened by the same agencies as had caused the disturbances elsewhere. Even in ordinary times the maintenance of order without some form of foreign intervention, had from time to time been exceedingly difficult. In the main, though there might have been some few of what were called the advanced school in Persia who had been seduced into joining these German-fomented disturbances because they had been told that the Nationalist Party in Persia was favoured thereby, yet that belief did not seem to have sunk very deep. That was not altogether surprising, because it would be too good a joke to associate German domination in a country like Persia with the idea of freedom, and the Persian Government were wise enough to see that it was a more hopeful prospect for them to obtain the support of Britain and Russia than of Germany and Turkey. The presence of the Russian troops in Northern Persia, just like the presence of the British at Bushire, was designed to support the independence of Persia, which it was to our interest to maintain and secure. Our present action might be taken to be a continued effort for the maintenance of that Persian independence. We had already afforded not a little material help to Persia, and, on a proper guarantee, were prepared to continue that assistance. We should also be prepared to assist Persia in securing her own defence, and in the creation and maintenance of a force for home defence less liable to be carried away by foreign interference than the gendarmerie had unhappily, in most cases, proved to be, and less easy preys to foreign intrigue. One had to remember that the fluctuations of events in such a country were frequent, but he did not think there was any need to despair of the future of Persia. They were all tempted to feel a sincere sympathy with the young Sovereign, called at a very early age to the difficult occupation of the Persian Throne. This would be a time of stress and difficulty for the strongest of grown rulers, and therefore infinitely more so for a man of his age. They could only hope that he might rule later on over a well-governed country, and that he might develop such qualities as were necessary for the production of a successful Oriental Sultan.

Lord SYDENHAM, commenting on the operations in Mesopotamia, said that a short time before the advance was made on Ctesiphon a very remarkable *communiqué* came from the German wireless. It said that Baghdad was as good as lost and prepared Germany and Turkey for its fall. To his mind that *communiqué* seemed highly suspicious. Was it intended to lure our forces on to meet a much larger force? When Kut-el-Amara was occupied on September 29 many people were beginning to be rather anxious as to the future of these operations so far away from Busreh, but they all assumed that no advance would be made till large reinforcements had been brought up. What happened was quite evident, and it had happened so often in our past history. Our General, brave as our Generals were, underestimated his enemy, and received information, very likely from German sources, decidedly false, and it may be that the German plan to lure him on succeeded. But there was one very bright spot, General Townshend fought his action with the greatest gallantry at Ctesiphon. He inflicted very heavy losses on that much larger force. That was a very fine feat of arms. Let them remember that this comparatively small force that won this victory was largely composed of Indian troops, who had been more than a year from home and had endured the extreme stress of a summer in Mesopotomia. No tribute could be too strong for these brave men. He thought General Townshend, finding in front of him further reinforcements, was most wise in making a retreat. He saved his force from a very great danger. The speaker hoped we might now assume that the force was perfectly secure, and that reinforcements were being hurried to him from Busreh. Some day he supposed we should know the reasons which permitted this adventure so far from the base. He could understand the political reasons, but he utterly failed to understand the military reasons. He thought we might hope that no further advance would now take place unless a reasonable security of victory lay before us.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Troubles in Persia. December 2.

Sir E. GREY, replying to a question put by Sir E. CORNWALL, said: The conditions prevailing in Southern Persia have for several years been such as to admit of the perpetration of isolated acts of brigandage and revolt, but it was not till this spring that his Majesty's Government received direct evidence that these elements of disorder were being organised and encouraged by German agents in defiance of the Persian Government. The only regular Persian force available at the time for the restoration of order in the provinces was, apart from the gendarmerie, the Cossack Brigade at Tehran, amounting in all to some 2,500 men. A detachment of this brigade was sent to Hamadan in October, but the Persian Government were unable still further to denude the capital by detailing other detachments for the more remote provincial centres. There was no force that could be sent to Shiraz.

The Balkans.

Replying to Mr. LYNCH, who asked whether, before the House rose for the Christmas recess, an opportunity would be given to debate the military and diplomatic dispositions which had led to the present state of affairs in Serbia and the neighbouring parts of the Near East, Mr. ASQUITH said: I will consider, but I can give no undertaking.

Mr. LYNCH: Will the right hon. gentleman consider that the situation of Serbia is becoming worse and worse?

Mr. ASQUITH: All such things are being most carefully considered.

Mr. LYNCH asked the Under-Secretary for War whether he could state the total number of casualties, killed, wounded, or missing, of the Australian troops in the Gallipoli Peninsula since their arrival, and how far their advance line extended beyond the furthest point occupied by them a week after their arrival.

Mr. TENNANT: It is, of course, very undesirable to state, even if it would be possible to do so at all within the limits of a question, the exact position of the lines now held. In the

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Gallipoli Peninsula the Australians (as distinct from the New Zealand forces) have sustained approximately 25,000 casualties since their arrival.

For Troops at the Dardanelles. Dec. 2.

Mr. CATHCART WASON asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he was aware that numbers of parcels for the troops in the Dardanelles had not been delivered, although perfectly addressed; if he was aware that a trusted representative of the New Zealand Government is willing to proceed at his own expense to the Dardanelles with comforts and necessities for the New Zealand forces, and if the Admiralty would afford every facility in their power?

Mr. TENNANT, who replied in writing, says: It is, of course, not sufficient that parcels should be properly addressed; they must also be properly packed, and many have been undeliverable from this cause. A proposal was made that a representative of New Zealand should go out, and a conference at which this point and others might be discussed was proposed. He thought it desirable that such a discussion should take place if it was still wished that a special representative should be sent. He understood that there was already in Egypt an assistant director of postal services belonging to the New Zealand military forces who is charged with the supervision of mails for the New Zealand troops.

Greece and the Entente. Dec. 6.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Sir E. CORNWALL, said that he was not yet in a position to make a statement regarding the position of the Entente Powers and Greece.

The Near Eastern Situation.

Sir H. DALZIEL asked the Prime Minister whether, if he was satisfied that there was a general desire on the part of the House that a Ministerial statement should be made on the war situation in the Near East previous to the adjournment for Christmas, he would accede to the request.

Mr. ASQUITH said that if there were such a general desire as his right hon. friend referred to, it would, of course, secure most respectful consideration.

Lord Kitchener's Mission.

Mr. ASQUITH informed Mr. KING that he was not in a position to give any information as to the results of Lord Kitchener's visit to the Eastern Mediterranean.

The Persian Gendarmerie. Dec. 7.

Mr. DILLON asked whether the Secretary for Foreign Affairs could make any statement on the situation in Persia.

Sir E. GREY: I fear that recent events in Persia have demonstrated that little reliance can be placed in the Persian gendarmerie as a whole, although so far as I am informed, it is only at Shiraz and Hamadan that they have as yet openly defied the Persian Government. The British Consul and some members of the British colony at Shiraz were made prisoners; the Consul at Hamadan has made his way to Kasvin. I am confident, however, that the Persian Cabinet, as at present constituted, are sincerely anxious to restore order, and they have already endeavoured to take effective measures at Hamadan, where, there is reason to believe, German agents have stored a large quantity of arms and war material. The presence of Russian troops between Kasvin and Teheran was necessitated by the danger similar to that at other places which threatened the British and Russian Legations and colonies. The Russian troops have not entered the capital, and the Persian Government have been assured that if they are obliged to do so it will only be to protect Allied life and property. Meanwhile, what measures are possible against the revolted gendarmerie who have committed the acts described above are being taken.

Sir E. GREY, replying to Sir J. Rees, said that the gendarmerie in Persia was not Swedish but Persian, and the officers were of Swedish nationality, but were employed by the Persian Government.

The Interview with King Constantine.

Mr. DILLON asked the Home Secretary whether his attention had been directed to an alleged interview with the King of the Hellenes, published in that day's *Times;* whether the interview was submitted to the Censor before publication; and whether the censorship accepted any responsibility for the authenticity or accuracy of the interview.

Sir J. SIMON: I only had notice of this question after I came into the House, but I have made inquiry by telephone and I understand that the interview was submitted to the Censor, but whether it was submitted or not the responsibility for its authenticity and accuracy, of course, rests with the newspaper. The fact that it was passed gives it no official authority.

Naval Mission to Serbia. Dec. 8.

Mr. MACNAMARA, replying to Sir E. Cornwall, said that the naval mission to Serbia, which was sent to assist the Serbian Army in defence of the frontier of Serbia, appeared to have played a highly creditable part in the resistance offered to the overwhelming Austro-German attack, and then to have accompanied the Serbian Army in its retreat. It was, of course, numerically a very small force, and its disposal must naturally be incidental to the general operations, but it was contemplated to retain touch with the Serbian forces so long as its services could be of use.

British Minister at Sofia.

Sir E. GREY, replying to Sir R. Cooper, said that his Majesty's Minister at Sofia was given leave of absence and left on July 9. The diplomatic negotiations in progress at that time had reached a stage when a change in the person of our representative was considered desirable.

Refugees from Serbia.

Mr. ALDEN asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs if he had any information regarding the condition of the Serbian refugees in Montenegro and Albania, and especially if he could say whether food supplies had yet reached them; and whether he was in a position to make a statement on the subject.

Sir E. GREY: Information is as yet necessarily vague, as the Serbian refugees have not penetrated far enough through the mountains for his Majesty's representatives to be able to report definitely on their numbers or conditions. Two representatives of the Serbian Relief Committee are, however, I believe, now in Montenegro and their report will, I hope, throw further light on the situation. At present our latest information is that there are 10,000 refugees on the road from Ipek to Podgoritza. I am not in a position to make any statement on the subject except that his Majesty's Government are doing all they can to help the Serbian people.

The Tigris Fighting.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, answering Sir E. Cornwall, said: The casualties in the fight at and about Ctesiphon were, as already announced, 4,567. These include 643 killed, 3,330 wounded, and 594 not yet accounted for. I have not yet received details as to the distribution of the losses in the retreat, but the total, according to my present information, is under 300. Reinforcements were ordered before the advance on Ctesiphon was begun, and some of them have already arrived. I cannot say when the full report will be received from the General Officer in command. In the communications issued I have endeavoured to give as full an account of the recent operations as military exigencies would allow, and I cannot add anything further. But I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my admiration for the fine military qualities shown by the troops, both British and Indian, in the heavy fighting in which they were engaged in the withdrawal before superior forces. The House will be glad to know that General Sir J. Nixon reports that the condition of the wounded is very satisfactory, and that the medical arrangements worked well under circumstances which must have been of very considerable difficulty.

Prisoners of War in Turkey.

Replying to Mr. AINSWORTH, who asked about the British officers officially reported as missing as a result of the Dardanelles operations, Mr. TENNANT says:—"The total number of British and Colonial officers officially reported by the Turkish Government as prisoners of war up to date is twelve, but the names of some others beyond these twelve have been received through the Red Crescent or as the result of private inquiry by the American Ambassador.'

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

King Constantine.

We take the following extracts of opinion from various daily papers concerning the interviews which have been accorded to Pressmen by the King of Greece during the past week.

The Times (December 7), in a leading article on the interview given by the King to its Special Correspondent, says:—

We do not by any means agree with all his contentions. From some of them, indeed, we very strongly dissent. But we believe that a certain accent of sincerity will be recognized by many in this explanation and defence of the King's conduct, and that all will judge them to be more effective than any made for it by others. In all quarters, we are confident, they will meet with the consideration and respect to which the exalted rank of their author entitles them.

This paper, while refraining from discussion of the main points raised by King Constantine, conscious that his Majesty was on "delicate ground" in describing the Dardanelles attack as a "gamble," concedes that there is truth in the statement that our Balkan policy has not been "at any time a very definite one."

On the other hand, his defence of Greece for refusing to fulfil her treaty obligations to Serbia, and his inquiry what adequate assistance Greece could have given to her ally, add nothing to the singularly feeble explanations put forward by his present advisers.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* (December 7) regards the defence offered by the King as neither "very candid nor very kingly," and continues:—

We can best appraise the quality of his Hellenic Majesty by comparing his record with that of the Sovereign of another small State, whose fortunes he cited to his interviewer. "The pitiable condition of Belgium was always before his eyes. . . . At all costs his Majesty's desire was to keep his country from sharing the perils and disasters of the great European conflagration." That is to say that King Constantine, unlike King Albert, confesses himself cowed by German "frightfulness." He has no liking for the path of duty when it may lead to sacrifice or suffering. . . . Belgium has chosen defiance of the Hun, while Greece has been induced to make him a servile obeisance. The one marches with "the van and the freemen"; the other sinks to "the rear and the slaves."

The *Westminster Gazette* (December 7), on the other hand, accepts the King's assurance of affection for England with sincere satisfaction, and thinks that a

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man who talks as he does of the horrors of Belgium and Serbia, "is not likely to feel a warm affection for German militarism." Turning to his Majesty's comment regarding the indefiniteness of our Balkan policy, the paper adds:—

We are obliged to say that the chief element of uncertainty was the attitude of Greece herself. If we look only at the last phase, the Allies went to Greece at the invitation of the Greek Prime Minister, and in the belief that the mobilization of the Greek army was the first step to a joint campaign for the relief of Serbia. When M. Venizelos fell, and the mobilized Greek army became a force for protecting Greek neutrality against all who threatened it, the original plan necessarily had to be modified.

The *Gazette* advocates a frank appeal to the generosity of the Greek King and people:—

Whatever may be the strict interpretation of the Treaty of Bucharest, they must feel that they owe something to the Serbians, who have fought the battle of Balkan liberty single-handed. In proportion as they have chosen the safer course for themselves, they must perceive that there is a moral claim on them not to hinder those who are trying to render to Serbia the assistance which they were unable to give. They can scarcely forget that, while they disclaim the obligations which their treaty with Serbia appeared to lay upon them, they still retain the advantages which it secured to them, including some territory which is greatly coveted by the Central Powers.

The *Evening News* (December 7) admits the justice of the King's demand for a clearly defined Balkan policy on the part of the Allies, and sums up its leading article in the paragraphs quoted below:—

Finally, we must remember that King Constantine has virtually torn up the Greek constitution in order to carry out his own policy, and that M. Venizelos, disheartened by the prospect of a general election when most of his supporters are with the mobilized army, has practically retired with his party from the fight for the time being.

Also that the aid which Greece swore to give Serbia if she were attacked by Bulgaria has been withheld on the ground that Bulgaria has the Huns behind her, and that Greece might get hurt if she intervened.

All these things should help us to a true appreciation of Greek friendship and its worth, and we may be sure that the British Government will not attempt to strain it unduly. We have got to rely on ourselves, and on ourselves alone.

Enemies' Lengthening Lines.

The *Fortnightly Review* (December), in its "History of the War," shows that the enemies' invasion of Serbia, successful though it has been in one way, is by no means without its element of subsequent danger to the Central Empires:—

The extension of the belligerent area was an imperative necessity for both Germany and Austria-Hungary, who are feeling the economic "pinch of war" with increased intensity every month; but it is not all to the good, for the 1,200-mile battle front has been lengthened out by something like another 600 miles, for the defence of which the Germans are now responsible. They have gained, it is true, a new ally in Bulgaria, but this does not alter the fact that they have added to their vulnerability, and increased the opportunities for attack by their enemies.

The writer includes an interesting survey of the various lines of attack, which might, in certain circumstances be open to the Allies, and emphasises the importance of Cattaro.

The Gulf of Cattaro is one of the finest inland harbours in the world, but is still in Austrian possession, being defended by forts and mines at its entrance into the Adriatic and by a group of powerful forts defending the approach to the town of Cattaro by the road which descends to the harbour from the Montenegrin heights. The forts, which are commanded from these heights, could be demolished by high-explosive howitzer fire if the Montenegrins had any available, but their field artillery is of obsolete pattern, and they have not heavy artillery at all. If the Allies can gain possession of Cattaro harbour, they will have an unrivalled sea base available for any ulterior operations they may undertake for the reconquest of Old Serbia. There is an excellent post road from Cattaro to Cettinje, and thence through Kolasin into Lim Valley.

Special emphasis is laid upon the necessity for intimate co-operation between *all* the Allies in their Balkan operations.

The Retreat from Baghdad.

The check sustained by our forces in Mesopotamia has extracted editorial comment from almost all sections of the Press in England, and the unanimity with which papers of all shades of opinion agree to postpone all judgment constitutes a very high tribute to the generalship with which the campaign has been conducted. The *Manchester Guardian* (December 6), in a leading article, says:—

We shall, of course, go back to Baghdad. But our estimates will have to be revised, and, when we return, it will be, no doubt, with an army largely reinforced, which will carry to a successful end what has been, until this unhappy reverse, a brilliant campaign.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* urges energetic action and an unsparing use of our resources in the East to overcome the check, and continues:

The distance for which the British force has been withdrawn need not be taken as a measure of the reverse that has befallen it. There are only certain positions suitable for fixed stations along the Tigris, and when General Townshend decided that he must evacuate the vicinity of the late fighting, his withdrawal as far as Kul-el-Amara almost inevitably followed. In such a case a retreat of eighty miles may signify no more than one of eight. The distance is determined by geographical and not by military factors.

The *Western Mail* thinks that—

It is important that the loss just suffered should be retrieved, for the sake not merely of the military considerations involved, but for fear of moral and political mischief in Arabia and Persia and in the protected settlements along the coast from Aden to Mohammerah.

The *Birmingham Daily Post*, while not attempting to minimise the effect of the retreat, says:—

Since Sir John Nixon joined the Mesopotamian force in April the campaign has been brilliantly conducted; and nobody is going to be so foolish as to criticize him merely because he has suffered a check.

The *Scotsman* refers to it as a "disappointing incident in an uncompleted and hitherto brilliant campaign."

The *Daily Chronicle* says:—

The Mesopotamian front can be reinforced so much more easily and quickly from India than from Constantinople that the situation should be thoroughly retrieved if the Indian Government takes prompt action.

Balkan Operations.

The Special Correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* (December 7), in a dispatch from Rotterdam, gives some interesting information concerning the manner in which the Balkan operations are being regarded by our enemies. According to this writer the correspondent of the *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant* at Sofia has contributed to his paper a dispatch which shows the Bulgarians to be far from satisfied at the present position of affairs.

The writer points out that, notwithstanding the extent of the military successes obtained within the short period of a six weeks campaign, there is amongst the inhabitants of Sofia a lack of rejoicing and, on the contrary, querulous grumblings and not a little depression. "They had expected their gains to come more easily, more quickly, and with less sacrifices."

The Serbian campaign was popular, but to fight the French and the English is a different matter.

Many people in this country are of opinion that the fighting against the French and English is not the real task for Bulgarians, and that the former's intervention against them is only due to their association with the Central Powers. Therefore, they argue, the expulsion of the French and English expedition from the peninsula should really be left to the Austro-Germans. Since Bulgaria has had to take such an active part in subjugating Serbia in order to open the road of communication necessary to the Central Powers and Turks, and has had to conquer Macedonia for itself, its taking part in the war must be considered to have finished with that, and the question is here more and more what all these Germans and Austrian military, who for some days latterly have been swarming over the country, are really doing there if they are not intended to hunt out intruders and to take this task over from the Bulgarians.

Roumania's Attitude.

"Politicus," writing in the *Fortnightly Review* (December), studies the problem of Roumanian intervention from the point of view of that country herself. The first portion of the article is mainly historical, and shows the gradual evolution of events that has left Roumania in the form and position she occupies to-day. Coming over to the immediate question of the present war, the writer says:—

The reason why Roumania does not desire to fight for Austria is obvious to all who are acquainted with Roumania's legitimate ambitions. Roumania wishes to remain independent. She does not desire to be absorbed by Russia, but she desires as little to become an Austrian Province. German and Austrian rulers and statesmen may promise her internal self-government under the Austrian crown. They may tell the Roumanians that all the Roumanians will, with their help, be united under the Roumanian flag, provided that Roumania will consent to merge herself in the Dual Monarchy. However, incorporated in the realm of the Hapsburgs, Roumania may become not another Bavaria, but another Bohemia. The Roumanians know that the Austrian Empire is based not on freedom, but on persecution. . . . Besides, they have before them the warning example of the 3,500,000 Roumanians who dwell in Austria-Hungary, and who live under a modified form of slavery.

The writer shows that Magyars will naturally resist the creation of a united Roumania, as such a union is regarded as an abomination, both for political and strategical reasons, by all Magyar patriots. There are

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possibilities of a great future for Roumania if her vast resources are adequately exploited:—

Clear-sighted Roumanians recognize that the future of Roumania depends upon the issue of this war, that they have everything to hope from the victory of the Entente Powers and everything to fear from the triumph of Germany and Austria-Hungary. It is true that the two Central Empires at the beginning of the war promised Roumania in return for her help vast territories in the East, including not only Russian Bessarabia, but even Odessa. However, it is clear that if Germany and Austria should keep faith with Roumania, that country would at best become dependent upon the two Empires for her existence. Besides, it is doubtful whether the two Empires would keep faith. They consider that Roumania has betrayed them by not only refusing to come to the aid of Germany and Austria-Hungary at the outbreak of the war, but by adopting an attitude favourable to the Entente Powers. They would no doubt welcome Roumania's adherence for the time being, but would probably adjourn her punishment to a more convenient season. They would most likely make use of Roumania in exactly the same way in which Napoleon made use of Prussia before 1806.

An examination of the various resources of the belligerents is followed by the paragraph we quote below:—

Before long the initial inferiority of the Entente in soldiers, arms, and ammunition will be converted into an overwhelming superiority. The day of reckoning seems close at hand. In the interest of Roumania it is to be hoped that she will have taken the great step which should determine her future before it is too late. Roumania's future would be compromised, perhaps irretrievably, should she be told at the critical moment: "You have waited too long. We need you no longer. You have remained neutral so far. Now your help is not wanted. Our military arrangements are complete, and so are our political ones."

Persian Sketches.

Mr. John Foster Fraser, writing under the above heading in the *Standard* (December 1), has produced an article bristling with paragraphs which cry aloud for quotation. As, however, our space is limited, we confine ourselves to quoting the last paragraph of all which will be seen to entirely endorse the views concerning German intrigue in Persia, which we have consistently expressed in THE NEAR EAST.

Time was, and not so very long ago, when British influence was exercised practically throughout the whole of Persia. In Teheran it was believed that there was only one foreign country—England. But Russian influence began to extend southwards from the Araxes River to Tabriz; then to the capital itself, and ultimately to Isfahan. For the last quarter of a century the Teutonic commercial man has been pressing his foot, his knee, and ultimately his whole figure into Persia. I have met him clambering the Kotals, the five ridges of rock-strewn hills lying between Bushire, in the Persian Gulf, and Shiraz. Next came the Consuls, ostensibly to give an eye to German trade, but really to stick spokes in the wheel of British interests in that part. Every German Consul was and is an intriguer. His main business was to create dissension between the British and Persian authorities. The Englishmen in Persia were aware of what was going on. Occasionally a stray traveller would take it upon himself to warn the British Government of what was happening, but he generally got snubbed for his pains, was reminded that Germany was a friendly Power, and that he was foolish for being an alarmist. Anyway, British influence has considerably shrunk within the last 20 years, and what is happening now is one of the consequences of our neglect and shortsightedness.

West and East.

In its weekly digest of the events and possibilities of the war, the *Observer* (December 5) insists upon the necessity for strong and concerted action on the part of the Allies in the Balkans. Men in increased numbers will be required of England—we must throw new legions into the Balkans while maintaining our full quota of strength on the Western front.

There can be no escape from this. If we thought to escape from it by weakness in the Balkans and by merely defensive efforts in Egypt or elsewhere we should be rudely awakened before six months were out to a sense of our error, and would have to pay for it at compound interest with still more men and still more money.

Any faltering now, any withdrawal of force would drive Roumania to intervene against us instead of for us, and might give the enemy the command of the Black Sea.

The enemy wants the Allies to abandon the Balkans so that the Germans may gain Roumania and the best possible freedom and facilities for dealing with the coming Russian offensive. The Germans undoubtedly think this the vital point in their whole problem. If they can fight out another nine or twelve months in the East without such reverses and disasters as would fatally weaken them all round, they believe that for as long a period they can keep their lines unbroken in the West. That is the state of the enemy's mind, and we shall do well, indeed, to reckon with it. The extreme "Western school" which cannot see Europe for Flanders advocates in effect abandonment of the Balkans, and between the North Sea and the Vosges attack at any price with every man and gun France and Britain can muster, and without regard to the only real main aim—that of securing in three months or so from now the full simultaneous and reciprocal effect of the Russian offensive. The programme of the extreme Westerners fits in, it will be seen, to a nicety with the enemy's own programme. It is just what the Germans want.

The writer, after dealing with the bearing which the Balkan campaign has upon the Germanic designs upon Egypt and India, concludes in the paragraph which we quote below:—

The policy of "the Balkans First" is not only the best and surest for both the British and the Russian Empires, but by promoting the offensive plans of our Eastern Allies, and thwarting the enemy's counter-plans, it would be the surest means of accelerating, after a little initial delay, the crowning triumph of the Allies, even in the West.

Articles to Note.

"With Machine Guns in Gallipoli, II." By Commander Wedgwood, in the *Westminster Gazette* (December 7).

"Harbour and Coast Defence Works at Alexandria, Egypt." By David Ernest Lloyd-Davies, in the *Surveyor* (December 3).

"Some Aspects of Asiatic Turkey." By D. Carruthers, in *Country Life* (December 4).

"Serbia." By Ellinor F. B. Grogan, in the *Englishwoman* (December).

"Greece and the Allies." By Dr. E. J. Dillon, in the *Contemporary Review* (December).

"Montenegro, Britain's Smallest Ally," by Alder Anderson (Illustrated), in the *Ladies' Field* (December 4).

A BISHOP IN MESOPOTAMIA

The Bishop of Lahore (the Right Rev. H. B. Durrant, D.D.), whose diocese includes the Persian Gulf, has lately concluded a visit to the troops of our Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, and has returned to India. How much his presence amongst them was appreciated by the troops is shown by the following letter written by an officer of the Indian Army, apparently shortly before the Battle of Ctesiphon, and published in the *Morning Post* of November 27. The *Morning Post* heads the letter "A Noble Bishop," and we feel sure that our readers will consider the title fully justified. The writer says:—

The Bishop of Lahore is with us (our most advanced position), and the great man and his two chaplains are amongst us, living as we do and sharing our discomforts. It is very noble of him to come, as he is an oldish man, and I need hardly say how much we all appreciate his devotion. We shall, all of us, be in battle before long, and the Bishop and his men are here to see us through with it. It is grand of them, and their presence will be of the greatest help to us, especially to the sick and wounded. There is Holy Communion every morning at seven o'clock, so that some time during the next week everyone will probably get a chance of attending.

Last evening we had service at six o'clock, just as the sun set, and a nearly full moon rose in the sky. It was a wonderful service, the men in shirt sleeves, with their rifles beside them, on three sides of a square, with the officers on the fourth side, and slightly in advance; the Bishop and his chaplains in the centre of the square, with the Union Jack draped over some planks to make an altar. Save that an aeroplane hovered round and swooped down like a great bird returning to earth to rest, the endless buzz close by, and from the outposts the signal lights flashing across to headquarters, the camp might have been at Evening Service in peace time. Our thoughts went far from war as we sang the old hymns and listened to one of the finest sermons I ever heard—most inspiring, simple, and eloquent: a sermon that the slowest witted of the men could understand. The old man, with his hands lifted up in the moonlight, took us out of ourselves back amongst our own families and our own people, to our towns and village homes. He made us see the privilege of fighting in this war, fighting with God, for God; and he made us feel that death was nothing, a mere glorious entry amongst the hosts of the Lord and His Elect.

He has visited the scenes of all our battles, consecrating the cemeteries and burying places, and lonely graves of those who have fallen on our long line of advance. The difficulties and hardships and risks he must have experienced and been subject to have been very great; but he has done all this, and surely no man could have done more, for our dead and living.

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received the following official telegram:—On the 4th instant, the Austrians vigorously attacked our positions on the left bank of the Tchehotina, but were repulsed, leaving a considerable number of prisoners in our hands. Further assaults made in the vicinity of Brodarevo, Sienitza, and Biclopolie were also repelled with heavy loss to the enemy. Nothing of importance on other fronts.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The reports of three Near Eastern companies have been published during the past week, namely, those of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, the Khedivial Mail Line, and the Imperial Bank of Persia. Little is to be gathered from the last two named reports, and the respective meetings will, therefore, be awaited with considerable interest. In the case of the Khedivial, the available balance is £28,632, out of which the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 5 per cent. on the Ordinary shares, leaving £12,637 to be carried forward. Last year no dividend was paid on the Ordinary shares, and only 2¾ per cent. on the five-and-a-half per cent. Preference shares, but in 1912-13 the Ordinary shares also received 5 per cent., this being the first distribution since 1907.

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Regarding the Imperial Bank of Persia, for each of the three years to September 20, 1913, 10s. per share was paid on the Ordinary shares of the Imperial Bank of Persia; but twelve months ago the rate was lowered to 8s., and it is now proposed to make up the distribution for the past financial period to 6s. per share. Net profits for the year show a decrease of only £5,467 which, in view of the very exceptional state of affairs in Persia, and the great drop in trade is not to be wondered at. The report refers with much regret to the retirement of Lord Inchcape from the Board, owing to the pressure on his time by public engagements as well as his duties as Chairman of the P. and O. Steamship Company.

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Of paramount interest at the present time is the report of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. This is mainly owing to the close proximity of the company's fields to our operations in Mesopotamia, and on the Persian border. Necessarily the disturbances at the head of the Persian Gulf during the year have affected the working capacity of the company, the more so considering that "a small portion" of the Pipe Line was damaged by local Persian tribesmen last February, rendering the transport of oil impracticable for a period of 4½ months, and suspending refining operations for about a corresponding period. Nevertheless, the various extensions for which capital has been provided by the British Government are being proceeded with as expeditiously as possible, though the laying of the additional Pipe Line has been considerably delayed. These *contretemps* have given the critics of the Government scheme—whereby the British people took a direct pecuniary interest in the exploitation of the Company's concession—an excuse for inveighing against the whole undertaking. Happily, the number of these critics is decreasing, whilst, moreover, it is generally recognised that the past year is not a criterion to go by. Further, we can take it for granted that the end of the war will see our position in the Middle East strengthened to such a degree that the future smooth working of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's concession will be guaranteed.

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It is announced that from April 1 next the transit dues for loaded ships passing through the Suez Canal are to be raised from 6f. 25c. to 6f. 75c. per ton, and for ships in ballast from 3f. 75c. to 4f. 25c. per ton. The dues will thus be brought back to the rates in force before January 1, 1913, since which date there has been a steady reduction. Lord Inchcape, referring to the increase at the meeting of the P. and O. held on Wednesday, said:—"The advance of the Suez Canal Company's receipts has been checked by the war. In that company's prosperity the shipowners hitherto have shared, advances in the rate of dividend having been accompanied by reductions in dues. For the year 1914 the Suez Canal dividend had to be reduced by 45f. per share, but the shareholders accepted the reduction uncomplainingly, and the dues were not increased. For 1915 the reduced dividend will again operate, and it can only be maintained at the 1914 rate by wiping out the reserve set aside in the previous year. For 1916 the outlook is not bright, and the Canal Company propose to raise their charge by 50c. per ton from April 1 next—that is, from 6f. 25c. to 6f. 75c. per ton. If the traffic decreases further we may have to face another rise, but if the traffic does not further decrease, or improves, as we hope it may, the 6f. 75c. rate should remain. When normal conditions return we hope the Canal Company will be able to revert to the 6f. 25c. rate, and we look forward to a gradual reduction from that figure to the 5f. which we trust may be ultimately established."

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In connection with the announcement published elsewhere regarding the production of drugs obtained from sources within the Empire, I read in the American consular reports that the U.S. Consul General in Cairo recently received from a firm of manufacturing chemists an inquiry for a sample of musenna bark (Albizzia anthelmintica) which the firm stated was indigenous to Kordofan. Upon application to the Sudan Government, the Consul General received samples from the Director of the Commercial Intelligence branch of the Government at Khartoum, and was informed that, as far as known, there was no existing trade in this product, but that if any demand for it appeared to be likely (which I trust will be the case) he would endeavour to arrange for a supply of the bark.

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I read an announcement to the effect that it is proposed by the recently formed British Chamber of Commerce in Morocco to establish a room in the Chamber's offices at Tangier for the display of samples of British goods. Full particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, British Chamber of Commerce, Tangier, Morocco. Needless to say, I am heartily in favour of the scheme, and applaud the energy of the Secretary in thus adopting a policy which should have been in general practice in all Mediterranean and Near Eastern countries years ago. I remember, within recent years, two attempts that were made to exhibit British samples in the Eastern Mediterranean, and both were doomed owing, simply and solely, to the indifference, not to say apathetic antagonism, of leading British exporters. It is sincerely to be hoped that the Tangier scheme will be successful, and that, after the war, the principle involved will be generally applied in Near Eastern and Balkan countries.

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If I may offer a suggestion, it is essential that the Chamber should indicate what class of exhibits are wanted—in other words, what articles would be successful. For Morocco, for instance, high-class stationery is useless, also egg-cups of the size usually seen in England, where eggs are large. Such articles would gain nothing by being exhibited, and would only take up space that might be better served. What we must exhibit are such articles as will appeal to the requirements and customs of the natives. We must accommodate our output to their taste, and not attempt to educate their tastes to suit our output. If, for instance, the Continental, thin-soled, pointed footwear appeals to the prospective customer, give it to him, instead of trying to persuade him that the thick-soled, pug-nosed boot is a superior article. While we are arguing with him or attempting to persuade him that the salvation of his feet depends on the adoption of our own peculiar fashions, the foreign rival steps in and sells him just what he wants, books further orders, and lays the foundations of an almost unassailable trade. A palpable deduction from the foregoing remarks is that the samples exhibited in Timbuctoo, for instance, with great success may turn out to be a disastrous failure in Erzerum.

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Some time ago I praised the initiative shown by Messrs. J. Compton and Sons in opening a clothing factory in Shubra, Cairo, and hastened to predict a great success for the enterprising firm. A recent *Official Journal* contains an announcement of the result of an adjudication for the supply of khaki uniforms for the Egyptian State Railways. According to this, "Nineteen offers were received, and the order has been placed with Messrs. J. Compton and Sons, Shubra, Cairo, for the supply of 5,000 uniforms required for the summer of 1916 only, at the price of 475 milliemes per uniform complete with buttons, delivered free into the Central Stores of the Administration at Bulac, Cairo." I congratulate the firm on its initial success and hope that, now that the lead has been given, British manufacturing firms of all kinds will follow suit.

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Roumania is at the moment busy with her munition problems. According to a report published in Paris, a Royal Decree has been issued establishing a special department for munitions and war supplies to work in co-ordination with the Ministry for War. The new department will comprise a director of war material, a director of military establishments, and a director of provisions and general war supplies. A number of consulting commissioners, officers, and specialists will also be embodied in the personnel of the department. Another despatch quoted by the Central News Agency states that the Roumanian Commission which was sent to Petrograd to negotiate an agreement with Russia relative to the transit across Russian territory of munitions and merchandise destined for Roumania has telegraphed to the Minister for War that Russia has accorded all the facilities asked for, and that orders have also been given for the fitting out and enlargement of the port of Kola, where the expected munitions will arrive. Transports, however, will not be able to begin operations before the end of December.

COMMENTATOR.

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Cyprus Blue Book.

A Disappointing Report.

(SPECIAL TO "THE NEAR EAST.")

Interesting as the British administration of Cyprus has been from many points of view, it can hardly be said that the development of its resources has been hitherto such as to fulfil the expectations formed in the early years of our occupation. Much, no doubt, has been done for which the people have to be thankful. Full allowance, too, must be made for many serious obstacles to progress, including the exhaustive burden of the annual Turkish tribute of over £92,000 and the conditional nature of our tenure, which have so heavily handicapped the local Government. Recent events, moreover, may seem now to justify the rigid economy with which the island has been administered. But looking back over a period of thirty-seven years, during which British officials have carried out their depressing and uphill work, one cannot but feel that the record is not altogether satisfactory, having regard to the very backward state of things that still prevails, especially in matters appertaining to agriculture, which is the life of the island.

A perusal of the High Commissioner's recent report on the Blue Book for 1914-15—to which one might turn with unusual interest—does not dispel the feeling. It is, of course, too early to look for any immediate advantage from the recent change of status, the news of which, we are told, was received with enthusiasm in Cyprus. "The annexation," says the report, "created a new situation, but in practice the results were but little felt." Ottoman subjects became British subjects: "only a few, and those chance visitors, elected to retain their Ottoman nationality," and they were required to leave the island. The proclamation of martial law in no way "impeded the normal liberties of the general public." The war naturally caused some dislocation of trade. It interfered, it appears, with the mining industry, and "the progress of several promising concerns," with prospecting for oil, with applications for registration of trade marks, and with various other local interests.

Feeling of Uncertainty.

It has always been imagined that when the island became a British possession, the drawbacks which were inseparable from our previously embarrassing position would disappear, and that the island would make a fresh start on the road to prosperity. It may still be hoped that this era will arrive. Unfortunately, however, as a consequence of the recent conditional offer to Greece—which took people by surprise almost as much as did the original occupation—a new feeling of unrest and uncertainty has been created, and this will tend to prolong the period of stagnation.

But to return to the report. It is the sections dealing with agriculture and the forests that claim most attention. As regards husbandry, one is struck by the large number of insect and other pests that afflict the distressful island. "Every year, crop after crop suffers from one or other of these pests, and the already small profits of farmers and gardeners undergo a serious reduction." The only important foe to agriculture which has been effectively dealt with by means of adequate expenditure—covered by taxation—is the locust. Sir Hamilton Lang believed that this pest had been exterminated under Said Pasha, a few years before the British occupation; but he was mistaken. Very soon after that event formidable swarms again developed under favourable conditions. Measures taken under Sir Robert Biddulph led to a long and costly campaign, which has been maintained to the present time. In 1887, Mr. S. Brown, M.I.C.E., then Government Engineer, who was in charge of operations, thought that the locusts had been reduced to a negligible quantity; but he, too, was mistaken. The plague was soon renewed. This year, in addition to the indigenous plague, fresh invasions of another formidable species have taken place, as in Egypt, from the Syrian mainland.

It would certainly be interesting, both at home and in countries invaded by this scourge, to have some information regarding the results of the campaign in the year under review. During the locust war in Cyprus, all known methods of attack have been employed—viz., traps and screens (*i.e.*, the "Mattei" system), collection of eggs, collection of the insects, and spraying with poison. We do not seem to have arrived at definite conclusions as to what mode of warfare is really the most effective. The direction has been assigned to various Departments in turn—Police, Forest, Revenue, Agriculture, etc.—always under zealous and capable officers. Not a word is said on this important subject in the report; and one can only regard this as a regrettable omission.

Viticulture.

Then, as regards vines and wine manufacture. It was always hoped that substantial progress would be made in the village manufacture of wines, and some firms, British and native, have taken up the matter on a larger and improved scale. Little advance has, however, been made. Two or three years ago, Sir Alan Burgoyne observed, if we remember rightly, that so little consideration was given to this industry in Cyprus, that it was not even mentioned in the annual reports of the High Commissioner.

The principal trouble with the island vines—though there are other minor pests—is due to the spread of mildew (*oïdium Tuckeri*). For twenty or more years the Government has impressed upon the people the need of sulphuring their vines. Full instructions have been given, orally and by leaflets, as to the modes of applying a first, second, and when necessary a third spraying of the vines. Large quantities of sulphur are imported by the Government and sold, at about cost price, at the ports, and in late years at central village depôts. Bellows and appliances for sulphuring have been made and sold at cost price. The result of all the efforts made have, however, been extremely disappointing, with the consequence that the evil continues to spread; and that those who take steps to protect their vines are liable to suffer from the negligence or apathy of those who do not. This being so, many merchant landowners and village cultivators consider that sulphuring should be made obligatory, and that to meet the cost of carrying out an enactment for that purpose a tax should be imposed, not on the whole island, as is done in the case of locusts (though this would involve no injustice), but on the landowners in the vine areas. The majority of the cultivators would probably welcome such a measure, which would only be unpopular with a negligible minority. So far the Government and Legislative Council have shown no disposition to take this course; and we have the annual expression of a pious hope that villagers will learn wisdom.

Cotton.

It would be of interest to know what advance, if any, is being made in cotton cultivation, for which Professor Wyndham Dunstan reported, about ten years ago, that so much might be done in Cyprus. The only reference to the subject appears to be under the head of Public Works, where it is said, in connection with the storage reservoirs, that while "1,543 acres were watered for cotton, the actual area of land under the crop was 675 acres. On the whole the crops did well, and it may be considered that cotton cultivation is now firmly established, and will always be profitable when there is sufficient water available."

Some reference to tobacco-growing would also have been welcome, but it is not referred to.

As regards chemical manures, which are coming into use, it is said that "no article of commerce is more systematically adulterated during the course of handling," before reaching the consumer, and that it will probably be necessary to impose regulations to safeguard him from fraud. Let us hope that measures for controlling the trade will be adopted. On the whole the agricultural outlook is apparently not so encouraging as might be hoped.

Forestry.

The section on forests leaves in the mind a similar feeling of disappointment—not by any means owing to the falling off of revenue of nearly £1,000—due to "the war and agricultural depression," but from other circumstances which the report proceeds to describe.

Over 70,000 trees were destroyed in the year by seventy forest fires. Taking the estimate that damage from this source (over about 40,000 acres) in the last twenty-nine years amounted to £118,755, the total losses since the occupation must have been well over £150,000. The annual damage from fires is computed as £4,095; and as the amount spent on plantations during the year under notice was £4,274, "only a little more than the estimated annual value of forests destroyed is being replaced." Having regard to the very slow growth of forest trees, the need of further expenditure on reafforestation, so strongly advocated by the best authorities, seems manifest.

There was a decrease in sales of timber of £934, due to the causes already mentioned, but there is every prospect of a large revenue in the current year, "as the supplies of timber from Asia Minor and Trieste are cut off by the war and the island is thrown on its own resources." This apparent contradiction seems to call for some explanation.

Goats.

The section concludes with the following statement respecting goats: "There are some 250,000 goats in the island, and the damage done each year by each goat is estimated as amounting to not less than ten shillings. Consequently the damage done by the goats may be estimated at not less than £125,000 every year, a sum probably exceeding the total value of the goats themselves. Last year there were grazing in the forests 50,730 goats, and the damage done by them in eating down forest growth, seedlings, etc., is estimated at £25,000. This tends to show that the sooner the goat is exterminated from Cyprus the better it will be for the prosperity of the island, which depends so much on its forests, its agriculture, and its arboriculture." The conclusion to be drawn would seem to be that no time should be lost in gradually banishing goats from the island by judicious legislation, the application of which should not encounter greater difficulties than in other countries in which similar action has been found necessary. The argument against such a measure is that the Cypriot makes use of the goat for a variety of purposes, for cheese, for meat, and on account of the skin. As regards the use of the skin for transport of wine, the sooner this custom is superseded the better.

Of the zeal of officials in Cyprus there is no question. What appears to be required is a more liberal encouragement of local effort by the Imperial Government, accompanied by strictly practical legislation, that will meet the particular requirements of the people as they are. Poverty and ignorance still prevail, and the indebtedness of the rural classes is a lamentable evil. The report concludes with the hope that the "Co-operative Credit Societies Law," of 1914, will become a means of rescuing the peasantry from the grip of the usurer, who at present holds far too prominent a place in the island community." Such emancipation is indeed a *sine qua non* of agricultural progress in the island.

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Alexandria Prize Court.

S.S. Marquis Bacquehem (ex cargo).

His Honour Judge Grain has handed from the Supreme Court, Alexandria, Sitting in Prize, the following judgment in the case of the s.s. Marquis Bacquehem. The facts are set forth in the judgment:—

This cargo consists of bales of cotton shipped by Messrs. Ralli Brothers from Karachi on board the s.s. Marquis Bacquehem on or about July 28. As the conditions of sales differ to a certain extent it is convenient to divide them into two lots "A" and "B."

The "A" consignment consists of: 1,098 bales of cotton consigned to Vereinigte Osterreichische Textilindustrie Co. at Vienna and 221 bales consigned to Ludwig Weiss, Vienna.

The "B" consignment consists of: 2,152 bales of cotton consigned to the Ungarische Textilindustrie Co., Vienna, and 1,097 to the Pottenderfer Bauwollspinnerei Co., Pottendorf.

The Procurator asks for condemnation of this cargo on the ground that the property in it has passed to the Austrian firms on the contract of sale; and that Ralli Brothers have retained no right of disposal in the goods under the above conditions of sale, but have merely got a lien on them and are, therefore, no better off than the bankers, whose claims have been disallowed in the Odessa and other cases.

He points out that the contract, which is in the form of a letter to which the conditions of sale are attached, uses the words: "We beg to confirm the sale we have made to you," and also the phrase, "Should any dispute arise under this contract, this contract shall not be cancelled, but the dispute settled by arbitration."

And he urges that under the conditions of sale, as soon as the contract is signed the full invoice price is immediately debited to the buyers.

It is suggested also by the Procurator that under these conditions of sale the sellers, Messrs. Ralli Brothers, would have no power to sell to any one else even if the buyers did not take up the delivery or pay the price, that they would have an action perhaps for breach of contract, or be able to sue for the amount; but as far as the goods were concerned would merely have lien and a lien only, on them.

Mr. Booth, who appears for Messrs. Ralli Brothers, points out that by the conditions of sale the cotton on arrival at Trieste is to be warehoused in Ralli Brothers' name with Francesco Parisi, who is their agent at Trieste; that by the conditions of sale Ralli Brothers reserve all rights in the cotton.

"All rights in the cotton being reserved by the sellers as guarantee for the account," the bills of lading remain in the hands of Ralli Brothers.

An affidavit is put in sworn by a member of the firm of Ralli Brothers, a British firm, carying on business in England and India. The affidavit states that although the original intention was to appropriate these goods to the contracts already drawn up, nevertheless, owing to the outbreak of war, "no notice of appropriation nor declaration of marks or ship's name was ever sent to the buyers. . . . . ."

Now what were the intentions of the parties to this contract? First as to the terms of the contract: The sellers state that they reserve all rights, and the terms of the contract give only a certain period in which the buyers can take delivery of the cotton. As regards the conduct of the parties: The sellers retain in their possession the Bills of Lading, they consign it to their own order, it is to be placed in their own warehouse under their own warehousemen, in their own name, it is also, under the conditions of sale, to be insured in the name of Ralli Brothers, the sellers.

The sellers also pay for discharging the cargo from the steamer, the putting it into warehouse, the warehouse rent and the fire insurance while in the warehouse. The conditions of sale certainly proceed to say that the buyers have to refund these amounts, but that is at a later stage. It, therefore, appears that as regards the conduct of the sellers up to this point that they have done everything possible to keep this cargo under their own name and to reserve the property in it to themselves.

The affidavit of Ralli Brothers states that although the original intention was to appropriate the cotton to the contract, nevertheless, owing to the outbreak of war "no notice of appropriation nor declaration of marks or ship's name was ever sent to the buyers."

It has also been urged by Mr. Booth that under Sec. 19 of the Sales of Goods Act, the sellers have reserved a right of disposal. That section states that on a contract for the sale of specific goods or goods subsequently appropriated to the contract, the seller may reserve "the right of disposal until certain conditions are fulfilled"; and that notwithstanding the delivery of the goods to the buyer or to a carrier for the purpose of transmission to the buyer, the property in the goods does not pass to the buyer until the conditions imposed by the sellers are fulfilled. Subsection (2) of Sec. 19 lays it down definitely, "When goods are shipped and by the bill of lading the goods are deliverable to the order of the seller or his agent, the seller is *primâ facie* deemed to reserve his right of disposal."

In this case the bills of lading were to the order of Messrs. Ralli Brothers, and, in fact, never left their possession as they were forwarded to Ralli Brothers' agent and warehouseman at Trieste, Mr. Francesco Parisi, but never reached him on account of the outbreak of war, but were returned through the post to Ralli Brothers.

This presumption of the right of disposal may, of course, be rebutted. . . . .

It has been urged by the Procurator that the fact that the price is to be debited to the buyers shows that the property was intended to pass to the buyers, and that, in fact, the property did pass when debited. But the claimants urge that the debiting was merely a form for arriving at the amount of interest which would become due, and that, as a matter of fact, it is stated in the Ralli Brothers' affidavit that the buyers never were debited with the price owing to the outbreak of war.

According to the evidence, Ralli Brothers have not received from the said intended buyers any draft, accepted or otherwise, nor have they received payment in any form for the said bales.

Taking all these circumstances into consideration, together with the terms of the contract and the conduct of the parties, there does appear to me great weight of facts to lead one to the conclusion that the intention of the sellers was that the property should not pass to the buyers and that they, the sellers, were to retain a right of disposal until payment in some form had been made for the goods.

With regard to the phrase in the contract that the Procurator relied upon, viz., "We beg to confirm the sale we have made to you" and "this contract shall not be cancelled"—the phrase "confirm the sale" would be quite consistent with a sale under Sec. 17 and 18 of the Sales of Goods Act, in which the intention of the parties was to reserve the right of disposal in the sellers until certain further things had happened, and also as regards the phrase "not be cancelled," the right of disposal and the retention of the property in the goods being reserved to the sellers until certain further happening would be a part of the contract which could not be cancelled.

After very careful consideration of all the facts in this case, I have come to the conclusion that Messrs. Ralli Brothers have made out their claim in this case, and that their intention and that of the buyers was that the right of disposal should remain in Messrs. Ralli Brothers until the transactions with regard to payment were complete. The order of the Court will, therefore, be for the release of these goods to Messrs. Ralli Brothers.

SHIPPING IN ROUMANIA.

The British Vice-Consul at Sulina reports that the grain shipments from that port during 1914 amounted to 5,449,544 quarters, as compared with 6,475,907 quarters in 1913. These figures represent 62.8 and 55 per cent. respectively of the total shipments from Danube ports.

Wheat shipments fell considerably. In 1913 they were 3,140,426 quarters, and in 1914 only 1,580,375 quarters. Their place was taken by a large increase in the shipments of maize, which rose from 1,491,546 quarters in 1913 to 4,793,586 quarters in 1914. The whole export trade has been quite disorganised since August, 1914, and the closing of the Dardanelles on September 27 effectually stopped later trade.

In the case of British steamers loaded with grain which did not leave Sulina in consequence of the closing of the Dardanelles to navigation, the shipowners refused to release the cargoes, and claimed freight in full, pleading *force majeure*. The Roumanian courts held that as the vessels had not started on their voyage, they had not commenced to earn freight. They consequently ordered the release of the cargoes and disallowed the claim of the owners for freight.

The experiences of one or two British shipmasters loading in Sulina during the year seem to warrant the repetition of previous warnings in regard to the advisability of shipowners exercising slightly more care in the acceptance of charterers' names. The peculiar conditions of the trade seem to make speculative business a necessary evil, and the greater part of the charters made come into this class. This being so, it behoves owners to be more than usually careful in their avoidance of firms which are not of the best standing.

Kustendje Berth Contract.

Amongst other clauses, that relating to holidays has again, during 1914, as every year, led to some disputes between charterers and shipmasters. These disputes would be obviated almost entirely in their present form by the redrafting of the clauses concerned. A new form of charter party was agreed upon for the Danube trade some two years ago, but as the much greater part of Danube shipments is made under berth contract, this reform has not been of much practical interest. It is desirable to avoid creating undue difficulty for the semi-speculative charterer, who is the mainspring of Danube shipping activity; indeed, granted the present conditions of the trade, the shipowner should be prepared to facilitate the course of the charterer's business in every equitable manner. On the other hand, it is difficult to see in what manner the partial revision of the berth contract form could prejudice the charterer's interests. Some of the clauses are unnecessarily ambiguous, and could well be clarified with advantage to both parties.

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Engineering Notes.

Boat Lowering and Raising Gear.

It is remarkable that, in spite of what has been said since the Titanic disaster very little has been done in the direction of adopting new, or improving the existing, means for the safety of life at sea. In recent casualties, and especially in recent cases in the Mediterranean where boats have been sunk by the pirates, and where crews and passengers had very hurriedly to leave the ships, more loss of life was due to the defective methods of lowering the boats than to any other cause. Cumbersome blocks and useless ropes stuck fast, and boats could not be moved, or boats full of passengers were tilted, throwing the occupants into the sea. And all that sacrifice of life because shipowners either for the sake of economy or out of mere neglect will not adopt newer methods, but adhere to the old-fashioned ways and means. Once the writer suggested to a Mediterranean shipowner the advisability of discarding the old and cumbersome gearing for lowering his boats and the adoption of other modern methods, which he described to him as more expeditious, safer, and easier to handle; but the owner shook his head, remarking that that might be so, but that the absence of the old picturesque davits with the blocks and ropes, etc., would spoil the appearance of the ship! And there are many shipowners who, for the same reason, like their Mediterranean confrère, adhere to the old method. However, since the Titanic disaster and others that followed it, the question of safety of life at sea has been so prominently brought forward that several inventions have been placed before the Board of Trade, and it must be admitted that the leading British steamship lines are willingly adopting any approved practical devices which will lessen the dangers of sea travelling.

A Simple and Efficient Device.

A simple, very efficient, and quick method of lowering boats at a time of emergency, from what we saw at a demonstration some little time ago, is undoubtedly that in which a device invented by a naval expert is employed. The invention consists of adapting a pair of winches to existing davits and lowering away on a single wire from each davit. By the way, it may be mentioned that this arrangement seems also to meet the requirements of those who, like the above-mentioned Mediterranean shipowner, study appearance. The winches are attached to the davits by means of bolts, and by simply turning a hand-wheel the operator can lower away and at the same time keep a constant brake action on the gear. The winches are very compact, and occupy a minimum of space. They are neat-looking, and can be operated at a moment's notice by any novice without the necessity of fixing blocks and falls, and encumbering the operators with useless ropes. Powerful controlling wheels of simple construction are fitted to the brake gear, which any novice can manipulate by the simple operation of turning the wheel and easing the brake. When the boats are inboard the davits are turned so as to project the winches over the vessel's side, and so are not an encumbrance when not in use. The ease with which the apparatus can be worked, by the half-turn of a wheel, is one of the important features of this new method. With some twenty men in a suspended boat, it was demonstrated that the boat could be dropped into the water on an even keel, or at an angle as desired by circumstances, in less than a minute, whilst by the introduction of treble purchase gearing three different powers can be obtained to raise a full boat's crew and passengers, or an empty boat, as desired, or the empty fall quickly run up for lowering another boat. Two men only at each davit are required to raise from the water level to the upper deck a fully equipped boat with a full crew; while a similarly equipped boat can be lowered from the deck to the water, or, say, a distance of twenty-five to thirty feet, in ten to twelve seconds.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The National Bank of Egypt is expected to open its sub-branch at El Obeid some time next month for the gum season.

A branch of the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, has been established at Casablanca, Morocco.

The Serbian Legation in London announces that Dr. Nincic, deputy, formerly professor at the University of Belgrade, has been appointed Minister of Finance in place of the late Dr. Laza Pacu.

The agricultural estates of Mr. Emin Karam, situated in the Kafr Dawar district, Egypt, will be sold by the Mixed Courts at a public auction on December 14. The estates comprise 2,135 feddans of good farming land. The upset price is £E145,000.

The *Ahram* states that the Egyptian State Railway Administration will probably be transformed into a Ministry after the end of the war.

The Parcel Post services to Russia, Persia, and Roumania by sea direct to Archangel will very shortly be suspended, and no parcels can be accepted for transmission by that route after next Thursday. The route *via* Sweden remains open for uninsured parcels under the conditions already announced. Parcels can also be again accepted for transmission to Russia *via* Norway and Sweden. The dates of dispatch will be irregular.

The following official notice is published at Basra: The importation into Iraq of Persian silver or nickel coins of any description in excess of a total value in the case of any individual of Rs. 15 is prohibited. Any breach of this order will be punishable by forfeiture of the coins.

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Trade Notes.

Sudan.

The Government Steamers Department has issued a bulletin giving passenger and freight regulations and tariffs in force on the Government river steamers. A copy of the bulletin may be consulted by British shippers interested at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Morocco.

The Board of Trade are informed by the Postmaster-General that articles liable to Customs duty on importation into Morocco can now be accepted at post offices in the United Kingdom for transmission to Morocco by letter or by sample post. In this connection, the Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information from his Majesty's representative at Tangier to the effect that, pending the issue of regulations (which are now under consideration) respecting the importation of dutiable articles by letter and sample post, the authorities in the French Zone of Morocco will offer no objection to letter packets arriving by British post in Morocco being delivered to the addressee without being subjected to examination by the Customs authorities.

Tunis.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copy of a Beylical Decree, dated October 4 (and published in the *Journal Officiel Tunisien* for October 27), which prohibits the exportation and re-exportation from Tunis of refuse grapes, stone fruit, and bones.

Greece.

H.M. Consul at Piræus has forwarded a copy of the Greek Government Gazette (No. 376) of October 14/27, containing the text of an agreement, in the French language, made between the Greek Government and an American locomotive company of New York City, concerning the supply of accessories for locomotives and tenders. Attached to the agreement is a priced (f.o.b. New York) schedule of the various accessories.

United Kingdom locomotive manufacturers may consult the above-mentioned Gazette at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Trade of Morocco.

H.M. Consul-General at Tangier reports as follows regarding the commerce of the ports of the French Zone of Morocco and of Tangier during the first six months of 1915, as compared with the corresponding period of last year:—

It is remarkable that, notwithstanding the general derangement of trade on account of the war, the trade of the French Zone has actually increased.

The trade of Tangier, on the other hand, has diminished, imports showing a decline of about 32 per cent.—i.e., from 13,618,505 frs. in 1914 to 9,286,795 frs. in 1915, and exports a decrease of about 36 per cent.—i.e., from 706,409 frs. in 1914 to 456,115 frs. in 1915. The shrinkage is, however, principally due to the insecurity of the roads in the adjoining portion of the Spanish Zone which has brought about a diversion of the trade of the Fez district from the Tangier route to that by Laraiche. French imports into Tangier have decreased by 39 per cent. and British by about 15 per cent., whilst those of Spain have profited, showing an increase of about 18 per cent. This was to be expected, as Spain was able to supply goods which could no longer be brought from belligerent countries. The falling-off in imports at Tangier is most marked in the case of grain and flour, and building materials, including timber, whilst sugar, tobacco, and oil have been introduced in greater quantities.

Comparing the various ports from the point of view of the value of imports, it is found that Casablanca, though showing a shrinkage, is still far ahead of any other port. The most remarkable feature is the rapidly increasing importance of Kenitra; of the ports in the French Zone it has risen to the third place.

In the import trade of the French Zone the trade of Germany, Austria, Belgium, and Russia has ceased to exist, whilst that of Sweden—almost entirely in building timber—approaches vanishing point. The trade of France has maintained the same level as in 1914, i.e., 36,000,000 frs., whilst that of the United Kingdom has risen to 16,400,000 frs. Spanish trade continues to show a steady increase, though still comparatively small. The most startling rise is that of Egyptian trade, which, from a few hundred francs in 1914, has suddenly leaped to nearly 5,000,000 frs. This is entirely due to large importations of sugar. The trade of the Netherlands has also advanced from the same cause.

The articles in which British trade shows the greatest increases are: Cottons, from 7,371,000 frs. to 10,873,000 frs.; candles, from 743,000 frs. to 1,041,000 frs.; soap, from 50,000 frs. to 211,000 frs.; thread, yarn, cord, etc., from 66,000 frs. to 192,000 frs. There is no great diminution of any special article imported from the United Kingdom.

French trade shows the greatest advance in the following articles: Sugar, from 9,131,000 frs. to 17,480,000 frs.; wine from 1,000,000 frs. to 1,703,000 frs.; candles, from 115,000 frs. to 295,000 frs.; and soap, from 114,000 frs. to 229,000 frs. The greatest fall is in the following articles: Hardware, made-up underclothing, hosiery, etc., metals, cottons, glass and glassware, china and earthenware, chemicals, paper and cardboard, and leather work.

Spanish trade has increased principally in underclothing, hosiery, etc., from 80,000 frs. to 462,000 frs.; leather from 46,000 frs. to 220,000 frs.; and woollens from nil to 150,000 frs.; paper and cardboard also show an increase.

ROUMANIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY.

H.M. Consul-General at Galatz reports that the sugar industry has been fostered in Roumania by means of bounties and protective duties, but its encouragement has been of doubtful benefit to the country. By giving the local factories a practical monopoly in the Roumanian market (the import of foreign sugar in 1912 was only 3,400 tons), it has enabled the shareholders, who are foreigners to a great extent, to earn large dividends at the expense of the general public, which has had to pay excessive prices for an article of every-day use.

The industry was started in the hope that it would encourage the cultivation of beet in Roumania, but, apparently, it has had little effect in this direction, as the beets have been imported from Austria. The following figures show the extent of operations during the three years 1911-13:—

—	Beet employed.	Production of Refined Sugar.
	Tons.	Tons.
1911	263,450	34,750
1912	274,370	31,270
1913	274,470	33,650

The amount paid in bounties in 1911 was £152,900, in 1912 £137,588, and in 1913 £148,060.

A British Consular report on the trade of Persia says that Russia's share last year was the largest, while the British Empire came second, Turkey third, and Germany fourth. Exports to Germany last year were small, owing to the poorness of the harvests in Arabistan. "During the year under review," it is stated, "German agents continued to combine purely commercial methods with political intrigue."

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COMMERCE IN TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)
Athens, November 22.

Reference was recently made to the steps taken by the Ottoman Government to obtain all the cotton produced in the Adana district, evidently for account of the Germans.

According to a report of the American Consul at Mersina, the total cotton crop in the province of Adana for the year 1915 will probably not exceed 50,000 bales. The previous year's crop was 120,000 bales, of which half has been exported, and about 10,000 bales have been used by the local mills, leaving 50,000 bales still on the market, which, together with the new crop, would make about 100,000 bales available for export to Germany, provided transport can be found, which, under present conditions, is not possible.

There is practically no mohair now in Constantinople, and as much as 30 piasters the oke has been paid for good quality. Very little now comes in from the interior, as the Anatolian Railway are only running one train a week, and are burning wood for fuel. The sendings to Germany are made through the Parcels Post in 5 kilo packets.

Twenty piasters per kilo is being offered for sheep's wool for export to Germany, but none is available, as the Government lay their hands on all they can find.

There is very little doing in opium just now, but prices have advanced to 210 piasters per oke.

Some time ago some of the Young Turks formed an association with the object of buying up groceries and other produce in the provinces and selling to the trade in Constantinople. They now seem to have a considerable organisation, and are making huge profits, buying up nearly everything available in the interior at very low prices, and then reselling in Constantinople at considerably higher prices. They, of course, are able to obtain transport in preference to the merchants, and in this way are able to monopolise the markets in Constantinople.

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Near East Markets.

BRITISH-MADE DRUGS.

Considerable publicity was given last week to statements dealing with the present scarcity of certain drugs. The shortage and high price of atropine were particularly commented on and attributed to "the dearth of belladonna, from which (according to this statement) atropine is extracted, and which is obtained from Central Europe."

It is most desirable that this common misconception as to the sole source of atropine should be dispelled. Belladonna is one source, but a far more valuable source is (as was proved a few years ago by investigations at the Imperial Institute) the Egyptian hyoscyamus or henbane. This plant grows wild in the Egyptian desert and in the Sudan, and these countries are the sole source of the commercial supply. Before the war Egyptian henbane went to Germany for manufacture, but large quantities of the plant are freely available and a considerable amount is now, through the initiative of the Imperial Institute, in the United Kingdom awaiting manufacture into atropine by drug manufacturers here.

Eserine, also used in ophthalmic surgery, the dearth of which is alluded to in the same statement, is a product of the Calabar bean of West Africa, and presumably it is the extreme present pressure on the manufacturing resources of British drug manufacturers, rather than any scarcity of this British raw material, that is hindering the production of the drug.

As to cod-liver oil, the present high price—five times more than that of last winter—is due to Germany's demand for the Norwegian supplies. But the increased demand will be to the ultimate benefit of the oldest British colony—Newfoundland—which has been for some years manufacturing, under the Norwegian process, the highest class of medicinal cod-liver oil. Supplies of this oil are now available in the home market.

WORLD'S MAIZE CROP.

The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries have received the following information from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome:—The production of maize in 1915 in the United States is estimated at 1,545,257,000 cwts., or 15.6 per cent. above last year's production. The total production of maize in the following countries in 1915 is estimated at 1,796,496,000 cwts., or 13.8 per cent. increase on last year's production:—Hungary, Italy, Roumania, Russia-in-Europe, Switzerland, Canada, United States, Japan, and Russia-in-Asia.

COTTON MARKET.

Liverpool. Thursday Night.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph:—There has been a very fair inquiry this week, and good business is reported. Quotations show an advance of five points. Sales are estimated at 3,000 bales, against 2,900 last week.

Manchester.

The turnover has again been restricted by the advance in raw cotton, prices at the moment being too dear to admit of general business on anything like liberal lines. Traders at present prices are only willing to put through a few orders, and do not care to speculate.

COTTON SPINNING IN 1915.

Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, has prepared an analysis of the stocktaking results of Lancashire cotton-spinning companies for the twelve months ending November 30, 1915. Particulars are given of sixty-six companies. The total paid-up share capital of these concerns amounts to £2,326,969, and loan capital is £906,185. At the beginning of the year spinners were very adversely affected by the war, but some producers of coarse yarns were doing well owing to the active demand in heavy cloths to meet the requirements of the Government. The March stocktakings were, therefore, irregular and, on the whole, disappointing. There was some improvement at the end of June, and

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most concerns were in a position to report small profits at the end of September. Recently the margin of profit for spinners has much improved as a result of the shortage of labour and the lessened supplies of twist and weft upon the market. The American section, on the whole, has done better than the Egyptian spinning department. The total profit for the twelve months of the sixty-six companies, after paying interest on loans and allowing for depreciation, only amounts to £5,509. This works out at an average profit per company of £89, as compared with £57 in 1914. The percentage of profit on share capital is, therefore, less than 1 per cent.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.

LONDON, December 9.

The market is lacking the usual seasonable activity, and this may be attributed partly to the difficulties experienced by the trade in forwarding to the country, and partly to the high range of values. The demand, consequently, is limited, and a hand to mouth policy is, evidently, adopted by the buyers. Provincials and Pyrzos are quoted 39s. to 40s., Amalias 40s. to 42s., Gulf 43s. to 48s., Patras 43s. to 46s., Vostizza 44s. to 53s.

The stocks of currants in London on November 30 were 6,830 tons, against 5,487 tons last year the same period, and 8,725 tons in 1913.

Sultanas.

The supplies are very limited, and the demand moderate. The principal business is being done in Greek fruit. Cretans sell well at full prices, while Afghans are comparatively cheaper. The stocks of sultanas, of all kinds, in London on November 30 were 1,057 tons, against 2,494 tons last year, and 5,507 tons in 1913 the same period.

Figs.

The market is quiet and prices are unchanged. There is a fair supply of Calamatas and Spanish, the former being quoted 40s. to 42s. and the latter 35s. to 40s.

Dates.

There has been a better demand this past week and prices are firmer.

Oils.

Linseed oil is quiet in all positions at about unchanged prices. Cotton oil is very firm, crude spot in pipes £35 10s. to £36, refined pale pipes £37 and barrels sweet £42 to £43 as to make. Rape oil is firm, ordinary brown naked spot £40; English refined in barrels £43 10s.

Oilcakes.

Linseed.—There is a better demand; and owing to shortness of supplies prices have advanced fully 5s. per ton since last week.

Cotton Cakes.—Only small business is passing, but prices are steady for Egyptian ex ship, for spot, or near at hand £9 per ton being asked, Bombays also £9, whilst English sells well at £9 10s.

Locust Beans.

There is no offering for present delivery, and quotations are only nominal at £9 per ton for whole and £9 10s. for kibbled.

Gums.

There is very little doing. Arabic, Turkish sorts £3 5s. to £4 2s. 6d., Ghezira 15s. to 2s. 6d. East India common to fine £2 5s. to £2 15s. Myrrh 96s. to 100s. Tragacanth, first, £28 to £42, low to good sorts, £4 10s. to £6 12s.

THE FRENCH WAR LOAN IN EGYPT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PORT SAID, November 30.

Striking comparisons are being drawn here between the terms and general conditions of the French and British War Loans. The British Loan being issued at par at 4½ per cent. yielded to the investor abroad, after deduction of income-tax, little more than 3½ per cent., a small return under ruling conditions to Egyptian and investors other than those who subscribed from purely patriotic motives. The French Loan paying 5 per cent. at 88 is not only free of income-tax, but at the present high rate of exchange on Paris, can be subscribed for in Egypt at a figure which yields about 6¼ per cent., truly a remarkable yield on a French Government security.

The fact that the loan is exempt from taxation, present or future, will no doubt afford a strong inducement to the foreign investor to subscribe liberally, a point which our financial authorities at home would do well to bear in mind when the next British loan is issued.

COMPANY MEETING.

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The seventy-fifth ordinary general meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company was held yesterday at the head office, Leadenhall Street, the Right Hon. Lord Inchcape, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., the chairman, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Frederick John Abbott) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, who was warmly greeted, said, *inter alia:* The year under review has been quite abnormal owing to the war. No less than forty-two steamers of the P. and O. fleet have been taken from their work from time to time, and thirty-one are still being made use of by the Government. The board have, in consequence, had a considerable strain put upon them to maintain the regular mail services, but you will be glad to know that, so far, they have not been obliged to cancel a single departure.

The levy of 30 millions on capital indicated by the Budget—a very moderate estimate, I think—will be lost to reproductive enterprise in this country. While it may help to pay the expenses of the war for the moment, I think it is recognised that it is not in the interests of the country to withdraw large sums from earning taxable revenue. When the war is over a large income will be required to meet obligations incurred by the war, to carry on the administration of the country, and to pay for the country's defence. I am glad to observe that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has stated that the special levy on an increase in profits instituted in this emergency is not to form an integral part of the fiscal system of this country. There is no doubt that most shipping companies have made money during the last twelve months owing to the rise in freights, brought about by so many ships belonging to ourselves and to our Allies having been engaged for the purposes of war, and through the German and Austrian mercantile marine being driven from the sea. The aftermath of the war has to be reckoned with, and the future of the shipping industry of Great Britain will doubtless have much to contend with, especially as neutral and some other shipowners who have been reaping a far richer harvest than British shipping, will find themselves in a much better position to develop than will be the case with British shipowners, but, speaking for myself and for the P. and O. and British India Companies, I have no fear for the future. It may be an anticipation of coming bad times that is inducing some shipowners in this country to take advantage of the present inflated prices of ships to dispose of them and to retire from business. For the P. and O. and British India Companies there is no such *dolce far niente*. They are carrying on a national work, and they could not, if they would, wind up and go into retirement. The steamers which have been commandeered by Government as armed cruisers, transports, and hospital ships are being paid for at rates leaving but a very moderate margin when everything is taken into consideration. The shipowners have met the Government fairly and reasonably, their disposition having been to aid the country in this national emergency.

Over 50 per cent. of our steamers are in Government service. The bulk of the remainder of our fleet has been hard run maintaining our onerous mail contract, and the demands on the limited space of our fast ships for the carriage of mails have been altogether unprecedented. Owing to dislocations in other quarters, and for other reasons, our ordinary mails have greatly increased in bulk, while the letter and parcel mail to the Mediterranean and Egypt is ten times greater than it was some six or eight months ago. Our vessels have now to find accommodation for mails frequently occupying 1,200 to 1,800 tons of space, which leaves, as you will readily understand, very little room for cargo, and we are obliged under our contract to carry all mails that are offered to us. We find ourselves in consequence under a considerable disability, but I make these remarks in no spirit of complaint—on the contrary, we have the satisfaction of feeling that we are doing our duty by the Post Office, which we have served now for an unbroken period of seventy-eight years. To use the formula which was wont to appear in the good old days in the gracious speeches from the Throne, the P. and O. Company is at peace with all with whom it does business—the Admiralty, the Post Office, its fellow-shipowners, its cargo constituents, its passengers, and its employees. In carrying on a great and intricate business such as that of the P. and O. Company, with its mass of detail, questions, and even complaints, must necessarily sometimes arise, but it is the endeavour of the board, and it will continue to be its endeavour, to maintain a satisfactory service, to do its work efficiently, and to retain a loyal and a contented staff. The war has made it impossible to lay down any new ships with a prospect of early delivery in the past twelve months, all the yards being for the most part occupied with Government work, and the only vessels we have under construction are two high-class mail steamers. The board, however, have an extensive building programme in view, and as soon as circumstances permit we shall arrange for the construction of a number of vessels, the plans and arrangements of which are being carefully considered, and the directors hope that before long circumstances may permit of their being able to place contracts for a number of vessels which will enable the company to carry on its mail, passenger, and cargo services to the satisfaction of the Government and the public, and to meet developments. I regret to say that our cargo

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steamer Socotra has been wrecked in the English Channel since the issue of our report. She was homeward bound from Australia, had no passengers on board, and there was no loss of life. Being eighteen years old, she stands at a low value in the company's books, but she was a very useful ship, and can ill be spared at the present time. I am also sorry to say that a fine new British India steamer of 5,312 tons, the Umeta, of which we only got delivery from the builders a year ago, and which was engaged in Government service, has been torpedoed in the Mediterranean within the last few hours. The loss of this vessel falls upon the Government, but she cannot be replaced for many months. The fate of half of the crew, or nearly half, is not yet ascertained, and they are reported as missing, while the other half has been landed at a Mediterranean port. You will realize that with vessels constantly in the danger zone—no day ever passes in which we do not have at least three or four ships within it—the past year has been an extremely anxious one for the directors, and their anxieties do not grow less as the danger zone enlarges.

You will be glad to know that the amalgamation of the P. and O. and British India Companies, which was completed about fifteen months ago, is working in every respect satisfactorily, and that considerable advantages have already been realized by the complete fusion of interests, and, as time goes on, these should be increased. After a year's experience of the administration of the two companies, I am glad to say that the anticipations of eighteen months ago which led the directors to bring about the amalgamation are being realized. Our basis has been broadened, our interests are now in all respects identical, the combined experience of our staffs is a most valuable asset, while the financial assistance which one company can render to the other has material advantages. It may be that in some years the P. and O. section of the combine will be good and the British India section will be poor, while the reverse may possibly happen; but we are sanguine enough to hope that, taken together, we shall be able to average out a modest return to the proprietors on what is, considering the intrinsic value and earning power of our joint assets, a very small capital. When paying the interim dividend on our deferred stock in the spring the board gave it free of income-tax. The tax was then 2s. 6d. in the pound. Now it is considerably more, but having started on what you may regard as a rake's progress, we propose, with your approval, to apply it to the final dividend and bonus—at least, for this year.

The motion that the report be adopted was carried unanimously. The motion, "That a dividend for the half-year ended September 30 last of 2½ per cent. on the preferred stock, less income-tax, and a dividend of 5 per cent. with a bonus of 5 per cent. on the deferred stock, free of income-tax, as recommended in the report, be now declared, and that payment of the same be made on and after the 16th inst," was likewise carried. Ernest Haliburton Cunard, Esq., and Peter Williams, Esq., were re-elected directors of the company. Sir Alexander Pedler proposed, "That the remuneration of the directors be paid free of income-tax for the time being in force, and that the payment of such tax by the company in the past be, and is hereby, confirmed," which was also carried.

COMPANY REPORTS.

Anglo-Persian Oil Co.

The directors submit their sixth annual report and audited balance-sheet and profit and loss account for the year ended March 31, 1915. The profit for the year, after charging debenture and other interest, proportion of home expenses, and depreciation, amounts to £90,431 8s. 4d., from which has to be deducted the balance at debit of profit and loss at March 31, 1914, £26,711 3s. 10d., leaving a net available balance of £63,720 4s. 6d. From this there fall to be deducted £55,841 14s., representing the dividends paid on the preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, as follows:—In respect of the half-year ending September 30. 1914, £29,540 6s. 7d. (less amount received from the Burmah Oil Co., Limited, under their guarantee, £3,698 12s 7d.), and in respect of the half-year ending March 31, 1915, £30,000, leaving to be carried forward, £7,878 10s. 6d. On February 5 last a small portion of the company's pipe line was damaged by local Persian tribesmen. The transport of oil was thereby rendered impracticable for a period of about four and a-half months, and refining operations had necessarily to be suspended for about a corresponding period. Under the terms of the company's concession, the Persian Government are liable for the consequent loss, but no credit in respect thereof is taken in the accounts now submitted. A claim for the loss sustained will, in due course, be presented, and the amount thereof will be recovered from the royalties payable. The Turkish Government before the outbreak of hostilities with that country requisitioned oil and other property of the company to the value of £51,004 9s. 3d. Although it is expected that the greater part if not the whole of this amount will be recovered, no credit has been taken for it in this year's accounts. The various extensions for which capital has been provided by the British Government are being proceeded with as expeditiously as possible. The laying of the additional pipe line has been considerably delayed by the local disturbances above referred to and by the consequent shortage of transport facilities, but no interruption was thereby caused to the refinery extensions, the work on which is well advanced. The crude output of the First Exploitation and Bakhtiari Oil Companies has not been affected by the unsettled conditions prevailing, but owing to the damage to the pipe line the whole of the production from the flowing wells in excess of storage capacity had to be burnt during the period that the pipe line was out of use. The further drilling for reserve production, referred to in the last report, has not been prosecuted so vigorously as was intended owing to the delay which has occurred in laying the new pipe line and to the excessive production from existing wells. Attention has therefore been chiefly directed to drilling in new fields which have been favourably reported upon. Owing to continued ill-health Mr. C. W. Wallace has resigned his seat on the board, and Sir T. R. Wynne, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., was elected to fill the vacancy; Mr. H. E. Nichols has also been elected to a seat on the board. Under Clause 84 of the Articles of Association, the two latter now retire, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Mr. John T. Cargill, Mr. W. Knox D'Arcy, and Sir Campbell K. Finlay retire by rotation, and, being eligible, also offer themselves for re-election.

Imperial Bank of Persia.

The directors report for the year ended September 20 that the gross profits, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, amount to £111,291 14s. 3d., to which has to be added £23,358 2s. 7d. brought forward from last account, making a total of £134,649 16s. 10d. After deducting expenses of management and general charges amounting to £74,562 6s. 2d., the sum remaining amounts to £60,087 10s. 8d. From this sum, £4,000, the amount due to the Persian Government in terms of the concession, has to be deducted, and also income tax, £6,980, leaving £49,107 10s. 8d., which the directors propose to deal with in the following manner:—Six months' interim dividend, at the rate of 3s. per share, paid June 9, 1915, £15,000; final dividend, at the rate of 3s. per share, to be paid on December 17, 1915, £15,000; and carry forward to new account, £19,107 10s. 8d. The directors much regret to say the Right Honourable Lord Inchcape felt compelled to resign his seat on the board in the early part of the year, owing to the pressure on his time by public engagements, as well as his duties as chairman of the P. and O. Company. He, nevertheless, continues to take a keen interest in the affairs of the bank. The retiring directors are Sir Hugh S. Barnes and Mr. C. Greenway, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Co.

The directors report for the year ended June that the trading profit for the year, including Government subsidies, and after charging insurance of steamers and all salaries, office and general expenses has amounted to £53,383 13s. 8d., and after deducting therefrom debenture and loan interest, depreciation, directors' and auditors' remuneration, debenture trustees' fees, and the whole of the balance of the cost of debenture issue, amounting together to £33,652 15s., there remains a net profit of £19,730 18s. 8d., to which there is to be added the balance brought forward from the previous year's accounts, after deducting therefrom £8,901 17s. 9d., representing the dividend on the preference shares for the half-year ending June 30, 1914, paid in May last, making the balance shown in the profit and loss account £28,632 16s. 5d. Out of this there has been paid since the date of the accounts, one year's dividend, to June 30, 1915, on the preference shares, absorbing £10,995 12s., leaving a balance available for appropriation of £17,637 4s. 5d., out of which your directors recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. upon the ordinary shares, which will absorb £5,000, leaving to be carried forward to the next account £12,637 4s. 5d. During the major portion of the period under review the greater part of the company's regular services had perforce to be suspended, owing to the state of war with Turkey. Many of the steamers thus rendered idle were, however, requisitioned for Government work, while others have been profitably employed in home waters. This complete revolution from the ordinary routine services has been a cause of considerable strain on the staff both in Egypt and at home, and the board wish to express their appreciation of the admirable work done in circumstances of no little difficulty. The board regret to have to report that the s.s. Saideh was sunk by a submarine on June 1 off Ramsgate. All the crew, with the exception of eight who were killed by the explosion, were saved in the ship's boats. During the year under review the s.s. Assouan and the s.s. Minieh were requisitioned and purchased by the Admiralty. The company's fleet is thus reduced by three ships. The directors to retire are Mr. S. Wellhoff and Mr. Francis Allen, who offer themselves for re-election. The retiring auditors, Messrs. Edwin Guthrie and Co., also offer themselves for re-election.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Egyptian Oil.—Gemsah, week, 500 tons, including 266 tons recovered from sediment; previous week, 452 tons, including 208 tons recovered from sediment. Hurgada, week, 337 tons, against 438 tons.

Anglo-Persian Oil Company.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held at Winchester House (Hall No. 174), Old Broad Street, E.C., on the 20th inst., at 12 noon.

European Oilfields Corporation.—Week ended November 28, 83,500 poods. Price of crude oil at Blacktown 51½ copecks per pood.

Greek Five per Cent. Loan of 1890 (Piræus-Larissa Railway).—Coupons falling due on the 15th inst. should be presented for payment at the offices of Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son for payment of 32 per cent. in gold of their face value.

Imperial Bank of Persia.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held on the 13th inst., at 12.30 noon, in the Cannon Street Hotel.

Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on the 20th inst. at 12 noon.

Land Bank of Egypt.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held on December 21 at the offices of the bank at Alexandria.

Suez Canal.—Receipts for the 6th inst. amounted to 150,000 frs., as compared with 270,000 frs. for the corresponding day last year.

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LTD

INTERIM DIVIDEND.

Notice is hereby given that an Interim Dividend of FOUR SHILLINGS per £5 share on COUPON No. 54 is Payable on and after the 15th December, 1915, at Messrs. Barclay and Company, Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, in Alexandria, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, forms of which will be supplied upon application.

Dated Alexandria, 22nd November, 1915.

By Order of the Board,
H. R. C. Blagden,
Manager.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 241.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

As the result of an Allied War Council held in Paris on December 9, any indecision in regard to the fate of the Salonika expedition has been removed. To withdraw the Anglo-French troops after their experiences of the last two weeks would have been a fatal confession of weakness. By reinforcing them until the safety of the position at Salonika is placed beyond any doubt and a reasonable chance offers of assuming the offensive the Allies leave the enemy's campaign in the Balkans still "in the air." Even if no advance be made from the coast until the worst of the winter weather has passed, the presence of the French and British at Salonika, of the Russians in Bessarabia, and of the Italians at Valona will probably prevent the Germans from embarking with any conviction upon the great schemes which the re-opening of through communication between Berlin and Constantinople at first held out to them.

The Allied line which had to fall back from Krivolak and Strumnitza when the Serbians were driven from Monastir found no permanent resting-place until it was back again in Greek territory. During the retreat the British troops bore the brunt of the Bulgarian attack, and the stand made by the 10th (Irish) Division near Lake Doiran will rank among the prominent features of the war. For the moment the enemy has called a halt outside Greek territory, the main Bulgarian force being between Ghevgeli and Doiran, with probably an Austro-German force near Nevrokop, further east, while a Turkish division is said to have been brought up to the Greek frontier on the Dedeagatch-Salonika railway. Whether Greece is to be invaded remains to be seen. The bulk of the Greek troops that were in or near Salonika have been removed, one division having gone to Seres. The Allies have secured freedom of action for their military operations, but Greece in the event of an invasion would not seem to be in a position to oppose it, even if she were minded to do so. It has been hinted that out of deference to Greek susceptibilities the Bulgarians will refrain from entering Greece, and will leave the task of following up the Anglo-French army to the Austro-German and Turkish troops. In all the circumstances the Greeks may be better pleased that the Turks rather than the Bulgarians should overrun Greece; but the distinction would only be possible to a nation that had made up its mind not to fight whatever happens.

The supposed consideration of the Bulgarians for Greek feeling has not survived many days in the case of Monastir. According to the latest reports, a purely Bulgarian administration is being installed in the town, and the German Minister at Sofia is said to have declared that Monastir is henceforth the irrevocable possession of Bulgaria. If the Bulgarians are to exercise a self-denying ordinance in regard to Kavalla, they could hardly be expected to keep their hands off Monastir as well. German and Bulgarian solicitude for Greece is of interest and instructive. It must, however, be carried a long way in order to free King Constantine and his advisers from embarrassment over the course of events.

King Constantine and M. Venizelos are availing themselves of the services of *The Times* as a friendly neutral for an exchange of views. In an interview with its special correspondent at Athens M. Venizelos has replied to a number of points raised in the King's message of last week. On the subject of the Greco-Serbian Treaty he gives his Sovereign the lie direct. It is not a fact, he states, that the terms of the Treaty exonerated Greece from rendering assistance to Serbia in case the later were attacked by other Powers as well as by Bulgaria. "The Treaty was absolutely binding upon Greece." It would certainly be a matter for surprise if the Serbian and Greek Governments when negotiating the Treaty had specifically provided for a general European conflict. King Constantine was more likely reading his own interpretation into the agreement than claiming textual authority for a non-intervention clause.

Of no little interest is the passage in which M. Venizelos gives in detail his reason for holding aloof from the new elections—a step which does not command any wide support among his friends outside Greece. Some three-eighths of the electorate, he points out, are

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now with the colours. While the Government were prepared to grant leave to their supporters to vote, they would refuse it in the case of the supporters of M. Venizelos. Among the Deputies affected by the mobilization fifty-three are Venizelists and twenty-three Ministerialists. The former would be given six days' leave, the latter full leave, with the result that immediately after the elections the Venizelist Deputies would be obliged to leave for the front, thereby diminishing, and possibly extinguishing, the Venizelist majority in the Chamber. "The actual comedy," added M. Venizelos, "was too great, and I and my party have no course open except silently to protest by absenting ourselves. The Greek people fully understand the situation, and are only awaiting the termination of the foreign crisis in order to make their voice heard." Comment upon these disclosures regarding Greek political life is not called for here. We may note, however, the rather ominous ring in the final sentence, which would acquire special significance if the Bulgarians and Turks were to overrun a portion of Greek territory.

The renewal of enemy activity on Gallipoli Peninsula points to the Turks having received further supplies of munitions as a result of the opening of communications across Bulgaria. During December 7, 8, and 9, says a recent French *communiqué*, there was increasing intensity of fire on the part of the Turkish artillery, which very violently bombarded our first lines with guns of every calibre. On both sides, it is added, mining warfare has been resumed with growing activity. In this connection and in view of reports of a Turco-German concentration in Turkey, there can be no doubt that it would give wide satisfaction if the Government could reassure public opinion regarding the position of the Allied forces on Gallipoli. The prevailing impression, after all that has been said on the subject by Ministerial spokesmen, is that the Anglo-French troops are lined up against an impregnable position. So long as the Turks remained short of ammunition the situation might be maintained without further disadvantage for an indefinite period; but as soon as the Turks receive unlimited supplies of munitions, there is something uncanny in the prospect of leaving the men as they were without any efforts to create a diversion in their favour. No doubt vigorous action based on Salonika would once more relieve the pressure on Gallipoli, and this is one of many reasons for pushing on with the preparations for a winter campaign of at least sufficient proportions to keep both Bulgarians and Turks busy. The official answer given this week in the House of Commons that it is estimated that Turkey now has some 650,000 men in the field—a number that might be increased to a million with adequate supplies of German munitions—indicates the extent of the success achieved by German diplomacy over that of the Allies in securing the support of Turkey and Bulgaria.

It is satisfactory to find that the Russian troops in Northern Persia have lost no time in dealing with the German menace. While one force was advancing for the protection of Teheran, another body moved south-west from Kazvin and engaged the rebel force which was based on Hamadan. The Russian victory is reported to have been complete. The enemy, whose strength is put at 8,000 irregulars and 3,000 gendarmes, with an adequate supply of rifles, machine guns, and ammunition, fled in complete disorder from the Sultan Bulak Pass, where he had been fortifying himself under German auspices. A preliminary engagement of this nature ought to exercise a good effect very widely in Persia.

In our issue of last week our Cairo Correspondent explained the action of the Egyptian Government in withdrawing the small outposts which in peace time had been maintained at Solloum and Sidi Barani on the coast near Egypt's western frontier. In the place of the two small posts a strong garrison was to be maintained at Mersa Matrouh, the terminus of the railway from Alexandria, and nearly 150 miles east of the frontier. On December 11 a reconnoitring force from this point encountered a body of 300 Arabs. They were driven off after an engagement, losing eighty killed and thirty wounded, but the casualties of the British force amounted to sixteen killed and eighteen wounded, three of the latter being officers. Two days later more serious fighting took place over the same ground. A British column under Colonel Gordon came into touch with an Arab force, estimated at 1,200 strong, under Gaafar Pasha, equipped with guns and machine guns. The enemy attacked vigorously, but were driven back with heavy loss. As daylight failed, the British force was obliged to withdraw to its camp, which was reached after dark. Our losses on this occasion were four British and four Indian killed, twenty-three British, including five officers, and fifteen Indian wounded. The presence of a hostile Arab force so far within the Egyptian border, armed with artillery and machine guns, removes all doubt regarding the measure of success that Turco-German intrigue has achieved among the Senussi and Tripoli Arabs. A repetition of these encounters might point to the advisability of strengthening the hands of the friendly elements among these tribesmen with a view to encouraging them to deal with the trouble themselves.

The Mesopotamia Expedition remains on the defensive at Kut-el-Amara, and the Turks are engaged in testing the strength of the British position. General Nixon reports heavy musketry fire for an hour on December 12, without any attempt on the part of the Turks to advance. "A heavy attack on a village on the right bank was repulsed. On the 13th all was quiet." More satisfactory is the information that reinforcements continue to be sent up to General Nixon as they arrive. The announcement that Sir George Buchanan, M.Inst.C.E., chairman of the Rangoon Port Trust, who had charge of the works recently completed on the Rangoon river, has been placed on special duty for dredging operations in Mesopotamia calls attention to one of the many ramifications of the new responsibilities Great Britain is incurring in the Middle East. Dredging is required not only on the Shatt-el-Arab and Tigris, but on the great bar at the mouth of the former. Dredgers have been seen in these waters under the Turkish régime, but whether they have done any real work is an open question. The extension of the operations in Mesopotamia renders the makeshift expedients that did duty at first in connection with the landing and transport of our troops at the head of the Persian Gulf wholly inadequate to-day.

A summary of German intrigues in Persia appears in the *Novoe Vremya* of November 27, and may be reproduced here, as it adds not a little to the details hitherto received in this country. "The chief of the Persian gendarmerie, Colonel Edval, on November 15, when the Shah was hesitating at the eleventh hour, was energetically persuading him to leave the capital, together with Prince Reuss and the Turks. He did not attempt to conceal his participation in the conspiracy, so sure was he of the success of it and of his immunity from penalty. Another officer of the gendarmerie, Captain Oenset, furnished a German called Schonemann with machine-guns for his attack on our Consul and the British Consul of Kengavar. Now he is leading the German band which attacked the Persian Cossacks in Kurdistan. A third officer captured the British Consul at Shiraz. The fourth, Major Göstrom, initiated the massacre at Hamadan. With the assistance of the gendarmerie the Germans erected at Burujird, near the line which is called our sphere of influence, a large munition factory. Eight hundred gendarmes arrived at Hamadan. Large supplies of munitions have been sent to Ispahan for the revolutionary bands assembled there. A batch of 250 Austrians were also sent to Ispahan. Finally, the Teheran detachment of the gendarmerie carried off from the Teheran arsenal all the munitions and delivered them to the camp of Prince Henry of Reuss."

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 6.

"Our Day" in Egypt.

The accounts of "Our Day" in Egypt have now been definitely closed. They had been left open owing to the difficulty in getting final and exact figures from the provinces, where right up to the last moment subscriptions were still coming in from the Egyptian masses. The exact total is £E112,534.001, or £115,419 9s. 9d., which is slightly in excess of the estimate recently sent you, and which must be considered in every respect a magnificent response to the appeal for the British Red Cross. In announcing the final figures and expressing his cordial thanks to all who have contributed to this splendid result, the High Commissioner states that "in contributing so generously to relieve the sufferings of the sick and wounded soldiers and sailors Egyptians have given convincing proof of their sympathy and good-feeling towards the Protecting Power and their sense of obligation to those brave men, many of whom have suffered wounds or disease in the defence of the peace, security, and interests of Egypt." It is interesting to note that in a recent speech Sir Henry McMahon declared that the British Red Cross was spending £1,500 per day in this part of the Mediterranean, and that consequently Egypt by its contribution has met the entire expenditure of two and a-half months.

Enemy Establishments.

The G.O.C. has just appointed a British controller for the supervision of the Egyptische Hopotheken Bank. This establishment was founded some four years ago by the Deutsche Orient Bank, and was consequently one of the "branches" of the Wilhelmstrasse in this country. It is somewhat surprising, seeing that the mother-bank was placed under control almost a year ago, that a similar step was not taken simultaneously, or at any rate very much earlier, in regard to this mortgage establishment. Still, it is better late than never, and presumably, although they have not told us so, the authorities had some pretty good reason for leaving its administration free up to now.

What, however, requires some explanation is the position of the Deutsche Baumwollpresse Actiengesellschaft. This company was founded in 1906, also under the auspices of the Deutsche Orient Bank, and carried on cotton-pressing operations. Shortly after war broke out it endeavoured to change its name, alleging, if I remember rightly, that the major portion of its capital was now British. The military authorities, evidently not satisfied with the proofs produced, refused their consent, and on June 10 the general public was warned by a notice in the *Official Journal* not to have any dealings with the company under the new name which it pretended to have assumed (Egyptian Cotton Presses Co.).

The company has now issued its report for the year ending August 31, and from this we learn that whereas the cotton handled fell off by over 100,000 bales, it was enabled to recoup some of the profit lost by this diminution by the pressing of fodder, which it undertook for the British Army, and that it held its annual general meeting on November 5, when amongst the business transacted was the re-election of the outgoing directors, Messrs. Lindemann, Lender, and Ritscher. The position is almost incredible, even granted the lax manner in which we have handled such questions at home. Here we have an enemy establishment working freely on British soil—no English controller has been appointed—and doing work for the British Army, yet coolly proceeding to re-elect directors who are enemy subjects, and two of whom have figured prominently in connection with anti-British administrations in this country. The fact that no English controller has been appointed, and that although they refused to allow the change in name, thereby admitting that it was an enemy company, the authorities permitted it to continue operations and gave it a contract for the pressing of fodder for the British Army, leads one to assume that they had some indirect control over its administration. Yet if there was any control assuring that the company's operations would do no harm to British interests, how comes it that at the annual general meeting the re-election of enemy directors was possible? There would certainly appear to be something radically wrong somewhere.

REPORTED DESIGNS ON EGYPT.

According to private advices received in New York by the Syrian colony, in letters which have been smuggled out of Turkish territory, the Turks, with the assistance of German engineers, are pushing a railroad towards Suez across 150 miles of desert, and are laying parallel therewith a water pipeline. When the Turkish troops, under Turkish officers, previously succeeded in crossing the desert, their water supplies were transported in tanks, says the Central News correspondent, and after their defeat they fell back in disorder. If another attempt is made against Egypt it will apparently have the benefit of all that German officers and engineers are able to effect.

The water mains are being laid from Bir-es-Seba, where there are wells, and the water will be forced through the pipes by powerful pumps. Stations will be provided at intervals along the pipeline where troops may obtain supplies of water. According to the *Mirror of the West*, a daily Syrian paper, the Turks are inciting the Moslems against the Syrians. The country is being stripped of its olive and cedar trees, which are being used as locomotive fuel, and all manner of repressive measures have been put into force.

The Exchange's Rome correspondent reports that, according to the Agenzia Nazionale, the Kaiser, at the recent conference with the Austrian Emperor, asked Austria to contribute one army corps towards the proposed expedition against Egypt, but the Austrian Emperor insisted that it was impossible for Austria to make this additional sacrifice.

TURKEY AND BULGARIA.

The *Mokattam* (Cairo), in a recent article on the Balkan situation, considers that the man who named Egypt a "land of wonders and curiosities" could have known nothing about the Balkans. The problem raised by the present alliance between Turk and Bulgar it regards as especially interesting, and as promising material for unfathomable differences in the future. The following extract from the above paper is taken from the *Egyptian Gazette*:—

The Bulgarian politicians—the children of recent times in statesmanship—have supposed that they could deceive their old masters and employ them for their own benefit to serve such desires of the Bulgarian Government as to silence opposition and avert the proposed Russian invasion of their coasts; and that they could then thank the good Turks for their friendly services and wish them a safe return to their country. But the Turks seem to be unwilling to be treated in this manner by their ally . . . . . Fearing the existence of large numbers of Turkish troops in Bulgarian territory, the Bulgarian newspapers are now endeavouring to prove that Bulgaria's mission in the Balkans will come to an end after the occupation of Macedonia.

The paper considers it not unlikely that Germany may ultimately sacrifice Bulgaria in order to satisfy Turkish aspirations.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

An Isle of Rest.

Government has been taking active measures to provide quarters for our wounded soldiers, of whom over 1,000 are expected. In Limassol large wooden huts are being constructed, contracts for timber having been entered into with local merchants. The stores of the Forest Department cannot meet the demands. Wooden "barracks" are also being put up in other parts of the island, to serve not only as hospitals, but also as accommodation for refugees, of whom very considerable numbers are expected to seek shelter in Cyprus. The numbers will no doubt depend upon circumstances. History repeats itself, for the shores of Cyprus have often afforded a hospitable retreat during wars and times of persecution in neighbouring lands.

A Successful Show.

An agricultural and industrial show held at Kyrenia on November 22 brought together various interesting exhibits, especially of live stock. Sir John Clauson attended with Lady Clauson, who distributed the prizes. A mare, whose sire belongs to the stud at the Government farm at Athalassa, near Nicosia, was greatly admired, and was typical of the improvement in the island breed of ponies, which is being steadily maintained. In addition to the prize awarded, the High Commissioner personally presented the winner with another prize of £5. Generous contributions to the Kyrenia Hospital were made by this and other exhibitors.

Improvements at the Museum.

The Committee of the Cyprus Museum held its last meeting on November 26, under the presidency of the High Commissioner. A new committee will be elected in January. The antiquities now housed in the museum are of great interest. Additions are made by gifts and occasional excavations, as funds permit. The large new rooms recently added will afford space for a number of still unclassified objects, and will greatly add to the growing attractions of this already important collection.

THE SKIRMISH AT KANTARA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, November 30.

The skirmish on the 23rd, east of Kantara, briefly announced in an official *communiqué*, between Indian cavalry and a marauding band of Bedouin, proves to have been quite a small affair, and is not considered to be the immediate precursor of a military attack by regular forces. The dozen prisoners taken, who have been sent up to Cairo, were a bedraggled lot, and without uniform of any kind.

I learn that among the seven killed was a prominent Bedawi sheikh, who has organised several moonlighting raids on the Canal banks in the past, and is said to be responsible for certain "swimming parties," which in recent months have been a source of some annoyance to the authorities, without doing any actual harm.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, December 1.

Fresh Representations by the Powers.

The second démarche made by the Powers to the Greek Government on Friday last has brought about a very critical situation. The demand of guarantees for the security and freedom of movement of the Franco-British troops at Salonika (which consist chiefly in the evacuation by Greek troops of the Salonika sector, and placing the railways at the disposal of the Allies, as well as policing Greek territorial waters to keep off German submarines and destroy their eventual bases) has fallen like a thunderbolt upon official circles. As soon as the Government received this communication endeavours were made to ascertain through the medium of Greek Ministers abroad whether these requests bore the character of mere proposals or of demands. Nevertheless, the fact that an Allied squadron still lies off Milos, which fact it is endeavoured to hide from the public, would seem sufficient to show that, in spite of its courteous wording, the nature of the démarche is absolutely imperative. In view of this fact the Government, recognising the impossibility of a categoric refusal, drew up, in co-operation with the General Staff and the King, an equivocal reply, which M. Skouloudis handed to the Ministers of the Entente on Sunday last. The Note stated that the Government were prepared to submit the question of the evacuation of Salonika by the Greek troops to the General Staffs of both sides, and that their decision would be accepted, provided it did not constitute an infraction of the neutrality of Greece or any encroachment on her sovereign rights. At the same time, it seems, attention was drawn to the fact that the withdrawal of the Greek troops would cut the Greek Army in two, and make it almost impossible to provision the other section, which would thus be cut off from the Kavalla coast, and that in these conditions the object for which Greece had mobilized would not be attained. M. Skouloudis, having been asked by the Entente Ministers if this reply could be considered as an acceptance of their terms by Greece, avoided giving a direct answer, and confined himself to referring to the memorandum he had handed them. After such a reply, the Entente Ministers made him understand that he should not count much upon the acceptance of the proposition, unless their demands were carried out without delay. The Greek Government, however, hoped that when M. Denys Cochin and Lord Kitchener returned home they would influence the decisions of their Governments in favour of Greece.

Necessity for Further Pressure.

In the meantime, however, in view of the urgent nature of the demands made, the French Minister, who is the one most directly interested in the affair, adopted a very severe tone towards the Greek Government, which led to the belief that recourse to coercive measures was imminent.

As no answer has been given to the Greek declaration, the situation has become critical. The Crown Council, which met to-day, has arrived at no conclusion. Greece finds herself in an extremely difficult position, fearing that, if she allows the Allies to make of Greek territory a war zone, Germany and her allies will not fail, in their turn, to invade Greece and treat her as an enemy, the more so as the Government has not been able to obtain any guarantee from the Central Powers, not even as regards Bulgaria, that their troops will respect Greek territory. Furthermore, it is said that two days ago Germany and Austria addressed a Note to the Greek Government in the sense indicated above. In these circumstances, the Ministers state that they will not consent to the Allies' demands at any price, one of them even going so far as to say to a journalist, "We will not accept. We will submit only to material force, under protest." The *Nea Himera*, the Ministerial organ, which also reflects the views of the General Staff, says: "What do the Allies want in the Balkans, seeing that the Serbian campaign is

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already over, and the projected co-operation with the Serbian army cannot now be effected? If they want to turn Salonika or the whole of Macedonia into a theatre of operations, then the Germans and the Bulgars will also penetrate there, and the Allied troops will be driven back to the sea. If, disregarding the sovereign rights of the country, they exercise pressure on Greece, she will be obliged to withdraw her troops from Macedonia, and, as she will be unable to prevent the Allies from opening up a new front in the Balkans, she will wash her hands of the whole affair."

In spite of all this, one way or another, whether it be by the acceptance of the Allies' terms by the Greek Government or by the adoption of coercive measures, it is quite certain that the demands of the Allies will be complied with.

Opposition Criticism of the Government.

It now remains to see the upshot of this undertaking, which is as belated as was that of the Dardanelles. Public opinion here inclines towards pessimism, owing to the inadequacy of the Allies' forces, which are being raised to 125,000 men, against 600,000 Germans, Austrians, Bulgars, and Turks. The Ministerial Press throws the responsibility for the present complications on M. Venizelos, who is accused of having brought the foreign troops to Greece. In refuting this accusation, the Venizelist Press deplores the disastrous policy followed by the Government, and, pointing to the fact that it took two months for the Germans and Austrians, aided by the Bulgars, to overcome the heroic resistance of the Serbs, concludes that, if Greece, instead of declaring through M. Zaimis that she would remain neutral, had continued to adopt a menacing attitude towards Bulgaria, the latter would not have moved, and nothing would have happened. Neither would Serbia have been annihilated, nor would the Germans have arrived at Constantinople, and Greece would not have found herself under the necessity of submitting to the humiliations she is undergoing to-day. And, while pointing sorrowfully to the disastrous results of those who would not follow the policy of M. Venizelos, these same organs ask what will be the future position of Greece if she remains, as she now is, isolated and alone. "In these circumstances," says the *Patris*, "we, contrary to the wishes of the Government and of high military circles, ardently hope that the Allied troops will remain in Macedonia, as their presence there constitutes a guarantee for Greece in the sorry plight in which she has been placed by the blunders of her rulers, since she cannot now count even on Roumania, which has ceased to be a Balkan State, having become rather a European State.

THE OCCUPATION OF RUAD.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 23.

By reason of its proximity to a land which has been aptly termed the Gateway of the East, the tiny island of Ruad played in ancient history a part the importance of which was out of all proportion to its size and population; and now, thanks to this same reason, the island, still further reduced in size by the erosive action of the elements—its present dimensions being about 800 metres long by 500 wide—has, after centuries of oblivion, suddenly sprung into prominence once more.

The occupation of Ruad may, indeed, be said to mark the beginning of a new era in the history of Syria, and to have sounded the first note in the death-knell of Turkish rule in the Eastern Mediterranean. Now that complete accord and unity of purpose and action have been definitely reached between the two great and allied Mediterranean Powers in regard to their Near Eastern policy, it may be said, without fear of indiscretion, that the occupation of Ruad is the first step towards the occupation of Syria. It has been designed, in fact, as a model of the liberal form of government which the French contemplate inaugurating in that country. To the naval lieutenant appointed as governor of the island, a Syrian gentleman of culture and ability has been attached as Assistant-Governor, thereby showing that the French are coming, not as conquerors, but rather as guides to lead the native population, irrespective of creed and race, along the higher path of Western civilization; while a consultative council composed of the Mufti and some notables, together with the President of the Municipality, has been formed to take part in the local administration. Under present conditions the maintenance of public security is entrusted to a naval garrison, and the faultless behaviour of the marines has been such as to elicit boundless satisfaction from the inhabitants, who, in common with their Moslem brethren of the mainland, were imbued with the most ridiculously prejudiced notions regarding the moral conduct of the French soldier and sailor. Such notions are due to the survival of old tales told in connection with what may have been a few isolated cases alleged to have happened during the expedition of 1860, and which have been exaggerated and made capital of by the fanatically inclined.

All the inhabitants of Ruad are, without a single exception, Moslems, and it is interesting to note in this connection that they are singularly free from the fanatical spirit which unfortunately characterizes some of their co-religionists on the opposite shore. This may be due to three causes—race, environment and occupation. The large number of fair persons with blue eyes points to a strain of European ancestry, dating presumably from the times of the Crusaders; while, on the other hand, the absence of any rival Christian community was calculated to avoid occasion for the whetting of any fanatical appetites. But the principal reason may be the nature of the people's occupation. Ruad being a tiny island, with no land available for cultivation and, indeed, hardly enough to meet building requirements, the inhabitants have had to look to the sea for their living; and, thanks to their enterprise, possibly an atavistic survival of the old Phœnician spirit, they have been able, despite poverty and oppressive rule, to develop their industry to respectable proportions. Apart from the small craft employed in fishing and the sponge industry, they own large sailing vessels that trade with more distant shores and enable them to carry on a comparatively important commerce of their own. This perpetual contact with the outside world cannot fail to have a broadening influence and to round off the sharp angles of narrow prejudice.

They have a peculiar manner of pronunciation, somewhat unlike that of the inhabitants of the mainland, and use certain words unknown in the Syrian popular vocabulary. Some of the houses are more or less of the modern type to be seen in Syrian towns and villages, and contain modern articles of furniture, but the majority are of a primitive kind both in regard to building and furniture. Of course, there are no gardens properly so called, owing to the want of space; and the only open space is to be found in front of the small castle where was read the historic proclamation of the new French Governor, a summary of which has already been given in previous notes.

The population of the island numbers about 5,000, including about 50 Ruadians who had been mobilized, but deserted and clandestinely swam or rowed over from the mainland, since the Occupation. Although there is no actual poverty, yet general ignorance prevails. In the pools of stagnant sea-water the mosquito was allowed to breed unchecked, and malaria and other diseases, such as small-pox, were prevalent owing to the total absence of sanitation. With their characteristic spirit of order and organization the French have at once tackled this problem, and, while purging the island of its dirt and improving the roads, they have created work for the many able-bodied men who have been thrown out of employment by the war. They have also appointed a naval physician with two assistants, and opened a dispensary, and so vigorously applied general vaccination that small-pox appears to have been quite stamped out. They have also founded a school, where Arabic and French are taught; and have cleared the old Phœnician castle and fortress. All these works have been undertaken at the sole expense of the French Government. Indeed, the latter has pushed its paternal solicitude to the extent of providing the inhabitants with free provisions and foodstuffs, and of conferring the privileges of the French flag on the owners of the sailing ships that have since been trading with neighbouring Allied countries.

The only remains of archæological interest are the old Phœnician rampart that runs round the island, the large castle surmounted by the lighthouse, and the smaller Phœnician castle that used to be the Mudir's office. There are two mosques on the island.

The Ruadians are now rejoicing over their good fortune, and well may they do so, when they have seen want replaced by plenty, dirt and disease by cleanliness and health, ignorance and oppression by enlightenment and benevolence, as though by magic. What a contrast the state of this little island now makes with that of the mainland only about a mile distant!

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, November 30.

The Cost of Living.

The postal service with Constantinople appears to be worse than ever, and as very few travellers now seem to come through it is difficult to learn what is going on in the capital. In any case, no incidents of any importance appear to have occurred, and nothing has leaked through about the alleged insurrection of the Arabs under the leadership of Jemal Pasha; in fact, the *Hilal* mentions that he recently took part in some official ceremony at Damascus.

In Constantinople living is becoming more and more difficult, as all commodities rise in price weekly. Petroleum is being sold by the Municipality only, and at 14 piastres the oke; dried beans are now 12 piastres the oke, instead of about five; and cheese is 24 piastres, or about double the normal price. The Grocers' Association continue to reap large profits by laying their hands on everything they can in the interior very cheaply, and selling at exorbitant prices in the capital. Now that there is through communication, a few things are beginning to arrive from Austria and Germany, but the railway line seems to be entirely taken up by the military at present; so there is not much prospect of any merchandise arriving in any quantities.

Everything is being Germanised in Constantinople. The lettering on the trams is now in German instead of French.

Parliamentary Work.

The new Session of Parliament was opened by the Sultan on November 14 with a Speech from the Throne full of the usual nonsense about the glories of the Turkish Empire and the friendship of the Huns.

The Chamber of Deputies has referred to a Commission *ad hoc* the Bill authorising a loan of £T2,112,000 to be made in Germany for the purpose of work on the Baghdad Railway; but this is evidently only a method of regularising payments due to the Germans for the construction of the railway. The Bill has not yet been published, so the nature of the transaction has not yet transpired.

A Bill for the cancelment of the financial agreement made with France some time before the war has also been referred to a Commission.

New Customs Tariff.

A new Customs tariff, which has been drawn up by a special commission, has been submitted to Parliament. It is proposed to introduce a protectionist tariff, and the duties will be collected on the specific system, instead of *ad valorem*, as hitherto. The new tariff is to be applied next March, and a school will be opened in December in order to train the Customs staff in the new method of collecting the duties.

There is again talk of further changes in the Ministry, and there are rumours that the Germans want to hold the portfolios of Foreign Affairs, Finance, and Police.

Turkish Deserters.

It is reported that many Turks are deserting on the Gallipoli Peninsula and going over to the British lines. They are said to be in rags and almost bare-footed, and generally in a miserable condition. An early and probably rigorous winter—snow having already fallen in these parts, with exceptional cold—will bring terrible hardship on the badly clothed and ill-fed Turkish troops, and continuous desertions are not improbable.

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SYRIAN REFUGEES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 24.

The U.S. cruiser Des Moines, which was announced as due to arrive at Alexandria about a fortnight ago with a few hundred refugees from Palestine, finally arrived on Thursday, the 18th inst., with no passengers, however, on board. After taking her bunker coal requirements she will return to the Syrian coast. It appears that it had been agreed between the Turkish Government and the U.S. Ambassador, acting on behalf of the Russian Government, that the nuns and domestic staffs of Russian convents and other religious establishments would be allowed to leave the country, and on the strength of this agreement the Des Moines was ordered to Jaffa to embark those passengers; but the Mutessarif of Jerusalem declared to the U.S. Consul that as he had not received instructions to this effect from headquarters he could not allow the departure of these Russian subjects before communicating with the central authorities. After a few days' waiting at Jaffa the Des Moines was instructed to proceed to Alexandria without the refugees, as the Ottoman Government had at the last moment prohibited their departure, alleging, with its habitual cynicism, that when it gave its consent to the Ambassador it was under the impression that the refugees were Jewish colonists, and not Christian, Russian-born subjects! How does this tally with the systematic persecution of the Jews and the wholesale destruction of their properties?

The hand of the German is in all likelihood behind this new move on the part of the Turkish Government. Not only Allied subjects, but all the Christians of Turkey are being subjected to ever-increasing pressure, having for ultimate aim either extermination, as in the case of the Armenians, or paralysis and slow destruction, as in the case of the "less dangerous" Christian elements. The last meagre bit of news to hand from Syria contains the alarming report that all Christians liable to military service, including both those who have already paid the military exoneration tax and those who had been declared unfit on first medical examination, are to be called to the colours. Evidently the Germans, seeing that the new Balkan phase of the war is likely to precipitate events in Syria, have ordered the clearing of the country of all such elements as might conceivably be utilized in the military sense by the Allied forces.

Ever since the outbreak of the war the Germans have looked with deep suspicion and dislike on the Christians of Syria. It can only be hoped that the same fate that befell the Armenians will not overtake these unhappy people, since Syria is open to the action of the Allied fleets and can receive ready help.

There is a rumour that the Maronite Bishop of Beyrout, Monsigneur Shibli, has been arrested by the military authorities, and that this and other important arrests have taken place following on the breaking into the French Consulate-General at Beyrout and the rummaging of its archives, despite the protests of the American Consul-General.

December 7.

The Ottoman Government has finally allowed the Russian nuns alluded to in my last note to leave Palestine, and the U.S. collier Cæsar arrived at Alexandria on Sunday last with 113 refugees, of whom eighty-five are Russian nuns and twenty-eight Jews of British, Spanish, and American nationality. It is expected that the U.S. cruiser Des Moines will be taking another batch of refugees from Syria to Crete, whence a small number may be coming to Alexandria.

No news of particular interest has been obtained from these refugees, save that the Turkish Government has lately been enforcing rigorously its measures for enrolling all the remaining able-bodied men from the age of forty-five up to sixty, and that the economic situation has naturally been aggravated since the blockade of the Syrian coast. In spite, however, of the deep discontent of the population, public security is strictly maintained. This remnant of the male population that is being called up to the colours cannot be of much military value, and it is probably the intention of the Turkish Government to leave no element in the land which might eventually be of assistance to the Allies when they come to occupy the country.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of the "NEAR EAST" to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, November 15.

Cabinet Rumours.

There have been many rumours of late regarding a reconstitution of the Cabinet, but what value attaches to them it is rather hard to say. It is worth reporting, however, that the Prime Minister has been in communication with the prefects and other provincial leading lights, and it is credibly reported that the reforming of the Cabinet has been the subject under discussion. M. Stelian, perhaps the most influential member of the party not included in the Cabinet, is said to have been offered a place by M. Bratiano and to have replied that his first condition would be Roumania's immediate entry into the war, whereupon the matter dropped. Then rumour has it that M. Pherikidi, an active Liberal and a member of former Liberal Governments, is to be offered the portfolio of Minister for Foreign Affairs, in place of M. Porambaru, who has not been a conspicuous success, partly on account of ill-health. In fact, for some time past M. Bratiano himself has practically taken charge of foreign affairs; and as he is also Minister of War, the three offices are a heavy tax on his powers. When the Liberals came into power it was stated that M. Bratiano was only going to the War Office until Colonel Illiescu, his able assistant, attained general's rank, when he would become Minister for War. The former event has taken place, but the General has not yet become War Minister. Other rumours are that the Prime Minister's brother, M. Vintila Bratiano, will replace M. Porambaru; that another Liberal will become Minister for War, and that M. Radovitch, Minister of Commerce, is contemplating retirement from the Cabinet. These seem at least premature.

M. Bratiano, in spite of the efforts of the various Opposition groups, appears resolved to make no movement until help is assured from both north and south, and, taking an impartial view, it is difficult to blame him for the decision. Bulgaria having joined the Central Powers, and Greece's policy of shilly-shally, make Roumania's position extremely delicate, so that her policy needs the most careful consideration and handling for the time being.

Serbian Refugees.

The Serbian Consul at Turnu Severin has left for Kladova in order to arrange with the authorities there for the return of the refugees who, to the number of many thousands, are in Turnu Severin. The authorities at Kladova permitting this, and guaranteeing that no harm should befall the refugees, the latter have commenced to return to their homes.

The Roumanian Red Cross Society has voted for the aid of the Serbian refugees the sum of 30,000 frs., to which the Ministry of the Interior has added 10,000 frs. The number of refugees to be provided for is over 10,000. It is proposed to construct wooden dwellings for these poor folk until homes and employment can be found for them in the country. A goodly number of the refugees have money with them, but difficulty is found in exchanging the Serbian currency. The Serbian Minister has therefore despatched large sums to the localities where the refugees are gathered.

Bucharest, November 27.

The Cabinet and Parliament.

Of the various rumours regarding changes in the Cabinet, referred to in my previous letter, one hears but little to-day. M. Radovitch is now stated to have no intention of resigning his portfolio, and if any changes are made they will probably affect only the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and M. Mortzun. As to the Ministry of War, it is unlikely that any change will take place, at any rate in the next week or two.

In connection with the rumour regarding M. Stelian having been offered a place in the Cabinet, and having refused to accept it unless a more active foreign policy were adopted, it is interesting to note that under his leadership a new branch of the National Liberal Party has been formed, and a new paper, also under his auspices, will shortly appear, with the title *Nationalul*.

Parliament will open to-morrow (28th inst.), when, it is announced, the King will read his message in person unless he is prevented from doing so by a cold from which he has been suffering for some days. It is expected that the message will be brief, and touch as lightly as possible on this country's part in the present war; while retrenchment will be the keynote of the financial part of the document.

Anti-German Demonstrations.

After the anti-German demonstrations here, against the Legation, and at Jassy, before the Consulate, it has been the turn of the German consulates at Galatz and Craiova. At both towns large crowds demonstrated before the consular buildings, and in both cases the police were compelled to intervene and to make some arrests.

Serbian Refugees Departing.

Up to the present the subscriptions for the Serbian refugees in this country amount to 8,620 frs., which sum has been handed over to M. Marinkovitch, the Serbian Minister.

Fortunately for themselves, the refugees are returning to their homes in large numbers. In the district of Mehidintzi, where the majority of them are, only two to three thousand still remain; and many of them are preparing to return to Serbia.

Roumanian Deserters from Greek Army.

It is announced from Mégléine that several Roumanian soldiers of the Greek Army have deserted, and have gone over with their equipment to the Franco-Serbian forces. They are said to be at present on the Krivolak line. Their leaders are the schoolmasters Nita Gorga and Hrista Ceasornicaru, promoted by the French to the rank of sergeant. It is said that the Greek Government made representations to the French military authorities, but without avail.

SIR J. W. BENN ON THE DARDANELLES

Last Tuesday, at the Royal Victoria Hall, Sir John Williams Benn lectured on the operations in the Dardanelles. His address was illustrated by lantern slides, some of them prepared from photographs taken by his son, Captain Wedgwood Benn, who is serving in that part of the world. The lecturer said that the first operations had been undertaken with the approval of the sailors on the spot, and that if they had not been undertaken when they were, we should not have secured the foothold on the Gallipoli peninsula, which has become tremendously valuable in view of recent events, nor would Italy have joined the Entente Powers.

He told an interesting story of Turkish chivalry. An enemy sniper had been giving us some trouble, and an Irishman, who was a good shot, was told off to deal with him. There were these two men, at no great distance apart, each trying to account for the other. At last the Turk wounded the Irishman. Then those who were watching saw him creep cautiously from his shelter, leaving his rifle behind him. He crossed the space to his enemy and bound up the wound. The two men then shared a drink and some smokes, and the Turk went back to his hole.

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, November 27.

A Many-Sided Monarch.

Like his model, the Kaiser, "Tsar" Ferdinand of Bulgaria has appeared in many rôles, from engine driver to botanist, from naturalist to stamp collector, and so forth; but it has only recently become known that he aspires to medical honours. On the 15th inst., accompanied by the Crown Prince Boris, he visited Pirot, where M. Grigoroff, the mayor, delivered an oration describing the lot of the inhabitants during thirty years of Serbian rule. In his reply, King Ferdinand said: "Assure the population that it is my desire to be their doctor."

Gold from the Invaded Territories.

The Central Committee of the National Bank has been informed that the population of the invaded territories is possessed of large quantities of gold. The bank is, therefore, taking measures for collecting the gold, giving in exchange silver and Bulgarian paper money.

The Greek Government has arranged with the Bulgarian Government for the former to pay 20 per cent. of the value of any grain purchased in Bulgaria in gold.

New Lamps for Old.

From Constantinople comes a note which may be useful to future historians of the new Balkan War. A party of 2,000 Bulgarian reservists left there in the month of October to join the colours, the Turkish Government giving orders that all Bulgarian reservists were to travel on the same terms as Turkish reserve men. These Bulgars left the Turkish capital with cries of "Down with Greece and Serbia!" "Long live Bulgaria and Turkey!" Then they broke into their national hymn. But instead of "Tzarigrad è nach" (Constantinople is ours) they substituted the words: "Makédonia é nach, Salonn é nach!" (Constantinople and Salonika are ours.) At San Stefano they shouted from the windows of the carriages, "We are going to Salonika!" "We are going to Scutari!"

For the Wounded.

Counts Silva-Tarnca and Blankenstein, the delegates of the Austro-Hungarian Red Cross, accompanied by a party of doctors and dressers, arrived a day or two ago at Sofia. This mission, which was received by the representatives of King Ferdinand and by the Austro-Hungarian Minister and Doctor Zolotovitch, will work in the hospital that has been installed in the Gladstone School. Wounded Bulgars who lie there will, perhaps, have strange thoughts about the name of the building they are in.

Under the patronage of Queen Eléonora, the Society Maïka (The Mother) is organising a series of conferences, the profits of which will be devoted to the soldiers at the front.

The Bulgar Bank of Commerce has just arranged at its sole expense a hospital with fifty beds and an allowance of 1,500 levas monthly, until the end of the war. This is the first time a bank has initiated an hospital in Bulgaria at its own expense.

Miscellaneous News.

Headed by Fuad Pasha, a Turkish sanitary mission has passed through Sofia on its way to Berlin.

The official *Narodni Prava* informs its readers of the demise of the Balkan Committee, adding that the brothers Buxton first withdrew from the Committee, and so it has fallen into a state of dissolution.

The *Echo de Bulgarie* publishes the following: "Certain journals have spread a report according to which the Emperor William is to make a journey in the Balkans as soon as the damage on the Belgrade-Nisn-Pirot line has been repaired. In the best informed circles nothing whatever is known of such a journey."

The schools for instruction of schoolmasters at Rustchuk and Philippopolis are closed till the termination of the war.

Last Tuesday the funeral of Petru Sarafoff, father of the celebrated Macedonian chief, Boris Sarafoff, took place. King Ferdinand, several members of the Cabinet, the Mayor and other leading citizens, and a large crowd attended, thus showing the estimation in which the memory of the celebrated guerilla chief is held.

The Casino at Sofia is being transformed into a vast hospital with 200 beds.

From Budapest it is announced that classes for the Bulgarian language have been inaugurated at the University there, in the presence of the Minister of Commerce and the Consuls of Turkey and Bulgaria.

PRISONERS OF THE TURK.

Through the kindness of a correspondent we are enabled to publish the following extracts from a letter written early in November by an English lady who was originally amongst the British imprisoned at Urfa by the Turks, but was released some time ago. Since the letter was written the Turkish Government has promised to remove the civilians interned at Urfa to Aintab, where conditions will, it is hoped, be better.

Mr. —— is in a monastery on a hillside outside Urfa, with all the British and Russian prisoners. The air is good there, and there is a well of delicious water, which we all appreciated in the summer.

The British had formed a mess when —— and I were there, and had got one of the French prisoners to cook for them. This man did the marketing, and Mr. —— kept the accounts. When the expenses were divided up it came to about 1s. 6d. a day for each person, for lunch and dinner. We all gathered together for these two meals, each person having his own mug, plates, knife, fork, spoon, and chair, and three or four shared a plain deal table. Breakfast we all had in our different rooms or corners of the monastery; each family, party, or person had their, or his, own teapot and hot-water jug or mug, and we generally met on our way to or from the general kettle, where we filled up ours. We all kept bread over from our dinner, and could get native cakes from a man who had a sort of shop down in the yard. He also sold jam, but charged a lot for it. Afternoon tea was a repetition of breakfast. We had no tablecloths nor napkins, but had quite enough to eat. The Frenchman cooked some things really well, especially soup, and we had plenty of grapes, figs, and melons. I don't think Mr. —— had suffered through want of food; he looked well, and was wonderfully cheery. The town of Urfa is a regular Eastern place, narrow streets, with blank walls on each side, the houses being built inside, with no windows opening on the streets. The bazaars are like those of most of the places I have been to. There is an American mission church and school, and Mr. Lorlie, the missionary, held service every Sunday afternoon in his house.

We none of us cared for walking in the town much, but went for strolls on the hill or round the ruined castle; and sometimes we went to the garden with the sacred fishpond in it. When we were in the monastery Mr. —— seemed to have enough clothes, but I don't know how he will be off for them if the men are all left at Urfa for the winter. Of course, things of a sort can be bought in the town. My husband said he would have a sheepskin coat made if it got very cold, as he unfortunately sent his overcoat, etc., back to Beyrout from Damascus when the summer began. . . . Of course, I cannot write to nor hear from my husband now I am out of Turkey, which makes it very hard for me.

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received the following official telegrams:—"On the 9th inst., the Austrians once more directed a violent attack on our positions at Martaroge, but were repulsed, leaving 30 prisoners in our hands. In the vicinity of Sienitza sharp fighting has continued all day. On the 10th inst. there were continuous encounters between the advance guards, and some prisoners were taken by us."

"On the 11th and 12th inst., six Austrian aeroplanes passed over Dulcigno and Scutari; a large number of bombs were thrown, but caused very slight damage. At Antivari two bombs fell in the garden of Prince Danilo's residence, and one bomb struck the Government tobacco warehouse. H.M. King Nicolas has received in special audience the recently appointed Minister from Italy, Baron de Romano."

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

PAST AND PRESENT CONSTANTINOPLE.*

"Constantinople Old and New," by H. G. Dwight, will be a welcome and valuable addition to any Near Eastern bookshelf, and perhaps one should also say to the books on a drawing-room table, for it is artistic from cover to cover both in text and illustration. The author, whilst giving credit to others for a certain number of the illustrations, modestly omits to state that the greater number of the photographs were taken by himself, as the reviewer chances to know. The supreme interest of the book centres in the writer's delicate and discerning appreciation and description of all the old monuments of Constantinople, be they churches, mosques, walls, or fountains. Constantinople Old appeals to him most; later Constantinople he understands and would like to sympathise with, though the latest Constantinople of all he would be the first to lament and decry had not his pen as regards this book left off some months before the tragedy of the present war began.

Mr. Dwight was born in Constantinople, and spent his early and most impressionable years there. After his college days in America and a sojourn in Italy, where his artistic taste was fostered and stimulated, he returned to the city, his first love, well fitted for the task that he undertook—the writing of the delightful descriptive essays that comprise the chapters of "Constantinople Old and New." He returned to Turkey with a knowledge of its peoples and their languages, returned with leisure to study Constantinople's walks and ways, and with a gift for expression that leaves not a dull page. From a literary point of view this book will meet the requirements of the most exacting. To describe a place afresh—and with impelling interest—that has been described a thousand times, to be ready with historical data that cannot be questioned, and to brighten it all with flashes of quaint and unexpected humour, is an undertaking not to be lightly entered into, but one in which this particular author has thoroughly justified himself. He writes of Constantinople as he sees it; it may not always be from one's own point of view; he may see more than meets the average eye in some instances when describing a favourite haunt or scene, and he may fail sometimes to plumb political depths when dealing with recent events in Turkish history. But always one feels that one would like to have been with him on his rambles, would like to have studied Sinan's mosques with him in detail, would have enjoyed those strolls about Scutari that overlooks so grandly old Byzantium and its waters—to have partaken friendly cups of coffee with him in the company of turbaned philosophers, and have become thereby a more mystical, if not a wiser, man.

Constantinople in Balkan war-time was not without charm even in the midst of its wretchedness. What Constantinople is to-day our author cannot describe to us, and it does not require a prophet to foretell that the city will never again possess the fascination, the slow-going ease of existence that have characterised it for so many centuries and which Mr. Dwight has described so vividly and with such scholarly appreciation.

The book will especially appeal to those who know Constantinople well. And those who have left that city by choice or perforce will like to turn over these fresh pages and feel there is no disenchantment in store for them, will like to be reminded of brighter days and see the Bosphorus land with the old glamour still surrounding it—a glamour that history, art, and nature, the triumphant three, have combined to lend it in such large measure.

The ways of the Turk, his haunts, his mild amusements, his art—as exhibited in the making of fountains, the building of *hans* and mosques, the laying out of gardens—are more readily understandable and easy to describe than what manner of man the Turk really is, and why he is what he is! To close the book Mr. Dwight has a "semi-philosophic finale," in which he does some very clever summing-up of the Turkish character. But so complex is this character that each new "summing-up" may be accurate so far as it goes, yet at every fresh turn of the road the Turk develops some unexpected qualities, and what you may have thought of him before may require re-adjustment—since one is never done with him. And, as Mr. Dwight shows, so far as character study is concerned, it is a long, long way from the Turk "set in authority" to the Turk sitting cross-legged in the coffee-house smoking his narghileh, or reclining by his "sweet waters" making *kef*.

"Constantinople Old and New" has a most interesting appendix in the shape of a long list of books by authors old and new, native and foreign, and in this list the reader, if he be a student of Turkey and its people, will find the names of many a volume new to him, perhaps, and well worth the reading and owning.

* "Constantinople Old and New." By H. G. Dwight. (Longmans and Co. 21s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

"East and West," published recently, at 3s. 6d. net, "Omar Khayyam: Translated from the (original) Persian," by Mr. John Pollen. His Highness the Aga Khan contributes a Foreword.

Mr. John Murray has issued "The Politics of the Balkan League," by M. I. E. Gueshoff, translated by M. C. C. Mincoff. The price is 2s. 6d. net.

Two books of strong archæological interest have appeared lately in America. One is "Sumerian Business and Administration Documents, from the Earliest Times to the Dynasty of Agade," by G. A. Barton, issued by the University of Pennsylvania. The other is a "Handbook of the Cesnola Collection of Antiquities from Cyprus," by Prof. J. L. Myres, of Oxford, and is published by the New York Museum of Art.

NEW MAPS.

The following important maps have been published recently:—

PALESTINE.—Atlas of the Historical Geography of the Holy Land. Designed and edited by George Adam Smith, D.D., LL.D., Litt.D., and prepared under the direction of J. S. Bartholomew, LL.D., F.R.S.E., F.R.G.S. Size, 15 in. by 10 in. London: Hodder and Stoughton. 25s. net.

EASTERN FRONT.—Carte du Théâtre des Opérations (Front Oriental) armes repertoire alphabétique. Scale, 1:1.000,000, or 1 inch to 15.78 stat. miles. Twenty sheets, each 10-15 ins. Paris: Service Géographique de l'Armée (1915). [The area included extends from Vienna to Kiev, and from Petrograd to Bucharest.]

BALKAN PENINSULA.—The Balkans. Scale, 1:250,000, or 1 inch to 3.95 stat. miles. Sheets: Monastir, Uskub. Size, 15 by 33 ins. London: Geographical Section, General Staff, 1915. Price, 2s. 6d. each sheet. London agents: E. Stamford, Ltd., Sifton, Praed and Co., T. Fisher Unwin. [Two sheets of a map of the Balkans, forming an extension of the earlier map of Turkey in Europe, on the same scale. Together the two sheets extend from just south of the Greco-Serbian boundary to about seventeen miles north of Uskub, and include the country on either side of the Vardar River and the Salonika Railway.]

BALKAN PENINSULA.—Balkans 1,000,000e (1 inch to 15.78 stat. miles. Sheet: Adrianople. Size, 15 ins. by 22 ins. Paris: Service Géographique de l'Armée, 1915. Price, 1.25 fr. each sheet. [This is a new edition. Although entitled the Adrianople sheet, the area extends from Bucharest to the Bosphorus and the coast of the Black Sea.]

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Balkan Peninsula. By Frank Fox. Illustrated. (A. and C. Black. 7s. 6d. net.)

The War and the Prophets. By F. D. (London: Morgan, Son and Co., Ltd. 2s. net.)

La Question du Bosphore et des Dardanelles. By N. Dascovici. (Geneva: Georg et Cie. 7 francs.)

English-Serbian Phrase-Book, with Easy Grammar. By Louis Cahen and Nevill Forbes, M.A. (Oxford: B. H. Blackwell. 1s. net.)

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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

SALONIKA.

A certain amount of uneasiness has, we fear, been created in the public (and, therefore, inexpert) mind by the retreat of the Anglo-French forces from Serbia during the past week. There is no cause for any such uneasiness. Before the Allied forces had landed in Salonika, Lord Lansdowne warned us that the outlook for the Serbs, whom we had gone to succour, was, in so many words, hopeless. That is to say, we undertook a campaign which we practically knew could bring forth no immediate fruit. In spite of this, we penetrated from Salonika into Serbia, northwards as far as Veles, eastwards to Lake Doiran, and westwards to the Babuna Pass, where, in the eleventh hour, we came within an ace of linking up forces with the brave Serbs. The twelfth hour saw the Serbs' outstretched hand pushed ruthlessly back by the enemy, and the opportunity for which we had struggled and which we had almost seized, vanished for the time being into the night. In spite of this, we remained at the posts we had occupied, acting in the nature of a diversion on the enemy's flank without, however, having any intention of penetrating further into enemy country. Neither were the forces at our disposal nor the season favourable for an adventure in the Balkans, the more so in view of the Serbian retreat into Albania and Montenegro. The fall of Monastir, and the occupation of Ochrida and Struga, the concluding lines of a woeful tragedy, left us without even a "diversion" objective, and, what is more, released the major part of the enemy forces, which were now directed against the Anglo-French forces. In the circumstances, there was only one course to be followed: to retire towards our base, Salonika. To infer from highly coloured Bulgarian reports that in a few days the enemy beat us back from our position and drove us across the Serbian frontier into Greece is utterly nonsensical: we crossed the boundary line because, having no further objective, it would have been the height of folly to risk the weakening of our armies by uselessly awaiting a gathering storm. As it is, our numerically inferior forces were promptly attacked by the enemy, who was bent on encircling us and thus preventing us from reaching the coast. He failed miserably in his attempt, and at the time of writing the Anglo-French expedition has safely reached its new lines to the south of Salonika. This is largely due to the great skill of the Commander-in-Chief, General Sarrail, and to the heroism of a week's wild rearguard action, in which the Irish especially distinguished themselves.

The Great Retreat.

Owing to the inveterate habit of the Bulgars of magnifying, in their official *communiqués*, skirmishes into battles, the only sources which can be relied upon for accurate information are the British and French official *communiqués*, supplemented by special, reliable information which has reached London direct from the front.

On Friday last the War Office issued the following:—

On December 6 the Bulgarians, after a heavy bombardment, attacked our troops to the west of Lake Doiran.

Our advanced trenches were entered by small parties of Bulgarians, who were immediately driven out with the bayonet.

On the morning of the 7th the Bulgarians attacked again, and by weight of superior numbers drove our troops out of their position. Under cover of darkness the troops were withdrawn to a new line. Reports as to our losses have not yet been received.

On the 8th the British troops successfully repulsed all attacks, and in the evening they were withdrawn to a new position in order to conform with the general alignment.

The French official *communiqué* of the same day says:—

Since the last *communiqué* the Bulgarians have delivered violent attacks on various points of our front, all of which have been repulsed, with heavy losses to the enemy.

Fighting continues opposite our bridgehead at Gradel, on the Vardar.

Cabling on the 8th inst. from Salonika, Reuter's correspondent referred to an action on the British front on the preceding Sunday. "Some hand-to-hand fighting has actually taken place," he says, "the Bulgarians having crossed bayonets with a party of the Connaught Rangers, who made short work of their opponents, driving them from the trench which they had occupied under cover of artillery." This is supplemented by a War Office *communiqué* on Sunday, which says:—

After sustaining violent attacks delivered by the enemy in overwhelming numbers, the 10th Division succeeded, with the help of reinforcements, in retiring to a strong position from Lake Doiran westwards towards the valley of the Vardar, in conjunction with our Allies.

The division is reported to have fought well against very heavy odds, and it was largely due to the gallantry of the troops, and especially of the Munster Fusiliers, the Dublin Fusiliers, and the Connaught Rangers, that the withdrawal was successfully accomplished. Owing to the mountanous nature of the country it was necessary to place eight field guns, for purposes of defence, in positions from which it was impossible to withdraw them when the retirement took place. Our casualties amounted to some 1,500 men.

The French official *communiqué* of the same date says:—

In Macedonia the movements of the Allied troops are being accomplished in good order and in the greatest calm. Contrary to the reports circulated by the Austro-Germans and by the Bulgarians, the losses sustained by the Bulgarian troops are much heavier than those of the Anglo-French Expeditionary Force. The retiring movement of the Anglo-French troops was considered necessary when it was found impossible to effect a junction with the Serbian Army. The position occupied by our troops before Krivolac did not admit of our constituting a front before a reinforced enemy, and it was necessary to seek a favourable position in the rear. As soon as the position was found the withdrawal was carried out immediately. Although the Allied troops have at their disposal only one line of railway and no road, the movement was executed in such an orderly manner that the Allies were able to withdraw the whole of their material.

A further case of Irish heroism is reported by Reuter's correspondent, who refers to an action which took place on December 6 in the advanced lines of our Doiran sector. "It was soon recognised," he says, "that the position was untenable owing to the weight of the enemy's fire, and our troops fell back to their third line of defence. Two companies of the Inniskillings, however, held on to the ridge known as Kevis Crest, and kept back the Bulgarians practically the whole morning, although they were backed only by rifle fire. Hardly a man escaped, but their stand impressed and delayed the Bulgarians, thus giving us the much-needed time to complete our defensive dispositions on our third line, where the Bulgarians were finally held up."

The French *communiqué* on Monday stated:—

After having repelled all Bulgarian attacks on December 11, the French troops that night and the following morning resumed their retiring movement without fighting.

Notwithstanding the difficulties of the terrain, this movement was carried out in conformity with the decisions of the commanders, and the complete withdrawal of our stores was assured. On December 12 we occupied the line Ghevgeli-Kilindir.

Salonika.

The situation at Salonika was thus aptly described by the *Times* Athens correspondent on Tuesday (published yesterday):—

According to the latest news, the Allied Force which is falling back from Macedonia will halt on the front Karasuli-Kilindir, and will endeavour to hold this line until the Salonika positions have been fortified. There are already some British troops in the neighbourhood of Kilindir. The French General Staff is confident that the troops are not in any danger, thanks to the naval guns which have been mounted round Salonika. The work of installing and entrenching the Allied troops in and around Salonika continues. At various points north-east of the town, in particular, the necessary arrangements are in progress. Trench and other material shipped to the port is being sent up where required as soon as it is landed.

One Greek division and one Greek cavalry brigade are to remain at Salonika. The rest of the Greek troops were to have been withdrawn to-day.

British reinforcements continued to land all through the night yesterday. The troops landed represent the first contingent of two fresh divisions. Cavalry was landed from the French transports.

Apart from the military operations in this sector, the past week has been chiefly characterised by the improvement of the international situation at Salonika and by the adoption of a uniform plan by the Allies. This will lead up to big developments when the opportune moment arrives.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I am very glad that the plot to assassinate the Persian Minister of the Interior, H.H. Prince Firman Firma, has miscarried; and my satisfaction is not due only to the fact that the dastardly plot was "instigated by refugee pro-Germans," as Reuter's Teheran correspondent informs us it was. The thwarting of the Germ-infested ones is, of course, a matter for gratulation, but it is only a side issue. The important thing is that Prince Firman Firma is really a strong man—and Persia could ill spare such an one at the present time. I have had the honour of meeting him, and in my humble opinion he is probably as good a man for the very difficult—not to say dangerous—post that he holds as could be found in all the Shah-in-Shah's dominions. It has been said of him that he knows just when to lay aside the velvet glove and to make use of the mailed fist; and that is what Persia requires. The German mischief-makers and their ragtag and bobtail following evidently think otherwise, and regard him as an undesirable—as is natural with such ruffians. But their opinion is one of the highest compliments that could possibly be paid him.

***

The mention of my princely acquaintances reminds me that I have an apology to make to one of their number. A correspondent has pointed out that the Bandit Prince Henry of Reuss, to whom I referred in my last notes, is not full of either youth or high spirits; that he is not Prince Henry XXVIII.; and that, in short, I had placed to the discredit of one Prince of Reuss an evil act of infamy which belongs to quite another man. The marauding Prince is, it appears, Henry XXXI., Bandit Minister of the All Highest to the Persian Court since the eleventh day of August, 1912. I am sorry that I did the other Henry the supreme injustice of confusing him with this grey-bearded disciple of Hunnishness.

***

Another item of news that has afforded me much pleasure this week is the announcement—made in the official statement issued by the Secretary of State for India on Monday, regarding the fighting on the Tigris—that "the attitude of the Arabs is reported to be satisfactory." The question was also raised in the House of Commons by Sir E. Cornwall, and Mr. Chamberlain made it quite clear that "the rumour, of German origin," as to Arab treachery was "quite untrue." This disposes of another German-made lie, calculated to injure the reputation of men who cannot defend themselves against such despicable falsehoods. What I wrote last week about the wish being father to the thought was evidently quite justified. And the mere fact of the Huns thinking it worth while to spread such lies about the Mesopotamian campaign is in itself a hopeful sign.

***

As a matter of fact, I am inclined to be more optimistic this week than I have been for some time past. Even regarding the situation at Salonika and in the Balkans-Mediterranean field generally, I am not at all depressed. Unfortunately, I cannot set down the reasons for my cheerfulness, or the Censor might have something to say about it. But, after all, we may as well remember the old saying, "He laughs best who laughs last." The enemy is very cock-a-hoop just now, to outward appearance. But I wonder what he really thinks about it all in his heart of hearts? If he is as clever as he tells the world he is, I fancy he will not spend a very happy Christmas.

***

Those Roumanians who emigrate do not easily lose their national characteristics, and a love of their country and language remains for ever strong within them. As an instance, I learn that at Youngstown (Ohio) the Roumanian community possesses its own church and Orthodox priest, whilst lately a school has been opened, which is attended by thirty-two little Roumanians who wish to learn to write and read their national language.

***

The two interviews which his Majesty of Greece vouchsafed to the Press recently seem to have disposed, once and for all, of the attractive story that the mind of King Constantine was labouring under a burthen laid upon it by a hypnotic doctor of German nationality, who is said to have attended him during his recent illness. Whatever the construction placed upon his Majesty's utterances, they were certainly not those of a man hypnotically disposed in favour of the Central Empires. But now that there is no longer any colour for the suggestion in this particular case, I should like to air my conviction that the idea was by no means so fantastic as some people appeared to imagine. It is sheer lunacy to deny the power of hypnotism in the twentieth century. As a matter of fact, it is around and about us in most of the waking moments of our day. People appear to think that a trance stage is necessary to the successful application of the hypnotic state. This is an entire fallacy. Such a state is only necessary when the subject is possessed of will power at least equal to that of the mind about to transmit the force of its impression to the other by hypnotic waves. As for the rest, hypnotism is, as I have said, part of our daily lives. We find the will of the strong dominating that of the weak in every phase of society. There is many a man in a position of high authority to-day who occupies it more by reason of his strength of will than his intellectual attainments. What is "personality" but the mesmeric faculty exercised, perhaps unconsciously, in everyday life?

***

It is quite possible, therefore, that although the story of King Constantine's subjection to conscious hypnotism is sheer nonsense, his Majesty may well have fallen victim to the mesmeric influences of his electric brother-in-law. Colour may be given to the theory by the fact that the miraculous cure of the King on the occasion of his recent illness seems to point to a mind responsive to the influences of supernatural or immaterial powers. I do not mean to attempt to discredit the miraculous nature of the King's cure, but all these things are on a plane that is not yet fully understood—at least, in the West—and perhaps they are more nearly allied than we imagine.

***

I would draw the attention of all those who like to find "omens" in all manner of trifling events to the fate of a German steamer interned at Baltimore. Suspected of having sent and received messages by her wireless apparatus, she has had to submit to having the said apparatus rendered incapable of committing further breaches of neutrality. And her name is "Bulgaria."

***

For the sake of the Bulgarians themselves, it is a pity that their official *communiqués* cannot be treated in the same way as the "Bulgaria's" wireless apparatus. For the sentence: "It must be stated that the French troops fought much more bravely than the British," which occurs in one of these official *communiqués*, is, to say the least, cheap. Doubtless it was the production of one of the Germans recently imported wholesale into Sofia; for the Bulgarians possess too much common sense to try to sow jealousy between the French and ourselves by such childish methods; and they are too brave fighters themselves to decry the valour of our troops. The French soldiers and our own are not likely to enter into any kind of rivalry except that of honour. They have learned the worth of one another; and it will take a great deal more than a Bulgaro-German squib of this kind to undo the work of the past seventeen months.

***

From many quarters proposals have been forthcoming that when those two Hun undesirables, Boy-Ed and von Papen, are driven out of the United States we should take them in charge and hold them until such time as Colonel Napier and Captain Wilson, M.P., are set at liberty. These proposals have much to recommend them, and it is to be hoped that they will be seriously considered by our Government. But, of course, there is the difficulty that Colonel Napier alone is worth a dozen Boy-Eds and a score of von Papens; and the Germans still appear to be much better hands at bargaining over the matter of exchanges than we are.

***

A friend of mine, addicted to the weed, is much perturbed because the stocks of Latakia available are reported to be only sufficient for a few weeks more. I am not sure that I share his distress. Latakia is a delightfully fragrant tobacco, but I doubt if it is a good thing to smoke much of it. At one time I used to smoke a mixture, specially prepared for me, consisting of one part Latakia and one part "honeydew," and I enjoyed it immensely. But it played shocking tricks with my nerves, and though I still smoke heavily—far too heavily, I fear!—I would never willingly smoke Latakia again. It is too seductive.

CORSAIR.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (New Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. Dec.	1915. Dec.		1334. Safar.	5676. Tebet.
17	4	Friday	9	10
18	5	Saturday.....	10	11
19	6	Sunday	11	12
20	7	Monday	12	13
21	8	Tuesday	13	14
22	9	Wednesday	14	15
23	10	Thursday	15	16

To-day is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Alexander, Crown Prince of Serbia.

Monday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince George, fourth son of the King and Queen, who was born at Sandringham in 1902.

Queen Alexandra and the Princess Victoria were present at the Slav Concert given at the Queen's Hall on Wednesday afternoon in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund.

The Earl of Glasgow, whose death took place on Monday at Fairlie Crag, Fairlie, Ayrshire, was formerly in the Navy, and served on board H.M.S. Eurydice during the Crimean War. He is succeeded by his eldest son, Commander Viscount Kelburn, who has been awarded the D.S.O. for his services during landing operations in the Persian Gulf last August. The new peer was born in 1874, and married in 1906 the youngest daughter of Mr. W. A. Bell, of Pendell Court, Bletchingley, and has a son (for whom the Queen was sponsor) and two daughters.

Lord Kitchener left Paris on Saturday afternoon, after attending a final meeting of the Allied Council.

Lieutenant-Colonel Percy Sykes had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday morning, when his Majesty conferred on him the honour of Knighthood, and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday.

General Sir Douglas Haig, who has been appointed to the command of the Army in France and Flanders in succession to Sir John French, served with the Nile Expedition in 1898. He was at the battles of Atbara and Khartoum, and for his services in the campaign he was mentioned in despatches, receiving the Egyptian medal with two clasps.

Under date of the 12th inst., Reuter's Delhi correspondent announces: A report has been received from Kerman that Aga Farukh Shah, a cousin of his Highness the Aga Khan, has been murdered there by a Persian assassin at the instigation of German agents. Aga Farukh Shah was travelling in Persia for private reasons in connection with the affairs of his spiritual followers in that country.

Colonel Mitivoi Nicolaievitch, Serbian Military Attaché, had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace last Saturday.

Viscount Bryce has been unanimously elected President of the Pilgrims of Great Britain as successor to Earl Roberts, who held that office up to the time of his death.

The Bishop in Jerusalem arrived at Port Said on November 25 by the P. and O. liner Arabia. He was to have stayed in Cairo for about six weeks, and was then going on to the Sudan

Dr. G. Landsborough Findlay and Lady Sybil Findlay have returned from Serbia. They have taken 6, Melina Place, St. John's Wood, for a term of years, and this is now their permanent address.

Mr. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., last week piloted a party of Anzacs, most of whom were wounded, over the Houses of Parliament. The hon. member has recently returned from Gallipoli, where he has been ill. He has a fine record for service. It will be remembered he was wounded and taken prisoner in the first weeks of the war in France.

In a letter dated November 15 our Bucharest Correspondent reports that M. Radovich, the Roumanian Minister of Commerce, has practically recovered from the effects of his motor-car accident, reported some weeks ago in these columns.

On Monday, at Preston, Firle, Sussex, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Cyril E. Palmer, R.A., attached to the Egyptian Army, gave birth to a daughter.

An engagement is announced between Hugh Manwaring, of Busreh, Persian Gulf, eldest son of the Rev. Alfred and Mrs. Manwaring, Leire Rectory, Lutterworth, and Evelyn Marguerite, second daughter of the Rev. A. E. D. and Mrs. Disney, Stoney Stanton Rectory, Leicestershire.

On December 7, at Garrison Chapel, Abbassia, Cairo, the marriage took place of Captain Edward Maitland Hutchinson, Royal Field Artillery, attached to the Egyptian Army, fourth son of Lieutenant-Colonel T. B. Hutchinson, C.S.I., Indian Army, and Mrs. Hutchinson, of Jhandra Ghat, Camberley, to Miss Phyllis Motion, fourth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Motion, of Upton House, Warwickshire.

We regret to record the death from consumption, at the early age of twenty-five years, of the Danish explorer, Mr. Barclay Raunkiaer. He was widely known (says the *Geographical Journal*) for his journey in Central and Eastern Arabia, during which he made his way from Koweit by Bereida to the Wahabite town of Riadh, returning to the coast by way of Hafiz.

Writing on November 27, our Bucharest Correspondent reports:—

M. Michel Pacleanu, the Roumanian Minister at Berne, has arrived in this country on leave.

M. D. Psychas, Hellenic Minister at Bucharest, has left for Vienna for reasons of health. He is accompanied by Madame Psychas. During his absence, the Legation will be in charge of M. Dendrammis, First Secretary.

From Salonika comes news of the death of M. F. Capsali, the Inspector of Roumanian Schools in Macedonia. He died in the Italian sanatorium in Salonika, and has been buried in the Roumanian cemetery.

The sum of £2.000 has been received by Lady Barclay, wife of the British Minister here, from the Serbian Relief Fund, for distribution among the Serbian refugees.

News has been received in London that Dr. Clemow and his staff, who had to leave Plevlié, Montenegro, when that place was captured by the enemy, proceeded first to Kolashin, and thence to Podgoritza. From the latter place Dr. Clemow purposed proceeding with his party to Scutari, when he would place himself in communication with Sir Ralph Paget, British Commissioner for the various medical missions which have been working in Serbia and Montenegro.

We understand that Lieutenant Adam Block, R.F.A., son of Sir Adam Block, is now at the Dardanelles.

Dr. Marian Wilson, of Hebron, Palestine, has just been appointed to one of the Scottish Women's Hospitals in France. Dr. Wilson has been working at Hebron under Dr. Paterson for four years, and was in charge, during his furlough, when there was a severe outbreak of typhus in the town in 1912. The work at Hebron, which is one of the finest medical missions in the Near East, was interrupted by the outbreak of war between England and Turkey, when all British and Allied work in Palestine was necessarily suspended. Every member of the Hebron staff is now engaged in war service. Dr. Wilson was twice asked to join units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals in Serbia, and was offered also the charge of a Serbian Government hospital, but she was unable to accept these offers, being then engaged in work at York. Dr. Wilson is now on the staff of the hospital at Abbaye Royaumont, which is recognised by the French Government as Hôpital Auxiliare No. 301. The Abbaye is a beautiful old Gothic building, some seven hundred years old, and was erected by Blanche of Castile, the mother of Louis IX., the Crusader.

Captain F. F. C. d'Erf Wheeler, 3rd Dorset Regiment, whose name has long been on THE NEAR EAST Roll of Honour, has just left England for an Eastern destination, in command of a draft of men and officers. Captain Wheeler was wounded at La Bassée in October, 1914, when his regiment suffered heavily; he was limping forward when his colonel ordered him to the rear, and he then crawled along on all fours for some distance until he was picked up by the stretcher bearers. His stretcher was fired on by the Germans as he was being carried along. As soon as the Medical Board allowed him, Captain Wheeler joined the Regimental Depôt in England, and worked hard training drafts for the Western front. A few weeks ago he was given an appointment in the Flying Corps, but almost immediately that order was revoked in favour of the more responsible charge he has now been given. Captain Wheeler was gazetted captain within ten days of his coming of age last April. He is the eldest grandson of Bishop Blyth.

The *London Gazette* announces that Second Lieutenant J. B. Barron, 3rd Worcester Regiment, has been promoted to the rank of Captain, with effect from August 20. This is almost a record case, even in this war, when swift promotion is the rule, for Captain Barron received his commission as recently as July, and only a month later his company, the usual intermediate step of lieutenant having been omitted. Captain Barron's many Jerusalem friends will be delighted to hear of his well-deserved success.

Miss Wells, the daughter of the Director-General of the Department of Technical, Agricultural and Industrial Education, Egyptian Government, who was recently injured in a motor-car accident at Cairo, is making progress towards convalescence. Her sister, who was with her at the time of the accident, escaped unhurt.

It is announced that Lieutenant-Colonel C. Longueville Snow, of the Egyptian Coastguards Service, was killed in the fighting which took place last Saturday at Mersa Matruh between one of our patrols and a detachment of hostile Arabs 300 strong. Colonel Snow was fifty-two years old. In early life he entered the Canadian North-West Mounted Police, receiving promotion quickly. In 1891 he left that Force and was appointed to the Egyptian Coastguards. His knowledge of the country and language, acquired during twenty-five years in Egypt, made his services very valuable, and on the outbreak of war he was put in command of a Military District and given the temporary rank of lieutenant-colonel in the British Army. He was the youngest son of the late Mr. Thomas Snow, M.A., barrister-at-law, and of Mrs. Snow, Hadley, Grand Avenue, Bournemouth. Colonel Snow leaves a widow and a son and daughter.

A Cyprus correspondent writes: The death of the Greek Judge at Limassol, M. Aristotle Palæologos, has deprived the island of one of the best known, most interesting, and most respected members of the community. Mr. Palæologos was of humble origin, and was first known as a village, and then a high-school, master. Having a strong leaning to journalism, he founded, and for years edited, his first Greek newspaper, *Alêtheia* (Truth), which has been published ever since the early 'eighties. He was elected a member of the Legislative Council during the time of Sir Walter Sendale, who appointed him to be a native judge at Larnaca, from which district he was transferred to Limassol a few years ago. He won the esteem of all classes and communities owing to his strictly impartial judgments and his personal character.

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The Chief Justice, Sir Charles Tyser, paid a well-merited tribute to his memory, being supported by M. Artemis, one of the leaders of the bar.

Mr. T. Comyn Platt, who has been adopted as prospective Unionist candidate for the Kingswinford division, was formerly in the diplomatic service, and was attached to the Legation at Athens and to the Embassy at Constantinople.

Apropos of the reference made by our Cairo Correspondent, in his letter published last week, to the formation of a board to facilitate the use of the local resources of Egypt for military purposes, it is interesting to note that the *Journal Officiel* announces the constitution of the board as follows: President, the Brigadier-General in charge of Administration. Members: Brigadier-General R. Ford, C.M.G., D.S.O.; Miralai R. Pringle Bey, Inspector-General of Stores; and Mr. J. F. G. Hopkins, Chief Inspector, Finance Ministry. Secretary: Captain L. E. W. Egerton, Bucks Yeomanry.

The Greek Legation in Paris formally denies that M. Strator, former Minister of Marine, went to Berlin to try and arrange a loan.

We regret to learn that M. Léopold Jullien, manager of the Union Foncière d'Egypte, who was recently sent to the French front with his regiment from the South of France, is now in hospital owing to an attack of typhoid fever.

Mr. Edward Crompton, whose death at Liverpool is announced, was at one time engaged on railway work in Egypt under Sir John Fowler. He was the youngest and the only survivor of the four sons of the late Mr. Justice Crompton.

Miss Ridd presided at the first meeting of the Historic Section of the Bournemouth Literary and Historical Association held at the Municipal College last week, when the subject under discussion was "Roumania and the Unification of Italy."

Madame Vesnitch, wife of the Serbian Minister in Paris, in appealing for help to save the Serbian children from dying of famine and cold, writes:—The terrible necessities and heartrending conditions of these poor children, the great desire we have of saving them from utter extinction, permits me to tell the public how much every donation for them will be the greatest charity, and most gratefully appreciated. Contributions, great and small, should be sent to the Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, marked for "Madame Vesnitch's Appeal."

Mrs. William L. Sclater, in forwarding a copy of the report of Lady Hamilton's Dardanelles Fund, showing how the subscriptions and donations have been expended, writes: "Since the balance-sheet was drawn up we have had to meet a number of other bills, and our funds are now very low, although the need of help in the Dardanelles is still very urgent. As Sir Ian Hamilton has now left the Dardanelles it is the wish of Lady Hamilton that the fund should no longer bear her name, but she will continue to take an interest in the fund and remain on the committee, while the Hon. Lady Monro, wife of General Sir Charles Monro, now Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, will also join the committee and take an active part in the work. It is proposed to continue the fund under the name of the Dardanelles Fund. All contributions in money should be sent to the hon. treasurer, Mr. W. L. Sclater, and donations in kind to the hon. secretary, Mrs. Sclater, at 24A, Hill Street, Knightsbridge.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies announces that the people of Cyprus have offered a gift of 1,000 tons of wood fuel for the use of his Majesty's troops. The offer has been gratefully accepted by his Majesty's Government.

Field-Marshal Lord Methuen has written to the Secretary of the Soldiers' Entertainment Fund (Lord Desborough) a letter which opens up a golden opportunity of helping our gallant wounded and sick at Malta to any clever amateur entertainers with him to spare.

Lord Methuen writes:—"Can you help us here in Malta? I know how full your hands are, but we are urgently in need of amusement for the sick and wounded, so venture to solicit your help. We now have beds for between 18,000 and 19,000 invalids, which may be increased, and during the winter months, when the winds are very cold, it is most necessary to provide indoor amusements. Up to now local talent has done much, but it is limited in numbers, and in the coming months—December, January, and February—something on a larger scale is requisite. What I would like, and what I am asking you to provide if possible, is a variety troupe of about ten or twelve members. Unfortunately, we are not in a position here to meet the cost which would be involved. All we can offer is a fine recreation hall, fitted with theatre, which will hold over 1,000 patients, and which taps five large hospitals; other smaller recreation rooms and tents; and the gratitude of myself and a large number of continually changing sick. I consider amusement of this description essential for health, as it keeps men's thoughts from their own pains and troubles, and themselves away from the many temptations which surround them in a place like Malta."

The Committee of the Serbian Relief Fund has (says an advertisement in *The Times*), owing to the continued generosity of the public, completely outgrown its offices at 5, Cromwell Road, S.W., and is desirous of finding premises of sufficient size to accommodate the whole of its departments, which the owner would place at the disposal of the Fund at a nominal rental for the period of the war. Good ground-floor space is indispensable. Communications should be addressed to the Chairman, Mr. Bertram Christian, 22, Berners Street.

The *Echo de Bulgarie* states: "An order of the Ministry of War declares as deserters from the Bulgarian Army the following officers, who, after the decree of mobilisation, did not return to Bulgaria and have not joined their units: Lieut.-General Radko Dimitrieff, Major-General Sarafoff, Captain of Cavalry Ludtsanoff-Tsankoff, Captain Bratchkoff, Lieuts. Staripavloff, Michaïloff, Karlowsky, Gonbidelnikoff, and Judjéstoganoff, Second Lieuts. Nikofoff and Torkom."

"Quex," in the *Evening News*, of Wednesday, says:—A few days ago I noticed in the Park two people playing that very energetic game which has been described in the "Encyclopædia Britannica" and is known officially as "Ringoal." When I got nearer I discovered that one of the players was its inventor, C. E. Johnstone The second player was Prince Saïd Halim, to whom Mr. Johnstone has been acting as private tutor. Prince Saïd left London a few days ago for Switzerland."

Mr. Johnstone, who is said to know Montenegro almost as well as he knows Switzerland and France, was married yesterday to Miss Kathleen Hamilton, daughter of Lieut.-Colonel Hamilton, Deputy-Assistant-Inspector of our Medical Services.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

DEATHS.

RUSSELL.—At Handsworth, Birmingham, on December 5, Ronald Blair, aged 4½ years, younger son of J. Mac D. Russell, British Postmaster, Shanghai, and formerly of Smyrna, and Mary Russell.

FERGUSON.—At 30, Hampstead Road, Fairfield, Liverpool, on the 6th inst., Jessie W. Ferguson, aged seventy-three, widow of the late George Ferguson, of Constantinople.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1915.

THE NEW SITUATION AT SALONIKA.

The stage has been reached in the operations in the Balkans which, we hope, marks the conclusion of the second phase referred to by Mr. Churchill when he said, speaking on November 16 on the subject of his resignation: "We are passing through a bad time now, and it will probably be worse before it is better; but that it will be better, if we only endure and persevere, I have no doubt whatever." In the interval the outlook of the moment has certainly been much worse than it was when Mr. Churchill spoke, and it has been necessary to bear in mind the point to which he did well to call attention, that, while the old wars were decided by their episodes rather than by their tendencies, in this war the tendencies are far more important than the episodes. The recent history of the Balkans brings out the sharp contrast between the two. Among the episodes there have been two months of steady defeat for the Allied cause in Serbia; the country overrun by the enemy, the Serbian army rapidly driven back until it was pushed over the frontier, leaving behind at least a proportion of its forces, together with the greater part of its artillery, stores, and equipment. Other episodes in the same theatre of war have been the delay in sending Anglo-French reinforcements in support of the Serbians, the inadequacy of the first drafts for the purpose for which they were sent, the lack of preparation for a Balkan campaign allowing for the dispatch of small numbers only from Salonika to the actual battle front, the failure of Greece to support the Allies, and the withdrawal, to the accompaniment of, if not under the pressure of, fierce Bulgarian attacks, of the Anglo-French troops back to Greek territory. If now we turn to the tendencies implied in the Balkan campaign we find first and foremost that the operations represent a thrust on the part of the enemy in yet a third direction after failure to achieve decisive results in either of the two main theatres of war. From one point of view, it is true, such a thrust indicates that the Central Powers are still not at the end of their resources; on the other hand, if we adopt the simile of the enemy being besieged within a ring of steel, without hope of relief from without, the occurrence at one or more additional points of further hammering, always accompanied by heavy losses to the besieged force, serves to hasten the inevitable result. Another tendency implied by recent events is that the Allies have definitely accepted the Balkan challenge, and stand committed "to see the thing through" in a part of the world where military prestige entirely dominates the political situation. The protection to which Serbia was entitled has not been given, but the decision to fight her cause in the Balkans provides the best possible augury that the hostile occupation of her soil will be brief.

If the situation at Salonika offers better ground for confidence than it did a week or two weeks ago, the circumstance is due to two factors—correct knowledge, born of experience, of the military requirements, and the adoption of a strong attitude towards Greece. When French and British divisions landed simultaneously, it was found that there would be no means of sending up to the front an adequate number of men to cope with the enemy's advance. A certain number, perhaps as many as possible, were sent forward, and with the support of the Serbian Army these might have sufficed to hold the lower portion of Serbia. But the Serbians were unable to withdraw in a southerly direction, and their final disappearance over the Montenegrin and Albanian frontiers materially affected the prospects of the Anglo-French forces in the Vardar Valley and south of Strumnitza. They could not possibly sustain the whole weight of the Bulgarian attack, reinforced by Austro-German troops, and a retirement was the only course open to them. For a time their position was rendered critical owing to the indeterminate situation at Salonika. The town was still under Greek direction; the movements of the Allied troops were carried out nominally by favour of the Greeks, and the presence of a Greek division or more between Salonika and the frontier necessarily curtailed the railway and transport facilities available for the Allies. To the inevitable shortage of material had to be added the inconvenience of minor obstructions imposed by Greek officers and officials in furtherance of the German aims. In such circumstances the position of the Allies' advanced guard in Serbia might have been rendered hopeless at any moment by the stoppage of supplies and reinforcements. Attempts to persuade the Greek Government to give the Allies complete freedom of action in Greek territory between Salonika and the frontier had failed. It was not until November 26 that a more resolute attitude was adopted by the Entente Powers, and even then King Constantine and his Ministers endeavoured to prolong the situation to the disadvantage of the Allies by transferring the question of the evacuation of Salonika to a joint military commission. During the past week a settlement of the question appears to have been reached. Greece has yielded, as it was evident she must yield, to direct pressure, which in the interests of the Entente Powers ought to have been applied at an earlier stage. Salonika passes under the control of the Allies. The Anglo-French forces falling back upon it will take up the position which military exigencies require, while the town, thanks to the measures taken to put it in an adequate state of defence and to the constant flow of reinforcements, is regarded as being able to deal with any attack that the enemy may launch against it.

The presence at Salonika of an Allied force capable of assuming the offensive at the right moment puts a different complexion on the success achieved thus far by the enemy in the Balkans. Communication with Constantinople has been established, and within the limitations of the capacity of the railway system the Turks will receive fresh supplies of munitions and German officers. The position of the Allied troops on Gallipoli Peninsula will be rendered still more difficult, if not actually untenable; but the Turks will by no means enjoy complete liberty of action in regard to fresh expeditions. There is good reason to suppose that another attempt upon Egypt will be made. Beersheba, the Turkish base for the last attack, was linked up during the last week of November with the Hejaz Railway. Troops are being collected at Jerusalem and other centres. If amongst these few Turkish regulars are to be found, their place is probably being taken by Arab levies trained by German officers. For political reasons Germany will want to hold in front of Turkey the incentive of the conquest of Egypt, and the attack may yet have to be carried out in order to galvanise Turkish resistance in Europe for further efforts. Every preparation, therefore, must be made to cope with a fresh advance on Egypt. When the Turkish forces reached the Suez Canal on February 2 the defence was adequate for the half-hearted attack. It has since been strengthened, and, if it should be tested again, will prove, we may hope, equal not only to repel the invaders, but to follow them up and deal with them far more effectually than was done on the first occasion. The possibility of an attack on Egypt must always be provided for in British military plans; but the most effective method of robbing such an attack of its sting will have been adopted by sending to Salonika a strong Allied expedition capable of assuming the offensive in the Balkans. So long as this force holds the initiative any sense of security that the Germans may hitherto have felt in Constantinople or in Syria will be considerably impaired. Djemal Pasha may push on his preparations, but the grandiose design of an "Army of Egypt" under Field-Marshal von Mackensen is hardly likely to materialise.

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THE RUSSIANS AT RENI.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, November 27.

Reni, that sleepy little town of Bessarabia, wore quite an unusual aspect on the occasion of the visit of the Tsar yesterday. In fact, for some weeks past, instead of being a quiet commercial centre of quite second-rate—if not third-rate—importance, it has been a large military camp, with even the huge lighters, of which a number lie at its quays, crammed with soldiers. And it was to inspect these soldiers that the Tsar paid this visit to a corner of his realms hitherto nearly unknown to him.

This, however, is not by any means the first time that Reni has seen great gatherings of armed men; for in 1877 the advance into Roumania, on the way to attack the common enemy, the Turks, commenced at Reni, and here, on the cessation of hostilities, was seen the curious sight of the whole of the Russian cavalry being landed from these self-same big Danube lighters —"schlepp" is their name locally—after having been brought down river in them, without the loss of a single man or horse, thanks to the efforts of the long-headed Scot who undertook the contract.

The Tsar, who arrived at 9 a.m. in a special train, was accompanied by the Tsarevitch, and a distinguished staff, including General Voikoff and Admiral Niloff. A religious service was held at the Cathedral, after which H.I.M. visited the camps in and around the town. Here the troops were drawn up in a line over a distance of a kilometre and a-half. The Tsar halted very frequently to speak to soldiers and officers. He spent several minutes chatting with the officers of the rifle regiments from Turkestan, of whom very many bore on their breasts the St. George's Cross, these regiments having been in most of the fighting on the Galician frontier. He also visited a number of wounded, speaking to each of them about their wounds and adventures.

The inspection was followed by a review, at which whole brigades of rifles, cossacks, and artillery marched past. Later his Majesty visited the works at the port. On entering the *usines* he was presented with the customary bread and salt, which was offered on a plate specially made by the labourers at the port. The *doyen* of the workmen, who actually presented it, had had a son killed in the wars, of which fact the Tsar had been informed; and when he dropped on his knees to offer the symbol of welcome, the Tsar raised him up, saying: "No no. One who has given a son for Russia should kneel to nobody." This led to a scene of great enthusiasm, the onlookers bursting into volleys of cheering, with cries of "We want victory!" "We will fight to the last drop of blood!" "The Tsar, our protector!"

Reni, as the Tsar saw it, is one great military camp, where 240,000 soldiers of all arms are collected. There are over 200 large lighters all fitted up for the conveyance of troops, and quite sufficient tugs to convey them to any point at which they may be needed.

The soldiers are one and all splendid looking fellows. If good living contributes to making a good "Tommy," then these Muscovite peasants should make excellent ones. In the morning their breakfast consists of tea and white bread. Midday sees *borsch*, in which swim large lumps of meat; this is followed by a dish no less Russian than *borsch*, a mixture of fat bacon and rice. The evening meal is a combination of the other two, beginning with tea and bread, which is followed by two meat dishes. It is reckoned that upwards of 200 head of cattle are slaughtered daily to feed this army of hungry mouths.

What is the exact object for which these troops are being gathered is naturally a subject of much discussion. While some persons hold that it is an attack and landing at Varna, others are equally certain that the Danubian coast of Bulgaria is the objective. If the latter is the case, it is pointed out that any attempt at landing in the Bulgarian Dobruja, viâ the Danube, would be met by artillery fire. Thus such action would demand the provision of powerful artillery to cover it, which would not be possible with a neutral country, Roumania, on the other side of the river. Another alternative under discussion here is that in case of necessity (and a refusal by Roumania to allow Russian troops to cross her territory) Russia could "cut across" the corner of Roumania at the town of Turtukai, as by this means there would be a "back" on which to establish protective artillery. A third group plump for an advance against Transylvania, and Transylvania only.

In any case the problem is a nice one, and its solution is awaited here with the keenest interest. It has excited no less notice in Bulgaria and Austria, the former having during the last few days sent some regiments of infantry and artillery to Rustchuk, which was strongly entrenched some time ago. The inhabitants have been informed that at beat of drum they must flee from the town, as it is expected that it may be bombarded during any attempted landing by way of the Danube.

The Austro-Hungarians, on their part, are stated to have demanded permission of Roumania to pass ships of war down the river to attack Russia. Roumania very naturally refused; and it is now officially stated that the river from Reni to Galatz is mined. River mining, however, does not seem very formidable, if one may judge from the expeditious manner in which the river above was cleared by the Austrians.

The Danube has come much to the fore of late in the struggle, and Germany and Austria-Hungary are hurrying up thousands of tons of cereals by way of this now once more free waterway.

COMFORTS FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN AND BALKAN FORCES.

In an appeal for comforts for the Forces in the Mediterranean and Balkans, now under the command of her husband, General Sir Charles Monro, Lady Monro writes:—

Winter, with all its hardships and terrible suffering, is now upon us. The cold is bitter, and the storms have been very bad. Nothing can be obtained locally, and our men depend entirely for any comforts upon what we can send them from home. Their needs must increase as time goes on, and I feel we cannot do enough to show them our deep appreciation and gratitude.

I am authorized to say that her Majesty Queen Alexandra is specially interested in this appeal, and hopes that it will be generously responded to. I also have a message from Lord Kitchener, who has recently returned from the Near East, and who knows the conditions intimately out there, to say that this appeal has his full approval. My husband writes that they have had gales of wind, accompanied by rain and snow and bitter cold, and our men have suffered a great deal from the effects of the weather. I feel sure that all must realize the inevitable sufferings entailed, and the noble sacrifices that our men are making for their King and country. I specially ask those who have friends and relations in the Mediterranean and Balkan forces to assist me to send out ample supplies of comforts, by giving a whole-hearted response to this appeal.

Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund have kindly offered to receive, pack, and despatch all goods sent to me. We want warm clothing, tobacco, cigarettes, pipes, etc., and money to spend on the comforts not supplied by the War Office. All gifts in kind, and donations of money, should be addressed to the Hon. Lady Monro, 24a, Hill Street, Knightsbridge, and marked "Comforts Fund for the Forces in the Mediterranean and the Balkans."

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Greece and the Allies.

Dec. 9.

Mr. OUTHWAITE asked whether the attention of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs had been drawn to the debate in the Greek Chamber on November 3, and to the statement made by M. Gounaris that, in reply to the soundings sent to the Governments of the three Allies as to the participation by Greece in the first attack on the Dardanelles, one of the Powers replied that such participation would not be in harmony with public opinion in his country from the moment when she had as goal the conquest of the capital of the neighbouring empire, and to the statement in reply of M. Venizelos that he knew that one of the Powers was not favourably disposed towards the participation of Greece in the enterprise; and could he say whether the opposition of this Power had been withdrawn; and, if so, at what date?

Lord R. CECIL: There is in the Foreign Office a report of this debate. As regards the last part of the question, I have no reason to suppose that any of the Allied Powers would object to the co-operation of Greece against the common enemy.

The Mesopotamian Expedition.

Mr. ANNAN BRYCE having asked whether the decision to advance on Baghdad with only one division was taken on the initiative of the military authorities on the spot or on instructions or suggestions from Home; and whether, if the instructions came from Home, they met with the entire approval of the authorities on the spot,

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, in a written reply, states: General Townshend's Division was strengthened for the advance on Baghdad by the addition of other troops, but I do not consider that it would be in the public interest to give details at the present time. The force available for the advance was, in the opinion of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, sufficient for the operation. The advance was authorised by his Majesty's Government after full consideration of his reports, of the views of the Government of India and of the General Staff, and of all other available information.

Persian Affairs.

Lord R. CECIL, in reply to Colonel YATE, who raised the question of the Southern Trade Routes of Persia, said H.M. Government and the Government of India, in the hope of securing the safety of the Southern Trade Routes, had on several occasions made joint advances to the Persian Government for the upkeep of the Persian gendarmerie. Thus £25,000 was advanced in 1912 for the gendarmerie in Southern Persia, £100,000 in 1913 for the Fars gendarmerie, and £50,000 in 1914 for the Fars and Kerman. In addition to this, the conditions of the joint Anglo-Russian Loan of 1912 for £200,000 contained a stipulation that a "considerable portion" of the advance should be devoted to the organisation of the gendarmerie with the assistance of Swedish officers. He had no information as to whether the salaries drawn by the officers of the gendarmerie at the time of their defection were derived from the sources mentioned or from other and more recent revenues of the Persian Government.

Colonel YATE asked whether H.M. Government would now arrest the German Consul, bank manager, postmaster, and other Germans on the British concession at Shameen, in China, and detain them in custody at Hong Kong until the British Consul, superintendent of telegraphs, bank manager, and other British subjects arrested at Shiraz and detained in custody by the German emissaries in Persia are released and conducted safely to Bushire.

Lord R. CECIL: I have nothing to add to the answers given to the hon. member for Wirral on Tuesday.

Mr. DILLON asked whether about five years ago Major Stokes, an English officer, was appointed by the Persian Government to organize and command the constabulary throughout Persia, and whether the difficulties which caused his resignation were in any degree due to the attitude of the Persian Government.

Lord R. CECIL said the answer to the first part of the question was in the affirmative and that to the second part in the negative. Major Stokes was offered an appointment, the object of which was the organization of a gendarmerie force to assist the Persian Treasury officials in the collection of direct taxes throughout Persia. H.M. Government considered at the time that it would be inconsistent with the spirit of the Anglo-Russian Convention to support an appointment the effect of which would be to invest a British officer with certain executive and military powers within the Russian zone in Persia. Major Stokes was, therefore, induced by H.M. Government not to accept the appointment.

Food for Montenegro.

Dec. 13.

Sir J. REES asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether any application had been made to his Majesty's Government to facilitate the despatch to Montenegro of food purchased or to be purchased by a syndicate operating in that behalf; if so, what action had been or would be taken in respect of such application; and whether any loan to Montenegro for the purchase of food was contemplated.

Lord R. CECIL replied that such an application had been made to the Foreign Office privately, but he did not think that at the moment there was any need for the formation of such a syndicate, the purchase of the necessary supplies having already been undertaken. The answer to the last part of the question was in the affirmative.

The Allies and Salonika.

Sir A. MARKHAM asked whether the attention of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs had been drawn to an interview between King Constantine and an American correspondent of the Associated Press, and to the former's statement that the landing of Allied troops in Greece was made without his assent; and whether, since Lord Lansdowne definitely stated that it was at the instance of the Greek Prime Minister that his Majesty's Government sent troops to Serbia via Salonika, he could make any statement on the matter.

Lord R. CECIL: I do not know that I can usefully say anything on the subject except that Lord Lansdowne's statement was perfectly accurate. It would not be proper for me to discuss the relations between the King of the Hellenes and his Ministers in purely domestic affairs.

Sir A. MARKHAM asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he was aware that statements had appeared in the Press of neutral countries that by sending troops to Serbia through Greek territory, France and England had violated the neutrality of Greece in the same manner that Germany violated Belgian neutrality last year, and that this same charge was made by the Chancellor in the Reichstag on December 9; and whether, seeing that the Greek Government, through their Prime Minister, requested this country to send troops to Serbia via Salonika to enable Greece to fulfil her treaty obligations to Serbia, he would take steps to have this fact made known in neutral countries.

Lord R. CECIL: I am aware that such statements have been made in neutral countries, but they have been contradicted and ridiculed in the Press of neutral countries without any representations by his Majesty's Government. If there is any danger of their being misled on this point the suggestion of the hon. Baronet will be borne in mind.

In reply to a further question put by Sir A. MARKHAM, asking whether he was aware that all the papers in New York controlled by Mr. Hearst published these statements from day to day, Lord R. CECIL said he was afraid it was quite impossible for our Government to control Mr. Hearst.

Another German Lie.

Sir E. CORNWALL asked whether the Secretary for India had received any report as to the attitude of the Arabs who have hitherto been friendly towards the British troops in Mesopotamia, and if he could state whether adequate reinforcements for all the future operations are now on their way.

Mr. A. CHAMBERLAIN: I presume the first part of the question refers to the rumour, of German origin, that friendly Arabs turned against British troops in the recent action. If I am right in assuming that that is what the hon. member wants me to answer about, I may say I have reason to believe that that is quite untrue. As regards the second part of the question, I have nothing to add to the information given in my previous reply.

Relief of Serbian Refugees.

Replying to Major BAIRD, Lord R. CECIL stated that the whole question of the relief of refugees from Serbia had been closely gone into in co-operation with the Serbian Relief Committee and with the Governments of the Allies. Steps had been taken to collect ample food supplies at points suitable for base depots, which would be stocked with clothing and materials for providing shelter as soon as the need for these could be measured. There were very great difficulties remaining to be surmounted, and in certain areas it was not easy to ascertain exactly how great the influx of refugees was likely to be, but on the whole he believed that the numbers to be supplied would not turn out to be as large as was first supposed.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

In a written reply, Lord R. CECIL informed Mr. AINSWORTH that the total number of British prisoners of war so far traced by the United States Embassy at Constantinople was 534, including 22 officers.

German Agents in Persia

Dec. 14.

Mr. DILLON asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the Shah's Government had failed to fulfil the promises given to the representatives of England and Russia and had allowed the German agents to transport from Teheran to Hamadan a huge quantity of bombs, maxims, rifles, cartridges, and other military supplies.

Lord ROBERT CECIL: As has already been stated in reply to the hon. member's previous questions on this subject, it appears that large quantities of war material have been smuggled into Hamadan. The Persian Government have assured his Majesty's Minister at Teheran that they will endeavour to the best of their ability to prevent such abuses of Persian neutrality, and in so far as they have been able to make their authority effective these assurances have hitherto been fulfilled. I do not think that under all the circumstances the Persian Government can fairly be said to have failed to fulfil to the best of their ability their promises in this matter.

Turkey's Man Power.

Commander BELLAIRS asked the Under-Secretary for War whether any approximate estimate could be framed of the number of troops Turkey could put into the field after a year of war, as

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to the permanent loss she had sustained as the result of the war, and as to the increase that could be made with German munitions freely supplied.

Mr. TENNANT, in a written reply, states: It is calculated that Turkey now has some 650,000 men in the field, and that this number might possibly be increased to a million in the circumstances mentioned by the hon. and gallant member.

Greece and the Allies. Dec. 15.

Mr. LYNCH asked whether King Constantine had ever addressed to the British Government any representation of the position of Greece to the effect that the Balkan policy of the Allies was not definite, and that, supposing that Greece had joined the Allies, and that subsequently the Allies had decided to reduce their action or to retire altogether, the position of Greece might be precarious, and that he feared that in those circumstances Greece might become a second Belgium; and, if so, what reassurances, if any, were given to Greece.

Lord R. CECIL replied that no representations had been made to his Majesty's Government in this sense.

The Forces at Hamadan.

Sir J. D. REES asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs what information the Foreign Office had regarding the forces at or near Hamadan which were believed to be commanded by German officers.

Lord R. CECIL: I have received but little reliable information as to the nature and strength of the force to which the hon. member alludes. I understand, however, that it consists of some 8,000 irregulars and 3,000 revolted gendarmes, and that it has an adequate supply of rifles, machine-guns, and ammunition.

Lord R. CECIL informed Mr. DILLON that, as had already been stated, it appears that large quantities of war material had been smuggled into Hamadan. The Persian Government had assured H.M. Minister at Teheran that they would endeavour to the best of their ability, to prevent such abuses of Persian neutrality, and in so far as they had been able to make their authority effective, these assurances had hitherto been fulfilled. He did not think that under all the circumstances the Persian Government could fairly be said to have failed, to the best of their ability, in their promise in this matter.

The Tigris Fighting.

Replying to a question put by Sir E. CORNWALL regarding the operations in Mesopotamia, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said: I will publish from time to time any information that can properly be given with regard to the operations in Mesopotamia, and I have done so up to the present. Telegrams received by me to-day from Sir John Nixon report that General Townshend reported to him that on the 12th inst. there was heavy musketry fire for an hour on the north front, but that the Turks did not attempt any advance in that quarter. A heavy attack on the village on the right bank was repulsed. On the 13th all was quiet. Reinforcements continue to be sent up stream as they arrive.

Sir A. MARKHAM asked why we had to get information chiefly from Turkish sources. We had far more information from Constantinople, emanating from Germany, than from our own Foreign Office.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: In so far as that is the case, it is because I am unwilling to give to the House information for the accuracy of which I cannot vouch. The information from the sources to which the hon. gentleman refers is frequently grossly inaccurate.

Sir E. CORNWALL asked the Secretary for India if he would state what means were at his disposal for ascertaining the strength of the Turkish forces at Baghdad; whether the Foreign Office and the India Office were in close touch with each other on the subject; whether any explanation could be given for the British expedition advancing so far into Mesopotamia with inadequate forces; and whether he had conveyed to General Sir J. Nixon and General Townshend the appreciation of his Majesty's Government of the bravery, skill, and endurance shown by all ranks engaged in the expedition.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: It would not be in the public interest to answer the first and third parts of the question at the present time. The answer to the second and fourth parts is in the affirmative.

SUBMARINES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

In a message, dated December 14, Reuter's Malta correspondent reports:—The measures which have been adopted by the Admiralty, in conjunction with the French and Italian Admiralties, for dealing with the submarine menace in the Mediterranean have apparently proved most effective. Not a single mishap to shipping has been reported during the last ten days, although there have been the usual number of arrivals and departures.

On Wednesday evening, at Stratford, Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson, hon. secretary of the Serbian Relief Committee, delivered a lecture on "Serbia's Place in the War." It was, he said, recognised that Serbia had been attacked because she lay on the route to the East. She had held the gates to Constantinople for a year or so against all comers, and in defending that strip of land she was, in the truest sense, defending the British Empire.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Sea Power and the Balkans.

Colonel F. N. Maude, C.B., writing on Germany's aims in the *Sunday Times* (December 12), considers that insufficient attention is paid to the fact that Germany's advance into Serbia places her in a position of ever increasing embarrassment regarding communications in a mountainous and practically roadless country. The writer compares the enemy's methods of land transport in these regions with those which are open to the Allies by way of the sea, "for the paths of the sea mend themselves automatically as they are furrowed by the keels of ships, and a single big ship will carry more than very many trains, and they can be discharged in a few hours." The article continues:—

These considerations are amply sufficient to justify the policy of the Allies at Salonika in the present instance. All our efforts having failed to bring direct support to the Serbians in time to avert their retreat, the obvious and common-sense solution of the position was to concentrate backwards, thus shortening our own lines of communication and increasing those of the enemy. This course also minimised the dangers of Greek treachery and gained time, not only for the disembarkation of more troops at Salonika, but also for the arrival of the main army destined for the Balkans, but not necessarily intended for a landing at the same place.

The writer considers that thinking men in Germany know that the game is up, and are putting forward exaggerated claims of successes as a consequence of this knowledge and in the hope of influencing neutrals and "peace at any price fanatics."

The Retreat on Salonika.

The *Morning Post* (December 13) in a leading article makes no attempt to disguise the disadvantages under which the Allied armies have laboured since, at the invitation of M. Venizelos, they landed at Salonika.

French and British troops have been jostled and pushed aside in the streets of Salonika. All sorts of obstacles have been put in the way of railway transports, and the trains have been delayed unconscionably at critical moments. Our movements have been spied upon, our encampments approached by Greek troops, and everything has been done to produce friction and make the situation intolerable. The spring of this conspiracy is said to be high up in the Greek Army command and in Court circles. There could be no situation more uneasy and harassing for a retreating army short of a country actually in arms against it.

The *Post* reiterates its previous contention that the scheme of advancing our armies into Serbia in the face of Greece's defection was strategically unsound. In regard to the recently reported decision of the Greek Government to give the Allies a free hand at their base, the paper says:—

If this is indeed true, it marks a change in King Constantine's attitude. This change of attitude may be due to the pressure which the Allied fleets are bringing to bear upon Greece and Greek commerce. For it can no longer be hidden from King Constantine that in certain circumstances the penalty which Greece would have to pay for disregarding the advice of the sea Powers would be nothing less than the total ruin of the country. On the other hand, with Bulgarian and Turkish armies pressing in upon the Greek frontier, it may have occurred to King Constantine that the only way to save Salonika is to leave it in the hands of France and England.

The *Daily Telegraph* (December 13), in a powerful leading article, in which the events of the Near East are reviewed, urges that verbal promises from the Greeks are no longer sufficient.

For we have discovered that they have their own interpretation of what they call a "benevolent neutrality," and that it by no means agrees with what we understand by the term.

While it is admitted that there is cause for anxiety, the article concludes with the following paragraph:—

Not by a hair's breadth has our confidence in ultimate success been diminished. The rush to the recruiting booths is sufficient to prove the strength of British convictions. All we ask is that, in handling the problem, our rulers shall act with that resolute energy which the strength of Allied resources warrants, and which the situation seems imperatively to demand.

Greece and the Allies.

In the *Contemporary Review* (December) Dr. E. J. Dillon has an article of quite exceptional interest under the above heading. The writer has not a high opinion of the political status of Greece to-day.

The Parliamentary storms that burst in Athens this autumn revived in some Entente quarters the illusion that the political atmosphere of Greece would at last be purified and room made for public men of high purpose and moral principle, like Venizelos, who were recalled to power by the King. But it was not to be. As a shower of rain could not cleanse the stables of Augeas neither can a Parliamentary crisis purify the pestilent political soil of King Constantine's realm.

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The writer does not question the ability or sincerity of M. Venizelos.

But if a child can lead a horse to the river's edge forty men cannot make him drink. A nation may be saved from its enemies, and at a pinch even from its friends, but the very gods cannot save it from itself. Greece may well be an instance of this. She puts her ease, profit, and prosperity above strenuous effort and painful self-denial. She is deaf to the voice of duty. And let it not be urged that "the heart of the Greek or the Bulgarian people is in the right place and that it is only their rulers that have gone astray." Between leader and led one cannot make any such distinction. Each Balkan King claims to represent his respective people, and if the claim were unfounded the nation could and would say so, and follow up the declaration with remedial measures.

Dr. Dillon quotes the case of Italy's intervention, which was brought about by the will of the people in spite of the most strenuous attempts of a pro-German and powerful Minister to preserve neutrality. From this side of the question the writer proceeds to a character sketch of King Constantine, and to an examination of the events which have led him to popularity. Dr. Dillon deals lightly with the latter subject. The King has been hailed as the "first strategist on earth," in consequence of the last Balkan War.

There is something so touching, so unsophisticated, so child-like, in this apotheosis of a reputed military genius by a humdrum mercantile people which exalts itself in worshipping him, that it would be ungenerous to analyse it too closely. But it is well to realize the origins of the harmony which now undoubtedly exists between the King and the bulk of his subjects. One of them is the widespread belief that Constantine is the Greek Messiah, and his military feats are the foretokens of a higher greatness in store for the Hellenic race now that the foundations of the political world are being renewed. And compared with the genius of the Lord's anointed the talent of the Cretan interloper is as a drop to the ocean.

The following paragraph refers to the misplaced confidence which the Allies reposed in the power of Venizelos, re-elected by a sound majority, to carry out the mandates of his supporters.

They did not yet know, or refused to believe, that Greece was an autocracy and Constantine XII. the trusty henchman of the Kaiser. But they were soon to learn the truth. Having dissuaded Serbia from taking effective measures to save herself from a catastrophe at the hands of Bulgaria and bidden her put her trust in Greece, the Allies suddenly woke up to find that their chivalrous Greece had vanished, and the Greece of the Kaiser, Queen Sofia, and Baron Schenk was grinning at them in its place.

Dr. Dillon does not believe in the existence of a Greco-Bulgarian Treaty, for the simple reason that the "Greeks loathe and fear the Bulgars, and these in turn despise the Greeks." An agreement exists between King Constantine and the Kaiser: that is all.

To sum up, Greece is not Venizelos, nor Zaimis, nor Skouloudis, nor the Chamber, nor the nation, but a Field-Marshal of the Prussian army, the Kaiser's brother-in-law and firm believer in the final victory of the Central Empires. Constantine XII., the world's greatest living strategist, is the only factor that counts when the policy of Greece is being forecast. And we now know what to expect of him.

The Attitude of Roumania.

The *Manchester Guardian* (December 14) refers to the anxiety caused in various quarters by the recent action of Roumania in permitting the export of a large quantity of grain to the Central Empires, and in mining the lower reaches of the Danube. The writer, from whose article we quote below, is of opinion that such anxiety is quite baseless.

As regards the exports, it is well to bear in mind that owing to the closure of the Dardanelles Roumania has accumulated a gigantic stock of foodstuffs, which she has kept back as long as she could, hoping for a change in the military situation that would have allowed her to export them through Serbia and Salonika. The occupation of the former has frustrated these hopes, and as the Central Powers are prepared to pay a high price for the stuffs Roumania has been reluctantly compelled to make a virtue—no doubt a very profitable one—of the necessity imposed by the circumstances. As the *Frankfurter Zeitung* itself recently warned its leaders, this sale of grain by Roumania must not be considered as an act of friendship towards the Central Powers. "The enormous price which Roumania is exacting shows that her sole intention is to exploit the present opportunity."

As for the mining of the Danubian waters, it is merely a sign that Roumania is still waiting. As a Russian march through Roumanian territory would necessarily involve Roumania in the war, she has mined her waters so as to ward off the danger. The act of mining the Danube is but another way of proclaiming that the hour of Roumania's intervention is not yet.

The Price of Neutrality.

In a telegram from Paris on the situation in Greece, the "Own Correspondent" of the *Morning Advertiser* (December 14) includes the following paragraph concerning the price that Greece is already paying for her precarious neutrality:—

Meanwhile Greece has paid dearly for her policy of procrastination, for her desire to remain neutral, and thus help the game of the Boche Powers. She has incurred over three millions of unproductive expenditure by the mobilization of her army. She has allowed her enemy, Bulgaria, to take possession of three-fourths of Serbian territory. She has been deprived of her sovereign rights over Macedonia, and probably she will be deprived of those of her maritime empire. "These, for the moment," says the Hellenic journal, the *Patris*, "are the results of the policy of neutrality of the Government of M. Skouloudis."

This newspaper adds that those who accused M. Venizelos of being the political agent of England and France must now see that his policy was based, not on sentimental reasons, but on the interests of Hellenism, which for profound reasons cannot be separated from the interests of the Entente Powers. "May the past serve as a lesson for the future," concludes the *Patris*.

The Defence of Egypt.

Writing of German plans for the future, the Military Correspondent of the *Times* (December 14) says that—

"The central fact of the military situation is that the Austro-German Allies have failed, on their three main fronts, to overthrow the armies of the Great Powers opposing them, or to affect in any way, except by hardening, the resolution of the Allies to continue the war until their political aims are completely achieved."

He thinks it not improbable that the desire to "strafe" England for bringing her plans to naught will lead Germany at least to attack the British position on the western front, and possibly to attempt an invasion of England. He continues:—

Present appearances point, however, to the greater certainty of another operation against us, namely, an attack on Egypt. As soon as the Belgrade-Sofia railway and the Semlin bridge are completely repaired it is probable that the Germans will despatch to Constantinople, presumably in January next—say, four army corps—probably young troops of new formation, to join up with 350,000 Turks, and thus hope to bring 500,000 men to bear upon our troops in Egypt.

The *Times* urges that all our spare troops must be concentrated in the Eastern Mediterranean for this campaign.

Articles to Note.

"The British Expedition to Baghdad," by Lewis R. Freeman, in the *World's Work* (December).

"The German Invasion," by Sir George Makgill, in the *English Review* (December).

"War Map Supplement. Persian Gulf—Dardanelles—Suez Canal—Caucasus," in the *Standard* (December 14).

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GEERE, Miss Ada, Tolcarn, Frognal Lane, Hampstead.
GERBAULT, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel, 13, Rue de la Grange, Batelière, Paris.
GILCHRIST, Mr. and Mrs. Gavin, The Lodge, Budehaven, Bude, N. Cornwall.
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GOODWIN, Mr. and Mrs. R. H., Hill Cottage, Seaford, Sussex.
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MACKRAY, E. D., Daira of H.H. Princess Emina, Berdein, Egypt.
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MONCK-MASON, A., Ottoman Bank, Alexandria.
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Continued on page 188.

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Black Sea Shipping.

Enemy Vessels Lost.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, November 29.

The following list of steamers destroyed in the Black Sea and in the Sea of Marmora is not only interesting, but is striking evidence of the activity of the Russian Fleet and of the British and French submarines in these waters.

If the Russians have not been successful in stopping all supplies of coal reaching Constantinople from Zungouldak, they must be given the credit of having largely contributed to the destruction of about 80 per cent. of the mercantile tonnage which existed in Constantinople on the outbreak of war.

It will be remarked that very few vessels are now available for the conveyance of munitions and supplies from Constantinople to the Dardanelles or coal from Zungouldak.

In addition to the steamers mentioned in this list hundreds of sailing vessels and lighters have also been destroyed in the Black Sea and in the Marmora, as well as three large warships and several small ones and tugboats.

List of Steamers Reported Sunk in the Black Sea.

Adalia	Turkish (not identified)
Bezmi-Alem	Turkish Government transport
Brousa (628)*	(ex-Greek Mela)
Beicos (1,188)	Turkish
Banderma (474)	Turkish
Derindje (3,373)	German
Dafni (1321)	Turkish
Edindjik	Turkish (not identified)
Edriné (646)	Turkish
Ella (3,510)	Belgian (seized by Turks)
Georgios	Greek (not identified)
Heybely Ada (927)	Turkish
Hilal (1,502)	Turkish
Hellespont	Turkish (not identified)
Hairoullah (139)	Turkish
Iskudar (2,900)	Turkish (ex Craigforth, seized by Turks)
Illiria (1,066)	Austrian
Ivonne	Turkish (French tugboat seized by Turks)
Guzel Girid (1,232)	Turkish
Kinali Ada (297)	Turkish
Kessandra (438)	Turkish
Kizil Irmak (1,945)	Turkish
Leon	Turkish (ex-tugboat belonging to Mr. Grech)
Marie Rosette (759)	Italian
Midhat Pacha (4,455)	Turkish
Millet (817)	Turkish
Morna (1,496)	Greek
Nikea (905)	Turkish
Newa (549)	British
Nilufer (1,088)	Turkish (converted into mine layer)
Nedjat (1,523)	Turkish
Nagara	Turkish (not identified)
On Temmous (2,162)	Turkish
Ogourola	Turkish (ex-Austrian. Not identified)
Principessa Giovanna	Italian (not identified)
Persia	Persian (not identified)
Progress (408)	French
Salonique (1,127)	Turkish
Saghditche (763)	Turkish
Skyros (2,634)	German
Samsoun (275)	Turkish
Sakiz (142)	Turkish (tobacco Regie)
Seihoun (ex-Sabah) (3,013)	Turkish
Seyare	Turkish tugboat
Taxiarchis (885)	Turkish
Tedjelli	Turkish (not identified)
Tenedos (3,564)	German
Washington	Archipelago American Steam Ship Co.
Yechil Irmak	Turkish (not identified)
Zoungbuldak (1,545)	Turkish

Reported Sunk in Sea of Marmora.

Bulbul	Turkish (not identified)
Biga (784)	Turkish
Bosphore	(Steamtug belonging to French Salvage Co.)
Bosprus (2,995)	German
Bahri-Sefid	Turkish (belonging to Tobacco Regie)
Bosphorus No. 44	Turkish (Bosphorus Steam Navigation Co.)
Bosphorus No. 62	Turkish (Bosphorus Steam Navigation Co.)
Bosphorus No. 41	Turkish (Bosphorus Steam Navigation Co.)
Carmen (4,424)	Austrian
Chios (3,304)	German
Golden Horn No. 10	Turkish (Golden Horn Steam Navigation Co.)
Golden Horn No. 14	Turkish Golden Horn Steam Navigation Co.)
Halep (3,684)	Turkish
Erdek (660)	Turkish
Eresos (3022)	German
Hanefé (506)	Turkish
Ihtibah	British (seized by Turks)
Ispahan (843)	Persian (sunk at Haidar Pacha Quay)
Leros (2,679)	German
Mahmoud Chefket Pacha (2690)	Turkish
Mercedes	French tug boat seized by Turks
Plevne (1,154)	Turkish
Younoux	Turkish (not identified)
Zaphir	Turkish (not identified)

Reported Damage by Enemy and Laid Up at Constantinople.

Bitinia (3,125)	Austrian (torpedoed in Marmora)
Gul Djemal (5,071)	Turkish (torpedoed in Marmora)
Scham (3,662)	Turkish (torpedoed in Marmora)
Stamboul (3,559)	German (torpedoed in harbour)
Lily Rickmers (4,081)	German (damaged by gunfire in Black Sea)
Madeleine Rickmers (3,431)	German (damaged by submarine at Panderma)

Steamers Reported Seized by Russians.

Amalia	Italian (lying at Sevastapol)
Craiova	Roumanian " "

Steamers Reported Now at Constantinople.

Corcovado (8,099)	German (reported munitions being made on board)
General (8,063)	German (occupied by German General Staff)
Debrovnik (4,238)	Austrian (used for carrying coal and munitions)
Arimatea	Austrian " "
Irmingard (4,211)	German " "
Nora Hugo Stinnes (4,985)	German " "
Rodosto (3,662)	German " "
Kerkyra (2,564)	German " "
Patmos (1,907)	German " "
Kerassunde (3,056)	Turkish (reported unseaworthy)
Seyer (3,338)	Turkish " "
Touran	Turkish (not identified)
Yourouk	Turkish (not identified)
Altay (about 500)	Turkish
Sally Maersk (2,794)	Danish (laden with maize)
Despina Aivadoglou (774)	Turkish (all these are probably unseaworthy)
Edremid (414)	Turkish " "
Gallipoli (282)	Turkish " "
Nimet (280)	Turkish " "
Inebdlie (240)	Turkish " "
Hawk (117)	British " "

Hospital Ships.
(Painted White.)

Ak Deniz (5,006)	Turkish (ex Oldenbourg)
Rechid Pacha (4,458)	Turkish (ex Port Antonio)
Gul Nihal (1,259)	Turkish (ex Cambridge)

and four Bosphorus passenger boats.

(*) Gross register tonnage in brackets.

CONSTANTZA TRADE.

The British Vice-Consul at Constantza, Roumania, reports that the year 1914 was not a prosperous one either for the port or the district of Constantza. The outbreak of the European war interrupted regular mail communications with Western Europe; the banks restricted credit, and refused to deal in foreign negotiable instruments; and, in consequence, payments could neither be effected nor received from abroad. Loaded ships experienced delays and difficulties in their passage through Turkish waters, so that the trade of the port was practically at a standstill even before the definite closing of the Dardanelles. The harvest, which constitutes the main wealth of the district, suffered from the rains. The abnormally high prices of grain which set in towards the end of the year do not appear to have much benefited the farmer and the peasant.

The local Customs House does not supply detailed statistics of imports and exports, but approximate figures furnished by the Harbour Master put the volume of the imports into Constantza in 1914 at 140,433 tons, as compared with 229,079 tons in 1913, and the volume of the exports at 767,671 tons, against 1,271,180 tons in 1913.

The principal imports are coal and coke, tinplates, cotton goods, and provisions such as tea, coffee, fresh and dried fruits, vegetables, and oils. The quantity of coal and coke imported in 1914 was 48,560 tons, a decrease of 82,092 tons as compared with the 1913 figures; the imports from the United Kingdom in 1913 and 1914 were 54,456 tons and 26,919 tons, and from Germany 70,384 tons and 20,132 tons respectively. Tin plates are in great demand by the petroleum companies at Constantza for making petroleum tins, and there will be a large demand as soon as these can be imported.

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Whittall, Lady, Athens.
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Whittall, Mrs. Jack, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The appointment of an official controller to the Egyptische Hypotheken Bank, A.G., will be hailed with pleasure by all who have watched the peculiar attitude taken up by the Egyptian Government with regard to certain enemy establishments. Our Cairo Correspondent (page 171) has some pertinent remarks to make this week on the subject, and, from what I hear, he might have been even more severe in his criticism.

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It is a fact, for instance, that the provisioning of the British Army in Egypt is largely in alien hands, and I have reason to suspect that the interest of British establishments in the country have suffered thereby. The welcome announcement is made this week that "the British Army having to obtain its dries supplies solely through the Ministry of Agriculture, the latter has appointed, as its agents in this matter, the Egyptian Markets Company." This is most welcome news, and I congratulate the company in question. On the other hand, I cannot but point out that the authorities should apply this method of procedure to supplies of all kinds, not only to dries, and that the concessionnaires should *in every case* be a British company, or, failing this, under direct British control.

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This is a matter, I think, which is deserving of immediate attention. That we should fight our battles for the sake of enriching alien provisioners to our Army (and in some cases the aliens are not even friendly to our cause) is driving chivalry in this war a little too far. It may be argued that the only organization for the provisioning of the British Army in Egypt was controlled by aliens when we went there, but this is no excuse for not having created an organization during the last sixteen months, and for not having taken prior and exclusive advantage of such existing British organizations as the Egyptian Markets. Had this been done, the Deutsche Baumwollpresse A.G., referred to by our Correspondent, could not have provided fodder to the British Army.

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In the latter case, the gravity is accentuated because the Deutsche Baumwollpresse A.G. is an out-and-out enemy concern, an offshoot of the Deutsche Orient Bank, the great agent of German propaganda and corruption in Egypt, a hydra-headed concern of everlasting menace to the Empire, and one that can only be guarded against by completely destroying its power for doing evil. There is not a country in Europe, from Italy to Roumania, that is not cursed with its Deutsche Orient Bank, its Deutsche Hypotheken Bank, etc., which exist only for and by bribery, thereby acquiring tremendous power, and laugh at any attempts made by their victimized countries to coerce them. When we remember that three-fourths of the capital invested in Roumania is German and that Austro-German capital controls Bulgaria, can we wonder at what is taking place in the Balkans?

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To-day, we are fighting this evil on the battlefields of Europe; to-morrow, if the world is to enjoy a long spell of peace, we shall have to continue to fight it with other weapons, until it is utterly crushed. We can begin doing so to-day in Egypt. If it can be proved—and I should think that there can be no difficulty in doing so—that the Deutsche This-and-That worked, before the war began, with intent to undermine our influence and prestige in Egypt, the concern in question must be swept out of existence, and never again be allowed to open anywhere within the Empire. This is the only way to deal with such enemy establishments and their creations, and if we are energetic in this matter, setting up a precedent if need be, we shall find that other and smaller countries will not be slow to follow our example, with the result that Europe will emerge much cleaner after the process of elimination. On the other hand, to allow such companies to continue their nefarious work, provision our armies and re-elect German directors to laugh at our supineness, is a policy that can find favour nowhere except in Berlin. Surely, that is not what we are fighting for? Allow me, therefore, to urge on the proper authorities in Egypt the immediate necessity for prompt action against enemy concerns that have done the country no good whatsoever and which have openly done us harm in the past, and will do so again if we leave a gasp of breath in their bodies.

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There is at present, writes our Cairo Correspondent, no means of taxing "war profits" in Egypt. The contractors who have made large profits, and the cotton dealers who took unfair advantage of the situation last autumn, have contributed not one red cent to the revenue, and it seems time that some scheme should be introduced whereby such elements should be made to contribute to the Exchequer some portion of the profit they made out of the war. With regard to the cotton dealers, there is no reason why in normal times they should not make some contribution, seeing that their profits are made entirely out of the produce of the country.

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An announcement was made in Amsterdam on Wednesday by companies owning Dutch East Indies liners and mail-boats that, "until further notice, boats will not use the Suez Canal route, but will make the voyage round the Cape." The official explanation is that it is due "to the increasing uncertainty of being able to obtain the necessary coal at the appointed stations." This change of route means the addition of from twelve to fourteen days to the length of the voyage, whilst service will be restricted to one of ten days instead of weekly. The companies involved are the Rotterdamsche Lloyd and Stoomvaart Maatschappy Nederland and Maatschappy Ocean, the two first being mail and passenger boats and the third freight only.

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In an interview on Wednesday the managing director of the Rotterdamsche Lloyd said that telegrams had been received from the company's coaling stations along the Suez route stating that it was impossible to ensure the keeping up of the coal reserves, and that, therefore, it would be inadvisable to continue the use of this route. Another consideration, explained the director, was that in case of delay while waiting for coal it would be impossible to provision passengers and crew for a possible considerable length of time. He added: "There is no political reason whatever for the change of route."

M. Tontcheff has been singing the praises of Germany in the world press. Everything, according to him, is smiling in the Teuton garden, and agriculture in Belgium is flourishing—a circumstance for which the Kaiser can hardly be held responsible, because seeds germinate, just as the tides ebb and flow, in spite of imperial will. So that M. Tontcheff's imitation of King Canute's courtiers will avail him little. Incidentally, the *Times* reports that the German Government War Lending Institutions are prepared to accept Bulgarian Guaranteed Treasury Bonds "as security up to 40 per cent. of the nominal value," and wisely adds: "Berlin could pay no more eloquent compliment to the credit of Germany's ally."

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The Cardiff correspondent of the Central News telegraphs that the Greek Government has commandeered all Greek ships above 1,500 tons net for, it is stated, carrying foodstuffs from America. Greek vessels loading or empty have been ordered to proceed to Hampton Roads, Virginia, U.S., immediately.

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With reference to the appointment of a Commission (as announced last week by our Cairo Correspondent) to facilitate the use of local resources in Egypt for military purposes, it is now announced that Brigadier-General Ford has been given a place on the Commission. The creation of the latter (says the Cairo Exchange correspondent) has given general satisfaction, for there has undoubtedly been a certain amount of waste. It is felt that this will not continue in the presence of the Commission, which consists of men familiar with the local conditions.

***

According to a New York paper, it is now possible to grow coloured cotton, and it is believed in the United States that spinners and manufacturers will eventually be enabled to obtain the article in the raw or unmanufactured state in any desired shade or colour. A planter in South Carolina is reported to have succeeded in producing cotton which ranges from snow white to a deep olive green. There is every reason to believe that black cotton, sought for years by spinners and manufacturers, is about to become a reality. The planter's statements are borne out by the receipt in Savannah of samples of his coloured cottons. The exhibit has been framed and hung on the walls of the Cotton Exchange, where it has occasioned a great amount of interest and comment. The seed used in the experiments were those of Egyptian staple. Seed selection has been practised extensively, and in four years this grower has obtained in regular order from the Egyptian seed a cream tan, yellow, green, light brown, olive green, and bronze.

***

British firms in the Sudan are not so numerous as to be passed over lightly, and I should, therefore, like to call attention to Messrs. Law and Company of Khartoum, who have been established in the Sudan for some years doing a large gum and general produce business. Mr. Law, the managing director, has had a long trading experience in the country, and knows it thoroughly. The London offices of the firm are at 15, 16, and 17, Tower Hill.

COMMENTATOR.

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Turkey and the War.

U.S. Consular Reports.

We reproduce to-day further extracts from the U.S. Consular reports from Turkish vilayets.

IV.—TRIPOLI.

The first six months of 1914 were the most prosperous, from a business viewpoint, ever known at this port and consular district, whereas the last six months of the year were the worst experienced. The present war has had a paralyzing effect on trade to and from this port, as over 90 per cent. of its imports come from countries that are now at war. During August and a part of September a small quantity of merchandise was brought into this port in order to fill contracts made previous to July 1. The greater part of these shipments was refused, however, as the consignees were not able to pay for them. For several years past, German and Austrian firms have covered this market systematically, and they have gradually increased their sales to about 78 per cent. of the total amount of manufactured articles imported here.

Trade.

Owing to the stopping of all import trade at this port, the supply of goods on hand will soon be exhausted, and when the time comes to supply the demand for new goods American exporters should endeavour to capture this trade. American exporters will do well to keep in mind the fact that 90 per cent. of all manufactured goods and 95 per cent. of raw material, such as iron, copper sheets, brass, tin plates, lead, caustic soda and potash, dyestuffs, cotton thread, and wool yarn, must come from abroad. Cotton yarn (thread) and cotton tissues, the greater part of which comes from England and Germany, and the remainder from Italy and Austria, are among the principal imports at Tripoli.

The unbleached cotton yarn is used mainly in weaving on hand looms and, to a small extent, on hand-power looms.

German and Austrian table knives, pocket-knives, scissors, and razors have superseded those of other countries, as they are cheap in price, which fact alone is sufficient to influence the local buyer. The fact that such goods must be cheap and have a gaudy appearance is witnessed by the thousands of pocket knives with bright finish and inferior blades that are sold annually in this market. Table articles to a considerable amount are imported into this market from Germany and Austria, which are, for the most part, cheap in price, and if one wants to consider cheapness rather than quality, they suit very well. Carpenters' and masons' tools find a ready market, as do all kinds of shoe findings, leather for uppers and soles, the former coming from Germany and the latter from Italy almost exclusively.

Rice, of which large quantities are imported, comes from Rangoon, India, Egypt, and Italy; flour is imported from Russia, France, and Italy; coffee from Italy and Arabia; and sugar is purchased from Russia, Germany, Austria, and a small quantity from France. Canned goods come from France, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, and the Netherlands. Kerosene is bought from Russia, the United States, and Roumania, and motor spirits from the United States and Russia. Germany and the United States furnish this market with wire nails. Iron and steel bars are purchased in Belgium and Germany, while galvanized-iron sheets are imported from the United States and Great Britain. Great Britain and Egypt are the sources of supply for caustic soda and potash. Cement and water lime, also building materials, such as roof and floor tiles, in large quantities are ordered from France, while Italy still holds the market in marble for floors and other purposes.

One can only repeat what has been stated in past reports, viz., that this market requires for the most part looks, not quality, cheap, not expensive, articles, for the purchasing power of the consumer is limited, and it is not likely that conditions will change much in the near future. This is a good market for staple products and the local merchants have a mind of their own as to what they want, and they will purchase thousands of dollars worth of goods directly from a commercial agent, when, on the other hand, they will spend only a limited sum through mail orders. The knowledge of the custom has been taken advantage of by German and Austrian firms, which explains the wonderful success these countries have experienced in selling goods in this market during the past decade.

Concessions.

During 1914 two important concessions were granted to British companies. One was a forestry concession to cut timber in the Taurus Mountains, and the other was a mining concession to work certain iron deposits near Ayas. Operations on both concessions were stopped because of the war. The local chrome mines were also practically neglected. Water works and other public improvements planned for the city of Adana were abandoned, and the electric lighting of Mersina, the installation of the plant for which was about to have been made as the war broke out, has again been halted. The building projects of American petroleum companies to facilitate the handling of their steadily increasing business in Turkey were also abandoned.

Shipping.

The port of Adalia is almost entirely dependent for trade upon Smyrna, Constantinople, and the neighbouring archipelago. It was therefore similarly affected by the outbreak of war. Thus the value of all shipments from Adalia decreased from £278,039 in 1913 to £133,827 for 1914. The greater part of the goods arriving at Adalia, however, consists of re-exports from Smyrna and elsewhere, and these also showed a large decrease.

Despite the war the number of steamers calling in 1914 at Mersina was 555, which was thirty-two more than in 1913. At Adalia the number was 310, while in 1913 it was only 136. These increases are largely due to the frequent calls of Italian steamers, which after the outbreak of war secured the business that had gone to Austrian and German ships. After November the Italian steamers obtained practically a monopoly of local shipping. Their principal rivals were the steamers of the Archipelago American Company, an American-owned corporation.

GREECE AND THE COAL TRADE.

The Cardiff correspondent of the *Financial Times*, writing on Sunday on the coal trade situation, states that the uncertainty of the Greek position has greatly upset the market. Greek tonnage is a most important factor in the South Wales coal market, and the further requisitioning of tonnage by the Greek Government has served to accentuate the shortage of supplies. The many rumours in circulation during the week naturally created an uneasy feeling. The supply of coal going to Greece herself has been greatly reduced of late, and now none is allowed to go. Shipments there last month did not exceed 20,000 tons, compared with 75,000 tons in the corresponding month of last year. The total sent in the last eleven months is only half the total sent in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

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BULGARIAN TRADE NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, November 27.

The Bulgarians announce that all concessions which had been granted in the territory newly occupied by them are annulled.

It is announced that the archives of the Banque Agricole Serbe, recently founded, have been discovered intact at Uskub. An inspector from the Banque Agricole Bulgare has proceeded thither to examine them.

The journals at Sofia express great uneasiness at the want of sugar which is being felt in Bulgaria. The new crop is not sufficient for the necessities of public consumption; whilst the production of beet is far below requirements, both as regards quality and quantity. The largest amount of sugar on which one can count is hardly 8,000 tons, whereas the annual internal consumption is 20,000 tons. To combat this the price is raised from 80 centimes to 1.35 frs. per kilo. It is hoped to make up the deficiency from Austria or Germany. Two hundred tons have been purchased in Austria to meet the pressing requirements of the capital.

The Banque Agricole Bulgare has sent delegates to the invaded territories to study the situation of the branches of the old Banque Agricole Ottomane. The Banque Agricole Bulgare is itself a creation of the Banque Agricole Ottomane, founded before 1877 in Bulgaria, then the vilayet of Rustchuk, by Midhat Pasha.

The Administration of the Commune of Sofia has just issued an order by which all the inhabitants are obliged to declare within ten days the quantities of maize, wool, and copper in their possession.

Imports into Bulgaria from January 1 to August 31, 1915, amounted to 72,063,864 frs., and exports to 52,694,000 frs. The record of exports was reached in June with 12,442,000 frs.

During the month of August attar of roses to the value of 150,000 frs. was exported to Great Britain and America.

Large quantities of flour have been dispatched to Nish and Pirot during the last few days in order to meet the wants of the civil population. It is hoped that by this means the price of bread will be lowered.

The national Bank of Bulgaria has despatched to Pirot the necessary personnel for the agency which they have opened in the town.

SHIPPERS TO GREECE.

People who have contracts to send goods to Greece are in a serious difficulty, says the *Manchester Guardian*. Some of them have experienced a long delay in obtaining licences, and now they find that there are no shipping facilities available. Even if they could get freight room, however, they would hardly care to run the risk, and they consider it is useless incurring the expense of continuing the storage of the goods. A Liverpool firm of merchants, who write on this subject, inviting suggestions, say in their letter:—

"There is no war with Greece, and yet contracts cannot be fulfilled. The difficulty is that, if goods held so long are resold, the buyers may insist on fresh goods being made when ordinary commerce is possible. Merchants would like to know whether the state of things which prevents their making shipments absolves them from responsibilities on the goods, which there might be heavy losses replacing."

In our view (continues the journal quoted), the merchants who are in the position described have simply a choice of possible evils before them. Restraint by the Crown would be a good defence to a claim for breach of contract, but as long as there is no such restraint and we continue at peace with Greece—as everyone hopes we shall—shippers will have to carry out their contracts or incur the usual risk if they fail to do so. It will be possible in some cases, perhaps, to consign the goods first to some port in the Mediterranean and telegraph further orders on arrival, but, of course, there will be expense and trouble if the goods have to be unloaded at a port of call.

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Roumanian Trade Notes.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, October 30.

According to a communication received from the Roumanian authorities at Salonika, goods on the way from Great Britain, Italy, etc., for transport to Roumania have arrived at that port and have been disposed in warehouses in the town. As, on account of the situation, they cannot be sent on to Roumania, and in order to prevent an agglomeration of merchandise at Salonika, local purchasers of goods abroad are requested to hold up further shipment until arrangements have been concluded for their transport via Russia.

A large amount of parcels post packets are reported to be held up at Drama. The Greek trains at present circulate only to the Greco-Serbian frontier.

Grain Shippers.

Activity is now observable among would-be shippers of grain via the Danube to Austria-Hungary and Germany. There are large quantities of grain in lighters at Braila, Galatz, Giugevo, Magurele, Coralina, etc., awaiting the opening of navigation by the Austro-Hungarian and German forces. According to the papers, this is now a *fait accompli*, and a tug with empty lighters is said to have made the passage of the Iron Gates, and to have passed Turnu Severin, and Calafat, just above Widin on the Roumanian bank.

Several tugs have been purchased lately by Austro-Hungarian agents, so a regular supply of grain will now be available to Austria-Hungry and Germany until the Danube freezes, if it does so. The usual closing is about Christmas, though there is no regular rule, and last year (an exception) the river remained open to navigation all the winter.

Naturally all this grain must pay export taxes, and in order to prevent any evasion of this the Roumanian Customs authorities have issued orders that any lighter leaving a Roumanian river port must pay export taxes, though the vessel clear for a Roumanian port. These taxes can be re-imbursed when it is proved the grain in question has been actually discharged in a Roumanian port.

Revenues.

The financial year 1914-15 ended on September 30 last. The revenues encashed amounted to 553,172,000 frs. and expenditure to 539,609,000 frs., leaving a surplus of 13,563,000 frs.

S.S. Craiova.

The crew of the Roumanian steamer Craiova, which was sunk by the Russian navy recently, have arrived at Constantza and state that another steamer, under the Greek flag, was likewise sunk after the crew had been taken off.

The cargo of the Craiova consisted of 7,800 sacks of walnuts, the value being estimated at more than a million francs.

Disarming Russian Vessels.

The official journals publish the following:—In consequence of the Austro-German occupation of the Serbian bank of the Danube, the Roumanian authorities have taken the necessary measures for disarming in Roumanian ports all vessels under the Russian flag, loaded with arms and ammunition for Serbia, and which have taken refuge in Roumanian waters. With reference to this it is announced that the vessels in question, together with their cargo, have been purchased by the Roumanian Government. The crews have left for Russia, being replaced by Roumanians.

November 27.

A telegram sent by the Roumanian Railway Commission announces that the Russian Government has accepted the plans for the transit of goods and munitions for Roumania through the former's territory.

Work is being pushed on actively for the improvement of the port of Kola, where the munitions will arrive. The actual transport cannot, however, commence before January.

The State Service will shortly despatch two of their cargo steamers to the Sea of Azov in order to load 5,000 tons of coal, a part of the large quantity purchased by the Roumanian Government in Russia.

The Budget

The Budget for the last financial year, as already reported, produced 35 million francs less than was reckoned, this naturally being on account of the abnormal political position. For this reason, M. Costinescu, Minister of Finance, has sent round a circular to all public departments requesting that their estimates for the ensuing Budget be as reduced as possible.

In the Oilfields.

In spite of the various difficulties produced by the political situation, the work on the Baicoi-Constantza pipe-line progresses satisfactorily. In a short time the pipes for all the lines will have been laid, with the exception only of the distance across the bridges over the Borsea and at Czernavoda across the Danube, about 14 kilometres, and another five kilometres between Tzanderei and Buzen, which is a difficult piece of engineering.

The erection of the pumping works, etc., at Baicoi, Ploesti, and Buzen is almost terminated, including the dwellings for employees, offices, etc. The Czernavoda pumping station and engine is also well under way.

The construction of reservoirs is already completed, and for the most part they are already full of petroleum. There remains to be erected one reservoir of 1,600 cubic metres at Buzen and four of 1,500 cubic metres each at Czernavoda.

The reservoirs already erected have a capacity of 157,000 cubic metres, and have already been placed at the disposal of the petroleum companies.

The great difficulty in starting the pipe line is the want of pumps and motors. These cannot at present be brought from abroad. However, the directorate have the matter under consideration, and it is hoped that a favourable solution to the question will be found shortly. In any case, the line will be in working order before normal conditions again prevail.

CONSULAR REPORT.

The British Vice-Consul at Bucharest reports that that city is the centre of all commercial activity in Roumania, and although as regards the timber and grain trades the Danubian ports of Galatz and Braila see the actual loading, the strings may be said to be pulled from the capital, all the larger commercial houses having their head offices there. Its position in the midst of the most densely populated part of the kingdom, as well as its situation as regards railway connection with the neighbouring countries of Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria, serve to make it the distributing point for most of the imports. The amount of merchandise arriving in Bucharest in peace time is exceedingly large, and much trade is done *vid* the Danube and thence to Bucharest by the railway from Giurgevo to Bucharest, a matter of two hours' journey for goods trains. By these means very large quantities of iron and steel goods of all descriptions come from Austria-Hungary and Germany. Rails, for instance, at one time a monopoly of the Cumberland and other north-country manufacturers, now come in great part from Austria-Hungary, though in this case it is the question of price and not of carriage, as might at first be supposed, which has won this trade away from the United Kingdom.

Though France still supplies the greater part of the fashionable goods imported, a taste has grown up of late years for British wares of this class, especially in the larger towns, and this fact should be noted by British producers and exporters. France exports to Roumania large quantities of preserved foodstuffs and wines of the finer qualities and the first grades of olive oil. The United Kingdom, Italy, and Austria-Hungary supply cottons and woollen goods, as well as straw and other headgear. In straw hats of the cheapest qualities Austria-Hungary and Italy have quite superseded the United Kingdom; this trade would seem to warrant greater attention on the part of British manufacturers, all the peasantry having lately taken to wearing straw hats in summer, as well as the many thousands of labourers who come annually from Bulgaria and Serbia to work at the harvest and who invariably make their purchases in Bucharest.

Turkey and Greece ship fruits, fresh and dried, food oils and vegetables, a large trade being done by coasters to Constantza. Coals come for the most part from Cardiff, and coke is also principally British. A certain quantity of Turkish coal is also imported. There are large coal depots in Bucharest, and an important business is done, although the river ports of Braila and Galatz and the seaport of Constantza are the main depots. The consumption of coal, not only for house use, but also for factories and mills, etc., grows daily, and it seems a pity that this trade should not be directly in British hands, instead of being left to Greek and other agents. The same might be said as regards the trade in agricultural machinery, hardware, etc.

With the outbreak of war and the closing of the Dardanelles all import trade ceased, except for very small quantities coming by rail from Salonica. Little or nothing came in by land from Germany and Austria-Hungary, as the railway systems of these two countries were entirely occupied in transporting troops, etc. Another thing which interrupted this means of import was that the exchange of railway trucks did not continue with the same regularity as in time of peace, the Germans retaining all Roumanian trucks sent to them, or sending only very few back from time to time. This caused the Roumanian authorities to issue fresh orders to the effect that all goods arriving and leaving the frontiers should be discharged from the trucks of the one country and loaded into those of the other, all of which caused delay.

The result has been that the few factories in the country have either had to stop work or to continue operations on a reduced scale for want of raw materials and fuel. The rise in price of practically everything was very sudden, and the effect is felt all over the country. Unfortunately, those who had stocks of goods exploited the situation, and the cost of living may be said to have doubled, if not trebled, in a very short space of time.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The *Taegliche Rundschau* of Zurich learns on the best authority that the various Roumanian State Departments have given notice to all officials that their salaries will be reduced 30 per cent. on and after January 1, 1916.

The Survey Department (Ministry of Finance), Egypt, is in future to be known officially as the "Survey of Egypt" in dealing with other national surveys and geographical institutions.

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Engineering Notes.

Preparations for Trade War.

It has been reported that in Germany and in Austria the manufacturers are laying their plans for the recapture of foreign markets after the war. Among other preparations, they are laying up great stocks of goods with which they propose to flood the markets of other countries as soon as the war is over. Now, we may be allowed to ask, what has become of our plans which we laid twelve months ago? THE NEAR EAST was among the first to advocate and support such a war, but we suggested at the time that unless it was contemporary with the present military war, and pursued with systematic energy, no satisfactory results could be expected. Plans were made, with a Babel of suggestions in the Press, based, more or less, on inadequate methods, and various organisations were formed without, so far as we know, any practical results. The Board of Trade, it must be admitted, has done excellent work by placing before the British manufacturers facts and figures which prove the real value of the various foreign markets. They also supplied to such manufacturers, on demand, the names and addresses of buyers and sellers of goods in those markets. It is not known if the Board of Trade's efforts have been fruitful, or to what extent the manufacturers availed themselves of the excellent opportunities that the office placed before them.

With regard to the engineering trade, from what local experience we possessed in certain markets, we often pointed out to the manufacturers various "openings" and the best methods that could adequately be adopted for "capturing" them; but it appears that in this trade-"war," there has also been a marked evidence of "shirking," and the general excuse of the engineer manufacturers has been "we are too busy with munition work, and cannot attend to any foreign orders!" The excuse is, of course, sound and praiseworthy, and it is not our intention to pass any comments, but in view of the consequences which the neglect of export trade may bring, it is, perhaps, not out of place to remark that there are several engineering firms in Great Britain which could probably, with only a slight increase of their plant, turn out the same amount of war work, as well as a certain amount of their ordinary work, without difficulty. They would thus help to keep up our export trade, which is necessary, not only for retaining our position in the foreign markets, but also, as Mr. Asquith said, to pay for the great amount of goods that we import from those markets. But if this apparent neglect of export trade continues, what will happen when the war is over? Foreign buyers will not easily return to our markets once they have been accustomed to the productions of our foreign competitors, who, undoubtedly, after the war, will redouble their efforts to retain their custom. Work, therefore, will be scarce, many engineering factories, especially the new ones, will close, and the struggle of the unemployed will follow. It may not happen so, but it is probable, especially if the trade-war preparations of German and Austrian manufacturers, as mentioned in the beginning of these notes, are carried out with usual Teutonic thoroughness.

Visionary Optimism.

We know that our pessimistic remarks will be deemed exaggerated by many. Similarly we think ultra optimistic the theory that after the war "there will arise an incalculably greater British engineering industry than has ever existed in the past." Here is a visionary optimism that appeared the other day in one of the leading journals, and which, delightful as it now sounds, may cause disappointments in the near future. "When we have utterly crushed Germany, as assuredly will be the case, the world's engineering trade will be in but two hands—those of ourselves and of America. We shall once more become the workshop of the world. All the war-devastated countries will look to us to supply their immense engineering requirements, their new railways, bridges, steel buildings, factory equipment, electric power stations, tramway systems, gas and steam engines, to mention but a few of an endless list. And—here is the important thing—we shall be in a position to meet the world's demand, thanks entirely to our participation in the world war." It is a beautiful vision, indeed, but what about France, with her great industrial resources? What about Italy, with her great progress in engineering, shipbuilding, and electricity, and of "the fame of Italian internal combustion engineering," which the same journal characterised recently as "world-wide," while in the matter of electrification of railways, the record of Italy is alluded to as standing "so high that no new schemes are undertaken anywhere without a careful consideration of the splendid work done beyond the Alps." In marine engineering Italy is also mentioned as being "in the very front rank, as is shown by the design and equipment—with ten 14 in. guns, and oil-burning engines of 50,000-horse power—of her latest super-Dreadnought, the £3,500,000 'Dandolo'." All these we admit as quite correct. But while it is certain that German militarism will be utterly crushed, German trade will, soon after the war, revive and stand again a formidable competitor of our industrial manufacturers. It is, therefore, wiser, instead of indulging in visionary optimism, to prepare for the coming trade-war; to keep in touch with the foreign markets now that the enemy is bottled up, to capture his trade, and be ready to give him no chance for a speedy recovery.

Helouan Railway.

Referring to the transfer of the Helouan line by the Egyptian Delta Light Railways Company to the Egyptian State Railways, the *Egyptian Gazette* understands that no elaborate improvements in the railway stations are contemplated at present owing to the present financial situation, but the Egyptian State Railways intend to introduce immediate improvements in the cars and rolling-stock, and also in the time-tables. The line, it will be remembered, was taken over by the Egyptian State Railways on December 1 last, as announced by THE NEAR EAST.

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Town Planning in Athens.

Mr. Thomas H. Mawson, it is announced, has just completed plans for the reconstruction of Athens, in addition to the work he is now doing for the King of Greece at the Royal and the Crown Prince's palaces. For the larger work he has been directly commissioned by King Constantine, who is taking a deep and practical interest in the town-planning of his capital city now in active progress. Even to-day (says the *Daily News*), when war is surging around her frontiers, the work of erecting workmen's dwellings on the Plain of Marathon is proceeding, preparatory to the removal of the tumble-down dwellings in which the poor live under the very shadow of the Royal palaces. Wide roads, designed to afford long vistas, form the principal feature of the new scheme, and in each of these roads are belts of trees designed as protection against wind-driven dust. Scattered throughout the working-class quarters are playgrounds, ranging in extent from half to one and a-half acres, each park containing a children's theatre and library, while the houses themselves are built in squares, with provision for abundant vines, pepper, and other trees to give shade. The houses will be let at from 5s. to 10s. per week. Financial arrangements have been made whereby this vast reconstruction will not cost the city a penny. When complete it is anticipated that the scheme will actually yield a profit, without calculating the possibilities of increased rateable value. The scheme will be completed in fifty years, and wealthy Greeks will be able to help it by contributing memorial buildings, parks, etc.

The Danger of Petrol in Sewers.

The increasing use of petrol for motor vehicles, as well as for purposes of cleaning fabrics of various kinds, is creating a danger of which the general public, perhaps, is not well aware. There has already been a considerable loss of life from the ignition of the very inflammable vapour discharged from petrol, and the public is often cautioned by the authorities; but, apparently, little is known of the danger that is attached to the wasted petrol which is so carelessly shed in the streets, or in the drains, and finds its way into the sewers. It is calculated that one gallon of petrol, if vaporized into air, will produce something like fifty cubic yards of explosive mixture. A medium-sized sewer, running half full, would only require a gallon of petrol to produce sufficient vapour to blow up some fifty yards of the sewer. It is, therefore, of the highest importance that care should be taken not only by the users of petrol in quantity, such as the proprietors of motor garages, etc., but also by the general public, to avoid the discharge of even minute quantities of petrol, or allied spirits, into the sewers or drains, as these small quantities are liable to accumulate in gully-traps and in any portions of the sewers where the flow is inclined to be sluggish. No more petrol should be used at one time than is necessary. It is dangerous to put even a cupful of petrol down the sewers, because it accumulates and very soon becomes a dangerous quantity.

Engineers and the War.

In the December report of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, it is mentioned that the membership has advanced from 173,629 to 204,162 in eleven months, and that the funds have increased by £237,070 in ten months. It is estimated that, taking into account increases in weekly wages, increase in piece-work prices, and amount of overtime, the earnings of members must have increased by about £2,000,000 per annum. These results will, we are sure, have the full appreciation of the British public, for, as Mr. Lloyd George said: "This is an engineer's war, for equipment is even more needed than men," and it must be admitted that engineers are doing their bit admirably well, and will continue to do so. The victory which we all feel to be approaching, said Dr. Unwin in his presidential address to the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, last April, will be the result of the general progress in mechanical engineering and in the capacity of our factories and workshops, due to the concurrent exertions of all engineers, civilians and military. The apparently satisfactory remuneration, therefore, for the exertions of the members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers is well merited.

Near East Markets.

SUDAN GUM.

From January 1 to October 31, 1915, 11,464 tons of gum, valued at £E309,917, were exported from the Sudan viâ Port Sudan, as compared with 11,265,558 kilos, valued at £E284,300 during the same period of 1914.

During October of this year 272,920 kilos of gum, valued at £E8,049, were exported via Port Sudan, as against 276,689 kilos, valued at £E8,182, for the corresponding period of 1914.

According to the *Monthly Journal* (November) of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce (Khartoum), local interest in gum centres entirely in the prospects of the coming season and sales have already been made of Kordofan natural sorts at P.T. 105/115 per kantar of 110 rottles delivery El Obeid December/January. Demand is good, but sellers are shy of making further contracts at these prices. Some very small parcels of new crop have already arrived at El Obeid, tending to the impression that the early fears of a late season may prove unfounded.

The *Egyptian Gazette* (November 24) says: The first arrivals of the new season's gum have now made their appearance on the El Obeid market, which opened at 130 P.T. per kantar of 120 rottles. This is a good opening if the price is a genuine one; that is, if it is based on the real relation between supply and demand. But it is rather early yet to form a really adequate idea of the quantity of the crop, the extent of the demand, and the facility of transport upon which the movement of the crop, and, therefore, its market price will depend.

AUSTRALIAN CURRANTS.

Thanks to the enterprise of Australia, says the *Globe*, Greece's monopoly in the currant trade has now been challenged, and the Empire can produce its own plum-pudding. The journal then proceeds to give some particulars concerning the dried-fruit trade:—

"Australia some time ago decided to investigate the possibilities of the dried-fruit industry. With characteristic enterprise it dispatched a mission to South-East Europe, California, and other fruit-producing climes, with the result that to-day nearly all the provinces forming the vast Australasian continent are raising and drying fruits for both home consumption and export. How far the respective Dominions have succeeded the following figures for the years 1912-13—the latest dates for which figures are available—will show:—Raisins and Currants.—Victoria, 17,697,000 lbs.; South Australia, 9,795,000 lbs.; New South Wales, 494,704 lbs.; Western Australia, 176,000 lbs."

ARBORICULTURE IN PERSIA.

The United States Vice-Consul at Teheran states that, except in the provinces bordering the Caspian Sea and in Kurdistan, where there is sufficient rainfall, there are no natural forests in Persia. On account of the lack of transportation facilities, all the timber consumed in the great plain of Iran is grown locally by irrigation. The trees that one learns to associate with every Persian landscape are the poplar and the plane tree. The plane tree requires very little water, grows quickly, and attains to an immense size and great age. The natural form of plane trees is spreading, but the Persians plant them in dense rows, and by lopping off the branches when young and by constant thinning these trees grow to a great height.

The area of a cultivated wood is generally not large, the usual size being three to six acres. The plane tree and the poplar serve for building purposes in Persia, as does the pine in the United States. Great groves of walnut are also grown in the north of Persia, the nuts being used for food. So scarce and costly is wood in Persia that even branches and the trees that are removed from the groves when the size of a man's finger are carefully collected and transported to the towns to be used for firewood and for other purposes.

COTTON MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Liverpool. Thursday Night.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report:—There has been a good demand for cotton this week, and a large amount of business has been reported. The demand, has, however, been freely supplied, and quotations of all Upper and Good and Below in other descriptions show unchanged prices, while better grades are reduced five points. Sales, which include 100 bales Sudan cotton, are estimated at 4,700 bales, as against 3,600 last week.

SUDAN COTTON.

The estimate of the loss of cotton by locusts at Zeidab has been revised, as the conditions have distinctly improved. The cotton prices to be given by the company this year reach P.T. 325, as against P.T. 300 for Egyptian, and P.T. 270 as against P.T. 210 for American, per kantar of 315 rottles (142 kilos).

It was stated at the monthly meeting of the British Cotton Growing Association that the Governor-General of the Sudan had recently been over the Experimental Station to inspect this year's crops, and had expressed his satisfaction with the progress made.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, December 16.

Currants.

The market has been quiet this past week, and prices are well maintained.

Sultanas.

Only small business is being done, mostly in Afghan fruit at full prices. Greek sultanas are in a very small supply, and high prices are asked for same. There is no possibility now of getting any supply at present from Smyrna.

Figs.

The market is quiet, and prices steady, as reported last week.

Dates.

There has been a better demand, while Persians are a little dearer.

Seeds.

Linseed is much stronger in sympathy with the oil. London-Calcutta spot is quoted 71s. 6d., December-January was sold at 71s. to 71s. 6d. La Plata, afloat, for Hull, sold at 65s. Rapeseed is firm, but quiet. Guzerat pure basis November-December quoted 67s. 6d. Ferozepore ditto, 61s., Toria, ditto, 62s. 6d. Cottonseed is firmer; Egyptian to London December £13 8s. 9d., paid; to Hull spot and December £13 15s. asked, while Bombay to Hull spot to January-February £12 is asked.

Oils.

Linseed oil is dearer, spot pipes £35 15s.; spot barrels £36 15s.; December £36 10s.; January-April £37 5s.; and May-August £38 5s. Rape oil is firm; refined English in barrels, on spot £45. Cotton oil is dearer; crude spot, pipes, £38 15s.; refined pale, pipes, spot £40, and sweet, barrels, spot £43 to £45. Olive oil is very firm. Spot Levant or Spanish £53 to £53 10s. per tun, ex store.

Oilcakes.

Linseed Cakes.—Supplies are very moderate, and prices are inclined to be dearer. Cotton Cakes.—Arrivals of Egyptian find a ready sale at £9 2s. 6d. to £9 5s., ex ship, while English makes are without change at £9 7s. 6d. to £9 10s. and Bombay at £9 per ton.

Reuter's Amsterdam Correspondent reports that according to a telegram from Sofia, the journal *Outro* announces that the Cabinet has decided to convoke the Sobranje on December 28 for the purpose of discussing financial measures and especially the flotation of a war credit of 550,000,000 frs.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Tenders will be received by the Sultania Steamers Administration, Bulac Arsenal, Cairo, up to Monday, January 10, 1916, at noon, for the supply of clothing required by the men of the Nile Steamers of that Administration in April, 1916—viz., linen and cloth suits, jerseys, blankets, tarbushes, boots, etc. Samples can be seen at the Stores of the Administration, at the Arsenal, Bulac, Cairo. Tenders must be submitted on the forms provided by that Administration, free of charge, and in the same manner as shown thereon. They should be addressed to H.E. the Chief Aide de Camp to H.H. the Sultan, Abdin Palace, Cairo, by registered post.

Tenders are invited by the Secrétaire Général des Domaines de l'Etat (Service Technique), Ministry of Finances, Cairo, for the supply of 6,000 kilogrammes of black axle grease. Date, January 3.

Tenders are invited by the Secrétariat de la Direction Générale des Domaines, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms (serge and khaki). Date, January 8.

Morocco.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copy of a Dahir, dated October 21, 1915, which provides that no goods arriving from, or produced or manufactured in, neutral countries may be imported into the French Zone in Morocco unless they are accompanied by a certificate from the local Customs authorities, *visé* by the French Consulate, attesting that the goods were actually produced or manufactured in the neutral country concerned.

Greece.

Several Athens merchants desire to purchase white paper of wood pulp, white paper for newspapers, glazed paper (only glazed on one side), and suitable paper for posters, and paper for making all kinds of envelopes, pencils, typewriter erasers, ribbons, and blue and red ink.

Articles used in the shoe industry, such as shoe tacks, nails, laces, heel irons, and boot protectors, are in great demand in Athens, and samples and quotations, if possible c.i.f., should be sent to dealers and importers. We recommend advertising in the vernacular papers as a sure and cheap means of securing suitable commercial representatives.

Crude black pepper is wanted in Kalamata in large quantities, one import house alone being willing to buy lots of 100 bags at a time.

There is a brisk demand for motor-lorries in Patras. These must be very strongly built and not less than five tons.

Collars, cuffs, hosiery, gloves, handkerchiefs, purses, and general haberdashery are in great demand at Patras, as the stocks are very much depleted, but samples and catalogues should, if possible, reach importers in good time before Christmas.

Sole leather and upper leathers find a very ready sale in Salonika; in fact, importers can command the question of prices. Also flour is wanted. The assembling of the troops here has suddenly created almost limitless opportunities for dealing in a variety of articles of trade, and local tradesmen are having the time of their lives.

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CYPRUS TRADE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Returns for the quarter ended September 30 show a considerable increase both in imports and exports. Imports, including specie, amounted in value to £146.221, as against £103,348 during the corresponding period in 1914. Exports, £202,868 as against £80,195. The principal imports included wheat, £16,163; flour, £13,550; cotton goods, £12,082; sugar, £8,197; petroleum, £5,427; hides, £9,383; coffee, soap, and woollen goods.

SUDAN TRADE.

The quarterly Customs returns for the first six months of the current year (January 1-June 30) have been published by the Sudan Government. The following figures show the principal imports and exports from January 1 to June 30 compared with the figures for last year:—

Imports.

	1914. £E.		1915. £E.
Cotton fabrics	222,183	....	232,373
Sugar	145,297	....	121,003
Flour	59,621	....	26,800
Sacks	10,386	....	26,134
Tobacco and cigarettes	23,786	....	22,060
Coffee	25,814	....	22,351
Coal	55,393	....	20,958
Timber	13,969	....	20,661
Durra and Dukhn	110,279	....	—

Total Imports.

1913.	1914.	1915.
£E.1,056,627 ..	£E.1,088,620 ..	£E.745,250

Exports.

	1914. £E.		1915. £E.
Gum	243,482	.....	197,656
Cotton, ginned	94,908	.....	127,010
Durrah	3,175	.....	108,153
Sesame	42,046	.....	53,205
Cattle	48,018	.....	52,804
Hides, untanned	31,164	.....	39,615
Gold	34,874	.....	35,185
Ivory	56,886	.....	30,446

Total Exports.

1913. £E.	1914. £E.	1915. £E.
812,013	703,549	777,973

FOREIGN CAPITAL IN ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, November 27.

According to the *Economia Nationala*, there are in Bucharest eight large banks of a total capital of 129,250,000 frs. They are:—

The Banca Romaneasca, 26,350,000 frs.;
The Banca de Credit Roman, 20,000,000;
Banca Marmorosch Blanc and Co., 20,000,000;
Banca Agricola, 18,500,000;
Banca Generala Romana, 15,000,000;
Banca Comerciala Romana, 12,000,000;
Banca de Scont, 10,000,000; and
The Bank of Roumania, 7,500,000 frs.

The greater number of these banks were founded on foreign initiative or on Roumanian initiative with foreign capital; of the total of 129 millions only 69 millions are actually Roumanian, 75 per cent. of the remainder being Austro-Hungarian or German. These facts give food for thought as to this country's future financial policy.

CYPRUS FINANCES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The annual report in the Cyprus Blue Book for the year 1914-15 throws some light on the condition of our new possession. The revenue collected amounted to £29,110, a fall of over £51,000 as against that of the preceding year. The grant in aid of £50,000. brings the receipts to £340,110. The expenditure was £316,414, and the share of the Turkish debt charge £92,800; total, £409,214. There was consequently a deficit of £69,104. The expenditure, however, includes a sum of £52,640, appropriated from surplus balances "for works of public utility," and of £21,000, the value of Government tithe grain, sold after the close of the financial year.

The financial history of Cyprus from the British occupation in 1878 to March 31, 1915, is given as follows: Revenue, including grants in aid, £9,173,934; expenditure, including Turkish debt charge, £9,009,919—showing a balance of receipts of £164,015.

There was some dislocation of trade, and a shortage of gold currency; and in order to alleviate financial stringency, a restricted note currency was introduced, first of locally-printed paper, and later of notes printed in England. A moratorium was proclaimed till November 7, 1914. The financial position of the island is regarded as satisfactory.

Imports fell off by £122,594, as compared with the preceding year, and exports by £123,815; but large stocks of goods have remained unshipped and can be disposed of this year.

In the branches of public works, and of the medical, police, educational, and post office departments, steady progress appears to have been made.

The section relating to judicial and criminal statistics shows that 3,340 persons more tha last year were brought before the magistrates; and praise is given to the police for increased efficiency in connection with the results. The report of the Chief Justice shows that "the election of village officials is a fruitful source of crime"; and the fact that the Mukhtar, who is often the village money-lender, executes judgments against his co-villagers by virtue of his office, leads to such consequences that "a more ridiculous state of things could not be imagined."

LOAN TO MONTENEGRO.

On Monday Sir J. Rees asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether any application had been made to his Majesty's Government to facilitate the despatch to Montenegro of food purchased or to be purchased by a syndicate operating in that behalf; if so, what action had been or would be taken in respect of such application; and whether any loan to Montenegro for the purchase of food was contemplated?—Lord Robert Cecil replied that such an application had been made to the Foreign Office privately, but he did not think that at the moment there was any need or, indeed, room for the formation of such a syndicate, since the purchase of the necessary supplies has already been undertaken. The answer to the last part of the question was in the affirmative.

THE LEBANON BUDGET.

Cairo, Dec. 7.

The Administrative Council of the Lebanon has published a budgetary statement, of which a copy has come to hand via the United States. As was explained in a study of the finances of the Lebanon in the "Near East" some time before the war, the revenue of that province is divided into two broad sections; the first fixed comprising principally the land and capital tax originally levied by the establishment of the new regime in the Lebanon, and the second to which the inexact term of "Mahmulaat" has been given, and which comprises a variety of duties and imposts which the successive governments of the Lebanon had to create to meet their needs, which grew with the growth of the country in population and wealth; more especially as, by an inexplicable aberration on the part of those who framed the original budget of the Mountain province, the land and head taxes were so fixed as not to be susceptible of expansion, in spite of the subsequent increase of the population and of the cultivated area.

Now, the total revenue figuring in the said statement under the first heading, amounts to 4,676,859 gold piastres (100 piastres to the Turkish pound of about 23 frs.), and the total of the second source of revenue is put at 2,269,860 gold piastres, making together about £T70,000 in round numbers. As to expenditure, half of which goes to the payment of Government officials' salaries, the total figures at 6,714,128 piastres. It is satisfactory to note, parenthetically, that among the items of expenditure is one relating to the Lunatic Asylum of Asfuriyeh. This establishment which has proved a priceless boon to Syria in general, and to the Lebanon in particular, was founded and has so far been principally run by British and American philanthropy, and is now directed by an English medical expert in nervous diseases, Dr. Watson Smith.

The surplus of over £T2,600 is declared unprecedented by the Council, which further congratulates itself on the fact that the salt revenue has yet to be added. It then proceeds to state that as regards the deficit of past years—viz., about £T20,000, a statement has been sent to the Mutessarif for collection, presumably from the Turkish Treasury.

A copy of this budgetary statement was addressed to the Mutessarif by the members of the Council, with a note embodying a decision passed by them at the close of the financial year ending April last. The Council explains therein that, as the regulation of the finances of the country constitutes one of its most sacred duties, it has set itself diligently to the task of reform, and has decided to appoint a committee composed of three of its members to devote itself exclusively to the study of the means whereby the disordered condition of the finances of the Lebanon may be improved. A significant passage at the end of this note embodies the expression of a pious hope that by persevering in its endeavours of reform, the Council may yet create further sources of revenue which will enable it to institute, among other works of public utility, national schools where Turkish, "the language of our exalted Government," will be taught. This may be taken by inference to confirm the report already mentioned in previous notes, of the appointment of a Turkish Governor to the Lebanon. A supplemntary note addressed by the Council to the Mutessarif mentions the suppression of certain posts.

Although the Lebanon has become practically a Turkish Vilayet, yet it is still thought that its internal administration has, on the whole, not been interfered with yet.

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COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for week, 227 tons; production for last week, 389 tons (including 165 tons recovered from sediment). Hurgada production for week, 380 tons; production for last week, 215 tons (in addition to estimated 1,200 tons from No. 7).

ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY.—An interim dividend of 4s. per £5 share on coupon No. 54 is payable on and after December 15, 1915, at Messrs. Barclay and Co., Ltd., 1, Pall Mall East, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank in Alexandria.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended November 20, amounted to £E6,520, as against £E5,980 for the corresponding period of last year.

LAND BANK OF EGYPT.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held on the 21st inst., at the offices of the bank in Alexandria.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.—The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for the 13th inst. amounted to 240,000 frs., as compared with 350,000 frs. for the corresponding day last year.

THE ALEXANDRIA BOURSE.

The general impression is that negotiations will shortly begin between the Government and the Alexandria Stock and Share Bourse Commission with a view to the re-opening of the Bourse, says the *Egyptian Gazette*.

It will be remembered that early in January last the sub-commission of the Bourse Commission made a report on the re-opening of the Bourse, but no steps were taken. According to this report, which was in favour of the re-opening, it was hoped that the Egyptian Government would follow the example of the regulations laid down by the British Government in regard to the London Stock Exchange. It was suggested that the Egyptian Government should make regulations for the local banks as to their dealings in the shares of their clients, and on which the banks had made advances. The report was in favour of the banks being obliged to retain all such securities without forcing the sales, such securities to stand nominally at the rates which were current on June 30 last year. The clients of the banks should pay interest month by month, and the banks should not be allowed to sell such securities until one year had elapsed after peace had been signed. At the same time, in consideration of the banks having such regulations imposed upon them, the Government should be prepared to assist the banks financially, if so necessary.

The banks, however, did not view the matter from the point of view of the Bourse Commission.

TRANSFER OF EGYPTIAN SECURITIES.

A proclamation has been published in the Egyptian *Official Journal* by the G. O. C. to the effect that "whereas it is desirable, in addition to the measures already taken for the control of trading in Egypt with persons resident in enemy territory, to close absolutely to the enemy both directly and indirectly the Egyptian market for securities," it is forbidden, "except with the special permission of the Licensing Officer, at the Ministry of Finance, to assign, transfer, negotiate or in any way deal with stocks, shares or securities, or be a party to any such transaction, unless in each case the securities dealt with are accompanied by a declaration of a banker, registered broker, or other responsible party made at the time of the transaction,

"(*a*) that, since August 5, 1914, the securities have remained in physical possession in Egypt, the British Empire, or in a country now in alliance with Great Britain, and have not since the commencement of the war been in the ownership of a person resident in enemy territory, or

"(*b*) that, since the date of the present Proclamation they have remained in physical possession in Egypt, and have not since that date been in the ownership of a person resident in enemy territory.

"Where securities have been deposited against a loan they shall be deemed, for the purposes of this Proclamation, to have been, while so deposited, in the ownership of the lender."

COMPANY REPORTS.

Egyptische Hypotheken Bank.

The official appointment is announced of Mr. R. E. Moore (Egypt) to be Controller of the Egyptische Hypotheken Bank, A.G.

The Egyptische Hypotheken Bank was an offshoot of the Deutsche Orientbank. The chairman of the board of directors was Mr. Herbert H. Gutmann, and the vice-chairman was Leon von Heller. The board of directors was composed of Messrs. Joseph Aslan Cattaoui Pasha, Mohamed Talaat Bey Harb, Dr. Erich Alexander, Armand Dreyfus, Karl Hesselbach, Hugo Lindemann, Walter Merton, Samuel Ritscher, Ludwig Schneider, Paul Thomas and Richard Witting. The managers were Mr. Albert Najar and Consul Wilhelm Pradel.

Egyptian Markets.

The following announcement appears in the Egyptian *Official Journal* of November 29: "The British Army having undertaken to obtain its dries supplies solely through the Ministry of Agriculture, the latter has appointed, as its agents in this matter, the Egyptian Markets Company, Ltd. Cultivators and dealers are advised to communicate with that company, who are authorized to purchase at a price which will be fixed by the Ministry, and will be posted up at each market."

GERMANS IN PERSIA.

At the meeting of the Imperial Bank of Persia held on Monday the chairman said that shortly after the outbreak of war between Turkey and the Allies in November of last year the Turks and Germans commenced an active propaganda throughout Persia, of which the end had not yet been seen. Every German Consulate became a focus of intrigue, and towards the end of the year, entirely without provocation, a Turkish force crossed the border and attacked and occupied Tabriz. The bank's branch at that place was closed from January 3 to February 27, when the advent of a Russian force compelled the Turks to retire. On leaving Tabriz their branch was placed under the care of the Persian Government, and they found everything in order when it was re-opened. Their branch at Ahwaz was closed from January 20 to June 15, but after order had been restored by the arrival of British troops the bank premises and its contents were found undisturbed. It had been necessary to close the branches at Kermanshah and Hamadan. On November 10 the British Consul at Shiraz, the manager and staff of the bank, and other British subjects were arrested by the gendarmerie and taken prisoners to Borasjun. On September 13 the Isfahan branch was closed, and on November 24 their staff at Sultanabad had to abandon the bank premises, which the directors were informed were looted, and their staff took refuge in the premises of an American firm. Latterly we appeared to have won a diplomatic victory in Teheran, and the German, Austrian, and Turkish Ministers were said to have left the capital. It was, however, hardly an exaggeration to say that Southern Persia was still largely under German domination and control, and the headquarters of the German activities had shifted to Isfahan. In the east, owing to the presence of Russian troops in Meshed and of British troops in Seistan, the German emissaries were less successful but no part of the country had been free from their activities.

ROUMANIA AND THE WAR.

At the meeting of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, held on Wednesday, the chairman took an optimistic view of the political situation in Roumania, and said "these war conditions had increased its output by 50 per cent. As regards the immediate outlook, I take an optimistic view. Roumania's leading statesmen are both able and patriotic. The sympathies of the nation are undoubtedly with us and our Allies. Under great provocation and most difficult conditions Roumania has so far managed to preserve its neutrality. I believe that if Roumania joins in the war at all it will eventually join us at the time and under the conditions when it will be most advantageous both for them and for us that they should do so. They have a splendid national army, well equipped and thoroughly loyal, and when they do join their forces with us and our Allies it will be the beginning of the end of this great war.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	83	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	77½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	67½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	65
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	54
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	40½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1895	54	—	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	59
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—xd
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	81xd
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73xd
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅞
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9½xd
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	6	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½ % C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	95
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	57	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirsus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Abonkir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1½	—	½
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	90
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	½	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2½	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	½	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	6
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	½	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/-
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1½	—	1
" " Founders	½	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9½	—	7½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	85
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	½
Sidi Salem Co.	½	—	½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	½
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10½xd
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	21/-
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	96
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1½	—	15/-
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	½	—	10/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	—	2½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	86
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (*fr.*500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Dec. 15.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	⅜
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	½
European Oilfields	4/9	3/3
Roumanian	20/-	13/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Dec. 14.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	460
Canal de Suez	4050	3979
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	545
Turkish Unified 4%	59.95	59.85
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	89
Serbian, 1895	—	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 242.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Whatever may have been the cause, the delay on the part of the enemy in advancing into Greek territory will have proved of inestimable value to the Allied forces. An opportunity has been afforded them of placing Salonika in an adequate condition of defence, while further reinforcements are continually being landed. As it would be entirely inconsistent with Germany's conduct of the war to study the susceptibilities of another country, it must be inferred that the Austro-German troops were not in a position to follow up the retreating Anglo-French expedition. Greece's attitude must have been regarded as uncertain enough from the German point of view to make the German Government hesitate to send the Bulgarian army across the Greek frontier, and there could be no question of the Austro-German forces alone attempting to try conclusions with the Allies. Hence probably the display of consideration for Greece's feelings, the announcement that no decision would be reached until after the general election and the negotiations at Athens. It is possible also that Germany has been misinformed regarding Greek opinion, and has mistaken hesitation to join the Entente Powers as equivalent to a predilection for herself. Be that as it may, there can be little doubt that the long respite will have been quite as advantageous to the Allies as it may be to Germany and to Bulgaria, who has had to call very largely upon her reserve troops to make good the wastage incurred in the attacks on the Serbians and on the Anglo-French forces.

The immediate objects of the Allied Powers, as far as their relations to Greece are concerned, it has been officially announced, are to regularise the military position and to deny to Bulgaria and the Central Powers any control, direct or indirect, over Salonika. This end has practically been attained with the withdrawal from the zone of possible operations of the bulk of the Greek troops hitherto stationed there, and with the delay in the enemy's advance. It would be a mistake to suppose, however, that the decisions of the recent War Councils held in Paris provided for nothing more than the defence of Salonika in the interests of Greece. There can be no point in a defensive campaign in the Balkans at this stage. Refusing to recognise the strategic advantage of a thrust from a southern front, or, having failed to make it possible by diplomacy, the Entente Powers were drawn to the Balkans by an eleventh-hour resolve to help Serbia. They arrived too late to effect their purpose, and force of circumstances has compelled them to embark upon a Balkan campaign. But the very essence of such a campaign must be a vigorous offensive. The moment for the advance will depend upon military preparations. There can be little doubt, however, that in spite of the season of the year everything combines to urge a strong forward policy at this moment. The Austro-German forces in Serbia are by no means strong, the Bulgarians have suffered heavy losses, the internal situation in Bulgaria constitutes a source of weakness, and last, but not least, military exigencies elsewhere point to the urgent need for cutting off the Turks from the base on which they rely for their supplies of munitions and officers.

We can but hope, therefore, that something in the nature of a carefully planned campaign has resulted from the Allies' War Councils, and that we are on the eve of big events in the Balkans. A further bombardment of Varna has given rise to reports of a Russian landing. Considerable uncertainty has rightly shrouded the concentration at the mouth of the Danube. Of one thing we may be sure—the Russians will not leave Bessarabia for Bulgaria until the Allies' preparations for a concerted movement are completed. Experience at the Dardanelles has shown the unwisdom of allowing any considerable time to elapse between a bombardment and a landing, if the former is meant to be a definite introduction to the latter. On the other hand, a force of the dimensions required to carry out a successful forward movement from the Black Sea in co-operation with the Anglo-French Expedition from Salonika will require some time to disembark at Varna or elsewhere. The Italians are known to have landed at two or more ports on the Albanian coast. The public has been asked to believe that their main object is to hold these towns against the Austrian and Bulgarian invaders of Albania, and not to assume the offensive over impossible mountain ranges. If that be the case, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs will have misled many

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people by making a speech which meant nothing, if it did not imply that Italy had at last overcome her domestic difficulties, and was in a position to play her part whole-heartedly in the European war. It was no longer to be a question of an Italian war against Austria, but the Italians would be found accepting the joint responsibilities of the Allies in any sphere where their troops could be profitably occupied. It is possible that the Italian forces in Albania are only strong enough to protect the remnant of the Serbian Army, which has escaped to the coast; but their deficiencies can be made good. The maximum strength of the Allies is called for, in order that a decisive blow may be struck in the shortest time.

In the face of possible military developments, the manœuvring of the Greek Government occupies a smaller portion of the Balkan stage. The negotiations with the Entente Powers regarding Salonika being concluded, it has had Germany on its hands. Reports concerning the progress of the *pourparlers* are contradictory, but it seems well established that the Central Powers have stated that they feel compelled to take action in Greek territory in order to drive out the Allied forces, and that Greece has replied that she will not allow Bulgarian troops to set foot on Greek soil. The latter threat is the most interesting feature in the position. Public opinion in Greece was already becoming restive under the prospect of seeing Greek territory overrun by Bulgarians and Turks, and M. Skouloudis, the Premier, has had the courage to challenge King Constantine's attitude that Greece will in no circumstances abandon her neutrality. His action, however, merely intensifies the chaotic state of the Greek Administration. While M. Skouloudis is speaking, unreal Greek elections are giving M. Gounaris a substantial majority in the new Chamber. M. Gounaris, as far as is known, is prepared, in company with King Constantine, to accept both Bulgarians and Turks on Greek soil. If, after all, M. Gounaris is to return to office—for M. Skouloudis is too honest a man to tolerate a false position—there may have been special significance in Germany's delay to make her advance until after the Greek elections.

M. Venizelos adhered to his resolve not to contest an election which could not reflect the views of the Greek nation as a whole, and the results of which could be manipulated to his political disadvantage. So strong is his influence in Greece that practically two-thirds of the electorate took no part in the polling. To this extent his policy of abstention is justified; but it is impossible to foresee how the course of public affairs is likely to shape itself in Greece in the near future. A Turco-Bulgarian invasion might cut the Gordian knot. In its absence there would seem to be no machinery capable of dislodging the King's advisers. With each additional soldier of the Allied Powers landed in the Balkans Greece's position recedes. M. Venizelos wished to see her occupy an honoured place in the council chamber of Europe, and to be at least the equal of any Balkan State. Her actual position can be gauged from the fact that the Entente Governments now affect indifference towards Greece's co-operation and Greek affairs. She has lost, as M. Venizelos said she would, an opportunity which will never recur.

Military exigencies prevent all but the most meagre reports from Mesopotamia being published. General Townshend remains at Kut-el-Amarah, where he has successfully repulsed a number of Turkish attacks. The British casualties up to December 18—that is, for the eleven or twelve days General Townshend had been at Kut—were 1,127 of all ranks, including 200 deaths. In the engagement south of Azizieh, during the British retreat from Ctesiphon, and again on the night of December 12, when the Turks made a determined attack on the position at Kut, the enemy, it is estimated, lost 2,500 men. On the night of December 17 mixed parties of British and Indian troops surprised the Turks in their advanced trenches, killing about thirty and taking eleven prisoners. General Townshend has received reinforcements since he fell back on Kut, and others are known to be on their way. It is evident that he needs heavy guns as much as troops, and some time may elapse before these can reach him. Von der Goltz Pasha has now announced in public the nature of his mission to Baghdad. His orders to drive the British Expedition into the sea bespeak a vigorous offensive, but he will be the first to realize that Turkey will probably gain more by reducing the expedition to impotence than by incurring heavy losses in attacks on strongly entrenched positions.

Russia is laying Great Britain under no small obligation by a vigorous offensive against the Turco-German sedition-mongers and their dupes in Persia. Following up the success at Sultan Bulak, where a large body of rebel tribesmen, insurgent gendarmes, and escaped Austrian prisoners had established themselves, a Russian force has pressed on to Hamadan, occupying the surrounding country. Another force proceeded to Kum, which became the headquarters of the German Minister and his fellow conspirators when they left Teheran. Kum also is now in Russian hands, after, it is satisfactory to note, a pitched battle, which ended in the complete defeat of the enemy. What is required is the capture of the German heads of the insurgent movement. It is unfortunate that a similar movement could not have been undertaken simultaneously in the south from Bushire, in order to deal something like a "knock-out" blow to German machinations in Persia.

There are indications that the activities of Germany's representatives, under the ægis of her Minister at Teheran, are proving as embarrassing to the Berlin Government, now that the issue of the war is no longer in doubt, as the ill-advised diplomatic campaign in the United States. A Berlin telegram to Amsterdam states that, in consequence of the absence on leave, owing to illness, of Prince Henry XXXI. of Reuss, Dr. Vassel, at present German diplomatic representative at Baghdad, has been appointed Minister at Teheran. It would be a kindness to Germany, and at the same time save Great Britain and Russia a considerable amount of trouble, if it could be pointed out to the German Government that, as there is something in the atmosphere of Persia which affects the health of all her agents, the instincts of common humanity have prompted the Persian Government to close its frontiers to all Germans until the climatic conditions in the country have improved.

The cynicism of the German Press has not succeeded in keeping the whole of Germany in ignorance regarding the massacres of Turkey's Armenian subjects. Fifty delegates, representing all the Protestant Churches in Germany, it is stated, recently waited on the Imperial Chancellor to express their anxiety concerning the fate of the Armenians. Dr. von Bethman-Hollweg, continues the report, replied that the German Government would always consider it one of its highest duties not to allow Christian peoples to be persecuted on account of their religious beliefs. If such an answer satisfies the German Churches, the culpability of the nation as a whole will be complete. They have already been told that the Armenian question is one that concerns Turkey, and not Germany, who has no responsibility for the internal affairs of her ally; that the removal of the Armenians was merely in the nature of a military precaution; that it was the result of Armenian attacks, where many of the victims are the families of soldiers in the Turkish army; that the story of massacres was a wicked invention of the Entente Press. As a matter of fact, the news could only come through neutral sources, generally American. A single sentence from a report emanating from a hospital, where some of the Armenian victims have taken refuge, is the best comment on the German Chancellor's statement. "It is all horrible, horrible—no mere description can adequately portray the awful suffering of these unfortunate people, whose only crime is that they are Armenians." The world knows what the German Churches perhaps do not, that German officers and officials have played no small part in the incidents accompanying the massacres.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, December 8.

Greece and the Allies.

The position in regard to the demands of the Entente Powers bearing on the subject of the Franco-British troops at Salonika has not greatly changed during the past week. The Ministers of the four Powers, while agreeing that the details connected with the removal of the Greek troops should be discussed by a commission of officers representing the two Staffs, have let it be known to the Greek Government that the views of the Greek officers chosen for this task must be strictly confined to the military bearing of the case, and that no corrections and suggestions of a political nature should be made. The organs of the Ministerial Press view this matter with a good deal of optimism, which, however, is in direct contradiction to the statements attributed by these same journals to certain Ministers, who are reported to have said that the decisions of the mixed commission of officers will not be accepted, save in so far as they are not of a nature to affect the defensive value of the Greek Army and to hinder its freedom of movement and its provisioning. Moreover, the two Staff officers, Lieutenant-Colonel Pallis and Captain Staïkos, who have been sent on this mission, are regarded as Germanophil. In the circumstances, Entente circles are not inclined to share the optimism that prevails in Greek circles regarding the pourparlers proceeding. Meanwhile, the Allied squadrons still lie off Milos, which is blockaded, and three wheat-laden ships are detained at Malta. All this has given rise to deep anxiety, although a certain *détente* has been perceivable during the last day or two, due on the one hand to the opening of negotiations, and on the other to the fact that the demands of the Allies are not so insistently put forward as they were in the earlier stages. The Allies have already commenced to carry out the measures for which they asked permission from Greece. Their ships are cruising in Greek territorial waters in pursuit of German submarines, and their engineers are constructing fortifications with a view to making Salonika an entrenched camp.

Ministerial Press Attacks.

The question of the Franco-British troops is greatly agitating official and military circles, whose Press organs are indulging in violent attacks against M. Venizelos, whom they still accuse of having brought these troops to Greece, and, not daring any longer to attack the French and British Governments, they are reviling their Ministers in Athens, who are unjustly accused of having influenced their Governments against Greece.

Interview with M. Guillemin.

With a view to refuting these accusations, a representative of the *Patris* obtained an interview with M. Guillemin, the French Minister, who declared that the Allies had no intention whatever of forcing Greece to fight against her own will, but that they had despatched troops to fulfil the obligations of Greece towards her ally Serbia, and added that the Allies would never abandon Salonika. He recalled the great services rendered by Greece to Germany in having allowed the latter, with Bulgaria, to crush Serbia without going to her aid, and even allowing Bulgaria to reach Monastir. "Unless," he said, "Greece intends to deliver us bound hand and foot to our enemies, she must give us freedom to defend for her Salonika and Macedonia against the Germans, who set alight this blaze in the Balkans, and against her Allies."

These obviously friendly declarations of the French diplomat, whose Phil-Hellenic sympathies are well known, did not fail to raise a storm of abuse in the columns of the Ministerialist Press, which accuses him in undiplomatic language of having made common cause with M. Venizelos, and of having, "under the influence of the fallacious insinuations of his British colleague, induced his Government to commit the gross blunder of undertaking the Balkan expedition, and of endeavouring now to have the French troops kept in Macedonia in order simply to cover up his blunder." Thus the *Nea Hemera* says:—"These troops, far from being able to defend us, are going to draw on to our territory both the Germans and the Bulgars, and that is, no doubt, what the Allies, in agreement with M. Venizelos, desire, with a view to making Greece, in this indirect manner, depart from her neutrality, in which case the Allied troops would be driven into the sea and we should be crushed."

It appears that the French Minister remonstrated with the Government for the language used by its Press organs, and this was followed immediately afterwards by a communiqué to the effect that the statements published in the papers in no way reflected the views of the Government on foreign affairs. The Chief and the members of the General Staff have brought an action against the editor of the *Nea Hellas* in consequence of that paper's allegation that they had been won over to the German cause and had received German decorations.

The Occupation of Monastir.

The capture of Monastir by the Bulgarians, who entered the town accompanied by German troops, has caused a feeling of depression in this country, the place having always been claimed by the Greeks. The Venizelist journals, with natural indignation, point out that the Bulgarian occupation of this town severs the last link that connected Greece with Serbia, and leaves her exposed along the whole of her northern frontier to her traditional enemy, now grown larger and stronger. The *Nea Hellas* printed the news of the fall of the city in a mourning border. The Ministerial journals declare that the fate of the city will be decided at the peace congress, and seek to make the public believe that the town will be awarded to Greece by the Germans. These statements naturally provoke lively expressions of indignation in Serbian circles, which indulge in biting, but merited, criticisms of those Greeks who, having failed to meet their obligations of honour towards Serbia, and having allowed their ally to be crushed, now—to quote a Serbian official—make no scruple about endeavouring to secure a bit of their ally's body.

The Elections.

The leaders of the Venizelist party are using all their influence to restrain their followers from taking any part in the approaching elections, as a protest against their anti-constitutional character. Should they succeed in bringing it about, such an abstention would be an unmistakable sign of popular disapproval, a kind of plebiscite, against the last dissolution of the Chamber, and would place the Government in a very precarious situation. There are barely half as many candidates as there were for the elections of last June.

THE "THREAT" AGAINST EGYPT.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent sends from Paris some extracts from an article entitled "Egypt Is Not Threatened," which was published recently in the *Excelsior*. In this article the writer says that the transport of large forces across Asia Minor presents great difficulties at present, and there is every reason to believe that the Austro-German army released by the Serbian retreat will soon have to play a more necessary rôle in a nearer region.

"If Egypt and India," the paper proceeds, "are to be menaced, it will not be before next spring, and then only on the condition that German enterprises have by that time received no check at any point."

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, December 8.

Questions of Coal and Shipping.

There are now only two Austrian and five German cargo-boats in Constantinople available for transport of coal or munitions, namely, the Dobrovnik and Arimatea and the Rososto, Kerkyra, Patmos, Irmingard, and the Nora Hugo Stinnes. All the Turkish merchant fleet has been destroyed. The destruction of the seven steamers referred to would be an incalculable loss to the Turks, and the Russians apparently have frequent opportunities for inflicting this loss, as two of them leave Constantinople nearly every week for Zunguldak, escorted by destroyers only, and they are about a week at Zunguldak loading.

The Goeben and Breslau are in Stenia Bay and the Hamidieh and Torgout Reis inside the Golden Horn. The last-mentioned, it is said, is quite *hors de combat*, and the other three so badly damaged that their fighting qualities are very considerably impaired.

The most unsatisfactory piece of news related by travellers coming from Constantinople is that coal is still reaching the capital from Zunguldak.

These fairly regular arrivals of coal have enabled Constantinople to hold out; for the absence of coal would have a far-reaching effect. The coal is supplied by the Government to the munition works, railways, flour-mills, electrical station, etc., and is distributed as required. Gas is not being made, and the city is in darkness, with the exception of a few streets which have electric lights.

Cost of Living.

What with a small amount of coal and some lignite and wood, the Anatolian Railway is able to keep the city supplied with just sufficient wheat. The Government provides the flour-mills with coal; and in this way the population are able to obtain, on presentation of a police permit, their daily allowance of a quarter of an oke of bread per person. Meat continues to be cheap, but almost everything else is rising rapidly in price. Coffee is now 40 piastres the oke, and, although the municipality fixed the price of sugar at 8 piastres, it cannot be obtained under 20 piastres the oke. Rice, the principal article of diet of the Turks, is obtained from Angora, and is sold at 14 piastres the oke; and potatoes grown at Ada Bazar are selling at 6 piastres. Fuel is very expensive, and will be beyond the reach of the poor this winter. A limited quantity of coal from Eregli finds its way into Constantinople on small sailing vessels, consigned to the coal merchants, who retail it at an exorbitant price.

A cargo of about 40,000 tins of petroleum was brought to Constantinople from Roumania by a Roumanian steamer; it is said she also carried benzine and lubricating oil.

Our Submarines' Activities.

The British submarines continue to do damage and to create terror in the Marmora.

The German steamer Bosphorus, laden with munitions, left the harbour about a fortnight ago for the Dardanelles, accompanied by destroyers towing lighters with munitions. Outside the harbour a British submarine met them, and a fight took place. The Bosphorus returned to port, and the submarine in retiring threw some shells into Zeitoun Bournou munition works. Fishermen are not allowed to fish in the Marmora lest they should give supplies to enemy submarines.

Turks' Mistrust of Germans.

There appears to be a divergence of opinion among the Young Turks respecting the entry of the German Army into Constantinople. Enver is in favour of this; but Talaat is opposed to it, declaring that Turkey requires Germany's assistance in money and material, but not in men. All travellers from Constantinople express the view that the Turks in general are getting thoroughly sick of the situation, and are asking themselves what benefit they are going to derive from the war. They now realise that they have been duped by the Huns' fairy tales about the conquest of Egypt, India, etc., etc. They say that Germany's object is to obtain all she can from Turkey; and fears are already entertained that the country will be drained by the Germans to the detriment of the Turks.

There is talk of calling up for military service all those who have so far escaped by paying the exoneration tax of 40 liras. The money will not be returned, but a receipt will be given for the amount.

Enemy Subjects' Property.

As mentioned some time ago, there was some intention of seizing the properties of enemy subjects in order to indemnify those who have sustained loss through bombardment by the enemy; but it dawned upon the authorities that the property of Turks in Egypt and elsewhere was doubtless much more than that held by enemy subjects in Turkey, so the idea was abandoned, as there would undoubtedly be reprisals.

FOR PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is informed by the United States Ambassador that the Turkish Government desire that, in future, remittances of money not exceeding £5 from private persons for British prisoners of war in Turkey should be despatched to the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva for transmission to the Ottoman Red Crescent Society at Constantinople, by whom payment to the recipients will be effected and a receipt returned to the International Committee at Geneva.

Letters and parcels should also be sent to the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva for transmission. Such letters and parcels are post free. Money should be remitted by International Money Order, which can be obtained at any post office, and which should be made payable to the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva, and sent on with full name, number, and regiment of the prisoner of war to whom the money is to be paid.

Information has also been received from the United States Ambassador that prisoners of war in Turkey are now allowed to write only one letter a week, limited to four lines, and that this regulation applies also to letters addressed to them. Letters of greater length will not be delivered.

SERBIAN REFUGEES.

In connection with the statement by Lord Robert Cecil in the House of Commons last week regarding relief measures for refugees from Serbia, that "it is not easy to ascertain in certain areas how great the influx of refugees is likely to be," and that "it will probably prove not as large as is anticipated," a cable has been received in London by the Serbian Relief Fund stating that the number of refugees at Scutari is ten thousand—half of whom are Montenegrins.

From Salonika the committee of the Serbian Relief Fund have received information that the French authorities have arranged transport for two thousand homeless refugees to be transferred to Ajaccio, in Corsica, where temporary subsistence and accommodation is being provided. They will be accompanied by representatives of the Serbian Relief Fund, which has also arranged for the despatch of other agents to Ajaccio to make preparations for the reception of the refugees.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Winter and Agriculture.

December has brought rain and snow. The former has fallen in light and moderate degree, according to reports, throughout the island, raising the hopes of agriculturists, who are busy ploughing and sowing. Mount Troödos, the Kyrenia range, and other picturesque heights are well capped with snow, and frosty, bracing weather prevails at the capital.

It is still hoped that there will be a good increase of cereal cultivation this season. Complaints are made in the local Press that the loans of seed corn advanced to villagers are in many cases insufficient, being limited to four bushels the individual; whereas many ask for much more. One reason for restricting loans is that in poor districts the peasant is always tempted to use the grain as food. Government is keeping itself informed as to the island's need. At Nicosia steps are being taken, by order of the Provost-Marshal, to ascertain the quantities of wheat and barley stored by merchants and farmers. Prices at which meat may be sold are also fixed and published; and this measure may be extended to other articles of food.

Sheep Stealing.

Theft of sheep and goats (not to speak of that of other animals, which has been practically stamped out) is an evil that it has been impossible as yet to eradicate. Formerly it was general, but especially bad in the western or more lawless part of the island. This year Famagusta district is troubled; but the energy of the Commandant of Police, Mr. S. Televantou, is equal to the occasion. Already seventy suspected sheep-stealers are under arrest, and vigorous measures are being pursued. The sheep-stealing season in Cyprus coincides with that of marriages, as meat is a necessary part of wedding banquets and festivities. It ends for the time being with the beginning of the winter fasts.

Priestless Parishes.

Two villages of the Papho district, whose inhabitants were too poor to pay the schoolmasters' salaries, were also without a priest. As a solution of the difficulty, it was hoped candidates would be found who would combine the two offices. In the case of one village this has been possible, and a teacher who desired to enter Holy Orders has been received into the priesthood by the Bishop of Papho. It is hoped that the other village will be equally fortunate.

OUR TROOPS AT SALONIKA.

The following passages are extracted from a letter written from Salonika by an Englishman on December 5:—

Salonika is at present a regular military camp, and offers a wonderful picture. The streets are cram full of British and French soldiers (chiefly officers). There are also many Serbians. I have talked with many high officers and obtained much interesting information, most of which, however, I fear the British Censor would not let me communicate to you.

One curious sight I must mention. Every evening the streets are patrolled by British, French, and Greek soldiers—all fully armed. Sometimes these patrols follow close on each other's heels, and at other times they march abreast. Last night I saw the French and Greek patrols marching together and exchanging friendly remarks as they passed along. Then to-day we had a detachment of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders marching along with the bagpipes "skirling" in front of them. But this is not the place to go into more details.

ALBANIANS OF CONSTANTZA.

Our Bucharest Correspondent informs us that the Albanian colony at Constantza has started a journal of its own—a weekly paper—which will be published in Albanian, Roumanian, and French. Its policy is opposed to that of the present Albanian Government.

GREECE AND THE ALLIES.

STATEMENT BY M. GENNADIUS.

The Greek Legation has issued the following statement for publication:—

Certain letters and telegrams, emanating lately from Salonika, contained the following calamitous and misleading statements, to which the Greek Legation is instructed and authorised to give the most emphatic contradiction.

It is absolutely false that the censorship in Greece is confided to a person who was recently in the pay of Baron Schenk, and that the text of telegrams is distorted. The Greek Censorship is carried on with moderation and in an equitable manner, much as in other countries, the service being confided to one who enjoys the confidence of the Government. The censorship in Salonika, more especially, is in the hands of an experienced member of the Consular Service, who occupied the same post during the Balkan Wars, and who resumed it before the fall of the Venizelos Cabinet. That the large minority favourable to Germany is built up by corruption and subsidies, and that it embraces his Majesty the King, his entourage, and the military party of official Greece, is a calumny unworthy of notice. The increase in the prices of provisions, house rents, and commodities in Salonika is the natural result of a great and sudden influx into the country. It is to this cause that must be attributed the difficulties encountered by the Allies, which difficulties the correspondents referred to endeavour to ascribe to a premeditated plan of embarrassing the Allies. The railway tariff has never been raised, all payments being made according to existing regulations.

The Crown Prince, during his recent visit to Salonika, was accompanied only by his Aide-de-Camp, and not by officers of the Staff, who have never left the capital. The defensive works at Kara-Bournou and around Salonika were begun a considerable time ago, and aimed at the defence of the country, and not at an intended attack on the Allies. Moreover, even work on urgent repairs has been suspended, and the personnel of the fortress has been reduced.

The imprisonment of a railway functionary of French nationality was perfectly legal, and consequent upon proof establishing his culpability for insulting language against the Crown Prince. The statement that the commander of a division was transported to another post for expressions favourable to the Entente is absolutely false. The Government has never thought of removing any officer for having demonstrated his sympathetic sentiments towards the armies of the Allies. Prince Hohenlohe never visited Athens, and no one in Greece has ever thought of attacking the Allies.

The statements attributed to Prince Andrew (who is married to an English princess) are the result of the prolific imagination of the correspondent who had indited them. The only truth contained in that correspondence is that the sentiments of the Greek people in general remain faithful and grateful to the Entente.

The Greek Legation is authorised and instructed to give the most categorical contradiction to all these allegations, as well as to the statement that an absolutist régime is in force in Greece, and that there exist revolutionary tendencies. The elections are proceeding in the greatest calm, and the Greek Government will adopt the necessary measures against the dissemination of the false and malevolent reports now contradicted.

J. Gennadius.

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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

BEFORE THE STORM.

By the time these line are in print the title chosen for our review this week will perchance be inappropriate, but it must be remembered that we only deal here with events in the Balkans during the past eight days. In this respect the week has been uneventful. But the storm clouds are gathering.

Saloniка.

The complexity of the military situation in the Peninsula is unrivalled elsewhere on the Continent. From being a simple military proposition—the sending of help to a betrayed Ally—the Balkan campaign has developed into one of the major operations of the war—a distinction which is emphasised by the political currents and cross-currents with which the Allied armies have to contend. The Anglo-French position is that of a coast enclave in foreign territory opposed by an enemy front reaching north to the Baltic. Salonika itself, which is our base, is a hotbed of international spies who lose no time in reporting to the enemy our every movement, the number of troops landed, positions occupied, etc. This circumstance adds considerably to the danger of our occupation of the town, the more so considering that we are not in a position to gauge the enemy forces with similar precision. Besides, it must never be forgotten that Salonika is a Greek port, and that the Greeks are the subjects of King Constantine, brother-in-law of the Kaiser. Apart from these drawbacks, our position is strengthened by the Navy, which will ever be ready to support the Army in case of need. At present we are hastily fortifying our lines in the enclave ready to meet the foe—on the defensive for the time being—as soon as he has organised his forces for an attack. So far (and we are writing on Wednesday night) the enemy seems to be in no position to deliver what he considers a smashing blow, and, with the exception of feverish preparations on both sides, a deadlock seems to have arisen. It is the calm before the storm. This calm in the case of the Germans, whose strategy hitherto has been characterised by a ruthless rapidity of action, is remarkable, and seems to indicate either a serious weakening of their strength or else their inability to move across that devastated grave which once was Serbia, sufficient heavy artillery to support their proposed smashing blow. Be that as it may, enemy engineers are using the present respite to rebuild the railway lines connecting their present front in the neighbourhood of Ghevgheli with Sofia and Constantinople—via Veles, Nish, and Pirot—and Buda Pest, Vienna and Berlin, via Belgrade and Semlin. By the end of this month it is believed that the Semlin bridge over the Save will have been reconstructed; as for the Vardar section of the Uskub-Ghevgheli line, it will be some time before it is again in a fit state for use.

It is not, however, our enclave position on the Ægean coast which makes the Balkan campaign so extraordinarily complex. Admittedly our base plays an all-important part in the military operations on the Peninsula, and is a pivot on which important actions will turn. There is another front, perhaps even two, which are of exceeding interest, one to the west, in Albania and Montenegro, and the other, so far hypothetical, in the east, on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. Anent the latter, we know that Russian ships have again bombarded Varna, but for the time being the drastic results expected from Russian co-operation in the Balkans need not be seriously reckoned with.

Albania and Montenegro.

Of far greater importance just now is this front. We know from an Italian communiqué that troops have been successfully landed in Albania, though in what force is unknown. Too little attention has hitherto been paid—perhaps the excuse is to be found in political exigencies—to military possibilities in Albania, but it does seem now that we are beginning to realise the wisdom of preventing the enemy from reaching the Adriatic. An impenetrable screen surrounds the military measures taken by the Italians in this corner of the Peninsula, but we trust and hope that they are adequate (1) to prevent the Boches and Bulgars from occupying the country, and (2) to strengthen and reorganise the Serbian Army. A comparatively small, well-equipped and hardened army in Albania linking up with the Montenegrins—who, by the way, have been fighting bravely against the enemy in the north during the past week—will constitute a grave menace to the enemy in Western Serbia and Macedonia, and, backed by sea-power and transports, will continually threaten communications between Berlin and Constantinople. In the opinion of many, Albania is, strategically speaking, as important as Salonika. Transport facilities are, it must be confessed, atrocious in Albania, but then, are not engineers fighting this war hand in hand with soldiers and sailors? What has been done in Poland by Germans, in Asia Minor by Turks, and is now being done along the Vardar by Bulgars, can surely be done by Allied engineers in Albania.

The Battle of Katchanik.

The following are extracts from a dispatch published by the *Chicago Daily News* (quoted by the *Times*) from Mr. Louis Edgar Brown, recording his impressions of the last brave Serbian offensive in the Katchanik Pass.

"When the Bulgarians took Uskub, 5,000 of the original 20,000 men in garrison made a last stand in the hills midway between Uskub and Katchanik. The Bulgarians outflanked them from the Tetovo plain and forced the Serbians to take up a position at the entrance to the Katchanik Defile. The position was of the highest importance to the Bulgarians, because the Serbian stronghold blocked their advance north to Prishtina and west to Prizrend along the railway. They therefore determined to expel the Serbians. The Bulgarians concentrated two half divisions at Katchanik for this purpose.

The Serbians had more than 100 guns, mostly of the French 75 and 155 (6-in.) type, mortars, and apparently sufficient ammunition for an ordinary engagement. Three Serbian infantry regiments were withdrawn from the northern Austro-German front, and warned that the salvation of the Serbian Army depended on their ability to pierce the Bulgarian line.

"The battle began, and the Serbians saw red. Simple, frank, clear-eyed fighters, they hated the Bulgarians with unequalled intensity. Each Serbian prayed God he might kill two Bulgarians before he himself went to meet his Maker.

"The Serbian artillery began the fray. Thousands upon thousands of shrapnel and high explosive shells were thrown on the enemy. Never during the first days of the bombardment did the Bulgarians hear the discharge of a gun, as everything was drowned in the continuous scream of the exploding Serbian shells.

"The Bulgarians' rude trenches, consisting of two-foot heaps of broken rock, were impregnable to infantry, but vulnerable to artillery. Within forty-eight hours the Bulgarians retreated four miles to escape the withering fire of the Serbian batteries.

"On the third day the Serbian artillery reduced its firing to occasional shells, as they were husbanding their ammunition. The men, having passed many sleepless nights, now dropped exhausted in their gun emplacements and slept uncovered, amid the rain and mud, the *débris*, and the scattered cartridge cases.

"Next day to the infantry came the order to attack, and was received with stolid, unemotional comprehension. The Serbians calmly dug themselves out of the mud, fixed bayonets, and prepared to sell their lives dearly. The first attack struck the Bulgarians in the dusk of evening. The Serbians drove on like huge waves, accepting only hand encounters, and not pausing to aim the fire of their rifles. They seemed to be obsessed with a determination to get their bayonets into the Bulgarians' bodies, laughing at them as their foes lay mortally wounded on the ground. Detached groups at a hundred places along the battle front stabbed, clubbed, bit and choked savagely. The battle became a *mêlée* such as only Bulgarians and Serbians as enemies are capable of fighting. The ruling passions were hatred and revenge.

"The battle lasted all night. Next day the Serbians produced their most prized and most terrible weapon. Imagine a steel, brass-capped case, filled with explosive gelatine, the whole weighing 5 lb., one or more of which, sewn in leather cases, were attached to the belt of every Serbian soldier. The effect of these bombs was terrific.

"After twelve hours' fierce fighting, the Morava and Shumadia Divisions suddenly pierced the Bulgarian front. Victory seemed again possible for Serbia, and the question hung upon everyone's lips, 'What are the Allies doing?' This question remained permanently unanswered.

"The Serbians dashed headlong into the breach made by the Morava and Shumadia Divisions, but the Bulgarians gathered new reinforcements, and before morning that breach, opened at such a price, was again closed.

"The battle was ended, and the Serbians had lost the road to Uskub.

"The Serbians, realising that their retreat was cut off, fought like cornered wolves. The Bulgarians advanced less than a mile a day. The Serbian nation knew its cause was lost, but the army was determined to die in a blaze of glory, resisting to the last shell and to the last man."

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Y.M.C.A. WORK IN EGYPT AND AT THE DARDANELLES.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

When the history of the present war comes to be written, among the brightest of its pages will assuredly be that whereon is set forth the splendid record of the activities of the voluntary institutions, amongst which the Y.M.C.A. certainly takes a prominent place.

Wherever our men are fighting, no matter in what part of the world or under what trying conditions—in France, India, the Persian Gulf, Egypt, Gallipoli, South Africa—there will be found the workers of this well-known institution trying to alleviate the hardship and attenuate the privations that are an unfortunate but unavoidable concomitant of warfare, and doing their utmost to lighten and brighten the lot of the fighters on the field and in the camps. I do not propose to deal with the work carried on in the Far East, since I cannot write from any personal knowledge; nor will I speak of what has been done in France, as others far more qualified have already sung the praises of the Y.M.C.A. in those parts. My purpose to-day is to give publicity to the magnificent work carried out by this organisation in Egypt and at Gallipoli—work which the general public has as yet failed to appreciate, and which, owing to the peculiar circumstances in which it has been accomplished, stands out in importance and utility from any achievement of the association or of any other voluntary body in other war areas.

When war broke out great numbers of troops were without warning drafted into Egypt, which, from being a small military station, was at one stroke of the pen turned into a vast training camp, and has since become the nerve-centre of all the expeditions in the Eastern Mediterranean. But although Egypt stands to the Levant much as Boulogne stands to the western frontier, it is much further distant from the fighting line, and the situation of our troops in the two areas cannot possibly bear comparison, whilst the unique position at the Dardanelles is too notorious to need any mention.

In France our men, even in the firing line, are, so to speak, within hail of the Old Country, whence it is comparatively easy to obtain comforts; when they fall sick or are wounded, they are very soon invalided home; and at the worst, if communications with the home folk should go astray, there is always the consoling thought that it may be possible to obtain a few days' leave. Everything combined conduces to keep up the spirit and the *moral* of the men.

But out here, how different, how sadly different, has been the situation! The men, when stationed in Egypt, were for the most part under canvas. They might be training or kicking out their heels waiting for marching orders; but while they were so doing there was nothing to interest them in their leisure hours, nowhere that they could foregather for innocent amusement or recreation. Far from home and friends, cut off from family ties and influences, with insufficient money to enable them to frequent the better-class resorts, amid surroundings which were entirely novel to most of them, and which not unnaturally whetted their curiosity and tempted exploration, the men were at the mercy not only of the temptations that were dangled before their eyes, but also of the pernicious subterfuges of the low element that unfortunately abounds in the Levant and battens on the innocence and inexperience of its victims. The weak point about the situation was that there was no special organisation to cope with such a large body of men as Egypt was called upon to accommodate.

Realizing that something must be done without delay to meet the emergency, and that morally it ought to take its part, the Egyptian branch of the Y.M.C.A., which had carried on its routine work up till then, stepped into the breach, despite the fact that funds were low and an adequate staff was not available. Its aim has been to fill the *lacunæ* in the social organization of the country and to counteract its demoralizing influences by giving the men some place which they could frequent without restraint, where they could purchase good food and extra comforts at reasonable prices, and where they could find amusement and generally spend their spare time pleasantly. Right loyally and thoroughly has the association carried out the self-appointed task; and the G.O.C., who has had to introduce many stringent regulations for the protection of the troops from the parasitic element already referred to, admits that in his endeavour to keep the men out of the clutches of these monsters and to maintain the *moral* of his army he has found the greatest assistance in the activities of the Egyptian branch.

Wherever a camp has been created, the Y.M.C.A. has pitched its tent—at first an ordinary canvas one, but later on one made of matting. Each tent is run by a voluntary secretary—usually a University man—who merely looks to the association for his board and lodging, and who is responsible for the organization of his particular area. At each of these centres the men find materials for letter-writing, papers to read, games to play; they can get good square meals at ridiculously low prices; and they can use the tent absolutely as their recreation room. Every evening there is something doing: concerts, organized by the secretary or by private individuals, in which the men take part; popular lectures; competitions, boxing matches, etc.

En passant it is interesting to note that since the association started operations among the troops here it has distributed 3,500,000 sheets of paper and as many envelopes, and that at the present moment it requires 400,000 sets every month. One wonders how many of these letters would have been written had it not been for the intervention of the association. Those at home who have loved ones at the front, or have experience in such matters, will be able to realise what an amount of pleasure and happiness the letters from this distant land must have brought into thousands of homes in the Old Country, and what good the maintenance of the link must have done to the writers.

In addition to providing the men with pleasant and congenial resorts, the association has carried on educational work that is well worthy of record. French and Arabic classes have been organised for such men as wished to make some acquaintance with those tongues, and the knowledge thus acquired has proved most useful to those who profited by them. Moreover, the association has throughout adopted a most broad-minded policy. Its work has been purely interdenominational, as can be seen from the fact that ministers of every creed are allowed to hold services in the tents on Sundays and Feast Days, at hours arranged amongst themselves.

We who are on the spot are perhaps best able to judge of the value of the work done, and what is thought of the association's enterprise can be gauged from the fact that the Anglo-Egyptian colony is co-operating cordially. The lectures that are periodically given are delivered by prominent officials; the language classes are all held by local Englishmen and women; at every concert residents come down to assist, and when "a rush" is on the secretaries are reinforced by temporary volunteers. Whilst, however, this is eloquent of the opinion held locally—and the warm acknowledgments of the military authorities, from General Maxwell downwards, and the appeals for help from the C.O.'s attest to the utility of the work—the great test of its success must be the manner in which the men avail themselves of the facilities offered them. Go to any tent on any afternoon, provided it is not a day when manœuvres are on, and you will find it full. Watch the end of a parade, or the conclusion of the tea hour, and you will see a long procession of men making for the tent with the familiar letters "Y.M.C.A." outside, where they will spend the rest of the evening. The hum of voices and the contentment that is evident as you walk through is surely the greatest proof that could be required of the men's appreciation of the efforts that are being made to make them happy.

The association has, however, not confined its activities to Egypt. As hinted above, Gallipoli, where the men lived amid conditions and endured privations that were none the less deplorable because they were heroically borne, soon attracted its attention, and several depots have been established on the islands and on the peninsula, where the men can obtain such comforts as may be of use to them in the field. At first it was intended to place these depots in protected positions, but it was found that no site was out of the range of the enemy guns; so, as the representatives were quite prepared to go where the men went and take the risk, it was decided to start work without delay, and depots were established at Helles and Anzac, right within the fire of the Turkish batteries. In addition, depots have been opened on the islands of Imbros and Lemnos, where the headquarters for the peninsula are stationed; and under the auspices of the association a bakery has been erected at Kephalos and a canteen opened at Anzac and Helles. The delight with which the first Y.M.C.A. worker on the peninsula was hailed by the men was pathetic, as it was eloquent of the great need in which they had stood; whilst the success which has attended the running of the various enterprises opened by the association shows what a great want the "peninsula" work fills.

Such, in brief, is the work that the Egyptian branch of the Y.M.C.A. is carrying out in the Eastern Mediterranean. Those who know their Egypt, or who are familiar with the circumstances of war in the Orient, will quickly realize what a boon its enterprise has been to the men and what a debt the Empire owes to the institution whose efforts have so conduced to the maintenance of the spirits, the *moral*, and the health of the thousands of soldiers who have been in Egypt and in the war areas wherein the M.E.F. is operating.

The Egyptian branch started operations, as I have mentioned, despite the fact that its funds were low; and it has since been enabled to carry on for just over a year

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solely thanks to local subscriptions, grants from England, America, New Zealand, and contributions from other parts of the world. With a guaranteed monthly income of but £300 and a monthly expenditure of £500, it naturally finds itself now in difficulties; and it is forced to appeal for funds to the British public, for without financial assistance it will not be possible to continue the present work, let alone respond to the calls which the regimental officers are daily making upon the association.

The branch has at present twelve centres in Cairo (including a large café and recreation ground in the very heart of the city), six centres in Alexandria, one at Kephalos, on Imbros, one at Mudros, and two on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Nobly has it met every demand made upon it in Egypt—by the way, that demand will be very much heavier shortly, for, apart from the fact that more troops are arriving every day, it has been asked to take up purely social work among the Indian troops on the peninsula; boldly did it assume the burden put upon its shoulders by the Dardanelles campaign, and, like the historic *cantinière*, follow up the troops into the zone of fire with a gallantry that equalled that of our lads themselves. And now, undaunted by the lack of funds, it is responding to the call that has come to it from Salonika, where, before these lines are in print, it is probable that its men and its familiar huts will be established among our troops.

Surely such enterprise, resolution, and courage as it has consistently shown, and such good as, on the testimony of the highest in the land, it has done are deserving of the fullest encouragement, and should command for it the most liberal support from people throughout the Empire. Never has the Egyptian branch refused its assistance or excused itself from co-operation on the plea of lack of funds, and it would be a crying shame if it were forced not merely to stop all expansion to meet the growing needs of our troops, but to curtail its sphere of activity.

That is the prospect ahead unless adequate financial assistance is promptly given. That we should spare no effort to keep going the organisation which has in the past brought them so much comfort and happiness, and enable it to continue its excellent mission in the future, is surely the least we can do for the gallant men who have offered their services and their lives so that liberty and right, for which their forefathers also fought, should continue to reign in the world!

[Subscriptions for the "Egypt" Fund of the Y.M.C.A. will be received either by THE NEAR EAST, or at the London offices of the association, 13, Russell Square.]

A JOURNEY IN SERBIA.

Being further extracts from the diary of Dr. Lauwens, of the Wounded Allies Relief Committee's Mission to Serbia.

KRAGUJEVATZ, July 24.

Yesterday evening I received a telegram from the delegate of our committee summoning me urgently to Podgoritza (Montenegro), for that mission, which has been deprived of its head, who has been recalled to England, has now only two lady doctors and eight nurses, and has immense difficulties to overcome. All the medical and surgical stores are still at Ipek, and horses and mules are used for transport across the mountains. A medical man is absolutely necessary in this country, so I started off at once.

On leaving Uskub the way lies through a picturesque valley of rugged grandeur. It is a steady ascent up the mountain, the summit of which reaches an altitude of 2,500 metres. This peak was in sight for three-quarters of an hour, then we reached a fertile plateau, where the air was comparatively fresh. I was travelling with two Americans belonging to the Rockefeller Mission.

At the station at Mitrovitza the Montenegrin delegate was waiting for me, and took us—the two Americans and myself—to an inn, pompously called the Hotel Bristol. There are three bedrooms in this establishment, and a dining-room downstairs, where the townspeople come to enjoy a cuisine that is not at all bad.

The town of Mitrovitza is three-quarters Turkish, with its minarets, mongrels, cafés with divans, veiled women, beggars, and so forth. From the height of a minaret the chant of a muezzin, calling the Faithful to prayer, reaches our ears.

The following morning at five o'clock our three carriages are ready. With us are a German-speaking Montenegrin, as our interpreter, and three drivers. The carriages, called "brchka," are small, low, four-wheeled vehicles on springs, and are covered with a sort of canvas. The bottom of the carriage is covered with a little hay, over which there is a rug. Here one makes oneself as comfortable as one can.

We start off at a jog-trot, jolted and shaken about unmercifully as we bump over the abominable Turkish paving. (Mitrovitza has been Serbian only since the Balkan War.) One of our drivers is singing and dancing with joy at the thought of returning to Ipek, where he lives; though the interpreter tells us that he will be severely reprimanded by his three wives for having stayed several days at Mitrovitza. We are told also that it is the Moslem Lent (Ramadan), and that two of our drivers (Arnauts) will have to do the whole journey running by the side of the carriage under a burning sun without eating or drinking anything until sunset.

We leave the town and soon emerge into a narrow rocky valley. We meet soldiers and mounted Serbian gendarmes, armed with rifles, as well as several Arnauts driving cattle and horses. The road is abominable; the sun like fire. In some places Austrian prisoners are mending the roads, where they are absolutely impassable; yet I am told that in a few months' time they are going to run motors! The Arnauts have a stern and savage appearance; they are not allowed to carry arms since the Serbian occupation. The most trivial offences are punished most severely; but this is absolutely necessary. The interpreter tells me that two years ago (under the Turkish *régime*) it was exceedingly dangerous to make this journey, and that one had to be armed to the teeth.

After three or four hours on the road we arrive at an undulating plateau. Our little horses seem to be tireless. At mid-day we reach the Montenegrin frontier (Rudnik), a military post, where our passports are *viséd*. Here there is a Turkish inn. It seems as if we shall never come to the end of the descent we are making to reach the bottom of the valley where lies Ipek. In front of us, towards the north, the chain of the Albanian Alps stretches away to Montenegro. The summits of these mountains are for the greater part covered with snow, and afford a magnificent spectacle. The roads are now quite good, but very dusty. The mountain side we are descending is very fertile: maize, barley, wheat; very few trees. The heat is stifling.

My carriage is in front, followed by that of the Americans and the cart with the luggage. Soon we catch sight of the mail cart in front. Two carriages that we had overtaken at the frontier (one of which is driven by a Turk, at whom our driver had levelled jibes and insults) now catch up with us and pass us. The driver of the Americans' carriage is not going to have this. He hurries forward and joins in at the end of the procession, despite the cries and supplications of his passengers. The three carriages now start on a mad race down the road and along the fields on either side, the axles grinding and the wheels throwing up clouds of dust. My carriage remains prudently behind. Soon we come across a broken-down carriage in the middle of the road. The Turk and the driver of the mail cart have been victorious in the struggle. The Arnaut is shouting with joy. The Americans, more dead than alive, are boxed up in their carriage, happily unhurt. On the ground at the side of the broken-down vehicle are the passengers, who have escaped with only a few bruises.

We reach the bottom of the valley at about five o'clock, and shall get to Ipek in about another hour. At the river we stop to water the horses, and go to a small Montenegrin inn for some Turkish coffee, where a few Montenegrin soldiers regard us curiously. Resuming our journey, we can soon see in the distance the minarets of Ipek, which has the characteristics of all Turkish towns: numberless herds of bullocks and buffaloes, here and there a dead horse, abandoned by the road, flocks of ravens, disagreeable odours.

We arrive at Ipek, a town swarming with inhabitants, at six o'clock. There are Turks wearing the fez, Arnauts with small white caps, a strand of hair coming out behind (the rest of the head being shaven); Serbians in the national cap; Montenegrins with their little round Basque cap, leather sandals, full pantaloons of light blue, white shirt and embroidered bolero. The streets are narrow and winding.

Bidding adieu to the Americans, who are going to their camp, half an hour's journey from the town, I make my way to the depôt, where I have great difficulty in finding my belongings. There are hundreds of cases to be unpacked and done up again in small parcels ready for transport by donkeys and ponies across the mountains towards Andregevitsa, whence a motor service starts for Podgoritza. There are no horses, and I am wondering how long it will be before all my belongings reach their destination.

From what one hears there seem to be a good many wounded at Ipek. A fortnight ago the Albanians planned an attack south of the town. The Montenegrin army, helped by the Serbian artillery and reinforced by all the Christians at Ipek, officials, etc., advanced against the Albanians, inflicted severe losses on them, and obliged them to retreat.

As I am anxious to leave for Podgoritza as soon as possible, I am making arrangements with the Montenegrin Bureau de Transport.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

AN ARTIST AT THE FRONT.*

Although the brush work of Mr. Norman Wilkinson is undoubtedly what it was intended to be—the main attraction of his book—his letterpress is by no means to be ignored. The author has given us a remarkably fresh and vivid picture of service life at Gallipoli, so fresh and vivid, indeed, that it brings to the reviewer's mind the enchanted picture of an author dealing with the live subject of war in some hallowed corner of its theatre where censors are not. He writes of submarine nets and other measures undertaken by the Admiralty for the safety of our Fleet with an openness and familiarity that leave us breathless, and, if the truth must be told, with a vague feeling of discontent with other writers who have been less fortunate in ignoring, or more obedient in obeying, the dictates of Whitehall. It is not, of course, impossible that a German submarine or two have fallen victims to our netting methods, and we quote from Mr. Wilkinson's description of one of our own E boats caught at the Narrows. It is, as far as we are aware, the first thing of its kind which has been published :—

In the early stages of the operations the net across the Narrows could be negotiated by diving under it; but, on a subsequent occasion, a submarine returning to the open sea found that the Turks had placed a deeper net in position. This particular submarine fouled the net at a depth of over one hundred feet, and was actually hung up by stout wire for upwards of fifteen minutes. It is impossible to imagine anything more likely to unnerve men than to be caught like herrings in a net below the surface, and actually to hear, as they did, hydrostatic bombs exploding around them. The Turks would know, of course, by the agitation of the net above, that a submarine was caught; however, by going astern and then ahead, and allowing her whole weight to come on the net, the vessel broke through and returned in safety.

The author gives us an excellent impression of the work done by the Royal Navy, and by the trawlers and other adjuncts of the Service in these waters. In reading his account of our position on certain occasions one is constrained to marvel at the comparative immunity of our Fleet, often confined to a small area lest it should run an added danger from enemy submarines, when the Turks, having found the range, were using the big guns with all the energy at their command.

It is a thousand pities that the Turks should have been guilty of such fiendish acts as the Armenian massacres. Had it not been for this the Turk might, and, indeed, would, have emerged from this trial with a character from which the stain of lust and cruelty had been effectively removed. Mr. Wilkinson, in this book on the Dardanelles theatre, says that "no nation could possibly have conducted warfare in a more above-board and clean-handed manner than the Turks." The author was in a position to see many of the most historic incidents of the campaign, and his gift of recounting them in a pleasant and interesting manner is not to be denied.

In turning to the illustrations we find it very hard to single out any plate for particular mention. They are all good, many of the smaller ones, indeed, too good to have their characteristics blurred by the inclusion of two sketches on one page. The practice of thus spoiling two good pictures in the interests of paper-saving is, in our opinion, the weak thing about this book. If a sketch merited inclusion it should certainly have stood alone.

One picture which seems to call for special attention is that of H.M.S. Talbot in Suvla Bay, shelling enemy ridges at dusk. This picture gives a very faithful idea of dusk, with its attendant greyness of the waters in these regions. If it lacks anything it is the sense of distance. On the other hand, the representation of the balloon-ship Hector, with kite balloon up, is instinct with the sense of space of freedom.

Altogether the book contains no less than thirty-six coloured plates and innumerable sketches in black and white. And, dealing with a campaign in our history no less glorious because it was unrewarded with the full fruits of victory, it would make an admirable gift book that should be carefully preserved as the first of its kind to be published in the greatest war of the world.

A WEIRD VOLUME.†

One of the characteristics most essential to the successful writing of a book dealing with the mystic or supernatural is conviction, both in thought and expression. The most gruesome ghost story often fails to thrill when recounted by a sceptic. The book under review leaves us with the impression that its author's conviction, strong in the beginning, wavered very considerably before he wrote his last chapter, and that thus an original and otherwise enthralling tale has been robbed of full justice.

The story opens with a prologue, the scene of which is laid in Afghanistan, where the principal characters of the book are travelling in pursuit of psychic investigations. On the eve of entering one of the most important centres of psychic manifestation which they had encountered in all their long quest, one of the two, Aga Halfi, the mystic, is seized with a premonition of evil and of failure, and while his white companion sleeps he resorts to the use of all the magic powers of which he is master in an attempt to ward off the threatening calamity. He is only partially successful, and upon the direct results of his partial failure the rest of the story is based.

We read the first portion of the book with unrelaxing interest. Mr. Roland Filkin had got hold of a good plot, and he was working it with skill. If there is a weakness here, it lies in the dialogue; but the author's descriptive powers, and also the sense of conviction that gives colour to every paragraph in this portion of the book, far outweigh any slight failing in this respect. The real fault of the book lies, in our opinion, in the introduction of the love element into its pages. The inevitable ending is so apparent from the moment that Constance Alletson is assigned her place in the little group of inquirers into the mysterious happenings of an English countryside village that interest becomes blunted, and irritation is with difficulty avoided. It is only doing the author justice to suggest that his theme and his method of dealing with it were quite strong enough to have stood alone without pandering to the popular demand for sentiment. As an individual theme, the analysis of such an attraction as the Master of Storton presented to Miss Alletson would not be without interest. But although this attraction asserted itself under conditions that were entirely abnormal, the reader is left to take it for granted that it would remain unchanged when those conditions were reversed. In other words, the author has in this instance done either too much or a great deal too little.

Again, in the matter of the book's ending, Mr. Filkin must surely have tired of his work, or he would never have allowed the long arm of coincidence to play such havoc with its charm. His work is, in fact, curiously uneven. Up to a certain point it is, as we have intimated, entirely satisfying; after that point it fails, at least in comparison with its previous chapters. And the very fact of its being well above the average of books of this kind only serves to sharpen the critical attitude.

In the matter of the Roc's gigantic footprints, Mr. Filkin has, wittingly or unwittingly, re-told, though in a different setting, actual happenings of twenty years ago in Wales. The scene is laid in England, and how far the writer has been influenced by Serbian mystical belief it is, of course, impossible to say, but many of his descriptions might pass for tales common enough among the Serbian people of the twentieth century.

If only for these reasons, his book should command a large sale—it contains a sufficiency of possibility to make it acceptable to all classes of readers, and it appears at a time when there is a very widespread tendency towards inquiring into supernatural matters.

We do not, of course, intimate that the book is in any way more than it pretends to be—a novel—but in its perusal the reader will obtain added interest if he remembers that such beliefs as it contains are accepted as profound truths by thousands of our brave and gallant Serbian allies to-day.

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Sidgwick and Jackson published last Saturday "The Glory that was Greece: a Survey of Hellenic Culture and Civilization," by J. C. Stobart. The price of the book is 7s. 6d. net.

Messrs. Blackwood have published Sir Mortimer Durand's "The Life of Field-Marshal Sir George White, V.C." (2 vols., 30s. net.)

Messrs. Galloway and Porter, Cambridge, have published, at one guinea net, a new "Omar Khayyam," illustrated by Mera K. Sett, a young Parsee artist. The edition is limited to 250 copies.

Messrs. Marshall have published a sixpenny booklet, "How the Turk Makes War," by Leon Levison. It contains a narration of the organized outrages in Armenia and Syria and of the "invasion" of Egypt.

Mr. Martin Secker has published "Perfumes of Araby: Silhouettes of Al Yemen," by Harold Jacob. Lord Lamington contributes a forewood to the book, the price of which is 7s. 6d. net.

Any Books mentioned on this page, or any other Publication, can be obtained at the published price, plus 3d. postage in the United Kingdom, or 6d. abroad, from

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

* "The Dardanelles: Colour Sketches of Gallipoli." Text and pictures by Norman Wilkinson R.I. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 12s. 6d. net.)

† "Aga Halfi, the Mystic." By Roland Filkin. (London; William Rider nd Son, Ltd. 6s.)

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I see that the camels of the Zoological Gardens at Berlin are being pressed into the service of the German army. In view of the proposed capture of Egypt, the formation of a camel corps has been considered necessary, and, making the best of a lack of colonial possessions where such corps are frequently found, the gentle Hun is settling down to master the precarious game of cup and ball in his own country. I scarcely know which to pity most, the camel or the Hun. I have seen many Germans on camels in Egypt, and somehow the angular lines of the one animal always seemed painfully out of sympathy with the generous contour of the other. Even a lean man requires many yards of flannel tightly swathed round his waist if during his first long ride he is to avoid the sensation of being dissected by a drunken surgeon during a storm at sea; and the German is not, as a rule, a lean man. The amateur camel rider is, too, assailed by the least pleasant of boyhood's memories for many painful days after his first ride is done; so, as he is usually too stiff to walk, the only place of rest is in bed. And from my personal acquaintance with many camels, I know they will not hesitate to say exactly what they think concerning the weight of their new riders over and above that of the normal white man. I am a man of few recreations, but I should dearly like to see the Berlin Camel Corps on parade.

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Mr. J. Harding King, who has many winters in the desert to his credit, told a tale at a recent meeting of the Royal Geographical Society which goes a very long way towards accounting for the notorious irritability of the camel tribe. I am sure that it will be new to many who formerly thought they knew the worst about a camel to learn that he is keenly susceptible to electrical influences—a regular storage battery, in fact. "I have heard," said Mr. King, "on rather doubtful authority, of a brush discharge about six inches long on the ears of a camel during an unusually bad sandstorm." The tale is not, as we see, guaranteed as gospel, but it may be true, and if so it's small wonder that the camel has the hump. I would simply hate to have a brush of electric sparks flying from my ears.

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Another instance of electric phenomena quoted by Mr. King as having come under his personal knowledge was that of woollen blankets having become charged with electricity during a sandstorm. When shaken to rid them of sand these articles literally blazed all over with sparks, and in one case Mr. King could even feel the spark drawn from a blanket when he touched it. I wonder if some of the irritation I have experienced while sleeping in the desert has also, unbeknown to myself, been due to a similar agency? I used to put it down to quite different causes.

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In writing of life in the desert, it occurs to me that many of the tricks adopted by our pioneers in search of bodily comfort might be useful to such men of our new armies at home as find it difficult to keep warm. I know from experience that two blankets sewn together in the form of a sack give as much warmth to the man inside as will double the number used in the ordinary way. A small stone carried in the trousers pocket will generate a considerable amount of heat, and will be found useful when the fingers become numbed. If it is necessary to sleep in the open when your bedstead is of canvas, or camp type, it is best to dispense with the framework altogether, and, laying the canvas on the ground, make your bed upon that. A canvas neatly swung on its fittings is undoubtedly more comfortable, but people seem to forget that cold goes up as well as down, and as on these occasions the thickness of one's mattress is usually negligible, the cold, baffled by many blankets on one side, plays havoc on the other. While I am not in sympathy with the Native's custom of converting himself into an amateur mummy while he sleeps, he certainly knows how to make the best of things in the wilds.

***

A young Frenchman recently captured by the Huns wrote to friends in London: "You will be sorry to hear that I have been made a prisoner. I am now awaiting the end." "The end" of what? Of the war, let us hope. But if I fell into the clutches of the Huns I am not sure that I should feel very hopeful of seeing the coming of peace, for reports of the way in which they treat their prisoners are far from reassuring. Contrast the message just quoted with another sent by a Turk who was made prisoner by our Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force. He asked if he might send a brief message to his friends, and, receiving permission, dispatched a telegram, stating simply: "Safely captured." The writer of the letter from which I quote adds: "The Turks like being taken prisoners by us." Which I can quite believ

Apropos of my reference to Prince Henry XXXI. of Reuss, a friend tells me that when his Serene Highness left Simla for his mysterious mission to Teheran he sold all the wine that was left in his cellar to his acquaintances, keeping back only a few bottles of specially good champagne, which he purposed taking with him for use on his journey. One man bought from him twelve dozen bottles of German dark beer, which were delivered to him some days before H.S.H. departed. When the first bottle was opened it was found that the beer was bad, and on investigation it transpired that not a single bottle was drinkable. Thereupon the indignant purchaser invited the Prince to lunch, and gave him a bottle of the beer. The Prince tasted it, but could not drink it, and at last said he fancied the beer was flat. His host replying bluntly that so far he had not found a single bottle that was fit to drink, the Prince, with the best grace he could muster up, offered to take back what was left. Shortly after he took his departure, not much pleased with his entertainment. But worse still was in store for him. After he was well started on his journey to Teheran, he found that his servant, misunderstanding the order to take with them all the wine that had not been sold, had carefully packed nearly twelve dozen bottles of beer, while the champagne had been left in Simla, to the tender mercies of a native caretaker.

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I am indebted to a correspondent for a newspaper cutting in which reference is made to the rules and regulations governing the conduct of our troops in Busreh, and from these I see that: "Bathing is permitted from the various piers, but the use of soap on these piers is forbidden, as it makes the planking slippery and is therefore dangerous." Incidentally, I may remark that I greatly admire the wording of this rule, which, it seems to me, is all the more likely to be obeyed cheerfully because the reason for making it is so clearly set forth. No sensible man objects to obeying rules that are obviously wise; but, as a friend of mine once observed, "Rules that are made just for the sake of saying 'You mustn't' are the very devil." But what strikes me as strange about the business is that the rule makes no mention of sharks. These pests used to be quite common in the river, even as far up as Baghdad. Have they now disappeared entirely? And if so, why? Perhaps the mining that has been done in the river, by both sides, has upset the finny ones and driven them back to the Gulf. If so, the war has done one good turn to Irak.

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Whether the advent of the British has driven the sharks away or not, it is certain that it has woken the town up considerably. In looking through a batch of the *Busra Times* received by the last two mails, I have come across many items that serve to show how the place is developing already. Thus, apart from such minor items as a notice about the founding of a Masonic lodge, I find: (1) An official notification regarding "the reclamation and sale of the foreshore between the Serraji creek and the Kut al Frangi creek on both sides of the Shatt el Arab"; (2) an item of "Local News" to the effect that a *gharrywallah* has been sentenced to fifteen days' hard labour for "refusing to ply for hire without being paid backsheesh"; and (3) an announcement of the opening of an hotel. The first of these items looks as if we had definitely made up our minds to stop in Busreh; the second shows the place has progressed enormously already since the bad old days when there were no *gharrywallahs* at all—not even ruffians who demand backsheesh!—and no roads fit for them to drive their *gharries* on, even if you backsheeshed them up to their eyes. As for the third item, I must confess that it appeals to me by the modesty of its claims. The hotel, I gather, is near that earthly Paradise, referred to recently in these notes, in which the incomparable Mademoiselle Samieh and that "regular Aleppo," "La Bella Tara," made glad the hearts of the Busreh citizens. "It is," I read, "a Decent Bungalow, with separate Rooms, and is a fine site." And the next sentence informs me that: "The undersigned will be grateful to receive those that are forthcoming." So now, as soon as I can put my affairs in order here, and hasten to feast my eyes on the fair enslavers just mentioned, I shall know where to stay in Busreh.

CORSAIR.

PASSPORTS FOR EGYPT.

The Press Bureau issued the following announcement on Sunday night:—

In view of the large number of ladies who have proceeded to Egypt, it has been decided, at the request of the General Officer Commanding, that, until further notice, no more passports will be issued to ladies to enable them to travel to, or winter in, Egypt.

Those who are already in possession of passports valid for that country are warned that unless they are in possession of special permission from the General Officer Commanding in Egypt, they will not be allowed to disembark.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. Dec.	1915. Dec.		1334. Safar.	5676. Tebet.
24	11	Friday	16	17
25	12	Saturday.....	17	18
26	13	Sunday	18	19
27	14	Monday	19	20
28	15	Tuesday	20	21
29	16	Wednesday	21	22
30	17	Thursday	22	23

To-day is the birthday of H.M. the Queen of Denmark.

Wednesday is the birthday of the Queen Dowager of Roumania, who was born in 1843.

The *Giornale d'Italia* states that King Peter of Serbia is in Albania with his Army, and that he does not propose to leave it, at least, for the present. Preparations have, however, been made in case the King should wish to go to Italy to recover his health.

The Earl of Cromer left London on Monday for Gourock.

Lord Kitchener had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on Monday.

Amongst those present at a Te Deum sung at the Russian Church, Welbeck Street, last Sunday, in celebration of the name-day of the Emperor of Russia, were: the Roumanian Minister, the Serbian Minister, M. Alexandre V. Georgevitch, M. G. Todorovitch, and Colonel Milivoi Nicolaievitch.

The Moslems of India are reported to be much excited at the murder in Persia of the Agha Farikh Khan, a cousin of the Agha Khan, which was referred to in these columns last week.

Mr. Bertram Christian, chairman of the Serbian Relief Fund, has received information that Sir Ralph Paget, British Relief Commissioner in Serbia, has arrived at Modano from Albania with a party of 120 members of the various hospital units, which have been at work among the Serbians. The party is now on its way home.

Mr. R. L. Naville, Director General of the Banque Franco-Serbe, is in London, having recently returned from Serbia and Salonika.

Sir Edward Boyle, we understand, arrived in Salonika at the beginning of the month, accompanied by his mother, Lady Boyle.

On December 17, at the Old Rectory, Eastwell, Ashford, Kent, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Melvill gave birth to a daughter. Colonel Melvill was formerly H.M. Consul-General at Baghdad.

Last Monday, at Windholme, Parkstone, Dorset, the wife of Major Mervyn J. Wheatley, the Dorset Regiment (attached Egyptian Army), gave birth to a son.

The marriage took place at St. Andrews, N.B., last week, of Demetrius John Cassavetti, Hon. Secretary of the Anglo-Hellenic League, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Cassavetti, of Shenley, Herts, to Miss Lilian Moir, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Moir, of St. Andrews. The bride was given away by her father, and Mr. Anthony Kephala was best man. The Bishop of St. Andrews, assisted by Canon Winter, officiated. The bride wore a simple white satin dress and a Belgian tamboi lace train of her great grandmother, Lady Sutherland, which was carried by her nephew, Master Ian Moir. She was attended by her sisters, Misses Mary and Noel Moir, as bridesmaids.

A Cyprus correspondent writes :—Mr. J. R. Holmes, President of the District Court, Nicosia, left on December 4 on six days' leave, to escort a daughter to Port Said. She has recently become engaged to be married, and leaves for India, her new home.

The *Egyptian Gazette* reports that "news has been received in Cairo that Sir Robin Paul, formerly of the Irrigation Service, has been made a prisoner."

Our Special Correspondent in Athens, in forwarding us news of Constantinople under date of December 8, writes :—Mr. James La Fontaine, who had been exiled to Angora, has now been transferred to Chorum. The reason assigned for his exile is because he was in correspondence with two mercantile captains who are prisoners at Magnesia. The other Englishmen at Karahissar are confined in a large khan, but have a certain amount of liberty, and are as well as can be under the circumstances.

Mr. Tully, the manager of the Gresham Life Insurance Company, having embraced the Mohammedan faith, has been allowed to return to Constantinople.

Sir Thomas Jackson, chairman of the Imperial Bank of Persia, and late chief manager of the Hong-Kong and Shanghai Bank, in Gracechurch Street, who died suddenly in an office at the bank on Tuesday, was the son of the late Mr. David Jackson, of Urker, Crossmaglen, Ireland, and was born in 1841. Beginning his career in the Bank of Ireland, Belfast, he went to the East in 1864. He was knighted in 1899, and received a baronetcy in 1902. Sir Thomas held appointments on the boards of several other banking and insurance companies, including the London County and Westminster Bank, the Union Discount Company of London, the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation, and the Yorkshire Penny Bank. He married, in 1871, a daughter of the late George Julius Dare, R.N., by whom he had four sons and four daughters, and is succeeded by his eldest son, Major Thomas Dare Jackson, M.V.O., D.S.O., Royal Lancaster Regiment, born in 1876, who gained his D.S.O. in the South African War. Sir Thomas's second and third sons have both been wounded in the present war.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. F. W. Manson, which occurred in Alexandria on the 18th inst. Mr. Manson, who was partner in the firm of Messrs. Back and Manson, was very well known in Egypt, where, in addition to being proprietors of the *Egyptian Gazette*, his firm have large commercial interests. The deceased gentleman, who was sixty-five years of age, was this year accompanied by Mrs. Manson on his visit to Egypt, and much sympathy is expressed for her in her sad bereavement. The cause of death is given as apoplexy, following dysentery. Mr. Manson had two sons serving in the Army. One, who has been wounded on four occasions, is at present convalescent in London; the other, who has been serving at the Dardanelles, was due to arrive in Egypt during the present week. Mr. Manson's death will be sincerely regretted by his many friends both in England and in Egypt.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. F. E. Johnston, wife of Brigadier-General Francis Earl Johnston, C.B., which took place on the 15th inst. at Cairo, following an operation for appendicitis.

Colonel Charles Frederick Pollock has died at Conheath, Dumfries, at the age of seventy-one years. Entering the Army in 1867, he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps, and saw service with the Egyptian Expedition, 1882. He was at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, and received a medal with clasp and also the bronze star.

We regret to announce that official notice has been received that Sub-Lieutenant B. W. Kenny, R.N.V.R., was killed in the Dardanelles on the 19th inst. He was on the staff of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Manchester, and joined the R.N.V.R. on February 22, 1915, going to the Dardanelles in July. He was invalided to Egypt and Cyprus in September-October and returned to the Dardanelles in November. He is the third member of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, London and Manchester staff, to lose his life in the war, and a fourth member has been missing for many months.

Last Friday was celebrated throughout Victoria as an "Anzac Remembrance Day" for the benefit of forty-four soldiers' institutes in Australia, Egypt, and Gallipoli. It is estimated that about £10,000 was obtained.

On Saturday afternoon, at the Anzac Club and Buffet, Horseferry Road, a presentation was made to Lady Birdwood, wife of the General Officer Commanding the Dominion Forces at the Dardanelles, from the Australian and New Zealand soldiers now in England. The presentation took the form of a boomerang with a suitable inscription, and an autograph album which will contain as many as it is possible to obtain of the signatures of the 15,000 men of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, now in hospital or on furlough in this country. Mr. A. H. O'Connor, who presided, referred to the splendid services which General Birdwood had rendered not only to Great Britain, but also to Australia, and said that the General had shown that he understood and appreciated the spirit which animated the Australian people in this war.

During the day, messages of Christmas greetings were received from General Sir Ian Hamilton and General Sir William Birdwood. Sir Ian Hamilton's message ran: "Happen what may, the Australians who have fought at Gallipoli will bequeath a heritage of honour to their children's children." General Birdwood telegraphed: "Good cheer, boys, from all old comrades in the firing line. Return soon, and we'll see this through together."

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to give directions for the following appointment to the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George: To be an Additional Member of the Third Class, or Companions, of the said Most Distinguished Order: Colonel (Second Commandant) Godfrey Estcourt Matthews, C.B., Royal Marine Light Infantry, in recognition of his services in command of the Plymouth Battalion, Royal Marine Brigade, Royal Naval Division, at the Dardanelles.

The *London Gazette* of last Friday contained the announcement of the bestowal on Colonel Milivoï Nicolaïevitch, General Staff, Serbian Army, of honorary membership of the Third Class, or Companion, of the Order of the Bath.

It was notified in last Friday's *London Gazette* that the King has awarded the Distinguished Service Cross to Lieutenant Theodore Douglas Hallam, R.N.V.R., now acting Flight-Lieutenant, R.N., in recognition of his services and signal gallantry in charge of machine-guns in the Gallipoli Peninsula.

On January 10, at an evening meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, to be held in the Society's Theatre, Burlington Gardens, at 8.30, Sir Arthur Evans will read a paper on "The Adriatic Slavs and Their Relation to the Future Overland Route to Constantinople." Other papers announced are:—"Cyrenaica," by Professor J. W. Gregory, on January 24, and "Communications in the Balkans," by Mr. H. C. Woods, on February 7.

Professor L. W. King will deliver two lectures on "Recent Excavations in Mesopotamia" on March 2 and March 9, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon in each case. The lectures are given under the auspices of the Royal Institution, and further particulars may be obtained at the office of the Institution, 21, Albemarle Street, W.

The Director-General of Voluntary Organizations acknowledges a gift of £100 for the purchase of material for the manufacture of comforts for the troops at the Dardanelles, and of £50 for a similar purpose for the benefit of those in Mesopotamia, from Mrs. W. P. Martin, Chulmleigh, North Devon.

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Mr. D. P. MacGillivray has arrived in London from Khartoum.

The English ambulance unit which left London in October under the direction of Mr. Ivor Bevan has been accepted by the Russian Army for work on the Caucasian-Persian frontier, where the cars are expected to arrive before the end of the month. Mr. Bevan cables that two more experienced drivers are badly needed at once—either two men or one man and one woman. Applicants, who must be prepared to pay their own expenses, are asked to write to Mrs. Ivor Bevan, 126, St. James Court, Westminster, who will give further information.

Mrs. Henry Lee, Francis's Hotel, Bennett Street, Bath, writes: "The need for bed socks in hospitals at Lemnos is most urgent. The cold is severe there now, and there is much difficulty in heating water for hot-water bottles, as they have only the tiniest oil stoves in the tents to do it with. There is also great need for candles. After dark the poor patients have no light whatever. Chocolate, toffee, acid drops, peppermints, and condensed milk and biscuits are wanted. The poor men just crave for something sweet. I shall be very grateful to any of your readers who will be good enough to send any of these things, or money to buy them with, either to me at the above address, or to Mrs. Anderson, Red Cross Hospital, Southampton Docks.

The Agent-General for South Australia last week received by cable from Mr. J. M. McBride, of South Australia, the sum of £500 for the Serbian Relief Fund, which sum has been paid to the Chairman of that Fund.

A bazaar, arranged by the Women's Volunteer Reserve, 15, York Place, Baker Street, in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund, will be held at the Portman Rooms, Baker Street, on January 27. The bazaar is under the patronage of the Duchess of Marlborough, the Marchioness of Londonderry, the Countess of Pembroke, Lady Cowdray, Lady Rodney, Lady Beatty, Lady Wolseley, and others. The Reserve is responsible for all the stalls, but help is urgently needed in money or in kind. Contributions of medical comforts, stationery or books, clothing, fancy articles, and provisions will be most gratefully received at 15, York Place, Baker Street.

Count Mensdorff, formerly Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in London, is reported to have been charged with a political mission of great importance—the character of which it is not difficult to guess—when he visited Bucharest recently on his way to Sofia. Ostensibly he went to the Bulgarian capital on Red Cross business, and it was officially stated that he visited Bucharest only on his return journey. The *Morning Post's* well-informed correspondent in Budapest, however, denies this, in a letter dated December 7.

The Serbian Relief Fund received last week from Sir Edward Boyle, a member of the Committee, now representing it at Salonika, the following telegram: "Thousands of refugees from the direction of Ghevgeli already approaching Salonika. Am requisitioning accommodation here which is indifferent and inadequate for present arrivals. Am endeavouring to keep refugees from Macedonia in Florina, Vodena, and Sorovitch until arrangements are made for their maintenance elsewhere. All reports agree that condition of refugees is lamentable and the need of assistance very urgent. Problem will attain increasingly grave complexion in the next few weeks. Earnestly beg British public to supply us with funds to cope with actual and prospective situation." The Serbian Relief Fund Committee are collecting and packing, and despatching from the headquarters, 5, Cromwell Road, London, S.W., large consignments of clothing and other necessaries and remitting funds for disbursement on the spot. They urgently appeal for further contributions in cash or in kind.

A party of women doctors, nurses, and orderlies, who left Serbia when the Bulgarians and Germans invaded that country, arrived in London on Wednesday. They had all been attached to the Scottish Women's Hospitals units, and amongst them were Dr. McVea, Miss Linton, Dr. Chesney, and Miss Bedford. The last-named had been matron at Krushevatz. Dr. Alice Hutchison, who was in charge of the work at Valievo, is expected to arrive in London very shortly. She had remained in Italy with some of the members of the S.W.H., who had fallen ill as a result of the privations they endured and the hardships they encountered in their flight. Dr. Elsie Inglis is reported to have been captured, with most of the members of the unit, at Krushevatz, by the Germans, but the fugitives received information that the captives were being well treated.

Under the patronage of the Serbian Relief Fund, Mr. James Buckland is giving a lecture for children on January 4, at 3.30 p.m., at the Whitehall Rooms, on the home life of interesting and beautiful birds of other lands. The proceeds are to be devoted to a fund which is to be raised by the children of Britain to found a home in Serbia for orphans. Tickets, 5s. each, may be obtained from Mrs. James Buckland, 29, St. Thomas's Mansions, Westminster Bridge, and from all the usual agencies.

The ex-Khedive, Abbas Hilmi, who is staying at the Hotel National, Geneva, has attracted around him quite a little court of Egyptians of the "ancien régime," says the Zurich correspondent of the Central News. Visits are made daily to the Hotel National not merely by members of the group of Egyptian Nationalists, who have always made Geneva their centre, but by such personalities as Sadik Pasha, grand dignatary of the former Court at Cairo, Moheb Pasha, and others. The number of Egyptian students at the Geneva University has been increased by the arrival of some young Egyptians from England.

The Serbian Relief Fund has received from Mrs. Parsons, wife of the Administrator of the Second British Farmers' unit now at Vranska Banja, information dated November 21 to the effect that up to November 18 the unit was in charge of a hospital in that town. Orders were shortly expected for the transfer of the unit to Krushevatz. The report says the members—numbering thirty-one—are all well and receiving every courtesy at the hands of the Austrian authorities.

Christmas Day is to be observed at Bedford as "Serbian Day," every household being asked to make a collection on Christmas morning for the Serbian Relief Fund.

Frances Isabella Catherine, Dowager Marchioness of Bath, of Manchester Square, W., mother of Lady Cromer, who died on October 31, widow of the fourth Marquess of Bath and eldest daughter of the third Viscount de Vesci, has left unsettled estate of the gross value of £49,869, with net personalty £49,151. Probate of the will dated December 18, 1897, with a codicil of February 2, 1914, is granted to her son, the present Marquess of Bath. Lady Bath gives £10,000 to her daughter, Lady Beatrice Thynne, and £5,000 to Lady Cromer. After providing for annuities of £100 to her butler and £30 to her coachman, and for some legacies to other servants, she leaves her plate, pictures, household and personal effects to her son, Lord Bath; and the residue of her property to her son, Lord George Alexander Thynne.

Sir Alfred Pearce Gould writes that Mr. F. W. Twort, superintendent of the Brown Animal Sanatory Institution, whose mission to the Eastern theatre of war was recently announced in the *Times*, is going out to establish a bacteriological laboratory for the service of the military hospitals there. Mr. Twort is a bacteriologist with wide experience in pathology; his work will have nothing to do with veterinary surgery.

According to an Exchange telegram, a despatch from Salonika states that an insistent rumour prevails there that Prince William of Wied has arrived at Prizrend, where efforts are being made to secure support from the Albanian tribes to permit him to reclaim the throne.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

The War Office announces that General Sir Charles Monro has been appointed to succeed General Sir Douglas Haig to the command of the First Army, on the latter's appointment to the supreme command of the British Forces in France and Flanders. Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Murray, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, will succeed Sir Charles Monro.

Our Bucharest Correspondent reports that Colonel Stephen Holbau, of the Inspectorate-General of the Roumanian Army, has been appointed Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation at Petrograd, and that Lieutenant Florian Georgescu, of the 2nd Regiment of Artillery, has been appointed as his assistant.

Messrs. J. L. Rees and T. B. F. Rees, sons of Mr. T. Bowen Rees, of Smyrna, have been granted temporary commissions as sub-lieutenants in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

The Budapest journal *Az Est* learns that Roumania is sending as the new Minister at Sofia M. Pissozki, formerly the Roumanian representative in Egypt.

A telegram from Berne announces the arrival there of Selim Fuad Bey, who has been appointed to the new post of Minister for Turkey in Switzerland.

A Sofia message received in London last Friday, by way of Amsterdam, stated that M. Chaprachikoff had been appointed Royal Commissioner at Nish.

The following transfers are announced in the Egyptian *Official Journal* from the dates stated:—

Bimbashi C. Cassidi, M.B., Recruiting Department, to Medical Corps, 20-10-15; Bimbashi T. W. Stallybrass, M.B., Medical Corps, to Recruiting Department, 20-10-15; Bimbashi J. J. Bramble, 3rd Battalion, to Upper Nile District, 6-11-15; Bimbashi R. W. Hutton, Upper Nile District, to 2nd Battalion, 21-11-15; Bimbashi G. F. Hudson Kinahan, Sobat-Pibor District, to 2nd Battalion, 21-11-15.

M. Anghel Saligny, the well-known Roumanian engineer, has been appointed Director of the new Munitions Department of the Roumanian Government.

A Berlin telegram states that in consequence of the absence on leave, owing to illness, of Prince Henry of Reuss, German Minister to Persia, Dr. Vassel has been appointed Minister at Teheran. Dr. Vassel was Consul at Fez up to the outbreak of war, and is at present diplomatic representative at the headquarters at Baghdad.

BACK NUMBER OF "NEAR EAST."—Advertiser wishes to purchase copy of THE NEAR EAST, dated September 6, 1911, to complete Volume I.—Communications, stating price wanted, to A. S. M., THE NEAR EAST Offices.

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ROLL OF HONOUR.

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

The Editor of THE NEAR EAST *would be obliged if relatives of former British residents in the Near East who have joined H.M.'s forces would communicate additional names or other particulars for insertion in our Roll of Honour. Biographical details concerning those who have fallen in their country's service would also be appreciated.*

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co., Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Captain A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
BARKER, 2nd Lieut. C., Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
BARRON, Captain J. B., Worcester Regiment, France.
BATH, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
BELL, Sister M. J., Edinburgh War Hospital, Bangour.
BINNS, Lieut. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
BINNS, Lieut. Harold H., Royal Naval Division Headquarters, British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
BINNS, Lieut. W. Hylton, care of The British Consul, Brindisi.
BLYTH, Captain R. C. P., 1st Gloucestershire Regiment, attd. Egyptian Army. (*Killed in Action.*)
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
BOND, Gladwyn J. T., Inns of Court O.T.C.
BOND, Trooper Sidney (1,779), Royal Horse Guards. (Wounded.)
BOND, Corporal R. (41,357), Headquarters Staff, "D" Battery, 79th Brigade, R.F.A., 17th Division, B.E.F., France.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Private Henry J., R.A.M.C., Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.
BROOK, Corporal George, 41356, D. Batt., 78th Brig. R.F.A., 17th Div., B.E.F., France.
BURN, E. R., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BURNS, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Accidentally Killed.*)
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C. Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CHARNAUD, Lieut. A., R.N.V.R., Acting Interpreter.
CLEMOW, F. G., M.D., C.M.G., British Red Cross Mission, Plevlié, Montenegro.
CLIFTON, Capt. H., Interpreter, 11th Batt. Durham Light Infantry, 54th Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital. Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CORBETT, Lieut. H. C., M.D., R.A.M.C.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, York.
CUMBERBATCH, 2nd Lieut. H. D., 6th Battn., The Buffs, 12th Division, B.E.F., France.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. R. C., 7th Battn., The Rifle Brigade, 14th Division, B.E.F., France.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., No. 38983, R.F.A., B. Battery, 84th Brigade, 16th Division, British Expeditionary Force, France.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Battalion.
ELLIOTT, Flight Sub-Lieut. Clifford W., R.N.A.S.
EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GOUT, Captain Charles L., 24th K.O.Y.L.I., Brighton Road Schools, Gateshead-on-Tyne, Durham.
GOUT, Rifleman Evelyn, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GRAVES, Captain Philip, Intelligence Department, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian H., "A" Co., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade, Queen's El Ward, Bed 40, Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester. (*Wounded.*)
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HOLMES, 2nd Lieut. Gerald H., 2/5th Batt. Leicestershire Regiment.
HOLTON, Corporal Alfred, Royal Naval Division, Divisional Engineers.
HOLTON, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.
IRELAND, Private D. J. (3346), 15th County of London Regiment.
JACKSON, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
KERR, Miss E., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., H.M. Hospital Ship Brighton, British Expeditionary Force, France.
KEYSER, Lieut. A. G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Rifleman Fred., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. Hugh, 27th City of London Regiment, Acting Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
LA FONTAINE, Sub-Lieut. J. S., R.N.V.R., Hawke Battalion. (*Wounded.*)
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LE BAILLY, Lieutenant R. F., R.N.V.R., Recruiting Officer for Royal Naval Air Service, Brook Green Road, Hammersmith.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
MACKENZIE, 1st Lieut. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
MACKINNON, Private Eric, 9th Royal Scots Highlanders.
MACKINNON, Dr. Frank I., Lieut., R.A.M.C., St. George's, Malta.
MACKINNON, Dr. J. M., Captain R.A.M.S., British East Africa.
MACKINNON, Patrick, Sapper, Divisional Engineers, 1st Canadian Contingent.
MACKRAY, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.
MCLOCHLAN, Private B., 1st Canadian L.I.
MCLOCHLAN, Private G., 1st Canadian L.I.
METCALFE, Sister E. J., Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
MOORE, Miss K. M., Royal Red Cross, Serbia.
MORRISON, 2nd Lieut. J., 4th Seaforth Highlanders, B.E.F., France.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MUMFORD, P. F., Army Service Corps, R.E., Baldock.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NOWILL, 2nd Lieut. Sidney, 2/17th City of London Regiment, Acting Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., Haddington.
PEACOCK, 2nd Lieut. Frank, 4/4th Batt. London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers.
PEARS, Captain G. B., Military Cross, R.E. (*Wounded.*)
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
POYNTER, Lieut. Hugh E., No. 2 Base Supply Depot, Portishead, Somerset.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
REES, 2nd Lieut. J. L., R.N.V.R.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
REES, 2nd Lieut., T.B.F., R.N.V.R.
RICHARDS, Miss, Dispenser, Edinburgh War Hospital, Bangour.
ROBINSON, Lance-Corporal J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem. (*Killed in action.*)
RICE, Rifleman Cecil, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Died from Wounds.*)
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SAMSON, Seaman George McKenzie, V.C., R.N.R. (*Seriously Wounded.*)
SEAGER, Lieut. J. A., 16th Middlesex Regiment, France.
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regt., Woldingham.
SELLAR, Lieut. Fred. B., Interpreter, Central European Expeditionary Force.
SEMPLE, Rev. S. H., C.F., 7th Royal Scots, 156th Brigade, 52nd Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
SIMMONS, Gunner H. C., 123rd Heavy Battery, R.G.A. (*Died from Wounds.*)
STEPLING, Rev. Canon, R.A.M.C.
STOCK, Lieut. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
SUMMERS, Lieut. H. C., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Europa."
SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).
THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
THOMPSON, John, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
THWAITES, Captain H., R.A.M.C., France.
TORRANCE, Dr. D., R.A.M.C.
TRENTER, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.
VAN LENNEP, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
VAN MILLINGEN, 2nd Lieut. Charles A. M., 14th Rifle Brigade.
VAN MILLINGEN, Private R. G. C., 3rd Batt. London Scottish.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Eghbert, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
WEALE, 2nd Lieut. W. W. C., 11th Batt. Devonshire Regiment. (*Wounded.*)
WELLS, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
WHEATLEY, Miss, Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. No. 21, Ambulance Train, British Expeditionary Force.
WHEELER, Captain P. F. C. d'Erf, 3rd Dorset Regiment, Medit. Exp. Force. (*Wounded.*)
WHEELER, 2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Nowell Popham d'Erf, 7th Dorset Regiment, Portsmouth.
WHITEHOUSE, Mid. L. E., R.N.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Lieut.-Commander F. E., R.N.
WHITTALL, Lieut.-Commander H. E. C., R.N.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. H. V., Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Kenneth, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut Roland, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. (*Died from Wounds.*)
WHITTALL, Rifleman Walter, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Wounded.*)
WILSON, Dr. Marian E., Scottish Women's Hospital, Abbaye Royaumont, France.
WOODS, Harold, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
WRATISLAW, Captain J. C., 8th Leicestershire Regiment, 110 Brigade, 37th Division, B.E.F., France.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1915.

THE GALLIPOLI WITHDRAWAL.

It is impossible to contemplate the abandonment of the Anzac positions without a sensation of the keenest regret. But war leaves little room for sentiment, and the uppermost feeling must be one of admiration for the masterly execution of a hazardous enterprise. The position of the British troops at Anzac and Suvla was not only hopeless from the point of view of any purpose that their retention there might be expected to serve; it was in danger of becoming untenable with the arrival of fresh supplies of ammunition for the enemy. None of these terms, unfortunately, is absolute, and in a case where the withdrawal of troops is known to be attended by grave risks there must always be a temptation to hope that the unexpected may yet justify their retention for a little longer. How long the Australasian force was kept after the time when withdrawal was first seen to be inevitable we can only surmise. The dilemma with which the responsible authorities were confronted had been the subject of discussion on the spot between General Sir Charles Monro and Lord Kitchener, and no secret was made of the belief held in military quarters that the withdrawal of the troops could only be effected with heavy loss. Several weeks had elapsed since Lord Kitchener visited Gallipoli. In the absence of news from this front, the fear began to gain ground that once again the policy of "wait and see" was to be adopted, and that rather than face an awkward decision the British Government was inclined to favour the retention of the position, even at the risk of its becoming altogether untenable and of the ultimate sacrifice of all the men holding it. To the credit of the military authorities, the situation was faced, and faced in time. They went further, and, recognising that the peculiar conditions rendered the re-embarkation of the troops a naval rather than a military affair, gave the Navy a free hand in the task. As the result of this co-operation, "a great army," although in closest contact with the enemy, was withdrawn without the enemy being aware of the movement. With the exception of a relatively small quantity of stores and six guns destroyed, all the troops were transferred, with the insignificant loss of only one naval and two military men wounded, "to another sphere of operations."

The curtain has been rung down on one of the great tragedies of the war. Gallipoli, like Balaclava, will live in the annals of British history as a classic of unavailing heroism, and it is to be hoped that it will be immortalised as fittingly in verse as the Charge of the Light Brigade. In spite of the failure to effect a surprise landing, a mere handful of Australians, of such fighting stamp, in the words of one eye-witness, as the world had never previously seen, launched their attack against positions which nature had meant to be impregnable. The first ridge gained, they fought their way ridge after ridge for four miles, down deep gorges and up steep precipices, until they had gained the heights which overlooked the Dardanelles. The Peninsula was as good as won; all that was needed was that the Australians should have been reinforced and their position on Sari Bair consolidated before the Turks could recover from their surprise. But the reinforcements never came. They had been landed at the foot of the Peninsula sixteen miles away, under the impression, it would seem, that it was better to meet the enemy in his own carefully prepared positions than to attempt to take him in the rear and cut him off from all supports. Thus the Turks, free from anxiety in the south, were left to deal with the heroic Australians, whose brilliant dash had for the moment virtually secured the forcing of the Dardanelles. Massing for a counter-attack, they pressed back the invaders by sheer weight of numbers, until a line was reached short enough for the Australian Corps to hold. For the next three months the strategical value of the Anzac position was ignored, while more and more troops were landed at Cape Helles to be wasted on a venture long since proved to be hopeless. On August 6 an attempt was made to retrieve the initial mistake. An advance was ordered from the Anzac postion, and a fresh landing was to be effected at Suvla Bay. Once more misfortune dogged the operations. The landing was carried out at night; but in spite of the weakness of the Turkish opposition no attempt was made to press home an attack. There was little to prevent the occupation of Anafarta Hill, and when once that position was in British hands, the dominating heights of Hill 971 would have been outflanked and rendered untenable for the enemy. But again the opportunity was lost, and before the mistake could be rectified the Turks had had time to rush forward their reinforcements and take advantage of the natural strength of their positions.

Now that the withdrawal from Gallipoli has begun we are forced to regret the elaborate disclosures with which Mr. Churchill distributed the responsibility for the initiation of the Dardanelles campaign. As the rash venture of an impetuous Minister, some excuses might have been found for it; but when we are told that it represented the matured deliberations of the Cabinet, assisted by the War Office and the Admiralty, the national pride experiences a heavy fall. In the three months during which the project was discussed before the preliminary bombardment on February 25, in the additional two months that elapsed before the first landing was effected, it would be thought that someone in authority would have made a careful study of a map of the Peninsula. The Greek General Staff, it is stated, expressed the opinion that the only way to reach Constantinople was through Dedeagatch, either with Bulgaria's help or in spite of her hostility. The Japanese Government also appears to have held the view, as a result of the experiences of its forces before Tsingtao, that a naval bombardment could not result decisively unless accompanied by land. Both these opinions were ignored in the decision, first, to attempt to force the Dardanelles merely by a bombardment from the sea; and, secondly, to land at the extreme point of Gallipoli Peninsula. The failure of the enterprise will have taught us, it is to be hoped, the value of expert advice. General Birdwood and his gallant Australasians have been withdrawn from Anzac, but their part in the war is not yet at an end. Their desire, we may be sure, will be to try conclusions once more with the Turks, and if the retirement from Anzac releases any large number of Turks, they will have the choice of several spheres for their next encounter. Wherever they may be used, they will be given, we trust, a better chance to reap the fruits of their dash and heroism.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of the "NEAR EAST" to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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THE BOSPHORUS IN WAR TIME —1913.

By MARY A. POYNTER.

"No one, of course, undervalues the advantages of steam navigation, or suggests a return to sailing ships. At the same time it remains true that never again will men see the Bosphorus so beautiful as it looked in days when its waters were untroubled by steam."

Thus wrote scholarly Professor Van Millingen, in his book "Constantinople," published some eight years ago. And true, in a general sense, this quotation must always remain. But there were at least several hours, perhaps a whole day, some two Sundays ago,* when the veil of the sometimes thin, sometimes heavy, smoke left in the wake of the many steamers passing up and down the Bosphorus was lifted altogether, and when the blue waters of the strait were again dotted only with the white sails of larger craft and the slender *caiques* and *sandals* of earlier and more picturesque days. Not that these latter have ever disappeared, but on this day they alone dominated the waters as of old.

One would hardly expect this picturesque return to come in war time and in mid-winter! But winter in Constantinople is dependent upon "which way the wind blows," and a gentle southerly breeze can almost bring summer back in a day; that is, it can bring an agreeable temperature and the soft tones of colour we call atmosphere in these Mediterranean lands, if not the pulsating heat of a real summer's day.

In the summer of the calendar the heights of the Bosphorus, above the gardens of the Turkish *yalis* and palaces that border the historic waterway, are burned to a rich brown by the sunshine that is rarely interrupted by shower. In winter these heights are a deep green, save when the north wind blows and a storm from the Black Sea covers the pleasing background with snow. For the shores of the Bosphorus are not abrupt or barren, save near the entrance to the Black Sea. Here they threaten somewhat, as if to ward off blows of unpleasant weather to be expected sometimes from that direction.

The Sunday of which I write dawned sunnily and with a southerly wind. There was a feeling, too, in the air as if the strain upon human nature, for the past three months resting so heavily, had been lessened; one did not go instinctively to the window and listen for the boom of cannon to sound from the lines of the two great armies facing each other, and at war again, only some twenty-five miles away. No, instead of this, one listened for and heard the cheery calls of the chaffinches from the acacias in the garden and a woodpecker rapping briskly at some closed door among the branches.

My companion said: "Let us go across to Asia to-day! The Bosphorus will be beautiful, and our friends in Scutari will be glad to have us bring them the news from this side of the water."

"But are there any boats running?" was my question. "The papers told us yesterday that they had nearly all been requisitioned to carry troops to the Dardanelles!"

"Yet there are the little boats, and it is just the day for a row on the Bosphorus!"

As nearly all the able-bodied horses, and some of the not able-bodied, had also been requisitioned by the army, we walked down to the landing-place—in this instance near the Sultan's Palace of Dolma-Baghtche, which faces the water and enjoys all the privileges of the location together with more humble dwelling-houses. On this particular morning the white palace had a black frieze, high up, and running all along its front, composed of a line of hundreds of grave and almost motionless cormorants, resting from their labours, having performed successful fishing feats earlier in the morning. Many of the houses along the Bosphorus are decorated in this way during fine days in winter. It is one of the signs of the season, and is what might be called a characteristic sight. Where most of the abundant waterfowl go in summer must be asked of the bold bluffs, that invite nest-building, along the Black Sea coast.

On our way down from Pera to the boat we remarked how the parade ground and every other empty space was occupied by recruits being trained in the use of arms. But somehow they did not seem to be drilling for real war, only just as a sort of pastime. Even the loads of rifles being taken from the armoury did not suggest a deadly purpose. We would let nothing suggest such a thing that peaceful and perfect morning. My companion, who has the heart of a soldier and appreciates the discipline that goes to the making of one, remarked that some of the men being drilled would never learn to keep step, so little did the process interest them. Loitering behind the plough, or standing guard over a herd of sheep grazing upon the uplands of Koniah, that were a step natural to them and easy to acquire and far sweeter to keep!

Some representatives of the old clans of Constantinople street dogs crossed our path or followed us a little distance if we gave them a friendly word of recognition. There is quite an aftermath of these now springing up in certain portions of the city. A few that lived in the outskirts of the town escaped being sent to die in exile on a lone isle in the Marmora three years ago, and these have multiplied and seem well fed and content to roam at large as formerly. With thousands of human beings homeless and hungry in our midst, driven this way before the march of armies, one wonders how this humble "friend of man" finds food for well-being. Perhaps there is truth in the story that some of the Turkish people of the old school were deeply incensed at the treatment meted out to the dogs, dating a part of the misfortunes of their country from that time, and on this account they make haste to give alms to any of the remaining members of the canine population.

At the landing-stage of Beshiktash there were no smoky though convenient steamers bound up or down or across the Bosphorus, as the voyager might be going. Indeed, there were only small boats, rocking gently on the water while awaiting the traveller's pleasure. It was true the steamers had been requisitioned—at least, there were none in sight that fair morning. Looking up stream, a blue stretch of some miles lay outspread, unbroken by the prows of throbbing, noisy steamers, the air unsullied by their smoke—the Bosphorus, in fact, as it must have looked in those halcyon days before steam!

But it was a busy Bosphorus, too, with little boats flitting in all directions, some of them spreading a single white wing to save exertion with the oar; and there were also the big, old-fashioned Greek barques, with a dozen sails all set, some bound back through the Marmora to the Ægean and others heading with provisions and charcoal for some white town on the shores higher up. It is a fact that the breezes of the Bosphorus are very obliging; if there is any wind at all, it is willing to do double duty; with a little shifting of the sails the same wind will blow a boat up or down the stream—of course, taking its time. It would not be dignified to hurry in Eastern waters. A few days in the year there may be a superabundance of wind and also no wind at all, and that is rather disheartening to both sides. I shall say nothing about the strong currents of the Bosphorus, for it would need a nautical understanding to do them justice.

The unusually picturesque appearance of the boatman, where all are more or less picturesque, decided us in our choice of boat for our journey across—a journey some half-hour long. Being sure of a strong, brave stream to hold back her enemies and guard her interests, Asia draws almost within voice range of Europe at this point, and certainly within easy beauty range for the whole length of the Bosphorus. And who has ever been this way since the days of Orpheus, of Jason, of Darius, who has not played or sung or spoken its praises!

To take a rowboat without animated bargaining or without some reference to backsheesh would be considered hardly justifiable or proper in anyone able to command a few words of the Turkish language. One learns to look upon it as a pleasing incident, just as bargaining at the bazaars in Stamboul adds, when all is said and done, to the pleasure and pride in the object purchased. Our boatman, or *caiqueji*, as such are called in this part of the world, was not unduly rash in his demands, and he looked the picture that that lovely morning background demanded. A Georgian he was, recently come from Trebizond, he informed us, and with knowledge of the sea and of mankind. This latter fact was shown by his interpreting our unspoken wishes and heading up the Bosphorus instead of directly across to Scutari, as he might have done. Black mus-

* This was written in February, 1913.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

H.M KING OF SPAIN.

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tachios had he, and blacker eyes; a silver amulet was on his right arm and a medal on his breast; he wore a broad silver belt, of exquisite workmanship, holding various weapons whose handles shone with the polish that use and affection had given them. His costume was of some green stuff, showing here and there bits of gold—a woman's handiwork—and the *bashlik* of the same material bound about his head made him look like one of the Persian warriors on the sculptured battle scene of the wonderful so-called Alexander Sarcophagus, now in the museum at Stamboul. The war that has called many men here from the distant parts of the Empire has renewed the picturesqueness of dress to be seen in the streets and elsewhere, often leaving the impression of another age and race. Primitive man likes adornment, and this he can have in most parts of Asia without interfering with his ordinary usefulness. At any rate, our boatman rowed his boat just as skilfully, and put up a white sail just as handily, as if he had been an unpicturesque boatman on the Thames. I also intercepted a smile of compassion and understanding he bestowed upon my companion when I leaned rather anxiously to one side at what seemed to me the rather perilous leaning of the boat towards the other.

And how beautiful the Bosphorus was in that clear and unstained light—how beautiful it always is! Palace and garden-girt, and white with many a sail; a waterway of homes, of history, of tragedy, of romance, of gently wooded slopes where nightingales sing, of great patches of the crimson of Judas trees in May and luxuriant then also with the mauve of the blossoming wistaria—a bloom that floods the little villages along the shore with its fragrance, and that furnishes many a little café with its delicious shade. On this summer day in winter one did not miss the flowers, so green were the hillsides, so full of colour was the distance, so blue the water beneath our boat. A muezzin came out and called to prayer from his minaret among the cypresses. There was no note out of tune. Then our boatman changed his course, and we floated down the stream and close to the Asiatic shore. From here we looked across toward Stamboul, and saw at anchor in the harbour representative warships of nearly all the fighting Powers of Europe. We knew why they were there, and some of their flags were dear to us, but it was somewhat of a rude summons back to the present to see them that morning. No smoke was coming from their funnels to cloud the view of the city beyond, on its Seven Hills, with Santa Sophia in the foreground, reminding one of a great past and also of the recent sad history of seven hundred men dying from cholera beneath its noble dome.

At intervals during all these months of war great transports have come bringing troops from the interior by way of the southern Black Sea ports. Often they have passed through the strait at night, the sleeping population of the Bosphorus being wakened by the cheers of the men as they rounded the point where Mohammed the Conqueror built his imposing towers and fortifications at the time of the taking of Constantinople. At this point also the soldiers caught their first glimpse of the city they were come to defend. More recent transports brought several thousands of Kurds, with their sturdy little horses, well-fitted to stand the strain of hungry life and hardship at the front. We saw many of these Kurds when we landed at Scutari where they had been stationed temporarily, but were now preparing to re-embark for the seat of war. They looked very businesslike, though not always pleasantly so. There was not a man among them who could not "swear by his beard"—in most instances, by a very black, luxuriant, and untrimmed one. They were not yet in Turkish uniform, but in the dress of Kurdistan, which deepened, perhaps, the impression of wild, mountain valour, of physical force, not to say fierceness.

And this Scutari, where our boatman was finally pleased to permit us to land, is a town thoroughly Asiatic in character, and might be miles away in the interior, for all the influence it shows of Europe, that has been so long its near neighbour. Its vast cemetery is not uncheerful, for the living use it in summer as a favourite meeting-place, the cypresses lending welcome shade. The heights behind Scutari command one of the most beautiful views in the world; from here the Bosphorus can be traced nearly all its classic length, from here Constantinople, with all her surrounding charm, lies outspread—the city which is the desire, and has sometimes been the despair, of nations.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Bronze Bride of Austria.

The manner in which Austria is being done to death by her more powerful ally is dealt with in the *Morning Post* (December 20). The writer compares Austria with the Bridegroom of Prosper Merimée's ghastly story of "La Venus d'Ille"; Germany with the brazen bride who encompasses his death. The Kaiser's recent visit to Vienna and the consequent changes in the Austrian Ministry are quoted as proof that Austria is gradually being forced to the abandonment of her individual will; Hungary, it seems likely, is being hurried on to the same fate.

But Austria's position is for the present more unhappy because she can be deceived by no promises and beguiled by no illusions. . . . She has for centuries enjoyed a snug monopoly of Balkan commerce. The Austrian merchant and manufacturer had a secure and well-recognised place in Balkan trade. Further, Austria was strong throughout the Levant and Turkey. Germany has long coveted that Austrian monopoly in felt which made the Turk indebted to Austria for his fez and his harem for their slippers. . . . Austria had a preferential position on the railway system of the Balkans, that railway system which has now been seized, not by Austria, but by Germany. The Austrian merchant was secure in this monopoly as long as the Austrian tariff and the Austrian Army stood like a wall and a hedge between Germany and the Balkans. But now that wall and hedge are both broken down, now that Austria is consenting to an Austro-German fiscal union and German soldiers are guarding the railway that runs through the Balkans to Constantinople; now that these things have happened, or are about to happen, Austria can no longer expect to enjoy either her monopoly or her preferential position. Austria will now have to use the Balkan railways on the terms imposed by Germany, and German commerce will compete with Austrian on more than equal terms in the Balkans, the Levant, and Turkey.

The article goes on to explain that Austria was induced to invest considerable sums in the Baghdad Railway, and that she took this course feeling that "her use of and profit from that railway was assured by her privileged position as the connecting link in the Balkans."

Now that the control of that link has passed into German hands Austria's security disappears. Austria will be given, no doubt, a little corner in the waggon on Mondays and Thursdays, if it is not too full of German goods, and on condition that Austria behaves herself. Such is to be the position.

It is pointed out that if Austria gives up her independent fiscal system she gives up not only her present independence, but her power to regain it. Even now it is difficult to see how she can successfully struggle against German pressure "without the help of some outside friend."

The Greek Attitude.

In an attempt to make comprehensible the Greek attitude during the recent crisis, Captain H. M. Johnstone, R.E., has included in his "War Notes," contributed to the *United Services Magazine* (December), the translation of an article from the pen of M. Gustave Fougères, director of the French School at Athens, which originally appeared in *Le Matin*. M. Fougères shows that Athenian opinion was at first all in favour of the Allies. As time went on, however, and the effect of the victory of the Marne began to wear away, discordant voices were heard, and doubts arose.

On these doubts the German Press, skilful at drugging, grafted its sensational *communiqués* and its insinuations; party rivalries and the inextricable disorder of Greek politics in its relation to the war succeeded in upsetting public opinion.

It was not, thinks this writer, only the military supremacy of the Allies that inspired doubts—Bulgaria and the possibility of having to cede to her territory as the price of her friendship was at the root of all hesitancy. M. Venizelos was "not spared" because he had even faced the possibility of "the cession" of Kavalla.

Although, when he made his specific statement in official form, the project offered to Greece large compensations in Asia Minor, Greece, as the phrase went, did not wish to know anything about it. The hypothetical gift that was being presented to her told her nothing she reckoned of value, she saw nothing but the immediate and definite loss which the loss of Cavalla would inflict upon her, her economic treasure and strategic barrier in the part of Macedonia which she had annexed. Germany profited by this confusion to promise Greece her territorial integrity. It was a playing on her winnings, and she won moral benefit from it, in spite of the contradictions in which her diplomacy plunged her of irreconcilable promises to the two parties, Greece and Bulgaria. It is comprehensible that from that time the Entente had not a chance, until at last the situation was cleared up by the recent Bulgarian crime.

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M. Fougères considers that the present hesitation of Greece to be in a large measure due to an "unjust mistrust in her own power." If confidence is to be given to the country it will come to her as the result of "persuasive example," not through the offering of bribes.

The Bulgarian.

Writing in a recent number of the *Saturday Review*, Mr. David H. Low affirms that before the war Englishmen had become accustomed to gaze at Serbia and the Serbians through German spectacles. It was Germany's plan to make the world think ill of Serbia, that her ultimate crushing might be condoned.

But the Germans were not alone to blame for the scales that dimmed our eyesight. In London there existed, and, perhaps, still exists, an organisation misnamed the "Balkan Committee." At its head were distinguished politicians and public men: its one object appeared to be the furtherance of Bulgarian ambitions, and its mischievous activities gave just cause of offence to both Serbia and Greece.

The article concludes with the following reference to the opinions held in certain quarters, that in adverse conditions Bulgaria may go so far as to change sides during the war.

We trust that if any such proposal were made we should spurn it from us in loathing and scorn. Let us have no dealings with the accursed thing. Already there are many indications that Bulgaria has abandoned her claim to Albania and is prepared to adopt an attitude calculated to save her own skin in the possible event of the victory of the Entente, and in Greece, as we have seen, the fear prevails that our statesmen are only too likely to be hoodwinked and cajoled once more.

We are not too high and mighty to be above learning a lesson from distracted Greece, and if, when the day of reckoning comes, we incline our ear to the honied tongue of Ferdinand of Bulgaria, if we hearken to the lying voice of this whited sepulchre, then upon our heads be the blood of those countless men and women and children whose homeless bodies lie where they fell: by the roadside or in the cold mountains of desolate Serbia.

Anzac and Suvla.

The withdrawal of our troops from Anzac and Suvla has been dealt with in leading articles by practically all the daily newspapers in the United Kingdom, which unite in paying tribute to the bravery and devotion of the troops concerned. The *Morning Post* (December 21) says:—

The troops concerned are, of course, the Australians, New Zealanders, and, what seems unaccountably to have been overlooked, a battalion of Newfoundlanders. These regiments have earned in Gallipoli a reputation as fighting men second to none in the world. The storming of the hills about Anzac and Suvla Bay, the desperate valour of the subsequent attacks, will shine for ever in British history besides the most splendid achievements of British soldiers.

In so far as officers and men are concerned, they may rest assured that no such deeds are done in vain, and that their comrades whose bones are left in the peninsula have won undying honour.

This paper hopes that the Government may make a statement covering the whole subject, and concludes:—

The account of the matter presented to the House of Commons by the ex-First Lord of the Admiralty explained nothing, and confused everything. The Prime Minister accepted, as, indeed, he was bound to accept, full responsibility for the whole business. What the country desires to know is whether the same methods, for which the Prime Minister assumed responsibility, are still in operation.

The *Daily Telegraph* (December 21), after dealing with the brilliance of the withdrawal, says:—

We shall not attempt to go behind the Government's announcement in search of reasons for the retention of the force occupying the extremity of the Peninsula, while the Suvla-Anzac zone is evacuated. If the partial retention of our hold on Gallipoli is meant to continue, it is presumably so decided in accordance with Lord Kitchener's report after his personal survey of the strategic field in the Eastern Mediterranean. Unmilitary public opinion would unquestionably rather see the whole Dardanelles Expedition abandoned at one blow if there is to be abandonment at all. It has been taught, rightly or wrongly, to regard the holding of the Suvla-Anzac position as essential to the scheme of operations. It can face the failure of that scheme unmoved; but if it were led to think that our troops and the French were clinging on before Achi Baba simply for the sake of appearances, there would be bitter and universal indignation. The country, however, will leap to no such conclusion. It realises that there are considerations of which it knows nothing. It knows, and it is glad to know, that a strong decision has been taken, upon the best advice available, and has been carried into effect: it is definitely told, furthermore, that "by this contraction of front operations at other points of the line will be more effectively carried out," and it awaits the fulfilment of that assurance.

The *Manchester Guardian* discusses the alternating hopes and disappointments of the campaign, and calls for an official statement:—

This moment of triumph and the disappointment which followed has still to be described in official despatches. Their publication cannot now be long delayed, and now that our evacuation has been successfully accomplished there is no longer any excuse for withholding the whole truth. But even on our present knowledge there is no doubt that this was one of the supreme moments of the war, and Mr. Asquith has himself told us how bitterly disappointed he was when its hopes were frustrated. We wish that he had been equally candid yesterday when he announced what, although it was a retirement and not an advance, we are justified in regarding as one of the great successes of the war. From beginning to end the casualties at Anzac and Suvla can hardly have fallen short of 100,000. That debt is not discharged by a beggarly hundred words—barely a word to every thousand casualties. It still remains to be paid.

This paper is emphatically of the opinion that "it is due to those who have fought so well that all mistakes and failures should be relentlessly exposed. The article concludes:—

Much as we have to regret in the events of the last three months in the Balkans, we should have had much more to regret had Germany and Bulgaria conspired to annihilate Serbia and her Allies never raised a finger to help her. It is better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all, and we believe that future events will fully justify, even from the strictly military point of view, those who insisted that Serbia should not be abandoned to her fate. The occupation of Salonika has, it is true, cost us much. It is possible, though not certain, that but for it we might have been able to hold Anzac, if not Suvla, through the winter. Still, if we have abandoned some ground won by our best blood, it has been generously abandoned to the cause of Allies who have suffered even more than we. And in abandoning it we have won a military victory comparable for its brilliance even with that first landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula, which many people now recognise for what it was—perhaps the supreme exploit of British infantry in the whole of its history.

America on Gallipoli.

The *Morning Post* (December 22) publishes extracts from several American papers on the Gallipoli withdrawal, which it has received from its own correspondent, and from which we quote below. The *Washington Times* compares our action with that of Germany in the West:—

The Allies, in abandoning the campaign, are doing precisely what the Germans did when they withdrew great forces from their Western front last spring and hurled them against Russia. The Germans had failed in their drive against Paris as the Allies have failed in their effort to break through the Dardanelles. They had failed to reach Calais as the Allies had failed to save Serbia.

It admits the abandonment of the campaign shows a failure, but holds that it is far less serious than the German failure at the Marne.

The *New York World* considers that the campaign has been muddled right through, and thinks that had we followed the "Goeben" and "Breslau" at once Turkey would probably have been prevented from entering the war:—

The attack on the Straits was a permissible naval gamble, "but the military blundering which robbed valour as great as was ever shown under any flag of its fruits of Sedd-el-Bahr and Suvla Bay, when in both cases decisive advances were sacrificed for lack of timely support, was akin to that which wrecked the drives at Neuve Chapelle and at Lens."

The *New York Evening Post* also compares the situation with that of the Marne, and regards both as an attempt to win the war by a simple great stroke.

Articles to Note.

"The Turk as a Fighting Man," by Sir Edwin Pears, in *Land and Water* (December 18).

"The Future of Persia," by the Rev. Napier Malcolm, and "The Turk in History," by J. H. Whitehouse, M.P., in the *Moslem World* (January).

"Round Doiran," in the *Nation* (December 18).

"Pig Shooting in Albania," by Barbara Hughes, in the *Badminton Magazine* (December).

"The Balkans," by a Special Correspondent, in the *Sunday at Home* (illustrated), (December).

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HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Roumania and Danube Shipping. Dec. 16.

Lord R. CECIL, in reply to another question put by Sir E. CORNWALL, said: All river tugs and the greater number of lighters in Roumania have been requisitioned by the Roumanian Government, though certain formalities have still to be completed. Vessels requisitioned are, however, allowed to ply between Roumanian ports with a military guard on board to control their movements. The measure does not apply to sea-going vessels. There are no British tugs and only a few British lighters on the Danube. These, seeing that they may still, under the condition already stated, ply between Roumanian ports, are hardly affected by the requisition, as they could not, of course, in any case proceed to enemy ports.

Refugees from Serbia. Dec 20.

Lord R. CECIL, answering Mr. Alden, said that Sir Ralph Paget, who was acting for his Majesty's Government in the matter, had succeeded in collecting the members of the British units who escaped from Serbia at San Giovanni di Medua, whence it was hoped to transport them to Italy. He hoped that transport would be provided very shortly, and until then Sir R. Paget might be trusted to do all that was possible for the safety and comfort of the units under his charge.

Mr. ALDEN a little later asked whether the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs had any fresh information with regard to the numbers and situation of the Serbian refugees in Albania; and whether he could state what action, official or unofficial, had been taken by the United States to supply them with food and clothing.

Lord R. CECIL: Recent reports indicate that there are about 10,000 refugees in or near Scutari, about half of whom are Montenegrins. I am not aware that any action has yet been taken in the United States in connection with this matter.

The Allies at Salonika.

Sir ARTHUR MARKHAM referred to Lord Lansdowne's statement that it was at the instance of the Greek Prime Minister that his Majesty's Government sent troops to Serbia viâ Salonika, and asked whether the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs was aware that M. Venizelos, on October 23, in the Greek Chamber, stated that the official correspondence concerning the disembarkation of the Anglo-French troops at Salonika proved that such disembarkation had no connection with the question previously asked by the Greek Government of the Powers, whether they were prepared to send 150,000 men to co-operate with the Greek army against the Bulgarians. Was the Under Secretary aware that this official correspondence was read to the Greek Chamber; and would he see that it was laid upon the table, so that this House might have the same information as the Greek Chamber?

Lord R. CECIL: I have seen a report of the proceedings in the Greek Chamber on October 23, from which it appears that M. Venizelos did make a statement to the effect mentioned in the first part of the question, and referred to a previous occasion on which he had read from the official correspondence on the subject. What actually was read does not appear, and has not been, as far as I know, published. I am afraid that in the present position of affairs it would be impossible to lay papers on the table which would give a complete account of those transactions, and an incomplete account would be misleading.

Our Casualties in Serbia.

Mr. KING asked the Under Secretary for War what were the number of casualties, up to the latest date available, resulting from the operations in Serbia and for the Salonika Expedition.

Mr. TENNANT: Up to December 11 the casualties resulting from the operations in question amounted to 32 officers and 1,246 other ranks, of whom only one officer and 85 other ranks were killed.

The Suez Canal.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Mr. Alden, said that he was informed that certain vessels of the Rotterdam Lloyd Line were proceeding in future viâ the Cape. The remainder would proceed viâ the Suez Canal as usual. The reason for this change of route was said to be the alleged uncertainty as to the amount of coal for bunkering at Port Said.

Casualties at Kut-el-Amarah.

Sir E. CORNWALL asked whether the Secretary for India could give the number of casualties sustained by General Townshend's force in the fighting which had taken place since its return to Kut-el-Amarah; whether Sir John Nixon was still at the front; and what was the latest information he has received from Mesopotamia.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said the total casualties of all ranks up to December 18 was 1,127. These included 200 deaths, of which forty-nine were from disease. Sir John Nixon was in chief command of the forces in Mesopotamia, but he was not now actually at Kut.

The Dardanelles Operations. Dec. 21.

Sir E. CORNWALL asked the Prime Minister whether General Sir Ian Hamilton returned from the Dardanelles to make a full report to the Government on the situation on the Gallipoli Peninsula; whether he was now about to return to the command in the Near East; and, if not, what other duties would be assigned to him.

Mr. ASQUITH: The answer to the first part of the question is Yes; to the second part No. If any other duties are assigned to Sir Ian Hamilton an announcement will be made in due course.

Mr. ASQUITH, in introducing the Army Vote for an additional 1,000,000 men, referred to our retirement from the advanced positions so long held at Suvla and Anzac—"a retirement," he pointed out, "which does not involve any similar operation at Helles, where our joint naval and military forces command the entrance to the Straits." That step had been taken by the Government on the combined judgment of our military and naval advisers, and after all the positions had been examined by General Monro and Lord Kitchener. It has been carried out by the Navy and the Army in combination in a manner to which no praise can be high enough, and which I believe will give it an enduring place in the annals of warfare. With the exception of a relatively small quantity of stores and a very few guns—six guns—which had to be left behind and which were destroyed, the whole force at both these places, with its full equipment, was removed with perfect security. The total casualties—it seems almost incredible, but it is a fact—during the whole operation were two military and one naval wounded. I do not believe there is anything comparable to it. I am sure the House will join with the Government in taking the earliest opportunity of expressing their admiration and gratitude to General Monro for the whole of this difficult operation, and, as he is careful to point out, to the officers, to whom he gives special praise—General Birdwood, who will always be associated with Anzac, and Admiral Wemyss, who supervised the naval operations.

Mr. J. REDMOND said that every member of the House had learnt with the deepest sense of thankfulness that the difficult withdrawal of our troops from a portion of Gallipoli had been successfully carried through. The prospects of the withdrawal had been to some of those who knew the state of affairs something like a nightmare. Up to this moment they had not had a detailed despatch from General Sir Ian Hamilton as to what occurred at Suvla Bay. He thought that was something of a scandal.

Sir E. CARSON also thought it was a scandal that while three months had elapsed since the landing at Suvla Bay we had, save for a telegram or two, had no word of these operations. Great hopes had been held out regarding the Gallipoli Peninsula; these hopes had been falsified. The time will come when the miscalculations will have to be gone into, and we shall have to know who is accountable for them. What I am protesting about at the present moment (he continued) is this: In the month of August you had your last operations in Gallipoli, and from that day until this we have not heard a single word about what has been happening there, and now we find it is held up to the nation as if it were a kind of victory that we have successfully abandoned two of the fronts in Gallipoli. No one joins with greater joy than I do at the successful operations so bravely carried out by our Army and by our Navy. We may well send congratulations to all who were engaged in such an operation. But what the country would like to know is, if we were doing nothing in August, September, and October, and on up till December 20, why were these men left in a kind of hell there. As far back as August it was the business of those who have charge of these matters to make up their minds, first, what would be the force necessary to drive through, and then, if you had that force, to use it, and if not, not to keep on with an operation which has cost us disaster, death, illness, and discomfort beyond all description. The abandonment of Anzac and Suvla has been a glorious page in the history of this country; but from August till now the hesitancy, the doubts, the failing to make up your mind has been a blot upon the management of this war which it will be difficult to obliterate.

Mr. TENNANT said that Sir E. Carson, in the indictment he brought against the Government with regard to the Dardanelles, seemed to forget that operations were not determinable beforehand. Our splendid troops made every conceivable effort to carry out tremendously difficult operations, and although they were not successful there was always a hope that the operations would be triumphant. To say that thirty or forty thousand men were doing nothing when they were holding up a hundred thousand or more Turks was not a truthful representation of the facts.

The Suvla Bay Landing. Dec. 22.

In the course of the renewed debate on the vote for an additional 1,000,000 men, Captain AMERY said that the Prime Minister spoke of the withdrawal from Suvla and Anzac almost as if it had been the climax of a great and successful campaign. All of them admired the way in which the operations were conducted, but it made them feel more than ever that the fault was not with the men nor the Staff at the front, but that it lay with those at home. If those men could be moved so successfully and so rapidly to some other destination, why could they not have been moved at the end of September to help Serbia? This withdrawal ought to have been made sooner, when it would have been of inestimable benefit to the whole conduct of the war, and might have strengthened the forces at our disposal in Serbia, and possibly, in that case, the Greek and Roumanian Armies might have come in with us. It was only one more illustration of the habit, which had become ineradicable with the present Government, of always putting off an important decision until it was too late.

Sir H. Bax-Ironside.

Lord R. CECIL replied in the negative to a question, put by Sir RICHARD COOPER, asking whether Sir Henry Bax-Ironside made a request to the Foreign Office about April last that he should be recalled from Sofia because the Foreign Office did not accept the information he tendered with respect to Bulgaria.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

"The most extraordinary thing," says the *Morning Post*, referring to the recent debate in both Houses of Parliament on the Trading with the Enemy Bill, "is that it seems to be generally assumed that the Government is on the side of the German trader." Or, as Sir Arthur Markham exclaimed: "I cannot for the life of me understand why the Government have had this tenderness all through the war for the German alien enemy." Elsewhere I read that the German Government has placed "under compulsory administration undertakings whose capital belongs wholly or mainly to British subjects, and the Administrator has discretionary powers either to carry on or liquidate or dissolve the business." How does our attitude compare with this? "The powers conferred (by the Board of Trade on the supervisors of enemy concerns established in this country) are so carefully limited as to be almost useless, and in some cases the supervisors are even cautioned against any interference with the business of the German who is to be supervised."

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The above quotations, it may be argued, bear small relation to Near Eastern questions. I beg to differ. Last week I discussed at some length the status of enemy (and enemy-neutral) companies in Egypt, and I now ask: Does not, perchance, an echo of our own Government's apparently benevolent attitude towards enemy trade reach the banks of the Nile, where the Deutsch Baumwollpresse A.G., an enemy concern, supplies fodder to the British Army, and where enemy concerns openly and unblushingly elect German directors and seat them in triumph on the board? There, surely, must be some connection between the Thames and the Nile, between our benevolent consideration for the enemy trader and that shown by the Egyptian Government for the same oily, greasy individual.

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Then as to the matter of sequestration. I urged on the authorities the adoption of an energetic policy, namely, the sequestration, liquidation, or compulsory winding-up of all enemy concerns, such as the Deutsche Orient Bank, Deutsche Hypotheken Bank, etc., against which it could be proved that prior to the war they had sought to, or succeeded in, undermining our authority in Egypt, or had been guilty of engineering an anti-British propaganda (i.e., bribery), to our detriment, and consequently to that of Egypt. In view, therefore, of the "discretionary powers" bestowed by German law on the "administrators" of British companies established in Germany, I again maintain and with greater reason that short shift should now be made of those enemy concerns in Egypt, the very names of which are intensely maladorous. As for supplying the British Army with provender, etc., it is unthinkable that they should be allowed to do so, but I would even go a step farther, and say that *no* alien firm, unless owing allegiance to one of the Allied Powers, or distinctly friendly, should be allowed to purvey to our Army. Whether the powers that be take this common-sense view of the matter, remains to be seen, but I should like to point out that feeling in the British colony in Egypt is being bitterly roused by the favours bestowed on enemy, and unfriendly neutral, concerns by those who watch over our destinies in the Valley of the Nile. At any rate, the sooner Egypt is swept clean of its Deutsch "this" and Deutsch "that," the better, and I, for one, shall certainly watch the cleansing process with undisguised interest.

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The article on the Baghdad railway, which is reproduced elsewhere, gives us a somewhat cursory review of progress on the line. The first section from Haidar Pasha to Aleppo is now almost completed, and the tunnel through the Taurus has been pierced, but certain stretches have still to be completed. The coal question seems to have been satisfactorily settled—an assertion which I am inclined to doubt—and the "Prussian" rolling stock is stated to be adequate. All of which makes a very pretty picture—on paper. Incidentally the writer of the article states that the Turkish Government, at "German" instigation, contemplates the construction of new railways in Central and North-Eastern Asia Minor. These would seem to be a line from Angora to Sivas, a second from the Taurus to Sivas, a third from Sivas to Samsun, a fourth from Sivas to Erzerum, and a fifth from Erzerum to Trebizond. These, it appears, are projects only, but for the Germans to claim the initiative as regards their construction is grossly inaccurate, as they have one and all, with the possible exception of the Taurus-Sivas line, been projected and partly surveyed by the French years ago. In some cases even the concessions for constructing and exploiting the suggested lines have been granted to French companies, so that the German claim to initiative is, like so many of their claims, utterly devoid of foundation

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Herr Dernburg, the late successful (*sic*) German propaganda agent in the United States, has now proceeded to Vienna, where he is lecturing the Hun-ridden Austrians on the future greatness of the Central Powers. Strange to say, he does not regret the loss of German sea power, and this comes all the more strangely from him considering that he was at one time Colonial Minister, and must realise that without sea power there can be no oversea colonies. Apparently, however, Herr Dernburg has wisely given up all idea of colonies and sea power, and prefers to dilate on the magnificent future Continental position of the Central Powers. They will not enjoy sea transport, but they will "develop the Central European canal system, and improve waterways which are not navigable. In this way (adds the optimistic orator) the Teutons can to a considerable extent obtain the advantages which belong to sea transport." There is nothing like self-contentedness in the presence of defeat.

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The Khedivial Mail meeting on Monday was a great success for the Board, and I heartily congratulate them on the way they have conducted the company's interests during the past year of trials and tribulations. The references made by the directors and shareholders to the valuable services of Mr. Charles Holland were well timed, and the subsequent proposal for a monetary mark of gratitude as a reward for his strenuous work was, I am glad to see, passed unanimously. Mr. Branch, the capable secretary, was likewise the recipient of special expressions of well-deserved praise. The meeting is fully reported on another page.

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One of the most interesting meetings during the past week was that of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, held on Tuesday, and at which the chairman emphasised the marked improvement, without increased expenditure, in the cotton yield for 1914-15. Unfortunately, the low price of cotton reduced profits considerably, but, nevertheless, the directors were able to propose a dividend of 5 per cent. This, being the first of its kind, augurs well for the future.

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The company has now three cotton-growing stations in the Sudan, of which Barakat, in the Gezira, has only recently been opened, and is of peculiar importance because it stands in close relationship to the great Sudan irrigation project of the plateau between the Blue and White Niles. Referring to this promising station, the chairman of the syndicate said: "In January, 1914, it was agreed between the Sudan Government and our syndicate that a new station in the Gezira would be very useful in training the natives and our staff on more extensive lines than could be done at the original station at Tayiba, the object being that, on the arrival of irrigation water from the Blue Nile barrage, development on a large scale could at once be undertaken. The conditions on which Barakat station is run are similar to those at Tayiba and also to those proposed for the Gezira scheme—that is to say, on a partnership basis, the natives getting 40 per cent. of the proceeds from the land, the Government 35 per cent., and your syndicate 25 per cent. At Barakat, however, your syndicate receives the 35 per cent. Government share, plus their own 25 per cent., in consideration of our erecting the necessary pumping installation for the supply of irrigation. On the other hand, I must repeat that the Barakat station, as a training ground for the contemplated bigger operations in the Gezira, is of inestimable value to both the Government and ourselves."

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The *Morning Post's* Berne correspondent reports that the Turkish Chamber has ratified agreements concerning advances, stated to be in gold, made by Austria and Germany in May and April last respectively, and amounting to 47,250,000 kronen (nearly £2,000,000) and 80,000,000 marks (£4,000,000) respectively, which have been paid, it is said, into the Treasury of the Ottoman Government Debt. On the strength of this alleged gold the Turkish Government has issued Treasury notes, with forced legal currency throughout Turkey, to the value of over six and a-half million Turkish pounds (over £5,909,000). The notes are said to be repayable in Constantinople six months after the end of the war. The correspondent adds that he has been assured on the best authority that no such large amount of gold has ever been paid into the coffers of the management of the Ottoman National Debt by Germany or Austria—an assertion with which I have no intention of quarrelling.

COMMENTATOR.

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Economic Situation in Egypt.

Lecture at the Sultanieh Society of Political Economy

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 4.

So much has from time to time been written and said about the effect of the present war on Egypt that particular interest attaches to the paper on the subject presented at the last meeting of the Sultanieh Society of Political Economy by Dr. Alfred Eid, the managing director of the Caisse Hypothécaire d'Egypte.

The lecturer commenced by pointing out what excellent prospects of a considerable improvement in the situation existed just before the war broke out, and went on to state that, in spite of the measures taken by the Government last autumn, the cotton crop realised 15¾ millions less than that of an average year. Egypt's trade during the first six months of the war showed a diminution of from 55 to 60 per cent. by comparison with the normal, and even later the exports showed a decrease of 14 per cent., and the imports of 40 per cent. This retrograde step, according to him, is due not only to the stopping of all trade with enemy countries, and to the restriction imposed on commerce with neutrals, but also and especially to the diminution in purchasing power suffered by Egypt as a result of the losses incurred on the cotton crop and the stoppage of credit in Europe.

Government Economy.

With regard to the steps taken by the Government to balance its Budget, he remarked that, while the stoppage of new works, which was the chief direction in which economies were effected, may have been necessary, this action was none the less regrettable, as the works in question were just those which materially affected the development of the resources of the country. These economies, which amounted to £E1,254,000 on the previous Budget of £E1,787,000 would, if maintained, have very serious effects on the progress of the country. As to the loan which will be necessary, Dr. Eid was inclined to agree with the Financial Adviser, that at no time during the past two years had the money market been so unfavourable for such an object, and he considered that, even if conditions improved, it would remain to be seen whether the country, with its reduced resources, could meet as easily as in the past this addition to its foreign debt. Turning to the question of the monetary circulation, the speaker pointed out that Egypt has no cash reserve *qud* reserve, and that an increase in bank-note circulation, such as took place last autumn, when the amount in circulation rose from two to eight million, is always very dangerous unless closely controlled and an adequate security is accumulated by the bank concerned. He paid a warm tribute to the Government, which had succeeded in solving the circulation problem most satisfactorily without depreciating the note issue or causing abnormal fluctuations in the exchange.

The Agricultural Position.

Dr. Eid next turned to the agricultural situation, which he affirmed is far from brilliant, as various factors had tended to aggravate the effects of the decrease in cotton values—viz., the forced collection of the taxes during the early part of the war, the restriction of the cotton area, and especially the old debts of the fellaheen. With regard to the restriction of the cotton area, he pointed out that experts had long clamoured for some such measure, but that the moment chosen for this restriction was inopportune, since it was imposed just when the cultivators required all their resources to enable them to make good the deficit due to the previous short crop.

Reverting to the harm done by the suspension of the new works, the lecturer stated that the results obtained by the first drainage works had been beyond all expectation and had given the total execution of the vast scheme, due to the initiative of Lord Kitchener, the aspect of a veritable renaissance of Egyptian agriculture. Whilst he bowed to the budgetary consideration which dictated this suspension, he expressed the opinion that it constitutes more than a serious delay to the agricultural development of the country, for the land which will not be drained in time will have a decreased yield, and that which may have to wait too long for proper irrigation will either have to be abandoned or will no longer be able to yield remunerative crops.

Land Values.

Dr. Eid considers that the agricultural situation will have its repercussion on the position of the mortgage banks and on land values. He declared that the arrears due to the five leading mortgage institutions had increased by 50 per cent. between March 31, 1914, and March 31, 1915, though fortunately since that date the rise in cotton prices had appreciably improved the collections. With regard to land values, the lecturer declared that in addition to the diminution in the saleable value there was also the decrease in the intrinsic value of the land, which in his eyes was a far more serious matter. The fertility of the soil of Egypt, he said, is world renowned, but that fertility is in reality the result of a daily fight against the factors which, especially in Egypt, threaten the land. The Egyptian fellah is a sober and industrious worker under normal conditions, but he is easily discouraged, and is inclined to relinquish his efforts as soon as he sees that he is about to lose his land. As a result, says Dr. Eid, most of the land expropriated is found to have been terribly neglected. This double diminution is already making itself felt, and, according to him, experts estimate that good land fully developed has lost from 25 to 30 per cent. of its value as compared with the prices in force in 1910 and 1911, and that that loss rises to 60 per cent. in the case of lands in course of improvement which have been neglected by their owners. If these prices are maintained, which he considers quite likely, the result will be the putting back of the country by fifteen years.

In conclusion, Dr. Eid pointed out that a very marked rise had taken place in the price of agricultural products and had tended to awaken an optimistic spirit, but that this rise was due to special circumstances on which one must not rely in the future. As regards the rise in cotton prices, it will be counterbalanced by the reduction in the quantity. Even admitting, however, that during the current year the cotton pests do not commit more ravages than in previous years, and that we can count on the same revenue as in 1912 and 1913, it will not meet the deficit of 1914, for the simple reason that in those years the revenue was scarcely sufficient to balance the accounts. The crisis due to the war was particularly arduous, because it came whilst the country was still in a stage of transformation, and had scarcely recovered from a previous long crisis. One factor is consoling, and that is that the cause of the present crisis is external. Excepting as regards the cotton diseases the productive forces of the country are quite untouched; but there is still a lot to be done to maintain and develop them. Between 1900 and 1914 a good deal of work was done, but all the efforts were concentrated on irrigation and improvement of the land, the while the economical organisation of the country was entirely neglected. Credit organisation is still most primitive. Beyond the mortgage banks, there exists only the village usurer. Even in the large towns the banking system is very inadequate. The cultivators, big and small, have no technical knowledge, and experiments, etc., are left to private initiative. The small cultivators especially are badly equipped, and no co-operative organisation exists to help them progress from their old situation to that required by modern conditions. The lecturer paid homage to the Sultan, whose interest in agriculture and in the lot of the smaller fellaheen is so well known, and to the Ministry of Agriculture, which has assisted considerably since its creation four years ago. But everyone, public authorities and individuals, will have to collaborate if the task of regeneration of economic development is to succeed; and this success will only be assured if strict economy, enforced in public and private finances, enables the diminished resources of the country to balance its daily increasing obligations. Once this economy and this reorganisation are effected the recovery of the country will be assured; but the process will be long if it has to rely on itself. To accelerate that recovery it will be necessary that the European money market undergoes a radical improvement, so as to permit of Egypt finding in abundance and cheaply the funds which she needs.

An Optimistic View.

At the conclusion of this paper Dr. I. G. Levi, Secretary of the Society and Inspector of the Egyptian Department of Statistics, addressed the audience and declared that he absolutely disagreed with the views expressed by Dr. Eid. His remarks are of particular interest, and I will summarise them as carefully as I can.

Dr. Levi agreed that the drop in cotton prices due to the war had caused the cultivators considerable loss, but he disputed the valuation thereof made by Dr. Eid, who set the loss on the 1914 crop at £E17,500,000. Dr. Levi said that one should never, in dealing with agricultural statistics, compare the yield of one year with another; a comparison is always made with the mean of at least the previous ten years. If one were to proceed according to this recognised rule, one would find that the mean cotton crop is 6,800,000 cantars and not 7,500,000, as Dr. Eid took it, and that its mean value was £E28,500,000. Dr. Levi values the 1914 crop at £E19,700,000, so that the loss of the agricultural element was only £E8,800,000. This is taking it for granted that all the cultivators disposed of their holdings at 1914 prices, which is scarcely probable, seeing that we know that there exists either in the provinces or in Alexandria a stock of 1,300,000 cantars from the last year's crop.

With regard to Dr. Eid's assertion that the loss will never be made up by the agricultural masses, Dr. Levi declared that there existed data to prove the contrary; that, in fact, a large part of that loss had already been compensated. According to the official wholesale prices in Egypt during the last four months the seven principal crops can be valued in the aggregate at £E55,000,000 as against £E47,000,000 in 1914. This gives an excess in value of £E8,000,000 in favour of the current year, and leaves out of account the other products, which have similarly benefited by a rise in prices. Even comparing prices over a period of four years for cereals and ten years for cotton, an excess in value of £E2,000,000 will still be found.

Favourable Factors.

In further confirmation of this conclusion, Dr. Levi mentions other factors, viz., the area under cultivation, the yields, the payment of taxes, and the repayment of mortgage debts. With regard to the first factor, compared with the preceding year the area under cultivation during 1914-15 showed an increase of about 500,000 feddans in spite of the reduction of 570,000 feddans in the cotton area. This increase, he said, is incompatible with the discouragement of the agricultural classes of which the lecturer spoke or with complete absence of resources, seeing that all credit has been stopped. As regards the yields, except in the case of beans and maize, they have been above those of 1914, whilst the State receipts at September 30 last showed an increase of £E500,000 in land tax alone, as compared with the same date in 1914, notwithstanding that the collectors had been instructed to show great leniency. Coming to the repayment of mortgage debts, Dr. Levi reminded us that the returns of the Agricultural Bank, which lends to the small cultivators, showed that the amount collected up to October 31, 1915, on account of matured instalments, was double

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that recorded on the same date in 1914. In addition, according to a communication made by the Credit Foncier Egyptien, the payment of annuities due is being made in quite an unexpectedly satisfactory manner, some of the debtors even paying up their arrears of 1912 and 1913. This is all the more remarkable, seeing that all credit has been stopped. Thus, says Dr. Levi, the mortgage debt of Egypt is diminishing, and under these circumstances if there are expropriations, it is not because of the war.

As regards the land values, he affirmed that the intrinsic value could not diminish, by reason of the suspension of the drainage works if that value without those works was not already diminishing. As for the sale value, if the latter was based on the only proper element, i.e., sale in its scientific sense, then, with prices of products rising as they are actually doing, there is no reason for that value to diminish; indeed, the contrary would be a new phenomenon on economical science. Nor, in his opinion, is there any reason for the value to drop if, after the war, the price of agricultural products returns to its normal level. If Egyptian land values are based on an artificial foundation, it will be a blessing if, after the war, that value is brought to its proper level. Agriculture will benefit and the national wealth will in reality not lose.

Agriculture.

Turning to the agricultural situation, Dr. Levi says that it is not bad. The prices of all agricultural products have risen and the balance of trade for the first ten months of 1915 is in favour of the country by £E4,500,000 against £E1,400,000 the other way in 1914, which, he pointed out, included only three months of the war in the period under review. Moreover, trade in general in the country does not seem to be suffering, for there are no unemployed. The various elements have had to economise, but on the other hand very few people have gone to Europe for the usual holiday. Of course, these economies reflect on local commerce and industries, but on the other hand they have been amply compensated by the amount brought into the country by the 300,000 British soldiers, on behalf of whom the authorities spend on an average £E1,250,00 per month, half of which remains in the country, and which does not include what the troops spend themselves. The swarms of hawkers prove that trade is good and, moreover, the local merchants have been able to clear out their old stocks at remunerative prices.

State Accounts.

The Speaker considered that the statement of accounts of the Ministry of Finance at September 30 justifies the hope that the deficit foreseen by the Financial Adviser, which was estimated at £E1,140,000, will not be realised. At the above-mentioned date the deficit was only £E260,000. Whilst the expenditure is evenly spread over the whole year, the land taxes, which constitute one-third of the full revenue, are collected as to 30 per cent. in the first half, and 70 per cent. in the second half. It is quite possible that Egypt, a country at war, will be able to announce to an astonished world that in the year of grace 1915, it was able to show a surplus, thus justifying its ancient appellation of "a land of paradox."

As for the future, the country has lost neither men nor money; its finances are in a good state; its energies and its credit are intact; the war, moreover, has, if anything, improved the general situation, since it has removed all the international obstacles which stood in the way of economic and judicial reform. The country's burden has diminished instead of increasing, and there is no reason for us to contemplate the future with anything but complete confidence.

Conclusion.

There would appear to be little doubt that Dr. Levi's view of the situation and of the future is fully justified, and I cannot help thinking that the General Manager of the Caisse Hypothecaire, who is, as a rule, so moderate in his assertions, has been carried away by a desire to prevent undue optimism and so has evinced a pessimism that in reality cannot be substantiated, and is certainly not shared by the bulk of local financial authorities. In conclusion it is interesting to note that the views of the situation of Egypt expounded by Dr. Levi coincide almost exactly with those expressed by me in your columns repeatedly since the beginning of the current Egyptian financial year.

Near East Markets.

NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, December 4.

Mohair appears to be still in demand for Germany in Constantinople, as prices have risen to 35 piastres per oke for good quality, but there is practically nothing available and very little now comes down from the interior owing to want of transport. In the interior higher prices are also now being asked.

There is a little more demand for opium, but prices remain at about 210 piastres the oke.

Canary seed is also dearer, in spite of the fact that the export of the article is not possible. In Constantinople buyers are offering 68 to 70 paras per oke, doubtless as a speculation.

Beans are quoted at 80 paras, but without buyers, and 105 paras is being asked for linseed.

Hazelnuts can be obtained at 3½ piastres the oke.

All imported articles are increasing in price steadily.

From Smyrna it is reported that large quantities of figs have been prepared and packed in bags, and await an opportunity for export.

COTTON MARKET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Liverpool. December 23.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report:—There has been a continued fair demand for cotton this week, and good business has been done, at hardening prices. Quotations show an advance of ten points for Upper and five points for other descriptions. Sales, which include 200 bales of Sudan cotton, are estimated at 4,100 bales, against 4,700 last week.

Manchester.

In spite of Christmas week, we can report quite a good business. The turnover in cloth, and especially in light fabrics, has been considerable.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants.

London, December 23.

Owing to advices from Greece, the market has been firm this past week, but the demand was only moderate. It is expected, however, that after the holidays there will be more activity in this as well as in the Liverpool market.

Sultanas.

Owing to the approaching holidays and the very limited supplies that are available the market has been very quiet this week, but prices are well maintained.

Figs.

There has been no demand this week.

Dates.

Only a few transactions have taken place. Persians are quoted 15s. 6d. to 22s., and Egyptians 38s. to 40s.

Seeds.

Linseed is very firm and dearer, owing to scanty offers and a good demand for oil. Calcutta to London, December, was to-day sold at 75s., with further sellers asking 76s. La Plata to Hull, January-February, sold 68s. 6d. Cottonseed is firm at late prices, but in view of several vessels on the way to London buyers are pausing. Rapeseed is also firm, but quiet. Ferozepore, December-January, is quoted 61s. 9d.; brown Cawnpore, ditto, 61s. 3d.; and Guzerat, 57s. 6d.

Oils.

Linseed oil is strong, especially for near positions, which are in demand at 5s. to 10s. advance. Spot pipes, £38; barrels, £39; month sold at £38 10s. January-April sold at £40, and May-August offered at £41. Rape oil keeps firm. Ordinary brown naked spot, £43; English refined barrels, £46.

Oilcakes.

Linseed Cakes.—There has been only a moderate demand during this past week. Best London-made sells at £12 7s. 6d. to £12 10s.; East India seed pures are offered at £11 17s.6d. to £12; and Bombays in bags at £12 2s. 6d. to £12 5s. per ton ex quay. Cotton Cakes.—All that has recently arrived from Egypt is sold, and present nearest values are £9 7s. 6d. to £9 10s. ex ship. The same price is asked for December-January dispatch, while English makes are offered at £9 10s. to £9 12s. 6d., and Bombay at £9 per ton.

Locust Beans.

The scarcity continues, and quotations are only nominal.

ILLEGAL OPIUM TRADE.

At the Mansion House on Wednesday, before Alderman Sir William Dunn, Mr. Alfred Lavino and Mr. George Benjamin Edward Keun, of Fenchurch Street, were summoned at the instance of the Director of Public Prosecutions for having on May 13 offered and proposed to trade in opium coming from an enemy country. The case for the prosecution was that the defendant, who carried on business in Fenchurch Street, had been in correspondence with a firm having offices at Constantinople and Salonika, with a view to obtaining quotations for opium of Turkish origin to be sent to Japan, via Marseilles. No business, however, resulted from the alleged proposal. The defendants, who pleaded "Not Guilty," were committed for trial, being admitted to bail in their own recognisances in £100.

The report of the Humphrey Pump Co., Limited, for the year ended September 30 last states that the company's claims in connection with the large pumping contract at Mex, Egypt, have not yet been finally settled.

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Engineering Notes.

Conduit System for Electric Wiring

The use of light steel, or iron, tubes as conduits for electric wiring purposes has increased during the last few years, and is an indication of the success of the system. As a rule in using these tubes the wires have to be either threaded, or drawn through. "Threaded" means that where the erection and wiring are carried out in conjunction, the wires are threaded through the tube-conduit at the same time as the latter is being fixed in position; and "drawn through" means that the wires are drawn through the complete system of conduits subsequent to erection. In either method there is risk of the insulation of the wires being damaged, especially where many sharp bends and elbows have to be negotiated, because, as the wires are concealed in the tube conduit, any damage done in the process of "drawing" in cannot be detected.

New System.

A metal conduit which seems to be on the principle of tube conduits, and which avoids the risks mentioned above, is a new system which apparently meets with growing favour. The most important feature of this system is that the wires are laid in the conduit and not drawn in. This metal conduit is divided into two circular sections, each section being slightly greater than a semi-circle. The troughing or bottom section is screwed to the wall, ceiling or other support through counter-sunk holes punched in the bottom of the troughing, one screw only being required at each point of support. Wires are then laid in this bottom section, and the cover, or upper section, is sprung over the troughing, the combined sections constituting a complete circular conduit, similar in appearance to an ordinary brazed, welded or solid drawn conduit. A feature of this system is its water-tightness. When steel conduits are subjected to variations of temperature it has been found that systems, apparently watertight, are liable to accumulate quantities of water owing to condensation. Experience has shown that the best method of dealing with this difficulty is to provide for free evaporation of the moisture. The new system in question does this most effectually; at the same time the overlap of the cover entirely prevents direct access of water. Additional wires may be laid in this conduit without disturbing existing wires. The troublesome process of fixing patrasses and screwing fittings, ceiling roses, etc., to the same can be avoided by this system. All fittings are attached by means of standard nipples to steel clips, which latter may be sprung directly on to the conduit at any point. If it is desired at any time to alter the position of the fitting, this can be very simply done by removing a short length of the cover and shifting the fitting to the position required. There are many other advantages which, with the above mentioned, prove the new system one of the most efficient metal-tube conduits for electric wiring purposes.

Egyptian State Railways.

The *Official Journal* of the Egyptian Government contains a proclamation by the G.O.C., in which it is stated that "whereas it has for military reasons been decided to proceed immediately with the doubling of the State Railway line between Zagazig and Ismailia," the State Railway Department "is authorised to take immediate possession of any lands required for the purpose of doubling the said State Railway line between Zagazig and Ismailia." So far as the price of lands so taken shall hereafter be fixed under the provisions of the Laws as to the expropriation of land for purposes of public utility, "the Mudir or Governor of the Court is authorized and required to include in the price so fixed

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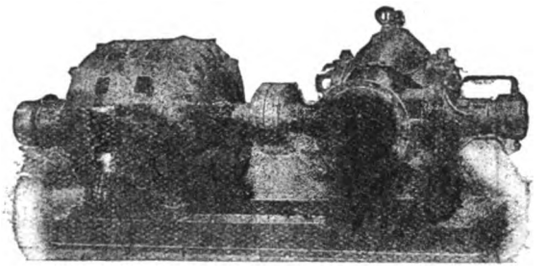

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reasonable and proper compensation in respect of the occupation of such lands prior to the time at which possession thereof could have been taken under the provisions of such laws. Such compensation may be in the form either of interest upon the capital sum payable or of payment for crops upon the ground, or partly in one form and partly in the other."

THE BAGHDAD RAILWAY.

An article on the completion of the Baghdad Railway to Aleppo appeared recently in the *Berliner Tageblatt*, from which the following extracts (translation by the *Manchester Guardian*) are reproduced.

According to the article in question, there remains between Constantinople and Aleppo but a single gap of eighteen miles on the south side of the Taurus. The last news of the progress of the railway was the announcement of the opening on October 20 of a section of about twenty-nine miles south of Islahie. At that time some twenty miles of line between Islahie and Bagtche was unfinished, although the great tunnel through the Amanus mountains had been pierced. It may be added that beyond Aleppo the railway has been completed to some point no great distance east of the Euphrates, the bridge over that river having been opened last April.

The writer, Herr Ludwig, begins his article by quoting the words of Talaat Bey, "Where should we have been in this war without the railway?" but says that military reasons forbid him to discuss the strategical importance of the line. There were two breaks between Constantinople and Aleppo last spring, but one has been joined up now and the other soon will be.

The old line from the capital to Konia is the Anatolian Railway, and thence to Aleppo is the Baghdad Railway. The first break is in the Taurus, a thousand kilometres from Constantinople. There is still a cutting, over eighteen miles long, to be made in the southern slopes of the mountains, but for the present, and for the duration of the war, the old pass-road through the Cilician Gates has been made into a huge automobile highway, connecting Bosanti with Tarsus.

Then comes another stretch of railway, Mersina-Tarsus-Adana; then (beyond Bagtche) comes another break, which, however, says Herr Ludwig, will be finished by now. From Aleppo a new railway to Jerusalem has been finished since war began, so that the journey from Constantinople to Jerusalem will soon only take five days.

Herr Ludwig cannot refrain from gloating over what all this will mean to Germany. "Since the Serbian resistance has been overcome and the Danube been cleared of Serbian mines and artillery, goods for Germany can come from Asia Minor to the Danube and then up-stream as far as necessary. Important things can be sent from this wealthy Asia Minor, more easily, cheaper, and in greater quantity than before. Especially wool from the Mæanderplain and other parts, not first-class wool, it is true, but still eminently useful for the needs of our campaigns. The cotton from the Adana district, copper from the Euphrates mines, and, finally, opium from the poppyfields of Asia Minor."

Herr Ludwig says that the inmost prayer of the Allies with regard to this railway is for the scarcity of coal, but he asserts that Asia Minor has plenty of coal mines, especially in the west, and if those failed, there are stores of wood-fuel enough to last for ten years.

The Turkish Government, at German instigation, contemplates the construction of new railways in central and north-eastern Asia Minor. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* gives a map showing lines planned from Angora and the Taurus to Sivas, from Sivas north to Samsun, from Sivas east to Erzerum, and a short line north from Erzerum to the Black Sea.

When the history of the war in the Near East comes to be written (says the *Railway Gazette*), not the least interesting chapter will be that dealing with the attitude of the Turkish authorities towards the railways in the Ottoman Empire. Already, in November, 1914, within a week of Turkey's declaration of war, the Ottoman Government not only took over the working of the railways, which it had a perfect right to do under the terms of their *concessions*, but also interfered with their administration and finances. The French manager of one railway was thus bluntly asked to resign in favour of the manager of the Hedjaz Railway, a German, and the Government also determined to seize the sum of 1,000,000 frs. which the French manager had on his departure deposited with the Ottoman Bank at Beyrouth. In order to overcome the legal difficulties in the way of this theft, a special law was passed empowering the seizure of funds deposited with banks by companies carying on their business under *concessions*, and this million was then used in the construction of military lines. In dealing with another foreign-owned railway, the Smyrna-Cassaba, the Ottoman Government displayed the same disregard for commercial agreements as German diplomats for "scraps of paper." In support of this attitude, the Government put forward the very "slim" excuse that they were not dealing with a company, but with the French Government.

EGYPTIAN COAL CONTRACT.

On Cardiff Coal Exchange on Friday last, it was announced that the Egyptian State Railway authorities have completed arrangements for the 50,000 tons of coal for which they asked tenders a few days ago, the delivery of this quantity of large steams extending up to the end of March. The business, which is on f.o.b. basis, had been placed with Messrs. William Milburn, who have 30,000 tons, and Messrs. H. C. Vivian and Co., who supply 20,000 tons. The price is not divulged, but it is understood to leave a fair margin of profit on the price of their contract coals with collieries.

It is expected (says the Budapest correspondent of the *Morning Post*, writing on December 10) that the railway route from Berlin direct to Constantinople will be open in three weeks' time. The bridge at Semlin is nearing completion; and for the present trains are crossing over specially-built pontoons.

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TRADE NOTES.

Cyprus.

The Government of Cyprus has for sale about 266 Cyprus okes of harpoon-fished sponges, good quality, and 29 okes skarta from Cyprus waters this year; also 748 okes of machine-fished sponges, good quality, and 89 okes skarta. Tenders for the purchase of same will be received by the Inspector of Fisheries up to 12 noon on January 29, 1916. The sponges may be seen on application to the Collector of Customs, Limassal, and full information obtained by application at the office of the Inspector of Fisheries, Nicosia.

A correspondent writes:—

"Sponges of good quality are taken annually in Cyprus waters, the industry being in the hands of Greek islanders, who visit Cyprus with their own boats. They are taken both by harpoon, or dragging system, and by divers. The sponges belonging to the Government are advertised for sale by the Inspector of Fisheries, as above."

Sudan.

The general manager, Sudan Government Railways, is prepared to receive tenders for the supply of the following timber:—

100,000 ft. run of Swedish pine in sizes varying from ¾-inch by 9 in. to 2 in. by 9 in.
2,500 ft. run of 3 in. by 3 in. by 13 ft.
1,500 ft. run of 4 in. by 4 in. by 13 ft.
25,000 ft. run of pitch pine in sizes varying from 1 in. by 9 in. to 4 in. by 12 in.
6 pitch pine baulks, 9 in. by 9 in. by 36 in.
6 pitch pine baulks, 9 in. by 12 in. by 20 ft.
12 pitch pine baulks, 12 in. by 12 in. by 20 ft.

Tenders, which should state prices and possible date of delivery of timber, may be sent to any of the following:—

Sir A. L. Webb, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W., quoting price f.o.b. London.

Agent, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria, quoting price for delivery in Alexandria.

General Manager, Sudan Government Railways, Atbara, quoting price c.i.f. Port Sudan or for local delivery.

From all of whom also tender forms and fuller information as to the sizes of timber required may be obtained. Tenders, which should be enclosed in sealed envelopes, plainly marked on the outside "Tender for Timber," must reach any of the above addresses by not later than noon of February 1, 1916.

FRENCH LINER SUNK OFF MALTA.

Reuter reports from Marseilles that the Compagnie de Navigation Mixte has just been officially informed of the loss of the steamer Djurjura (1,852 tons), which was reported to have sunk after collision with a British vessel on the night of December 14. The steamer was on her way from Athens, with a number of passengers on board, bound for Malta and Marseilles. At the time of the collision she was off Malta, with all her lights extinguished. All on board except two persons were saved. Among the rescued was Mme. Guillemin, wife of the French Minister at Athens.

JAPANESE LINER SUNK.

The Yasaka Maru, a Japanese liner, running between Japan and Europe, was torpedoed off Malta on Wednesday and sunk in fifty minutes, says the Central News. The passengers, numbering 120, and the crew of 260 were all saved.

The sinking of the Yasaka Maru is described by the Marine Insurance correspondent of the *Telegraph* as the biggest war loss that has fallen on the market since the war began. She was 10,932 tons, and was built only last year for her owners, the Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha. She had a long list of passengers and a very valuable cargo. This loss may easily amount to £1,000,000 for ship and cargo. This will all fall on the insurance market. As our Government War Risk Office insures only British vessels or their cargoes, the whole value of the cargo had to be done in the marine insurance market. She was bound from London to Japan.

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COMPANY REPORTS.

Egyptian Salt and Soda.

The report of the directors of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company, Limited, states that the gross profits earned during the past year are £E106,050,096. From this sum has to be deducted general administration expenses £E2,839,691, interest on debentures £E3,726,125—£E6,565,816, leaving a net profit before writing off depreciation of £E99,484,280, from which sum the directors have set aside for ordinary depreciation of the various factories, £E11,677,895; extraordinary depreciation on above, £E21,000; for creating a reserve, for renewal of steam plant at Alexandria factory, £E7,000; for depreciation written off patent rights in connection with new oil processes, £E2,000; for creating a reserve against payments made on account of machinery ordered in Germany, £E5,479,500; for amount transferred to reserve for bad and doubtful debts, £E3,500; for writing down the value of holding in Egyptian Unified stock to 82, £E517,920, leaving a balance of profit of £E48,308,965. The profit and loss account stands, therefore, as follows:—Balance carried forward, £E51,649,603; balance profit for the twelve months to August 31, £E48,308,965; total, £E99,958,568. Out of this sum the directors propose that a sum of £E38,827,776 shall be utilised for the payment of a dividend representing 8 per cent. on the share capital, and that the balance of £E61,130,792 shall be carried forward. The salt business, though suffering slightly at the commencement of the year under review, due to general depression in the country, has recovered again during the past few months and nearly reached its normal figures.

Mines de Bor.

The *Ironmonger*, referring to the property of the Compagnie Française des Mines de Bor (near Zaitchar, Serbia), the plant of which is said to have been utterly destroyed by the Serbians before their retreat, says:—The company's shares are quoted on the Geneva Exchange, and it is interesting to follow their fluctuations since the beginning of the war:

Face-value of the shares	100 fr.
Dividend paid for 1913/14	36½%
" 1914/15	nil
Price immediately before the war (July 25, 1914) per share	1,390 fr.
Price on October 29, 1915	580 fr.
Price on November 30, 1915	595 to 605 fr.

The Roumanian Government has prolonged the moratorium till April 23, 1916.

SERBIAN CURRENCY

Not the least interesting problem in connection with the occupation of Serbia by three different armies (says the *Morning Post* Budapest correspondent) is the economic and financial question presented by the dinar. The dinar is worth in times of peace something like 9½d. To-day the Germans decline to recognise it as of any value whatever. Austro-Hungarians accept it at a reduction of 50 per cent., that is, they give 4½d. for it if presented in the form of silver coin, and if nickel or copper they only accept it at its value in metal. The Germans in Serbia are prohibited from taking it in any form. Up till lately the Bulgarians accepted the paper notes also at 50 per cent. discount, but to-day they will not take the notes at all, and only the Serbian silver and nickel coins are circulating in Bulgaria at half their original value.

The Bulgarian Parliament decided not to allow Serbian paper money to flood Bulgaria, for the following reasons. The Serbian Government took away the gold deposit of 61 million dinars, and if the Serbian Government failed to redeem the notes in circulation, representing 380 millions, the Bulgarians would be heavy losers by accepting them even at a discount of 50 per cent. Serbian notes have thus passed out of existence everywhere except in Austria-Hungary, where for the time being they are still worth half their face value.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

KHEDIVIAL MAIL STEAMSHIP.

The eighteenth ordinary general meeting of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company, Limited, was held on Monday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Lord Ernest Hamilton (the Chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. G. R. Branch) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The statement that I have to lay before you this year will be a very brief one. Many of our ships have been requisitioned by the Government for the services of the country, and with regard to these it is obvious that I am not in a position to give you any information; in fact, we are not ourselves in possession of any definite information. With regard to the remainder of the fleet—that is to say, such ships as we are still trading with—I do not think that you would wish me to go into details as to the manner in which each ship has been occupied. I may briefly put the position as follows:—Up to the time when Turkey declared war on this country we continued our services along the Syrian coast under certain precautions which the commander of each vessel was instructed to take. As a result of these precautions, we were in a position at the moment of the declaration of war to withdraw all our ships trading in Turkish waters with safety to Alexandria or Suez, as the case might be. Since that date we have continued such Red Sea services as were not in connection with Turkish ports, and these services have, as a matter of fact, proved more profitable than they have done during recent years. Other units of our fleet had of necessity to remain in Egyptian waters by reason of our contract with the Egyptian Government. It was, of course, impossible for us to carry out the terms of our contract in full, but our obligations to the Egyptian Government compelled us to run such services as they required. These services were from time to time altered as the political situation changed. All the ships except such as were required for the purposes above named were brought over to the United Kingdom, where there were obviously better opportunities of profitable employment than there were in the Mediterranean.

The opportunity of finding these ships of ours in British waters was taken advantage of in order to effect certain repairs which were very badly needed. The overhaul and repair of these boats proved a more expensive matter than was originally anticipated, but the Board felt, and indeed still feel very strongly, that their action in making these boats thoroughly seaworthy, and in making such additions and alterations as would have the effect of prolonging their lives for several years, was fully justified by the circumstances. I feel sure that the shareholders as a body will fully endorse this action on the part of the Board. I think it is a matter for congratulation that, in spite of the very considerable sums required to carry out these repairs, all of which, as you know, have to come out of the revenue, the Board have still been able to recommend the payment of a 5 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares. You will have read in the report that we have lost three ships, one by torpedo and two which have been requisitioned and purchased by the Government for their own purposes. As regards these three ships, I do not think I need add much more. The s.s. "Saidieh" was insured for a sum which more than covered her book value; the other two were taken over by the Government at their own valuation. The net result, therefore, is that we have a fleet reduced in numbers by three, and with certain other units considerably strengthened and improved structurally. I think this is in the main satisfactory. There is another point which I may mention, and which I think should be of distinct interest to shareholders, and that is that within a few days we shall have paid off the last instalment owing to the Egyptian Government on the s.s. "Osmanieh." It will be within the knowledge of most of you that we have now for many years past—in fact, ever since the purchase of the "Osmanieh"—been paying for her at the rate of £9,400 a year, capital and interest. The ship will within the next few days be completely paid for, and the annual cash position of the company should, therefore, benefit to this extent. During the first six months of the present year the course of events has been on very similar lines to those of the preceding six months. With regard to the future, it is, of course, impossible for me to say anything, nor do I think you would wish me to venture predictions.

You will be pleased to hear that during the year under review Mr. C. C. Curwen, who during a probationary term of six months acted as general manager, has now notified his willingness to remain with the company. The directors, for their part, are ouly too glad to be able to inform you that he has formed his decision. Mr. Curwen has had a very difficult task to perform. The ordinary routine services, which have run more or less smoothly and automatically since the inception of the company, have been entirely dislocated by the political disturbances, and fresh problems have presented themselves to the management at every turn. I think that our new manager has met these problems with great judgment and skill, ably assisted by the staff in Alexandria. While on this subject, I should like to draw the attention of the shareholders to the admirable work performed by the office staff at home, under conditions which were entirely new to them. Our Secretary, Mr. Branch, has proved himself an extremely valuable servant to the company—(hear, hear)—and I think we are undoubtedly under great obligations to Mr. Charles Holland for the continuous energy which he has shown in pushing the interests of the company. (Applause.) That is all I have to say, gentlemen. You will, of course, ask any questions presently that you may think fit. In the meanwhile I beg formally to move:—"That the report of the directors, together with the attached statement of the company's accounts as on June 30, 1915, duly audited by Messrs. Edwin Guthrie and Co., be and they are hereby adopted."

Mr. Francis Allen seconded the resolution, which was at once put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. Hugh Reeves said he wished as a shareholder who had been somewhat prominent in criticising the directors to congratulate them on the report they had been able to lay before the meeting. The result seemed to be due both to the management in Egypt, where they appeared to have a satisfactory official, namely, Mr. Curwen, and to the excellent handling of the business on this side, for which chief credit was apparently due to Mr. Charles Holland. As he (the speaker) was the shareholder who put forward Mr. Holland in the first place, supported by Mr. Parsons and other gentlemen who were present, that was peculiarly gratifying to them. They were very pleased indeed that the directors had found a colleague who, from his expert knowledge, capacity and energy, had been of the greatest value to the company. A little later he would like to move, on behalf of the shareholders, that some slight appreciation in the way of some extra emolument or director's fee should be given to Mr. Holland for his services. It occurred to him that some such figure as 250 guineas might be a small mark of appreciation for the services which Mr. Holland had rendered to the company.

There was one other point on which he wished to make a suggestion, and that was that in view of the very much improved financial position they were probably within sight of a steady dividend on the ordinary shares. It took only £5,000 to pay 5 per cent., and he observed that they were carrying forward something like £12,000, after picking up some three half-years' arrears of preference dividend. That should make it perfectly feasible for the directors in the near future to consider the payment of another dixidend. If he might make a suggestion, perhaps, in the month of June, when the Board had seen how the year had closed for all practical purposes they could let the shareholders have an interim dividend. Five per cent. was a small return on a shipping enterprise, and although they were quite thankful to receive it they would certainly like 5 per cent. next June if the directors could see their way to pay it.

Mr. E. P. Parsons said he wished to say a few words, more especially with regard to the services rendered by Mr. Holland. He did not know that all the shareholders realised the amount of work Mr. Holland had done, but having been personally in fairly close contact with the company, he could say that Mr. Holland's work had been of inestimable value to the whole Board, and especially to the shareholders. He hoped, therefore, that all the shareholders would agree in voting the suggested extra remuneration.

Mr. Vere Herbert Smith said that some time ago he recommended very near members of his family to invest in the company's debentures, and there was one question which he should like to ask. They had one ship torpedoed during the past year, and had sold two ships to the Government. On the other hand, he understood the Chairman to say that they were building one new ship. He wished to ask how the reduction in the number of ships would affect the debenture holders—if there was a debenture trust deed and the directors had to hand the proceeds of these ships to the trustees, or how they dealt with the money received for ships sold, because he took it that by selling ships they were reducing the security of the debenture holders somewhat, while, on the other hand, they were receiving cash for the ships.

The Chairman, replying to Mr. Vere Smith, said that there was a trust deed, and the debenture holders had a direct charge on certain of the ships. There were others that were free of that charge, but on which the debenture holders had what was called a floating charge. The "Minieh" was one of the ships directly hypothecated to the debenture holders, and the proceeds of the sale of that ship had, therefore, to be handed over to the trustees for the debenture holders, by whom they had been invested. The other two ships, the "Saidieh" and the "Assouan," were free; they were not directly charged to the debenture holders. The Board felt that the security of the debenture holders ought not to be reduced by the amount which accrued from the underwriters and from the Government in respect of those ships. He wished, however, to point out that the increase in the fleet over and above the ships originally hypothecated to the debenture holders had been met entirely out of revenue from time to time, and that, therefore, the Board was absolutely entitled, when such ships were sunk or sold, to use the proceeds for ordinary purposes. However, in the case of the "Saidieh" the Board invested the money received in the War Loan, which action, he thought, would be satisfactory to the bulk of the shareholders.

The Chairman then moved:—"That a dividend of 5 per cent. be and is hereby declared on the ordinary shares of the company for the year ended June 30, 1915, payable on December 31, 1915."

Mr. Allen seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman next proposed the re-election of Mr. S. Wellhoff and Mr. Francis Allen, the retiring directors, remarking that these gentlemen were very valuable members of the Board.

Mr. H. B. Henley seconded the motion, which was adopted.

Mr. Reeves then moved:—"That an extra remuneration of 250 guineas be voted to Mr. Charles Holland in respect of the special services he has rendered this company during the year covered by the accounts for the period under review."

Mr. Parsons seconded the resolution.

The Chairman said that he was in absolute sympathy with the motion made by Mr. Reeves and Mr. Parsons. He could not ex-

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press in words the value that Mr. Holland had been to the company. During the latter half of the last year under consideration there was a certain period of extreme pressure and strain, and if they had not had the services of Mr. Holland on the Board he thought they would have been in a very bad position indeed. His firm, Messrs. Arthur Holland and Co., were appointed the company's agents at a fee which, he believed, was the recognised fee in such cases, but he could say without any hesitation that he did not believe for a moment that any other firm would have served the company nearly as well as Messrs. Arthur Holland and Co. had done in the circumstances. He was quite prepared to recognise that Messrs. Arthur Holland and Co. were at the present moment doing work for the company which was quite unremunerative to them, but his feeling was that that situaton should be met by a revision of the terms of the contract with Messrs. Arthur Holland and Co. if necessary. That was a matter into which the Board was prepared to go, but he did not think it should be met in the future by additional sums voted at a general meeting. In conclusion, he was absolutely in sympathy with the motion of Mr. Reeves and Mr. Parsons, and he was quite sure that the money had never been better earned that in this case.

Mr. Allen said he believed they were all practically in sympathy with the suggestion which had been brought forward. They all valued very much Mr. Holland's able assistance, and realised how valuable he had been to the company. At the same time, he wished to point out that the directors had not drawn the whole amount of fees to which they were entitled—namely, £2,000, and although they were quite in accord with the general principle of the suggestion, some of them perhaps would like to see it done in a slightly different way.

The proposal of Mr. Reeves was then put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Charles F. Holland said he would like to thank Mr. Reeves and Mr. Parsons very much for the kind words they had uttered about the work he had done in connection with the company, and also the shareholders for the manner in which they had shown their appreciation of such work. It was no exaggeration to say that the work of the first six months of the year was very hard indeed. A good many of the Alexandria boats came over to this side and demanded constant attention. It was quite impossible for him to consult his colleagues on the Board, as early decisions had to be come to, and he wished to take this opportunity of thanking his colleagues, especially as he was a new member of the Board, for giving him a free hand in dealing with the ships.

Mr. F. R. Troughton expressed the hope that the Board would bear in mind the suggestion of Mr. Reeves with regard to the payment of an interim dividend.

The Chairman said the shareholders would quite understand his reluctance to make a definite promise. He did not think it was possible for him to do so, but naturally if it was within the power of the Board to pay an interim dividend it would be their duty to do so.

Mr. Parsons said that before the shareholders separated he would like to propose a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the board of directors for their services, and also to the Secretary, Mr. Branch, who worked very hard and had done a great deal of new work, and done it very well. After the criticisms which had been passed in previous years, it was very gratifying to be able to pass a hearty vote of thanks to the Board for all the good work they had done and for having presented such a favourable report. He only hoped that the next report would be as favourable, or a little better, and that perhaps they would have an interim dividend. The balance-sheet was a much stronger one than any which had been presented since he remembered the company, and the payment of an interim dividend should not give the directors very much anxiety.

Mr. Vere H. Smith, in seconding the motion, said he entirely agreed with the views which had been expressed with regard to the non-advisability of making it a precedent to pay an increased fee to a director; it was a most dangerous thing to do.

The vote was unanimously accorded.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the compliment, and remarked that the Secretary, Mr. Branch, had come forward under rather trying circumstances in a manner which had astonished all the directors. He had proved not only a most zealous servant of the company, but an admirable one, and absolutely competent to grasp every detail of the company's business. He had been of inestimable value to them, not only in his capacity as Secretary, but since Mr. Geoffrey Head had retired from his duties as a director on account of military duties he had proved of very great value in the company's insurance business, which was an extremely complicated and difficult one. He thought that the shareholders would like to know that in their Secretary they had an extremely valuable servant.

The proceedings then terminated.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Limited, was held on Monday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. C. Greenway (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. Macindoe) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said:—As usual, I will begin my remarks by making a few explanations in regard to the accounts, the delay in the presentation of which, it is needless to say, has been due to the interruption of work consequent upon military operations in the Persian Gulf and to the shortage of our staff. Starting with the balance-sheet, you will see on the liabilities side that the amount of paid-up capital stands at £2,750,000, as compared with £1,900,000 in the previous year, this augmentation of £850,000 being represented by £751,000 received from His Majesty's Government on account of the 2,000,000 ordinary shares and 1,000 preference shares subscribed for by them, and by £99,000 received from the Burmah Oil Co., Limited, in payment for the 99,000 preference shares issued to that company. The balance of capital remaining available was £1,449,000—that is, £1,250,000 in respect of the 2,000,000 ordinary shares I have just referred to and £199,000 in respect of the debentures, which are to be subscribed for by the Government as and when required. The only other item on the liabilities side of the account to which any reference need be made is, I think, that of bills payable. The amount of £70,489 1s. 7d. includes £46,450 for bills accepted in part payment for the fleet of tankers which is being built for the transport of our oil, but as a separate Tanker Company has since been formed to work the fleet, this liability has since been transferred to that company. As the whole of the ordinary shares in the Tanker Co. will be held by the Anglo-Persian Co., it is perhaps advisable that I should take this opportunity of contradicting some of the wild statements which were made some time ago in the Press and in Parliament with reference to the cost of the boats which have been contracted for. You will be pleased to learn that the prices at which we were fortunate enough to secure these boats are very little in excess of the average of pre-war prices, and that they are relatively fully £80,000 per boat lower than prices which we have recently had quoted to us for similar boats to be built in the United States. Moreover, the figure mentioned in a Parliamentary question as representing the total cost of these boats was some hundreds of thousands of pounds in excess of the actual sum. In view of the very high rates now ruling for tanker tonnage, and the probability that they will, for obvious reasons, continue abnormal for some time after the conclusion of the war, we have every reason to congratulate ourselves on having contracted for these boats, and can, I think, look forward with every confidence to our shares in the Tanker Co. proving a most remunerative investment. As to the necessity for possessing such a fleet, instead of being dependent upon the open market, I scarcely think any explanations are required, because it must be apparent to everyone acquainted with the oil trade how dangerous it would be for a company situated as ours is, and requiring so much tonnage, as we shall do after our extensions are completed, to rely upon the chances of securing freight at reasonable rates in a market so restricted as that for oil tankers. It will suffice to say that even before the outbreak of war, and with our then comparatively small requirements of tonnage, the cost of our transport was fully 50 per cent. more than it would have been had we been running boats of our own, and that during the war we have had to pay freight equivalent to as much as four or five times the actual running cost.

Turning now to the assets side of the account, the first item calling for remark is purchase price for concessions, etc. The addition to this item during the year has been £103,253 19s. 9d., representing almost entirely further shares taken up in the Bakhtiari Oil Co., Ltd. Under the next heading, refinery, tank installations, pipe-lines, etc., you will see that we have again, owing to the difficulty of correctly allocating expenditure while so much work is in progress, reverted to the system of incorporating various items of expenditure which last year were shown separately. The new expenditure for the year under this more comprehensive heading was £431,631 16s. 1d., which amount it is perhaps needless to remark almost entirely represents outlay in connection with the new programme of extensions now being carried out; £40,000 has been deducted for depreciation, this amount being, in the opinion of the board, a sufficient sum to write off in view of all the circumstances. The next item calling for notice is that of sundry debtors and debit balances, which stands at £291,041 19s. 1d., as against £94,382 11s. 4d. in the previous year's account. The large increase in this amount is chiefly due to larger accrued dividends from the producing companies and to larger outstandings in respect of products sold. As regards the next heading, preliminary expenses, you will see that the amount standing at the debit of this account has been augmented during the year by about £6,000, this representing the registration fees and legal expenses connected with the last increase of capital. I regret that we have not, as we should have done had it not been necessary to provide for certain contingencies, to which I shall refer later on, seen our way to writing off any portion of the sum standing at the debit of this account; but we shall, of course, deal with it at the earliest possible date.

I will now ask you to turn to the profit and loss account. The balance of our trading account, as you will see, is £171,083 7s. 4d. This amount would have been about £74,000 greater had we included in it the amounts due to us by the Turkish and Persian Governments; but although we have every reason for anticipating that the greater part, if not the whole, of these outstandings will sooner or later be realised, we have decided not to take credit for them in the meantime. The amount due by the Persian Government is, of course, a perfectly good asset, since there is no doubt that it will eventually be forthcoming. So far as regards the amount due by the Turkish Government, the manner in which this may be recovered is, of course, as yet uncertain; but, inasmuch as the debt is chiefly in respect of goods which were formerly requisitioned from our agents at Baghdad, and for which receipts were given, I think we may look forward with confidence to its ultimate recovery from whichever Power may, when the war comes to an end, assume the responsibilities of the Turkish Government in that part of the world. After making allowance for these outstandings—which may be regarded as purely adventitious—we have, I think, every reason to be satisfied with the results of the year under review. The balance of the trading account would have been about £245,000, and omitting the loss of £26,711 3s. 10d., carried forward from the previous year, since it will not be a recurring item, there would, after paying debenture interest and home charges, have been a balance of about £200,000 available to meet depreciation and further payment of dividends. This may, I think, in all the circumstances, be regarded as quite a satisfactory showing, and an earnest of what we may look forward to in the future when our present programme of developments has been completed. I would like, however, to point out that had we been in a position to transport and market our benzine and kerosine products ourselves, instead of being dependent, as we are at present, in markets outside of the Persian Gulf, on the distributing organisation of another company, our profits for the year would have been very considerably enhanced. What the result

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may be for the current year it is still too early to prognosticate with any certainty in the present unsettled condition of Southern Persia. But, notwithstanding the diminution of revenue resulting from our pipe-line having been out of use for two and a-half months of the present financial year, we may, I think, failing, of course, the happening of any untoward event, count upon being able to present at least as good a result as that now before you in our next annual accounts.

Now that I have finished my remarks on the accounts you will doubtless like to hear something of the disturbances which occurred in the early part of the year in the part of Persia in which we are operating, and of the present situation there so far as it affects the welfare of this company. As mentioned in the report, our pipe-line was cut by some Persian tribesmen on February 5 last. This damage was perpetrated by a small tribe who inhabit a district which is traversed by our line for a distance of about twelve miles, and the damage was limited to the destruction of a few sections of pipe within this length of line. The tribe in question was undoubtedly incited to this act of rebellion against their Government by some of the German agents who have been so actively endeavouring to destroy the neutrality of Persia during the past twelve months. The Persian Government were then, and, unfortunately, still are unable to control the activity of these political buccaneers, who, in a neutral country, are at the moment utterly disregarding the authority of the ruler and Government of that country and are in some of the chief cities exercising all the powers and authority of the Government itself. This is a most extraordinary position, and one that cannot be allowed to continue. The situation is receiving the closest attention of the British and Russian Governments, and I think we may be assured that the steps which they are taking will ere long reduce these lawless Germans to a proper recognition of their obligations as residents in a neutral country, and thus enable Persia not only to maintain its neutrality, but also its independence, which at present is gravely imperilled by the actions of Prince Reuss and his tag-rag and bobtail following of military adventurers and of irresponsible Persian rebels, who care nothing for the fate of their country so long as their cupidity is fed with German gold. Although the Persian Government, under the terms of our concession, are bound "to take all and any necessary means for the safety and the carrying out of the objects of the concession, of the plant, and of the apparatuses . . . . and to protect the agents' representatives and servants of the company," they were quite unable themselves to cope with the situation created by their rebellious tribesmen, as they had no troops in that part of Persia available for the purpose. Fortunately, however, the General Officer Commanding the Indian Expeditionary Force had already sent up to Ahwaz, which is some distance south of the district in which the rising took place, a small force to ward off a threatened attack by the Turks upon his flank, and he was, consequently, in a position to readily lend to the Persian Government the requisite military assistance and to settle the whole trouble within a few days. It took some time to repair the damage to the line, owing to the unsettled state of the country and to the whole of our transport being required for the military operations; but it was restored to full working order by the middle of June, and since then has been worked continuously.

The amount of excess oil which had to be burnt, owing to lack of sufficient storage tanks and to avoid pollution of rivers, in the four and a-half months during which we suffered from this enforced shut down was, I am sorry to say, about 36,000,000 gallons, or 144,000 tons, but, as you will have gathered from the terms of the concession which I have just quoted, the Persian Government are liable to make good to us and to the producing companies the whole of the losses consequent upon the destruction of this large quantity of oil, and also for the extra expenditure to which we shall be put in consequence of the general interruption to our work which has been caused by this act of folly on the part of Persian subjects. The quantity of oil I have just mentioned as having been disposed of by burning was, I should explain, in excess of the large quantity which we ordinarily have to dispose of in the same manner owing to our present pipe-line not being of sufficient capacity to carry the full quantity of oil produced from our flowing wells, and for which, of course, we have no claim on the Persian Government. Apart from this unfortunate contretemps, and from the scarcity of transport consequent upon the operations of the British Forces, there has, you will be pleased to learn, been no interruption of any kind to our refining operations, nor to the extensive work which we are carrying out in connection with our scheme of extensions. Whether or not this comparative immunity from trouble will continue it is, of course, impossible to say, in view of the continued activities of German agents in Southern Persia and of the present inability of the Persian Government to themselves suppress their lawless acts, but it will be reassuring to you to know that the Bakhtiari Chiefs, from whose territories we are now obtaining our supplies of crude oil, have firmly resisted the efforts of the Germans to draw them into the rebellion which they have been endeavouring to create, and that these Chiefs, as well as our staunch supporter, the Sheikh of Mohammerah, still remain friendly to us and loyal to H.I.M. the Shah and his Government, and that the whole situation in Persia, as it affects this company, is receiving the closest possible attention, not only of your board, but also of his Majesty's Government and of General Sir John Nixon, who is commanding the troops on the Tigris.

Now that I have dealt with the political aspects of our affairs, I will give the usual explanations in regard to our working operations. Dealing, in the first place, with the present refinery, I am pleased to report that it continues to give satisfactory working results, the throughput for the quarterly periods preceding the cutting of our pipe-line having averaged as follows:—

	Gallons.	
For the 3 months ended June, 1914,	4,911,000	monthly
" " " Sept., 1914,	4,287,000	"
" " " Dec., 1914,	7,051,200	"

whilst for the month of January it was 6,852,000 gallons. Since the pipe-line was restored, it has averaged about 7,000,000 gallons monthly, and should there be no further shut down, the total for the current year will be little short of that of the year now under review. The slight falling off of 200,000 to 300,000 gallons monthly since the quarter of September, 1914, is, I should explain, not due to any reduction in the working power of the plant, but to the fact that we have latterly been increasing our production of fully-refined oils, which means the employment of more stills. The work on the refinery extensions is making good progress, and will probably be completed well before the new pipe-line is ready.

With regard to the latter, I regret very much to say that there has been considerable delay, partly owing to the disturbances to which I have already referred, but chiefly to the grave difficulties which we are experiencing in getting the pipes transported to the various points at which they are required for laying. Nearly the whole of the craft usually available on the River Karun for such transport has been requisitioned for the purposes of the military operations on the Tigris, and, consequently, we have been quite unable to remove the pipes at the rate required to keep our men fully employed. It is needless to say that we are doing everything that is possible to overcome this difficulty, but I am afraid that the completion will be delayed by fully twelve months beyond the date which was originally estimated. A further disadvantage arising from the war is that the cost of our extensions will be considerably enhanced by the much higher freights which we have had to pay for the transport of our plant and other material, and by the higher costs of all plant not contracted for before the outbreak of war. In this we have, of course, only suffered in common with all other shippers and purchasers of plant; but it will be gratifying to you to know that our loss in respect of freight has been materially lessened by the fact that our Tanker Co. anticipated the great advance which has taken place by making several advantageous charters, and by purchasing a steamer, which, apart from giving us freight at actual cost for our own outward cargo, has been returning handsome profits on its outward and homeward carryings for other shippers. In connection with our refinery, you will be pleased to learn that it has been the means of rendering to the Expeditionary Force a great amount of very valuable assistance in connection with the military operations on the Tigris. At Abadan we possess the largest and most up-to-date engineering workshops, and also the largest and most competent staff of engineers existing in that part of the world, and it is no exaggeration to say that the services which have been rendered by the company and by its staff, and which have from time to time been suitably acknowledged by the Viceroy of India and by the general officers commanding, have been of inestimable value to the nation.

As regards the operations of the producing companies there is little change to report since I last addressed you. Owing to the delay in the completion of our new pipe-line they have deemed it advisable to suspend the further drilling for reserve production, to which I referred last year. As you are aware, they have now a large number of wells drilled, either into, or nearly into, the oilsands, all of which can be quickly brought into production, and until the new pipe-line has arrived nearer to the point of completion it is inadvisable to push on too rapidly with further drilling, because there is always the danger that the oilsands may be accidentally pierced, and that great loss of oil may be incurred, owing to the impossibility of capping wells with safety, when the pressure is so great as that experienced in this phenomenally rich oilfield. The well No. 7 F., to which I referred last year, still maintains the production then indicated by me—viz., about 7,500 barrels daily, though shut down to a pressure of 280 lbs. per square inch, and the fact that this and our other wells hold up their production and pressure in such a remarkably steady manner, without any indication of water troubles, is, I think, conclusive evidence of the great value and richness of the field from which we are at present obtaining our supplies of crude. As regards the test wells in the three new fields referred to by me last year, you will be pleased to learn that at one of these the oil horizon was reached, and the well successfully capped in March last, which adds another considerable area to that of our already-proved oil territory. At the other two work was temporarily suspended, but has now been resumed on one. These three test wells are in the territories of the Bakhtiari Oil Co., Ltd. The Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., has, apart from these, started two other test wells in other parts of its concession, but operations on these are for the time being suspended, owing to the political conditions.

Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to draw your attention to the splendid services which have been rendered to us by every member of our staff in Persia in the trying circumstances which they have experienced during the past twelve months. (Hear, hear.) One of them—Captain Dyer—whose services were lent to us by the Government of India as a transport officer, I regret to say lost his life in an attack in which he was unfortunately mistaken for a Persian, with whom the assailants had a blood feud. Other members of our staff also have at times met with very trying experiences, in which they have displayed great devotion to the company's interests. But where all have done so well, it would be invidious to discriminate, and I am sure you will join with the board in expressing to all the members of our Persian staff our very great appreciation of their services to the company and in echoing the words expressed by Sir John Nixon recently when he was thanking our Abadan staff for the services rendered by them to the expeditionary force. After explaining to them that the fuel oil and other products which we are supplying to the Navy and Army are national necessities in this great war, Sir John said: "A man who is employed . . . in furnishing the requirements of the Navy or of the Army is doing his country just as much service as the men employed in the first line, either afloat or on shore, and I am sure that you will . . . set your teeth and do your utmost in the work that is lying to your hand here, and set the example incumbent on all of us who take up the white man's burdens in foreign countries." These words will express, I think, the feelings of all of us towards the members of our staff who have considered it their duty to remain at their posts, rather than volunteer-

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for service in the fighting line, as, of course, many have done. (Applause.)

I now beg to propose: "That the report of the directors and balance-sheet and profit and loss account for the financial year ended March 31, 1915, be received, approved, and adopted," and I will ask Mr. Cargill to kindly second the motion.

Mr. John T. Cargill seconded the motion.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, before putting the motion to the meeting I shall be glad to answer to the best of my ability any questions which shareholders may desire to put.

No questions being asked the Chairman put the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: The next business of the meeting is to elect directors, and I now beg to propose the re-election of Sir Treverdyn R. Wynne and Mr. H. E. Nichols, who have been elected to seats on the board during the past year, and who, under Clause 84 of the articles of association, now retire, and need to be re-elected, and also of Mr. John T. Cargill, Mr. W. Knox D'Arcy, and Sir Campbell K. Finlay, all of whom retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election. Sir Treverdyn R. Wynne was, as you will have seen from the report, elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation on account of ill-health of Mr. Wallace, and I should like to take this opportunity of expressing the very great regret that all of us feel at the break-down in his health which has caused the loss of that gentleman's valuable services. Mr. Wallace was for many years a director of the Burmah Oil Co., Limited, and, as many of you are aware, he, from their earliest inception, took a very considerable part in the affairs of this company and of the syndicate which preceded it. It has been my good fortune to have been associated with him in business for a period of nearly forty years, and no one knows better than myself how great a loss we have suffered in being deprived of the benefit of his sound judgment and valuable aid and counsel. We have, however, been very fortunate indeed in securing as his successor such an able colleague as Sir Treverdyn Wynne. This gentleman was for many years the agent of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, of which he is now the managing director, and was for some years the Director-General of Railways in India; in fact, his name has been a great one in the annals of the railway world and in India for the past thirty years. When I tell you that he is an ardent advocate of the merits of oil as a fuel, and that he has now gone to India on a mission which will include some useful work for this company, you will appreciate the advantages which the board will derive from his co-operation. Mr. Nicholls has been associated with the company since its incorporation, and with the concession and the work connected with it from the date when the concession was first obtained by Mr. D'Arcy, and as he has done extremely good work for the company, the board would like you to confirm their appreciation of his services by electing him as a director. The services of the three colleagues who are retiring by rotation are so well known to you that they need no reference on my part.

Sir Hugh S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., seconded the resolution, which was agreed to.

The Chairman: The next business of the meeting is to elect the auditors, and I shall be obliged if two of the shareholders will kindly propose and second the re-election of Messrs. Brown, Fleming and Murray, chartered accountants. As their work has been very largely increased during the past year the board recommend that their remuneration should be increased to £200 per annum, and I feel sure that you will agree with us that this is a reasonable fee to pay in view of the large amount of work involved in an audit of so extensive a character as that of ours.

The re-election of Messrs. Brown, Fleming and Murray, C.A., was agreed to on the motion of Mr. E .H. Taylor, seconded by Dr. H. A. Powell.

Mr. E. H. Taylor proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded by Dr. H. A. Powell and carried unanimously.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.

Mr. W. Watson Rutherford, M.P., Chairman of the company, presided at the annual general meeting of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., held on December 15, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

He observed that they held extensive areas of oil land and two refineries, and they operated over 175 kilometres of pipeline and over 50,000 tons of storage. Their petroleum output was 103,920 tons, as against 66,232 last year, an increase of 50 per cent. The gross Roumanian profit was £172,515, against £147,541 last year. The year's net available balance of profit (subject to exchange) was £105,616, adding £93,866 brought forward (being the net result of the two first years); the balance to credit of profit and loss account was £199,482. This was after writing off ample depreciation, £46,861, and after taking stocks at cost. They then raised the general reserve fund from £60,000 to £100,000. After making other reservations, including over £26,000 for the difference in exchange, they proposed to carry forward £113,451. The increased production and the satisfactory financial results had been achieved in spite of all the difficulties arising out of the war. Having made a running commentary of the accounts, he observed, in regard to the future and immediate prospects of the company, that Roumania was a rich, self-contained, well-governed country with an industrious population. Its wheat and other grain products were second to none. The Roumanian petroleum output had steadily increased year by year, and now exceeded 2,000,000 tons per annum. It occupied a commanding position for supplying the ever-increasing demand of the Mediterranean littoral with light, fuel, and motive power. He believed the company had now attained such a position that with the return of normal conditions it might be relied upon as an established dividend-paying concern. In Roumania they had a capable energetic staff in which there were a number of young Englishmen, and they had been the pioneers of the most improved machinery and the pioneers of practical geological investigations, including the discovery of the most important oil deposit previously unknown, and he did not know any other undertaking in Roumania which, under these war conditions, had increased its output by 50 per cent. In regard to the immediate outlook he took an optimistic view. Roumania's leading statesmen were both able and patriotic. The sympathy of the nation was undoubtedly with us and our Allies. Under great provocation and most difficult conditions Roumania had so far managed to preserve its neutrality. He believed that if Roumania joined in the war at all it would eventually join us at the time and under the conditions when it would be most advantageous both for them and for us that they should do so. They had a splendid national army, well equipped and thoroughly loyal, and when they did join their forces with us and our Allies, it would be the beginning of the end of this great war. In regard to the safety of the oil wells, his own opinion was that, in any event, such safety was assured. They were too valuable to be destroyed by either side, and, moreover, they were protected by being under the shadow of the highest portions of the Carpathian Mountains, only penetrated by four or five passes, each of which he believed had been recently made impregnable. Finally, he remarked that, in London, out of their office staff no less than seven, as well as his colleague Captain Barnett, had been serving their country. Two had been killed, one was interned in Holland, and four were still in the forces. He moved the adoption of the report, which was carried unanimously.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

EGYPTIAN LAND AND GENERAL TRUST.—The ninth ordinary meeting of shareholders will be held at the office of the company, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, on Thursday next at 4 o'clock.

SOCIETE PRIVILEGIEE POUR FAVORISER LA PRODUCTION ET LA COMMERCE DU RAISIN DE CORINTH.—Profits on re-sales of retention currants in 1914-1915 were £88,005; carry-over, £4,074; dividend, 15 drachmas per share, or 6 per cent.

SUEZ CANAL.—Receipts for the 15th inst. amounted to 370,000 fr., as compared with 240,000 fr. for the corresponding day last year.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Notice is hereby given that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt will be held on Tuesday, the 11th day of January, 1916, at Four o'clock in the afternoon, at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo, for the purpose of modifying the Statutes in the following way:

(1) To substitute the word "Avril" for the word "Mars" in the first paragraph of Article 31.

(2) To eliminate the words "au profit de fonds social" in the third paragraph of Article 42, and to substitute therefor the words "Le paiement pourra en être refusé et le montant passé au profit du fonds social."

A print of the Statutes can be inspected at the Offices of Messrs. Norton, Rose, Barrington, and Co., 57½, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., between the hours of eleven and three (except Saturdays).

Every Shareholder holding a minimum of five Shares has the right to attend the above Meeting, provided the Shares are deposited at least five days before the day of the Meeting (the last day for depositing the Shares in Egypt is the 6th January, 1916, and the last day for depositing the Shares in London is the 30th December, 1915), when Cards of Admission and Forms of Proxy will be handed to them at one of the following places:—

IN EGYPT,
At the NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT, Cairo.
At the NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT, Alexandria.
IN LONDON,
At the NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.

F. T. ROWLATT, President.

Cairo, 15th December, 1915.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA FOUR PER CENT. LOAN REDEMPTION.

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the Special Conditions regulating drawings, that the NINTH DRAWING in connection with the Redemption of 27 BONDS of the Municipal Loan of the 1st January, 1902, took place at a public meeting held on the 2nd December, 1915, at 11 a.m., at the offices of the Municipality at Alexandria.

The following numbers were drawn:—

(1) Nos. 65 and 232 of the Bonds of £500.

(2) Nos. 477, 689, 781, 1018, 1111, 1267, 1345, 1566, 1606, 1720, 1740, 1766, 1776, 1803, 1970, 2097, 2179, 2428, 2496, 2686, 2781, 2900, 3174, 3185, 3456, of the Bonds of £100.

These Bonds are redeemable at par on the 1st January, 1916 at the offices of the National Bank of Egypt, in Alexandria, Cairo, and London (6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.).

The Administrator.
(Signed) A. GRANVILLE.

Alexandria, 2nd December, 1915.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 243.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1915.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Austro-German and Bulgarian forces still remain outside Greek territory, and speculation is rife concerning the causes which have led to the postponement of the attack upon Salonika. Among the variety of explanations any one may be right or all may be wrong. It can only be noted that Germany is far more likely to be influenced by practical considerations than by mere sentiment. The facts of the situation are that the enemy has allowed the Anglo-French force to make an orderly withdrawal, and has given it time to put Salonika into a satisfactory state of defence. As the opportunity for a surprise has passed, Germany is not likely to risk an attack until she has collected a sufficient force to leave her still strong enough to put up a defence in the event of failure. Whether the destruction of the railway by the retreating Allies or the hesitation of the Bulgarians is interfering with her plans must remain an open question. It is by no means improbable that the Bulgarians, having experienced heavy losses in the course of the short campaign, are chary of exposing their army to further diminution for an object not contemplated in the original programme. If the Allies were established at Kavalla, there would be some point in attempting to take possession of the place. There is none in trying to storm their entrenched positions before Salonika.

General Castelnau, Chief of Staff of the French Armies, has paid a visit to Salonika, and is reported to have expressed his entire approval of the Allies' military arrangements. If the statement attributed to him represents the facts of the case, it is a matter for satisfaction to learn that the Anglo-French forces are well placed to receive the enemy's attacks. We cannot forget, however, that the Allies have not gone to Salonika in order to face the Austro-German and Bulgarian forces in parallel lines of trenches. They are there to turn the enemy's line in the west, and it may be in the east, by a flank attack. It is true that the invasion of Serbia supplied the occasion, and that they hoped to bring support to the Serbians. But their present object—the one which they must keep continually before them—is to threaten Germany so seriously in this new theatre that she will be compelled to weaken her other fronts to a point at which they become comparatively easy to break. What is not wanted is that a mere handful of Germans should be able, with the help of the Bulgarians, and possibly a few Turks, to hold up a very considerable Anglo-French force. General Castelnau's visit, therefore, ought to have been—and perhaps was—more concerned with the preparations for an Allied advance than with the defences of Salonika.

There was good reason to discredit the reports current last week of a Russian landing at Varna after a successful bombardment of the town. A naval engagement of modest dimensions did take place, and the Russians may have succeeded in interfering with the mine field protecting Varna, but the day of a Russian offensive on Bulgarian soil is not yet. All these activities, particularly the concentration of troops in Bessarabia, play an important part, and cannot but increase the unwillingness of the Bulgarians to sacrifice themselves for purposes which do not find a place in the national aims.

The Greek Premier made a very notable declaration last week to a correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, but was unfortunate in having his message buried in a mass of journalistic verbiage. By picking up the thread of the negotiations between the Entente Powers and Greece at a point where it first came into his hands and ignoring all the antecedent circumstances except a few telling in Greece's favour, M. Skouloudis was able to make out a bad case for the diplomacy of the Allies. An impartial review of all that has happened would have to take note of the exasperation caused by Greece's policy before M. Skouloudis became the fifth Premier in the year 1915. Above all it would have to insist upon the fatal betrayal of the Allied Powers by Greece, when her treaty obligations with Serbia were repudiated. When M. Skouloudis blames Entente diplomacy in the Near East, public opinion in the United Kingdom will support him; but it will not accept the inference which he seems desirous of drawing, that Greece was altogether free from blame.

M. Skouloudis' main indictment against the Entente Powers was contained in the following sentences:—"The Allies have flouted and angered Greece instead

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of placating us; instead of dealing with us frankly they coquetted with Bulgaria, while treating us disdainfully. . . . If the Allies had come frankly to Greece—if they had said, 'Come in with us, we want your aid, you may count on clearly defined recompenses at the end of the struggle,' Greece, I affirm, would not have hesitated for a single minute—with this or any other Government in power. Instead of this England and France began by demanding sacrifices from Greece. We were asked to co-operate with the Allies in the Dardanelles; and at the same time we were asked to relinquish Kavalla and Seres to our bitterest foes—to give up, in fact, those, our richest, provinces, which have been won by Greek blood. We were free to shed our blood in the attempt to force the Dardanelles; but we were warned that on no account were we to dream of marching to Constantinople in the event of an Allied success. In fact, it was expressly forbidden for the Greeks to show their national flag within fifty miles of the ancient Byzantine capital. . . . Greece's friendship has been repaid in a singular way—an embargo laid upon our commerce, our ships held up, people friendly to the Entente within an ace of being starved for want of bread."

Two other interesting details were mentioned by the Greek Premier. "When you embarked on the Dardanelles expedition," he said, "we warned you of its difficulties and dangers; we emphasised the improbability of success on the lines you had chosen. We did more. The Greek General Staff long ago had worked out a perfected scheme of operations to be utilised in the event of war between ourselves and Turkey. We still believe you would have succeeded, if you had been wise enough to adopt it. . . . The other day one of the Entente Ministers came here and insolently told me that the Government had broken promises made by our King. It was untrue, and I felt that his language was an insult. I told him so, and flung his written protest back. Further, my indignation went to the length of communicating officially with Sir Edward Grey and M. Briand, telling them in plain undiplomatic language my opinion of the protest." In regard to the Dardanelles operations, the Greeks were not alone in prophesying their failure. The Japanese had learned from their experience at Tsingtao that a naval bombardment unsupported by land forces could not in the circumstances achieve its object. As for the episode at Athens, it is to be hoped that further light will be shed upon this somewhat piquant diplomatic incident by the Allied Governments concerned. We have grown accustomed to such diplomatic amenities as a Turkish kavass attached to the British Legation at Sofia during the First Balkan War; but it is news that the diplomacy of the Allied Governments exposes itself to having written protests "flung back" and such action followed up by an expression of the recipient's opinion in "plain undiplomatic language."

A further success scored by an enemy submarine in the Mediterranean—the victim this time being a Japanese vessel, the Yasaka Maru—indicates that the submarine menace in these waters, though scotched, has not been killed. It would seem as if there was inequality in the patrol work done in these waters. We have no means of knowing how the Mediterranean is divided for purposes of patrolling between the Allied fleets, but it would be worth while to learn whether the enemy submarines rely on the Turkish or the Greek coast for replenishing their supplies. On whichever coast there is reason to suppose they are based steps should be taken to double or treble the watch kept in those waters. The difficulties of the work are apparent. On shore there are a multitude of agents in German pay, who seem to command unlimited facilities for supplying the enemy submarines with water, food, and oil; at sea it is wintry weather, and night patrolling must be far from pleasant. There can be little doubt, however, that if a free hand is gained for the British fleet to operate in the suspect waters, the final disappearance of the submarine menace is only a question of time.

A fresh engagement with Tripolitan Arabs took place on Christmas Day near Mersa Matrouh, the scene of the two previous conflicts. This time the enemy's strength was estimated at 3,000. Located a little to the west of Jebel Medwa, he was attacked by a British force composed of New Zealanders and Sikhs, and was driven back to the west of Wadi Mejid. The Arabs left over 200 dead on the field; the British casualties are reported to have been slight. It is to be hoped that the Egyptian authorities will leave no means untried, in addition to military measures, to put an end to Arab hostilities. The British have no quarrel with the Arabs, but the latter are obviously bribed to play Germany's game for her. It is evident from the gradually increasing numbers of the raiding forces that the small checks so far administered have not served to discourage them. As there can be no wish to rouse the Arab population in these parts, diplomatic methods of bringing them to reason ought to be employed assiduously.

Mr. Ginnell, the Nationalist member for North Westmeath, has constituted himself in the House of Commons questioner-in-ordinary on the subject of Egypt. He casts a very wide net, and disdains nothing that comes into it. What purpose his questions are intended to serve it is often difficult to say, for they range from the subject of donkeys eating bank notes to inquiries for military information which can be of no concern to Mr. Ginnell or his constituents, but would be of particular value to the King's enemies. At times this member's indefatigable search for knowledge regarding matters Egyptian resembles nothing so much as, let us say, what might be the lucubrations in Egypt of a Nationalist agitator in the pay of the late Khedive. At other times he lapses into what a native Egyptian paper —the *Ahram*—unkindly dubs "silly questions," so that it would seem that Mr. Ginnell is not really studying Egyptian interests—at least, not in a manner recognisable by the native mind. The *Ahram* is goaded to the following comment:—"Mr. Ginnell might have put some useful questions, even on the same subject, if he had been desirous of assisting the Egyptians; but the questions he put can only be regarded as unnecessarily abusive to us." We cannot help thinking that the member for North Westmeath has been labouring under a delusion regarding the usefulness of his questions from an Egyptian point of view.

The threatened Turco-German expedition against Egypt, like many other plans in connection with the war, finds itself dependent on the course of events in other spheres. There can be little doubt that the Turks were at one time buoyed up with the expectation that, as soon as through communication was opened up between Berlin and Constantinople, a German force would co-operate with them in an attack on Egypt. Germany's heavy losses elsewhere, her inability to send even an adequate force against the Allies in Serbia, and the indeterminate situation in the Balkans make the realisation of this scheme impossible. So long as the Anglo-French force at Salonika, to say nothing of potential Russo-Roumanian activities, threatens the Balkan lines of communication, Germany must remain unwilling to risk any large force in Asia Minor or beyond. Her object at present, therefore, must be to persuade the Turks to accept a fresh supply of German officers and German munitions in lieu of a German army. As it is to Germany's interest to use Turkey to the utmost against the Entente, and as she is taking characteristic steps at this stage to strengthen her hold in Constantinople and Sofia, there is a strong probability of the Turks being compelled to sacrifice themselves for Germany's benefit, despite Jemal Pasha, who is said to be unwilling to advance on Egypt, unless the Germans send an army of 25,000 men to co-operate in the expedition. The promised attack on the Suez Canal may, therefore, materialise in due course. Fortunately the Egyptian authorities are fully alive to the possibility, and seem inclined to act on the principle that the defences cannot be made too sure. The work of doubling the railway line from Zagazig to Ismailia, which is being carried

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out without interruption day and night, is making, as might be expected, wonderful progress. If the Turks should attack Egypt again, the British public will expect something more than a successful defence. It will look for a decisive engagement, which will free the country once and for all from a menace that has been hanging over it for nearly a year.

The urgency with which the doubling of the Zagazig-Ismailia line is being undertaken may be gauged from a Proclamation issued on December 4 dealing with the question of the expropriation of land. It is pointed out that, while the Government is preparing the measures necessary for the expropriation of the lands to be used in due form of law, it is impossible to complete such measures prior to the date at which possession of such lands is required. For the most part, or, as it is stated, "save in exceptional cases," the action of the Government has already been accepted by the landowners concerned, but the Proclamation regularises the procedure.

The offensive still rests with the Turkish forces in Mesopotamia, thanks to their evident superiority in gun-power. After a preliminary bombardment of the British position at Kut-el-Amarah on the night of December 23, which was continued the following morning, a determined attack was launched during the day on a fort on the Turkish right. The Turks succeeded in effecting an entrance, but were driven out. They renewed the attack during the night, and again effected a lodgment in the northern bastion. Once more they were driven out, but coming on again, occupied the bastion a third time, only to vacate it on Christmas morning, when they retired past their first line of trenches to others from 400 to 900 yards in the rear. As the enemy were attacking a fortified position, the disparity between the casualties, 700 Turkish and 190 British, is not as great as would be expected. The British task in this theatre of war is still formidable. We have yet to learn how it was that the expedition was allowed to advance without adequate artillery in the face of reports which reached the War Office last January that heavy guns were being sent to Baghdad.

The Russians continue their remarkable sweeping movement in Persia. There is nothing surprising in the fact that the hordes collected by Turco-German agents should melt away at the first appearance of a disciplined force, but the rate at which the Russian forces are covering the ground is remarkable. When a few weeks ago we suggested that only a movement of this nature could adequately cope with the situation, we had little hope that it could be carried out. But the Russians have risen to the occasion. While one force is operating in the Hamadan district, another has reached Kashan and is marching on Ispahan, and a third is able to strike a blow from Teheran and disperse a band of a thousand horsemen under a well-known *fedai*. What we miss in the reports is the announcement of any important captures. It is satisfactory that the insurgents should be harried from pillar to post; but to free Persia it will be necessary to dispose of the individual Turkish and German agents who are perambulating the country and stirring up the tribesmen. It is to be feared that Prince Henry XXXI. of Reuss has managed to escape from Persia and to make his way to Baghdad. His name will have to be added to that already formidable list of highly placed Germans who will presumably not be allowed to set foot on anything but German soil after the war.

Last week we published an account of what the Y.M.C.A. has been doing in Egypt and at the Dardanelles. Few people can be ignorant at this stage of the war of the good work done by the association; but we would take this opportunity of urging the special claims of its Near Eastern activities on readers of these pages. Egypt, in addition to having to provide for its own defence, has become, owing to its geographical position, a clearing-house for military operations in the Eastern Mediterranean and in part in Mesopotamia. Its needs in regard to the gaps which the Y.M.C.A. undertake to fill are, therefore, great. Subscriptions for the "Egypt" fund may be sent to THE NEAR EAST or to the London offices of the Association, 13, Russell Square, W.C.

WINTER IN THE BALKANS.

THE NEAR EAST has already drawn attention to winter conditions in the Balkans. In this connection the following extracts from a valuable letter published in the *Daily Chronicle* are of much interest. The writer is Mr. H. M. Wallis, of Reading, whose name is familiar to many of our readers as that of one of the most successful workers amongst the sufferers by the late Balkan War:—

The climate of the Ægean littoral is far milder than that of the hinterland. Even a comparatively short distance up country one is exposed to the rigours of a Continental winter. Nor are these cold snaps always short and sharp, like the one which cost us an army in the Crimea sixty years ago; they are apt to stay, or to recur. Even as far south as Adrianople the night temperature in early December is such as we seldom experience in England, and demands exceptional precautions in the matter of clothing.

Farther north among the Rhodopes, and at Sofia, which stands about 1,500 ft. above sea, one gets extreme cold. After preliminary snowfalls and blizzards, the weather settles down. For weeks on end the sun rises and rides all day without a breath of wind or a cloud, and sinks to glorious sunsets and starlit nights of down-to-zero cold. The glare off the ground is trying to the eyes. The snow is a dry powder and does not ball. It shifts off the fields into hollow roads and off causeways into the fields, so that within a few miles wheel traction and sledges are alternately useless.

This weather is enjoyed by the Bulgarians, who double their window-sashes and dress in puttees of thick blanketing, heavy knickers, wadded shirts, and thick tunics, with a cosaque, or sleeveless waistcoat, made of sheepskin-in-the-wool, worn over all. In very severe weather this cosaque is doubled, or a long, heavy overcoat, also lined with sheepskin, is worn over all. This has a stand-up collar and hood. The sheepskin cap has ear-lappets, and a long comforter is usually carried over the crown and envelops the mouth, chin, and ears. Lined gloves are essential, and oversized boots to admit a very thick sock.

. . . No native plays with such weather, for a wind-frost upon the plains knows no mercy. Our quartermasters must bear in mind that they are unlikely to find much shelter for our troops when once committed to an advance. The villages are chiefly of post-and-pan, with thatched roofs, and will be burnt as the enemy retire. The Bulgarian infantry house themselves in shacks made of a dozen saplings tied together at their extremities; the earth dug out within is thrown up around the butts to exclude snow, and the sides walled with maize-straw, or reeds in trusses. The result is a conical affair which will keep out any weather.

Fuel will be a difficulty. Almost all the coal in Bulgaria lies in the Balkans far north of anywhere we are likely to reach before the spring. The forests of the Rhodopes, such as the Rilo and the Kostenetz valley, are in our enemy's hands; and . . . . the plains of Thrace, and, I believe, Western Macedonia, are ill-provided with trees, as are also those districts between the Rhodopes and the Balkans.

This weather may last three to three and a-half months. The spring ploughing does not begin until mid-March, and there are occasionally heavy falls in April. One should remember that the Bulgarian State railways have, as a rule, insufficient sidings. . . . The highways are usually good and reasonably graded, except among the mountains, where one encounters sheep and tortuous tracks overhung and enfiladed at every turn. The route from Kustendil to Sofia is a limestone gorge, reminding one of Cheddar, but much narrower. The Kostenetz and Chepino glens are nearly as bad and much deeper. To turn the Rhodopes by the east a long detour is needful; one finds easy country at Philippopolis. Speaking generally, the Maritza valley is good travelling, but the river is not navigable.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 13.

The Western Frontier.

As yesterday's *communiqué* showed, there has again been some activity on the Western front, but evidently we had no difficulty in beating back the raiders. The opinion seems to be that, at most, the Tripoli Arabs will resort to raiding in more or less large parties. It will probably be found that the motive prompting their aggression is neither fanatical nor anti-British, but purely a lust for booty. After all, they come of a marauding stock, and provided we deal with the early raids as summarily as we have dealt with this one, there should be little fear of this lawlessness spreading and becoming a really serious menace.

Exhibition of Industrial Arts.

The Ministry of Education has just opened an exhibition of the products of the Technical Schools of Egypt. In many ways the show is a vast improvement upon its predecessors. In the carpet-weaving section, which comprised the more important exhibits, there were some really excellent carpets, those made from natural undyed wools eliciting general admiration, especially from H.H. the Sultan and the High Commissioner, both of whom gave orders for specimens when they visited the show. The furniture and brass and iron section by no means showed the same originality, and it must be admitted that in many cases the exhibits, although well made, displayed a tendency to European style and a disregard for the decorative advantages of the Egyptian. Altogether, however, this exhibition indicates that the Department of Technical Education is making great progress, and if only it can guard by some means against the aforementioned tendency, and can discourage the process of Europeanization, which the country is unfortunately undergoing in the matter of decorative art, it will have an indisputable claim on the gratitude of all those who take an interest in such subjects.

Linguistic Medium of Instruction.

An *arrêté* issued by the Ministry of Justice this week announces that owing to the restricted numbers of candidates the first year section of the French side of the School of Law is henceforward suppressed. This is a distinct sign of the times, and shows that British influence is steadily gaining a hold over young Egypt, at any rate in so far as the linguistic medium of instruction is concerned. Time was when French was predominant; in 1895 only 44 per cent. of the pupils in Government schools chose English as their subject, whilst in 1899, when that percentage had risen to sixty-nine, in the School of Law it was only eighteen—1899 being the first year when an English side was created at that school. The policy followed throughout has been what Lord Cromer calls "linguistic free trade" in the matter of medium of instruction. There has at no time been any coercion, but it has been interesting to note that in proportion as the British Occupation has assumed a more permanent aspect so the tendency of Egyptian parents to enter their children on the English side has become more apparent. The professional colleges, being at the top of the educational ladder, are, of course, the last to display the symptoms which may have already attained development in the inferior institutions, and the suppression of the first year of the French side of the School of Law may be taken as a forerunner of other steps in the same direction.

Arabic is, quite rightly, already being adopted as the chief medium of instruction in most subjects in Government schools. An attempt has recently been made to teach science in that language, but it is very much to be feared that that well-intentioned effort is foredoomed to failure; for however rich in expression the Arabic language may be it has no facility for translating lucidly and succinctly scientific terms which are for the most part of Western origin or fabrication. Indeed, it can safely be predicted that the Egyptian Government will meet with the same experience as did the Beyrout College, and that if any real advance in scientific subjects is desired recourse will again have to be had to a European language as medium of instruction. By that time it is pretty certain that English will be the only foreign language recognised by the Egyptian Government schools as the medium of instruction for those subjects for which the vernacular has proved unsuited.

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U BOATS IN MEDITERRANEAN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, December 12.

The latest German submarines to arrive in the Mediterranean waters have commenced to make their presence felt on our main commercial route to the East. The British India Company's steamer Umeta was sunk recently by gun-fire about one hundred miles east of Malta. The submarine opened fire on the vessel, and the officers and crew, seeing that resistance was hopeless and flight impossible, took to the boats, and the steamer quickly settled down under the enemy's fire. The chief officer, fourth engineer, and Marconi operator, together with twenty-three Indian natives of the crew, were picked up after a three-days' cruise by the Swedish steamer Nippon, and landed here. The officers have been sent home by the British Consul, who is also repatriating the native crew. The remainder of the ship's company were in three boats, two of which were sighted, and the occupants rescued, by a Dutch steamer proceeding in a westerly direction, and the fourth boat, in which the captain, fifth engineer, and about twenty natives had embarked, was sighted by the Nippon abandoned and empty; but as the boat's gear was intact, it is thought that the occupants had been rescued.

One native lost his life by going below at the last moment to fetch his money, when it is feared he was struck by a shell.

It is considered here that these new arrivals will not be long in following their predecessors into the British Navy's capacious bag.

WOUNDED FROM THE BALKANS.

About 100 sick and wounded from Serbia were landed from a well-equipped hospital ship in time to have their Christmas Day's dinner in the Plymouth and Devon Hospital (says the *Morning Post*). Officers and men of the Royal Navy, as well as representatives of a number of regiments, were included in the contingent of invalids.

Many of the arrivals had seen fighting in Gallipoli before being sent to Salonika, and thence to Macedonia. The Bulgarians, they say, displayed a reckless disregard for life, and with desperate valour came on in close formation, being mown down in thousands by machine-guns and rifle fire. Their numbers, however, and the sacrifices they made enabled them in some cases to overwhelm the British and the Allies. It was simply force of numbers that told, but the nature of the country also favoured the enemy. Some of the arrivals stated that the Bulgarians, thanks to the cover of the dense fog that frequently prevailed, crept quite close to the British positions, and the fighting that ensued was always of a desperate character. The Bulgarians made great use of the bayonet.

One of the soldiers who belonged to a machine-gun section told of the heroic death of one of his officers in a grapple with the Bulgarians. Finding he could not work his machine-gun with the effect that he desired to check the onrush of the enemy, who were attempting to storm the British line in close order, the officer had the position of the gun changed. Then from the top of the parapet of a trench, fully exposed to the enemy, he fired 6,000 rounds before he fell riddled with forty bullets from a machine-gun that the enemy had brought to bear on his position.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, December 15.

Financial Juggling.

The Budget for the Turkish financial year 1332 (March 14, 1916, to March 13, 1917), which has recently been presented to the Ottoman Parliament, must have taxed the ingenuity of Ottoman financiers in its preparation. The estimated expenditure is L.T.36,800,000 and the receipts L.T.22,960,000, leaving a deficit of L.T.13,855,000. The deficit on the previous year's Budget was L.T.8,820,000, which added to the estimated deficit of the coming year amounts to L.T.22,675,000. There is, however, every probability that next year's deficit will be greater than the above figure, as the Minister of Finance estimates a lesser revenue in 1332 of only L.T.3,874,700, which is undoubtedly too low a figure considering the state of the country.

The Minister of Finance states that three loans have been raised in the course of the past year. First, that for L.T.6,500,000, which has been placed in circulation by notes of one and five liras guaranteed by the Administration of the Public Debt, particulars of which appeared in The Near East last May. It may here be remarked that these notes are largely in circulation in Constantinople, and that gold is not much seen. Secondly, a loan of L.T.2,000,000, which was raised in Germany by the Turkish Treasury bonds; and thirdly, L.T.6,000,000 raised quite recently. Particulars of this loan have not yet been made public, but it is evidently proposed to issue notes as previously, but redeemable one year, instead of six months, after the signing of peace. The counter value is to be deposited, it is stated, in the name of the Ottoman Public Debt, and the notes will be guaranteed by that Administration. Under these conditions there will be in circulation Turkish Government Notes to the extent of about twelve million pounds. What they will be worth when the war is over is problematical. The Budget also states that the Ottoman Government authorised the Imperial Ottoman Bank to increase the number of its notes in circulation to the extent of L.T.1,600,000.

Life in the Capital.

The latest news from Constantinople is that the weather has turned cold and rainy, which makes everyone more despondent, while the scarcity of fuel deprives one of even the comfort of a fire. The economical condition of the capital is certainly worse than it has ever been. There is evidently some anxiety about obtaining sufficient wheat from the interior, as it is reported that Ismail Hakki Pasha, the head of the Turkish Commissariat Department, has gone to Anatolia to see what can be done to accelerate sendings. All transport, such as horses and carts, having been requisitioned by the Government, the peasants are without any means of conveying their grain from the different towns and villages to the railway line.

Apparently sugar can only be obtained on a doctor's certificate, but the papers announce that a supply will soon be coming from Austria. Petroleum is being sold at 140 piastres the tin.

Now that communication is being opened between Constantinople and Austria and Germany, many natives are going in for trade, and are sending goods direct per parcels post, by which means such articles as opium, figs, raisins, etc., are being forwarded. This will have a tendency to make eatables still more expensive, since Constantinople is not likely to obtain any foodstuffs of which she is in need from the Central Powers.

Talaat Bey has gone to Angora and Konia, but for what purpose has not been made known.

Wounded soldiers continue to arrive in Constantinople from the Dardanelles. Von der Goltz is said to have left for Persia, and from there will go on to Afghanistan.

The Turks appear to have a mania for schools just now. Many private houses have been taken for the purpose; amongst others taken at Kadikeuy is that of Mr. Kenny Whittall.

British Residents in Turkey.

It is reported from Smyrna that there was some idea of again concentrating the enemy subjects there.

There is news from Baghdad to the effect that all the British residents there are well, with the exception of Mr., Mrs., and Miss Levack, Mr. and Mrs. Walker and their two children, all of whom left Baghdad on November 7 in the direction of Mosul, their destination being unknown. Neither is it known whether they left of their own free will or were exiled.

DR. SETON-WATSON ON MACEDONIA AND THE YOUNG TURKS.

Last week Dr. Seton-Watson concluded the series of lectures dealing with the Balkan peoples that he has been delivering at King's College. Speaking of the Macedonian problem, he said the people of that country have always been unruly and irrepressible from the beginning of history, and that there has always been an ever-varying racial problem there. To-day it is peopled by a mixture of Turks, Albanians, Jews, Greeks, Bulgars, Serbs, Vlachs, and others. The Vlach element is much larger than is commonly supposed. Bulgar and Serb have wrangled indefinitely over the province, the plain fact being that no human being can draw a line and say that on one side the people are predominantly Serb, and on the other side chiefly Bulgar. This amorphous population, ground for centuries beneath Turkish tyranny and misrule, has within the last fifty years or more been the victim of various political propaganda. At first the Greeks held the field, afterwards came the Bulgars, then the Serbs, and, most recently, the Vlachs. Schools and churches were the chief weapons employed, and rival agitators competed and sometimes paid for the children. You might find a father, himself a Vlach, with one son a Greek, the second a Bulgar, and the third a Serb. Again and again you found people changing their name, or children being transferred from one school to another, because they got into the hands of a rival propaganda—sometimes by peaceful means, sometimes because a band of brigands arrived in the village and imposed a change.

Of the Young Turkish Revolution he said that no other movement had ever been so much misunderstood. It had originated in Salonika, and hardly any of its leaders were full-blooded Turks. They had nearly all lived in exile, where they had been less affected by the true culture of the West than by the wilder spirits of the French revolution. In the first days of the Young Turkish revolution all races and religions had embraced one another in the streets, but the reign of fraternisation was soon over. The Young Turks had begun with a genuine desire to impose reforms from within rather than have them forced upon the country by the European Powers, but their policy had developed into one of Turkification and Jingoism. Skilled observers on the spot had detected from the first the affinity that existed between the Young Turkish leaders and the Prussian system, and had predicted that the German tendency would in time become even more pronounced than it had been under the old régime.

A ROUMANIAN RACING STORY.

A Bucharest correspondent writes as follows regarding an amusing incident in connection with the local Jockey Club :—

"M. Marghiloman, whose pro-German inclinations are well-known, was some time ago hooted on the racecourse by certain Transylvanian Roumanians. Apparently, in revenge for this, he changed the name of one of the autumn races from Prix Transylvanie to Prix St. Jules. Prince G. Moruzzi voices the public indignation in a letter which he has addressed to M. Marghiloman on the subject, and of which the text is as follows :—

'Monsieur le Vice-Président,—J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que, pour ne plus faire une note discordante parmi mes collègues, je ne prendrai plus part aux séances du comité et que je résigne mes fonctions de commissaire des courses; toutefois au cas où une 12me journée serait organisée, je vous recommande de donner à la course principale le nom de Graf Tisza Istvan Dij.—Veuillez agréer, etc., G. Moruzzi.'

"It is curious to note that the Prix St. Jules was won by a horse the property of an Ottoman Prince."

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NEWS FROM SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Port Said, December 15.

A person who, by an extraordinary combination of fortunate circumstances, was able to leave Beyrout a few days ago, has afforded me the opportunity of eliciting the following information, which, besides forming the only recent news about Syria and the Lebanon, may be considered to be entirely reliable.

Turkish "Frightfulness."

The present Vali of Beyrout, Azmy Bey, ex-Chief of Police of Constantinople, is ruling his province with an iron hand. Besides the eleven persons whose execution has already been reported, eight more have been hanged, and fifteen others were expected to meet the same fate about the time of my informant's departure, on the charge of political treason. The policy of terrorism, once initiated, could not but be continued with the utmost rigour, because the first eleven victims consisted partly of the Moslem intellectual *élite* and partly of members of well-known and influential families. The manner of their hanging in the public square has caused a wave of horror and suppressed rage to sweep over the whole Moslem population, so that now, apart from a negligible quantity of unprincipled political adventurers in the pay of the Government, all the inhabitants, Christians and Moslems alike, may be considered to be imbued with the same revengeful spirit towards the Government. There is no more room for conciliation. The gulf is unbridgeable, and the Turks, being in the same desperate plight as their German masters, are, like them, carrying on their policy entirely on the lines of brute force. If any Arabs are left in the forces allotted for the defence of Syria, or for offensive purposes on the Egyptian frontier, it is as likely as not that wholesale desertions will take place among them on the first contact with the Allied troops.

The Coming Attack on Egypt.

Jemal Pasha is, however, said to be no meek listener to German orders, and to be carrying matters much in his own way. He is said to have declared that he will not attempt another attack on Egypt unless the invading army should include at least 25,000 German soldiers. Having realised the dangers and hardships that attended his first tentative attack he would like now to give the Germans a taste of these when they are likely to be aggravated by the increase in numbers and more extensive measures of defence on the part of the enemy.

Consideration for Lebanese.

So far there has been no interference with the privileges of the Lebanon, save in the fact that the ex-Armenian Governor has been replaced by a Turkish Mutessarif. The Kaimakams have practically all been retained in their posts. Indeed, the Maronite Patriarch, on the occasion of his last visit to Jemal Pasha at Beyrout, was received with signal honours. Not only have the inhabitants of the Lebanon not been called upon to perform military service or, failing that, to pay the exoneration tax, but even the Lebanese established in business at Beyrout have been exempted on condition that, while carrying on their business in the town they shall have their dwelling place on Lebanese territory —a fact that implies a full recognition of Lebanese prerogatives. The members of the Administrative Council of the Lebanon, who had been exiled to Jerusalem, have lately been allowed to return. The same relaxed treatment is said to have been extended also to the dragomans of the Allied Consulates at Beyrout; and as this is said to have been done by order of Jemal Pasha, some credence may be attached to the rumour of the survival of his old pro-French sympathies.

The Economic Situation.

My informant confirms the recent reports of economic distress in the country. Even flour is allowed to come down to Beyrout only in driblets. The Turks, being always haunted with the fear of a surprise landing, are careful to leave no provisions along the coast that might prove of immediate assistance to the enemy. The price of the rotl is now about 8 piastres, i.e., about double the normal price. The electric tramway is still running in Beyrout, and the railway service, although much curtailed, is still working.

Treatment of British Prisoners.

As regards the Allied subjects who have been sent over to Urfa, they were at first interned in a special building guarded by gendarmes, but were later allowed to live in houses or hotels of their choice in the town, on the condition that they reported themselves to the police at regular intervals. According to the last report, however, they have been re-interned in the original Government building. A monthly allowance of £4 per person was at first received by the detained through the American consular representative at Urfa; but, later on, the Turkish authorities insisted on these allowances being distributed by them, and according as they judged was strictly required by the needs of each person. The motives underlying this insistence may well be guessed. The degree of rigour marking the measures taken by the Turkish authorities seemed to vary with the political barometer. Owing, presumably, to the recent Balkan successes of the Austro-Germans, and the expected triumphal entry of the latter into Constantinople, Turkish arrogance has reached its maximum, and it is said that even female American subjects were lately refused permission to leave the country.

CONDITIONS IN JAFFA.

A number of refugees from Jaffa arrived at Alexandria on the 5th inst. They consisted mostly of nuns. Those among them who could give any account of the political situation of the country were debarred by the existence of martial law from forming any just appreciation of passing events. According to the *Egyptian Gazette*, however, the newcomers stated that the economical situation was steadily growing worse, owing to the suspension of communications between Syria and foreign countries and the difficulty of communication within the provinces. Petroleum and coffee were no longer to be obtained in Palestine, and people were using olive oil lamps with one wick. Flour was being sold in Jaffa at the rate of P.T.10½ per rotl (two okes); meat at the rate of P.T.2 per ounce (66 dirhams); while eggs were 2 metaliks (about a small piastre) each. Tea was also very dear.

Public security remains very satisfactory everywhere in Palestine, according to the newcomers, and the authorities in Jerusalem are anxious to introduce some reforms into the town, where they are broadening some of the narrow streets.

The Turkish Government has warned the Italian Jews that unless they adopt Ottoman nationality within a fixed period they will be expelled from the country.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, December 15.

The collective *démarche* which has had to be undertaken by the Entente Powers, backed by the embargo placed on Greek vessels in all Allied ports, has resulted in the acceptance of nearly the whole of the demands made in their previous communications providing for the turning of Salonika into an entrenched camp for the Allies. The Greek Government has been forced to agree, under protest, to the withdrawal of two of the three divisions of Greek troops in Salonika, to place conditionally at the disposal of the Allies the military trains, and to authorise them to construct the necessary fortifications. The Government refused only to hand over the Karabournou fort.

The retreat of the Allies to Greek territory having drawn the German and Bulgarian troops as far as the Greek frontier, a very critical situation has arisen. People are asking with painful anxiety whether the Germans and Austrians, and especially the Bulgarians, will penetrate Greek territory, and what the attitude of the Greek Government would be in such an eventuality. It is true that the King, in the audience which he granted to the representative of the American Press, Mr. Hibberd, stated that, in such a contingency, the Greek Army would withdraw, and would leave the belligerents a free field to fight; he even added that Greece would demobilize. Still, in the case of the Bulgarians it is unthinkable that the Greek Army and people should tolerate and view passively their presence in Greek territory, and especially in Salonika, whence the Bulgars, who have already been there once, would not easily be ejected. Everything leads to the belief, however, that they will not be prevailed upon, even by the Germans, to commit such an act of folly, as they would assuredly be foiled by the Greek Army. Besides, the participation of the Bulgar Army would not even suit Germany, as, besides being of no use against the Allies, as it would easily be crushed by the Hellenic forces, it would not be able to take part in any further development of the Balkan campaign.

The Neutral Zone.

In the circumstances, the establishment of a neutral zone between the Greek and Serbian frontiers, from Lake Doiran to Albania, which will avert the danger of a conflict between the two armies, is a measure of precaution that is likely to benefit Germany rather than Greece. The public here are generally pleased at a conflict with Bulgaria having thus been avoided. At the same time, the present is an excellent opportunity, the last perhaps that Greece will ever have, of defeating Bulgaria with the aid of the Allies, if not at once, at any rate when the latter have completed the concentration of all the troops that are expected at Salonika shortly. Greece would thus remove the Bulgar danger, which, with Serbia annihilated, will become a nightmare to her. Unfortunately, however, the public is hypnotised under the influence of Germanophil and Germanophobe circles, and one can only hope that the awakening from the present torpor will not come too late.

The Bulgar Menace.

According to the *Gazette d'Athenes*, which is a German organ, Germany will call upon Greece to disarm the Allies, and as Greece cannot possibly do this, the Central Powers will declare that in these circumstances they also must enter Greek territory. The supporters of M. Venizelos in the Press point out with pain that his pessimistic forecasts have been realised. Doiran-Ghevgheli, that triangle which is considered as the key of the Greek frontier, is in the hands of the Bulgarians, as is Monastir, where they have removed the Greek flag from the schools and station and replaced it by the Bulgarian. M. Passaroff assured some pressmen the other day that Bulgaria would leave Doiran and Ghevgheli to Greece. To-day he even asserted that Bulgaria would respect Greece's neutrality. But we know quite well what weight to attach to the words of M. Passaroff, who, it will be remembered, persisted that Bulgaria would never abandon her neutrality. The Venizelist papers believe that, were it not for the presence of the Allied troops, the Bulgarians would not hesitate to invade Salonika, and the Germans would give them a free hand, just as in Monastir. In support of this contention, the *Patris* recalls the fine promises of the Germanophil Press, according to which Greek neutrality would be rewarded by concessions in the continent, by the cession of Monastir, Doiran, and Ghevgheli, the Dodecanesse, and a part of Albania. "But even supposing," says the *Hestia*, "that the Bulgarians do not enter Macedonia, the presence of Austrian troops cannot be considered less disquieting to Greece in view of the designs which Austria has always had on Salonika and the fact that only quite recently it asked for privileged treatment for its trade, with the right to hoist its flag."

Greece is thus placed in a cruel predicament: the more cruel when one reflects that if the Governments which succeeded M. Venizelos had continued to hold Bulgaria in check by declaring, like him, if only as a bluff, that Greece would not allow her to attack Serbia, instead of stating openly, as they did, that they would remain neutral, the present impasse would have been avoided.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The hope of more rain has not been realised, and, although the sowing of corn continues, there is now considerable anxiety in some districts, including parts of the great central plain.

Maximum Prices Fixed.

The steps taken to ascertain what stores of wheat and barley were being held in the town and district of Nicosia have been completed, and the Commissioner has notified the farmers and merchants concerned that he will proceed to seize and sell on their behalf two-thirds of the quantities held—wheat at 60 piastres (6s. 8d.) the bushel and barley at 30p. (3s. 4d.) The Government action is regarded with general satisfaction, as is also the fixing of prices for meat and certain other articles of consumption. The prices fixed for the present are as follows:—Mutton, 14 piastres (about 1s. 6½d.) the oke; beef, 10p. (1s. 1d.); pork, 12p. (1s. 4d.); olive oil, 50p. (5s. 6½d.) the litre. It is hoped that prices of vegetables and other articles will be similarly regulated. In the early days prices were fixed weekly by the urban municipalities, but this custom was soon abolished under British rule.

Copper Mining.

So far there is little further information regarding the prospects of the American venture in copper mining at Skouriotissa, where a considerable number of labourers are employed. Dr. K. Pantázes has been appointed as physician to those employed in the operations.

Cypriot Greeks and the War.

War and Greek politics occupy the chief part of the Greek papers, which devote numerous articles to the serious and perplexing position of Hellas. Their tenor indicates strongly that Hellenic interests demand that the country should, and must eventually, take her stand on the side of the Entente Powers. Another feature that stamps many of the articles is the spirit of deep-rooted and unconcealed hatred of Bulgaria. Space is also devoted to the reproduction of the views of the British Press regarding the Island; and it is observed, with a note of disappointment, that almost without exception papers express satisfaction that the offer made to Greece was not accepted.

ALLIES' NEW BASE OF OPERATIONS.

Athens, December 30.

The evening papers announce that the Hellenic Government has been informed that detachments of French troops have landed on the island of Castellorizo, in order to facilitate Allied action against Adalia. The Hellenic Government has protested.—Reuter.

Athens, Later.

It appears that the Greek Government was informed by the British authorities that French troops had landed yesterday at Castellorizo with a view to using the island as a base for eventual new operations against Adalia.—Reuter.

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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

CLEARING THE RING.

To all intents and purposes the situation in the Balkans remains unchanged since we last wrote. There has been some severe fighting in the Montenegrin sector, the enemy having been repulsed and severely punished in the battle of Lepenatz on December 23. According to a Reuter message from Cettinje on December 27 this battle was a greater success than at first announced:—"Five hundred bodies were found on the right wing of the contingent which was operating against us, but the Austrian losses in this affair have increased to more than 2,000 killed and wounded. King Nicholas has sent his congratulations to General Vassoievitch, commanding the brigade. An Austrian airplane on the 27th inst. threw several bombs on Podgoritza, killing two Austrian prisoners."

On the other hand, attempts have also been made by the enemy to turn the Montenegrin defence in the direction of Mount Lovchen, the possession of which, it will be remembered, has always been one of Austria's most pronounced objectives in the Balkans. The strategic importance of the mount, overlooking and controlling the Gulf of Cattaro, one of the finest natural harbours in the Adriatic, is enormous, and it is to be hoped that Italy, with her fleet, will come to the aid of its defenders should their defensive position be imperilled. At present this does not seem to be the case, as the following official Montenegrin communiqué received in Paris on Wednesday seems to indicate:—

On our front at Mount Lovchen the Austrians opened artillery fire from their forts and several units of their fleet against Raskovagora, where we maintained ourselves. In fifteen hours they fired 2,000 shells from their big guns, at the same time making fierce attacks with infantry, which were all repulsed. Despite the intensity of the Austrian fire we had only two killed and two wounded, which shows the poorness of the enemy's shooting.

Albania.

In Albania the situation is obscure. Reuter's Agency reports from Paris that, according to a telegram from Salonika, a traveller who has arrived there from Santi Quaranta says that detachments of the Italian Army which landed at Avlona are approaching the frontier of Epirus at certain points. On the other hand, the following French official communication was published yesterday:—

According to information received from Albania the Serbians are being hard pressed by the Bulgarians in the region of Elbasan. The enemy, who disposes of mountain artillery, is gaining territory in that neighbourhood, but, according to the latest advices, has not yet been able to capture the town itself. A certain number of German and Austrian officers, disguised as civilians, have passed through Yanina. They are going towards the centre of Albania to hire and equip bands of mountaineers.

Bukovina and Bessarabia.

The only report to hand of fighting in this region is one emanating from Vienna, and which, of course, attributes to Austrian arms successes which are as yet unconfirmed. The region of the fighting lies between the Dniester and the Pruth, to the north of Czernowitz (north-west of Roumania). We append the Austrian communiqués (Wireless Press) more for the sake of the light they throw on the operations than because their optimism is to be trusted:—

December 28.—On the Bessarabian front and on the Dniester, north-east of Zaleszczyki, repeated attacks made by strong Russian forces were sanguinarily repulsed. The enemy made especial efforts against the sector between the Pruth and the wooded zone to the north of Toporoutz (a few miles from the Bessarabian frontier, between the Pruth and the Dniester). After artillery preparation five infantry attacks were made. All were repulsed. Attacks were made in masses from fifteen to sixteen rows deep, but they broke down under our artillery fire, with very severe enemy loss. An enemy attack north of the Dniester met with the same fate. Our losses are small.

December 29.—On the Bessarabian frontier the enemy repeated yesterday his attacks, which had been proceeded by strong artillery fire. His attacking columns broke down everywhere, at certain places close before our entanglements. To the east of Burkanow (further north, on the Strypa, in Galicia) we withdrew a few advanced guard divisions closer towards our main positions before strong Russian forces.

Operations in this field will be watched with peculiar interest, both on account of their military and their political results. It would surprise no one if, as rumour has it, General Ivanoff is to be opposed by Mackensen, the "hero" (sic) of the Serbian campaign, and the struggle between the two generals will be anxiously followed. The effect of the campaign on Roumania may prove to be one of the decisive factors in all the Near Eastern campaigns.

Salonika.

Glimpses of the situation at Salonika have been revealed to the public during the past week, as the following despatches show. Cabling on December 27 from the British Headquarters in Macedonia, Reuter's correspondent, who had just visited the British lines round Salonika, says:—

Roughly speaking, the Allies' lines extend in a wide semi-circle from the River Vardar to the Gulf of Orphanos (Rendina), making a sweep of about fifty miles, whereof nearly half is naturally defended by the lakes of Langaza and Beshik. The whole of this arc is surrounded by a broad valley, very marshy in some parts, and offering little or no cover to any advancing foe. To the north the ground rises slowly into rolling hills. To the south a girdle of hills guards the approaches to Salonika, two passes affording easy and sheltered means of communication. The hills furnish admirable emplacements for guns, and command the whole length and breadth of the valley. Our trenches would satisfy the most critical expert. They are deep and narrow, with traverses at regular intervals, shelter pits, and communication trenches. The whole system of defence might serve as a model for exhibition purposes. The men seem in excellent health, and are all most eager that the enemy should make an attempt to advance. The valley is really an ideal ground for machine-gun fire, and from the trenches all the assailants' movements would be visible for miles.—Reuter.

Mr. S. Ward Price, the special correspondent of the London Press at Headquarters, in a despatch from Salonika dated December 28, gives the following further particulars concerning the situation:—

The line which we now hold, ten to fifteen miles from Salonika, has, in front of it, a broad and absolutely open field of fire across a bare plain rolling up at intervals of five or six miles into hills that are thoroughly suitable for artillery positions. Moreover, these new works of ours are not linked with our base at Salonika, as were the Irish Division's old lines, by a disjointed line of supply, made up of train, motor-wagon, horse transport, and muleback. Instead, quite a good road runs straight out from Salonika to a central point in the line. Others of more dubious quality branch off to the remoter parts of the front, and motley gangs of Greek labourers are now engaged almost wherever you look in building new roads or repairing the old.

Our trenches guard the northern slope of one of the lines of hills that rib the plain. Our principal trenches lie deep, well sandbagged, and invisible from the front. Three hundred yards after you have passed them, and look back, there is nothing but the blue smoke of camp fires behind them, mingling with the mists that rise from the clayey soil to mark the line on which they lie. Further on across the brown flats that stretch in unbroken treeless monotony to where the next hill ridge rises, six or seven miles away, there are more earthworks, outposts, and advanced posts, covering possible lines of approach along the folds of ground, with machine-guns and trenches buried so flush with the surface that even the sun cannot find enough disturbance in the earth to cast a shadow. It is a most shelterless plain, but its very flatness and absence of cover make it a stout stronghold to maintain on the defensive.

One effect that our retirement, combined with the moving of most of the Greek troops from the neighbourhood of Salonika, has produced is yet another curious problem arising out of the close proximity of the two armies. When the greater part of the Greek garrison left Salonika one section of it was transferred to Seres, near the Bulgarian frontier, and it lies there between us and our enemy. The present position is that the Greeks have withdrawn on both flanks, and left the ground free for the fight between the principal combatants.

General Castelnau is reported to have stated that "Salonika is impregnable," and that "he had full confidence in the final victory of the Allied arms, which was a mathematical certainty"—an assertion the accuracy of which we have never doubted. The questions arise: what force is opposing ours, and when is the struggle between us and the enemy to begin? As regards the last question, the general opinion (to quote *The Times*) in French military circles is that for the moment a German attack is not to be expected. "Mackensen's army has been considerably weakened and is not in sufficient numbers to take action, and for it to detach troops against the French front is absolutely impossible. Thus the Allies look forward to passing the winter in the trenches until the spring, when, having received reinforcements, they will be able to take the offensive."

Clearing the Ring.

Regarding the forces opposed to the Allies on the Greek frontier, they amount, it is assumed, to about 250,000, of which three-fifths are Bulgars and two-fifths Austro-Germans. What forces have we at our disposal to combat this heterogeneous army? Happily it is not known, but in the *Vossische Zeitung* (Berlin) there appeared on December 27 an article from a special correspondent who had been in Salonika on December 19 and 20, and he stated that the Allies numbered 210,000 men, of whom 90,000 were British. He gives some further particulars in the course of a precise sketch which prove conclusively that he has been able (as a mediocre spy) to penetrate to within a few yards of our trenches. This inexplicable circumstance gives rise to two considerations, the first of which is that, if the German spy's figures are accurate, we ought to increase our forces in Salonika. Sportsmen will say that 210,000 Anglo-French troops are a match for any 250,000 enemy troops, but in a world war like this we can take no gambling risks in the last moment, and more depends on the ultimate issue of the Balkan campaign than is generally recognised. Our forces should not be under 300,000, as a minimum.

The second consideration is an even more pertinent one. How is it that a German, or any enemy subject, can be allowed to prowl at his will and ease in the vicinity of our trenches, and then proceed to advertise his success in the Berlin press? The situation at Salonika, politically speaking, is a very obscure and unsatisfactory one, but from the military point of view it should be cleansed, as far as spying is concerned. Admittedly, the matter published in the *Vossische Zeitung* is ridiculously insignificant, but it is hardly likely that all the spy's information found its way to the printer's desk. We must, at any and every cost, guard against the spy-danger in Salonika. In other words, the ring must be cleared of all who are not recognised as combatants, and this must be done to ensure the safety of our own men. Precaution was never so much needed as it is at

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present in Salonika, a hot-bed of international intrigue and the happy hunting ground for enemy spies.

***As we go to press Reuter's Agency quotes a Paris naval communiqué as saying "An Austrian naval division having come out of Cattaro with the intention of bombarding Durazzo, Allied flotillas steamed out to meet it. The Austrian destroyer "Lika" struck a mine, and was blown up. The "Triglav," a sister vessel, was destroyed by the Allied flotillas. Other enemy vessels were chased, and fled towards their base." In this connection we refer our readers to our previous remarks anent the situation in Albania.

The "Lika" and "Triglav" were two of the latest Austrian destroyers, and belonged to a group of six built between 1911-1913. They had a displacement of 800 tons and a speed of 32 knots. They carried two 4-in. and six lighter guns and four torpedo tubes. Their complement was about ninety men. The class had the reputation of being good sea boats, and all did their designed speed or more.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I wonder what Cairo will say to the order which places much difficulty in the way of intending lady visitors to Egypt? I have only had the opportunity of discussing the question with one Anglo-Egyptian, and he was somewhat lacking in gallantry, having contracted a wife in that country for no other reason than that a chance bar of music made him feel lonely at a psychological moment. "Quite right, too," he said, referring to the order; "if the Germans are to be the ninth plague of Egypt, there is every reason why we should remove the eighth at least." And this crabbed disgrace to humanity was referring to women. However, I do not think that this opinion will be held by the majority of British officers during the winter evenings, much as they may rejoice at having the field thoroughly clear in which to meet the Germans, when, and if, they arrive.

***

Few visitors to the Near East will forget the droves of jaded turkeys which make their dejected way from street to street, from village to village, under the guidance of their owner in search of purchasers. I am reminded of them this year because I understand that in Salonika our habit of Christmas diet drove the prices of these birds higher than they had ever been in the past, and placed their lucky owners on the high road to fortune. Even the more hardy and sinuous of these winged pedestrians were selling on Christmas Eve for sums never less than a pound sterling! Half-a-crown is considered a good average price in normal times. On Christmas morning not a turkey was left alive of all the flocks that converged on Salonika. It is an ill wind, indeed, that blows no good at all, and many a Greek returned to his homestead the happier because of the fact of war.

***

I see that the 3rd Battalion, the London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers), has given to Khartoum a new journal. It is published fortnightly, and is known as the *Fusilier Whisper*. I have not yet seen a copy of the paper, and am unprepared to say where the "whisper" comes in; but I can vouch for the fact that it does not enter the sanctum where the editor writes his notes. Rather might we call it a trumpet. Listen. The first issue of the paper was published at 5 mms., the second at 10. Thus the modest editor in the second number:—

> Owing to our meagre acquaintance with Egyptian coinage, and doubtless also to the fact that the literary mind is above such sordid things, we find we have been giving away a piastre's worth of talent for half a piastre. Think of it, and cherish your first number of the *Fusilier Whisper* as an investment at 100 per cent. profit. . . . In this country we look upon half a piastre as a halfpenny (except on pay days!). Let it never be said that we have edited, and the members of the regiment subscribed to, a halfpenny regimental paper. No! We will have a penny paper, even if we have to pay a piastre for it.

I could find it in my heart to pay the one piastre cheerfully could I get hold of a copy of this paper which pats itself on the back so fearlessly in its second number. In proud days yet to come it may be able to come out with brave headlines on days of popular excitement as the "Paper that Consistently Foretold its Worth."

***

In a short note on "Blue-Water Journalism" a writer in the *Morning Post* says:—

> Several numbers of the *Exmouth Express* are also excellent reading. The latest number shows that H.M.S. Exmouth is not content with bombarding the Huns with her batteries, but must take a hand in other adventures. A clever parody of Ingoldsby's "Jackdaw of Rheims" presents Tino in a just and repentant mood, prepared "to join on the side of the Allies or bust." A dose of British sea-power would, no doubt, have that salutary effect in the long run.

I should much like to read the "pome," for the "Jackdaw" is a very old friend of mine. And I have a shrewd suspicion that if the parodist's name were published it might be not unknown to readers of THE NEAR EAST.

***

Some confusion seems to have arisen over the names of the two "towns" on the Tigris, Amarah and Koot-el-Amarah, or, as it is now generally called, Koot. A friend of mine who knows Irak Arabi well reminded me a few days ago that no European in that part of the world ever dreamed of calling Koot "Koot-el-Amarah." Plain "Koot" is good enough for the autochthones, and it ought, therefore, he argued, to be good enough for us. And, being learned in Arabic, he went on to tell me the meaning of the two names. Amarah, he said, is derived from *amarat*—a built thing, that is to say, a thing built of brick or stone; while *Koot* means simply "an enclosure," and owes its use to the fact that the Arabs when settling down for any time at a particular spot like to "enclose" it in some way—usually by a low wall or embankment of mud. I must confess that I do not remember noticing this feature in any of the villages or encampments I came across in Lower Mesopotamia; but my friend has a much longer acquaintance with the country than I have, and is, moreover, as already remarked, something of an Arabic scholar. It is perhaps worth adding that there are dozens of places called Koot in that region. But to-day the untidy little place which has been the centre of so much stiff fighting is emphatically *the* Koot.

***

I was once in the company of two archæologists, both well known in the Near East, when, in discussing the tricks of native diggers and the wiles of antiquity dealers, they drifted into an argument concerning the value of circumstantial evidence, and one of them told the following curious story. I admit that at the time I regarded it as of the *ben trovato* type, but I heard it again recently, and I am now inclined to believe it. Some years ago a foreign prince who is an ardent numismatist was visiting this country as the guest of our Sovereign, and one day he paid a quite informal visit to the British Museum and asked to be shown a particular coin, a great rarity, which was, indeed, believed to be the only specimen of its kind extant. It was, if I remember aright, a coin minted in one of the cities of Northern Syria about the third century B.C. The curator took his distinguished caller to his own room, and there produced the coin for his inspection. Then, while the prince was examining it, he turned his back for an instant, and at that moment the visitor uttered an exclamation and there was the sound of a coin falling to the ground. His Highness apologised for his carelessness with such a treasure, and joined the curator in the search for it. But it was not to be found.

***

Despite his visitor's rank, the curator could not avoid feeling suspicious, and the prince's obvious agitation, which increased rapidly, only served to confirm his suspicions. When the prince finally announced that he must go, as he had an important appointment, suspicion became practically certainty. "I fear that I cannot——" he began, and hesitated. "Cannot let me go?" said the prince, more agitated than ever. The luckless curator was on the point of saying "Yes," when suddenly his eye fell on the coin standing on edge against the skirting of the room. He pounced on it at once, of course. The prince heaved a sigh of frank relief. "Consider my feelings, my dear sir!" he said excitedly. "You thought yours was the only coin of its kind in the world—you have told me so—but see!" And he produced from his pocket the fellow to the "unique specimen." "I acquired it lately," he explained, "and I said nothing about it because I wished to compare it with your specimen, and if it proved similar, to surprise you. But when the accident occurred I realised at once what you might think; and when I pictured you demanding that I should be searched—as I should certainly have done in your place, and as you would have been perfectly justified in doing—well, you may imagine my sensations!" Of course, the curator protested; and he and his caller parted on the best of terms. But if the coin had *not* turned up at the moment it did, what, I wonder, would have happened?

CORSAIR.

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received the following official telegram:—

"On the 26th instant our troops in the Sandjak district continued their offensive operations. After a fierce struggle, which lasted all day, we succeeded in retaking several villages which had fallen into the hands of the enemy, notably Gadouche, Donevo, and Dobrido. The Austrians suffered heavy losses. Artillery duels continue on other fronts."

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE UNEARTHING OF BABYLON.*

In its early days the honourable work of excavation and exploration amongst the ruin-mounds of Babylonia and Assyria was largely in the hands of Englishmen. It was James Claudius Rich, the East India Company's Resident at Baghdad, who made the first systematic surveys of Nineveh and of Babylon, nearly a century ago; and his work was followed up by Mignan, Fraser, Ainsworth, Loftus, Taylor and Layard—to name but a few of our countrymen who laboured in one way or another in the field of archæological research. In recent years, however, we have strangely neglected this work, probably because the Nile Valley has proved a greater attraction to our professional excavators; and though the British Museum has done some digging in the north, the south has been left almost entirely to the Americans, the French and the Germans, who have all spent considerable sums on excavations here, and have all obtained notable results. Babylonia, in fact, in spite of its strong claims on our interest, has been scandalously deserted by our "diggers," and the Assyriologist has fallen from the proud position he held in this country in the days of Layard and Smith into a kind of scientific Cinderella. The operations of our Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force having served to draw attention to the region once more, it is to be hoped that we may, in the near future, witness a marked change in this state of affairs. THE NEAR EAST has on more than one occasion pointed out how excavation and exploitation have gone hand in hand in Turkey in the past, and how, in the case of the Germans at least, the "scientific explorer" has often proved a valuable assistant to the political schemer. The Emperor of Germany, it is worth noting, is a patron of the excavations carried on at Babylon by Dr. Koldewey and his assistants; and unless the present reviewer is much mistaken, H.I.M. subscribed handsomely to the cost of the work in its early stages. Moreover, it is not without significance that the Germans first became active in the matter of excavations in this region at the time when the Baghdad Railway project began to materialize.

It must not be inferred from these remarks that Dr. Koldewey and his assistants are wolves in sheep's clothing. That the knowledge of the country they have gained during their residence in it and their journeys through it has been of service to the German—and even to the Turkish—military authorities is more than likely; but that is not to their discredit, of course, and Germany is not alone in benefiting by information gleaned by her archæologists. Certainly no one who has met Dr. Koldewey would be inclined to suspect him of any dishonourable act, or to regard him as a deliberate maker of mischief. He is a genial giant, with a genuine enthusiasm for his work and a keen appreciation of his good fortune in being given the chance to unearth one of the most important and most interesting sites that the heart of any digger could desire. And this imposing record of what has been already achieved suffices to show how well qualified he is to make the best use of his opportunity.

The book is, on the whole, commendably free from theorising; and though it is not an entirely easy one to read—partly, perhaps, because the translation of technical terms and phrases in a work of this character is always a matter of great difficulty—it will well repay reading, not only by the student of Babylonian history and the student of early architecture and art, but also by the general reader. In spite of the fact just hinted at, and of certain passages here and there which, one is inclined to think, might have been rendered more happily, Mrs. Johns is to be congratulated on making the work accessible to the English reader; while the publishers have, both with regard to letterpress and illustrations, fully maintained their reputation for excellent productions. Perhaps the most irritating feature of the book in its Englished form is the retention of the abominable and utterly unnecessary (in an English rendering) "dj" in such Arabic words as "djird" (for *jird*, or, better, *churd*) and "Djumdjumma" (for *Jumjumma*). Another small alteration which should certainly be made in future editions is the substitution of the word "hoes" for "axes" in the sentence—on page 24—in which we are told that the workmen "carry away the earth in baskets which are filled by three men with broad axes." Unless the Germans have made a radical change in their methods since the present writer had the pleasure of visiting the excavations, the implements here referred to are the short-handled, triangular-bladed Arab hoes (*fasses*). Any axe, however carefully wielded, would certainly play havoc with the mud ruins!

Dr. Koldewey believes that Babylon existed in prehistoric times, and though he hardly adduces sufficient evidence on the point, he is probably not mistaken; but the lower levels of the site cannot be thoroughly investigated, owing to the presence of water, and "the earliest accessible ruins belong to the time of the first Babylonian kings (Hammurabi, *circa* 2500 B.C.)." Even so, the site was occupied up to the third or fourth century A.D., probably later; and this fact will suffice to show the reader how impossible it would be to give within the scope of any ordinary review even a sketch of the history of the city as far as the excavations already carried out have served to reveal it. It makes quite fascinating reading as set out by the author, for it deals with many subjects that have been in one sense familiar to most of us from childhood's days, and have yet been at the same time matter for conjecture and speculation. Thus we have described for us "the scene of Belshazzar's eventful banquet," and a building which Dr. Koldewey believes—though here again we find his arguments not quite convincing—to have been the famous "hanging gardens"; while buildings of Nebuchadnezzar, Sargon, Nabonidus, and many other great rulers are described in detail, and illustrated with plans, sections and photographs. There are, too, descriptions and many illustrations of smaller objects brought to light in the course of the excavations—such as lamps, statuettes and figurines, vases, tablets, beads and jewellery—all of which help us to picture for ourselves the life that once went on its way in this great city that has for centuries been buried in its own ruins. Many of these minor objects are extremely artistic, both in conception and in execution, though few of them have the charm of Egyptian relics of the same age and class.

The student of architecture will find much to interest him in the book. The Babylonian builders laboured under great disadvantages as compared with their rivals in the Nile Valley: they had no good stone available, and, the entire plain being formed of silt deposited by the two great rivers, the problem of providing a satisfactory foundation for any large building must always have been a difficult one to solve. Their great gateways, for instance, which were of a particularly massive character, must always have had a greater tendency to settle, or sink, than the walls which they pierced. Dr. Koldewey shows how this difficulty was met and overcome; and his explanation, which is novel and original, demonstrates the skill of the builders. His theory regarding the probable use of certain narrow chambers, the existence of which in Baylonian buildings has puzzled many people, is probably a sound one: he suggests that they may have been occupied by stairs, giving access to the upper stories, or the flat roofs, as the case might be.

But the most artistic feature of the buildings of old Babylon—and one that will appeal to the "man in the street," as well as to the architect—was the employment of very fine enamelled bricks in the decoration of some of the gateways and portions of the city walls. These bricks are illustrated by means of coloured plates, and a detailed description of the method of their manufacture and of their building up to form the design is given. Dr. Koldewey is justifiably proud of them; for, prior to his excavations, "no example of the plastic art of the time of Nebuchadnezzar was known," and they are undoubtedly a discovery which any excavator would rejoice over. He is to be heartily congratulated upon the find and on the manner in which he has turned it to account in illustrating the glyptic art of the period. It is only fair to add that he and his co-workers have deserved all the success they have achieved here and elsewhere on the site. For, as this book shows, they have worked systematically, methodically and patiently—in a manner worthy of the site. More than that could hardly be said.

*"The Excavations at Babylon." By Robert Koldewey. Translated by Agnes S. Johns. (Macmillan and Co. 21s. net.)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

FOR OUR TROOPS IN PERSIA AND IRAK.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I beg the hospitality of your pages to make known to your readers the existence of a fund instituted by Mrs. Marling (wife of his Majesty's Minister at Teheran) for the providing of comforts to the troops in the Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia.

Subscriptions in Persia and amongst friends at home have reached a total of £1,400, but as the fund has not been advertised at all it is not improbable that there are many readers of your journal who have interests in the Near and Middle East who have not heard of the fund and who would willingly subscribe on becoming aware of its existence.

It is superfluous to dilate on the splendid achievements of our troops in Mesopotamia, and no words can do justice to the magnificent courage they have always displayed under excessively trying climatic conditions.

Subscriptions will be received and acknowledged by the Imperial Bank of Persia, Abchurch Lane, E.C.—I am, etc.,

Teheran, November 29, 1915. M.

THE CYPRUS TRIBUTE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—This is a question of such overwhelming importance to the island that, in consequence, I crave your permission to state the case in as few words as possible.

The cardinal mistake, made almost from the first, was the designation "tribute." In the Convention of June 4, 1878, the Sultan assigns the island of Cyprus to be occupied and administered by England. At that date the cession was unconditional. But on July 1 an annexe was agreed to, under which the excess revenue was to be paid by England to the Porte. Henceforth all Blue Books and Parliamentary returns were headed "Surplus Revenue." Who, then, first used the term "tribute"? A Blue Book, Turkey No. 7 (1881), bearing the title "Surplus Revenue of Cyprus," throws light on this point. In the despatches the term "surplus revenue" is used, with one exception—that of Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen, dated Foreign Office, March 3, 1881. In this despatch his Lordship alludes incidentally to the Egyptian tribute, and then discusses the payment of the Cyprus "tribute." From that time onward the word tribute has been freely used by all sorts and conditions of men. But is the term correct? Egypt pays, or used to pay, £72,000 a year to Turkey in return for the grant of self-government. That payment is quite correctly called a tribute. But how about Cyprus? In the "Handbook of Cyprus," edited by two Government officials and containing information supplied by other heads of departments, I find these words: "The annual payment amounts to £92,000, which is commonly called the 'tribute.'"

It is curious how most of those who write or speak about the island shy off when they mention the "tribute." A magazine article lately written by a banker for years resident in the island dismisses the subject in a few words, and in an address delivered last month at the Royal Colonial Institute the speaker, when enumerating the chief obstacles to progress, mentioned amongst others "the burden of the tribute, fixed on a questionable basis, which has drained the island and deprived it of many advantages." And there he left it

It would be easy to quote writers and speakers who have drawn attention to the injustice of the impost placed on the necks of the inhabitants for the long period of thirty-six years; but one must suffice. On May 25, 1881, Sir William Harcourt, in the House of Commons, used these words: "The Secretary to the Treasury had altogether failed to appreciate the point. It was not a question whether the money was paid into the Treasury, but whether it was taken from Cyprus. Cyprus was the only dependency of England that he knew in which we took money out of the country and devoted it to other purposes. The money was taken out of an extremely poor country, and that, in his opinion, was a most unsatisfactory state of things." The financial year ends on March 31, so that there is not much time left if the injustice is to be put an end to. A temporary measure of relief might easily be resorted to. The Egyptian tribute is not to be paid this year, so I infer from the statement made by Sir Edward Grey in the House of Commons on November 11. Sir Edward said: "The Egyptian Government have, I understand, decided that, in view of the various issues involved, it will be desirable to defer the question of the tribute, formerly payable from Egypt to Turkey, for consideration after the conclusion of the war." The British Government should follow a like course.

To enable your readers to grasp the financial position of the island the following statement may suffice:—On March 31, 1912,

The tribute payments amounted to £3,069,139
The grants in aid amounted to 1,097,085

So that the island has been bled to the tune of £1,972,054

That was in the year 1912. Since then further sums have been taken, from a population dependent solely on agriculture. And seemingly the process is to be repeated this year; for in the Estimates for the year appears the following:—"Share of Cyprus of the Turkish Debt charge: Estimate for 1915-1916, £92,800.—C. W. ORR. February 10, 1915." The island is now a British colony. The taxpayers appeal to Britain for redress.—I am, etc.,

GEORGE L. HOUSTOUN.

Kyrenia, Cyprus, December 11.

GREECE AND THE ENTENTE.

London Greek Views.

On Thursday evening of last week a special meeting of the Hellenic community in London was held in the crypt of the Greek Church, Bayswater, for the purpose of electing delegates to represent them at the Congress to be held in Paris on January 8 with the object of safeguarding the interests of Hellenism. Mr. L. Messinesi presided. It was explained that on December 15 the Paris Congress, being fixed at the time for three days later, a telegram was despatched regretting that insufficiency of time would prevent the community in London sending delegates, but expressing the community's strong conviction that the interests of Hellenism were wholly bound up with the cause of the Entente, and that they viewed with grave concern and alarm the turn events had taken. The date of holding the Congress was subsequently, at the request of the American and other Hellenic communities, postponed until January 8. The meeting expressed gratification at the fact that the altered date of holding the Congress would enable delegates to be sent, unanimously approved of the sentiment conveyed in the telegram, and elected two delegates to represent the London community in Paris on January 8.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1915. Dec. 31	1915. Dec. 18	Friday	1334. Safar. 23	5676. Tebet. 24
1916. Jan. 1	19	Saturday.....	24	25
2	20	Sunday	25	26
3	21	Monday	26	27
4	22	Tuesday	27	28
5	23	Wednesday	28	29
6	24	Thursday	29	Shebat. 1

To-day is the birthday of H.R.H. Victoria Adelaide, Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

Monday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Mircea of Roumania, third son of King Ferdinand and Queen Marie, who was born in Bucharest on December 21, 1912 (Old Style).

Wednesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Ileana of Roumania, who was born in Bucharest on December 23, 1908 (Old Style).

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, has received the following official telegram:—A formal denial is given from Cettinje to the report, published in certain newspapers, that the Royal Family of Montenegro has left for Italy.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent telegraphs that Major-General Sir John Maxwell, commanding the British forces in Egypt, has sent the following reply to King George's Christmas message to his forces:—"The officers and men of your armies in Egypt, both in the ranks and in hospitals, drawn from the United Kingdom, the Dominions, and India, unite in humble thanks for your Majesty's gracious and inspiring greetings. We are proud of the confidence placed in us and in this share we are taking in the fight for victory. We offer your Majesties and the Royal Family our humble and heartfelt greetings."

Lady (Arthur) Paget is naturally delighted at the safe arrival from Serbia of her daughter, Lady Paget, who has been doing such heroic Red Cross work and is married to her cousin, Sir Ralph Paget, until lately the British Minister at Belgrade, says the *Sunday Times*. The ex-Minister, as he must be described for the present, returns with his wife to London.

The British Red Cross Society announced last Friday that all their Montenegrin units under Dr. Clemow had arrived safely in England.

Major Josiah Wedgwood, M.P., left England last week, to resume active service.

A Cyprus correspondent writes:—
The Greek Archbishop, Kyrillos, has been laid up. His malady, though painful, is not of a serious character, and it is hoped that he will soon be able to resume his duties.
The new Greek Consul, M. Parasakevópoulos, has been at the capital and has paid a visit to the High Commissioner.

On December 21, in Cairo, the wife of Mr. Frederic H. Teall, of the Egyptian Police, gave birth to a son.

On Christmas Day at Maison Antoniou, Giza, Egypt, the wife of Mr. M. Keith Rice-Oxley, A.M.I.C.E., gave birth to a daughter.

The marriage of Lieutenant M. C. Albright, Worcestershire Yeomanry, and Miss Barbara Strickland will take place at Cairo on January 3, at a quarter-past two o'clock.

The marriage has taken place of Lieutenant A. W. Strickland, Gloucestershire Yeomanry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Algernon Strickland, and Lady Mary Charteris, second daughter of the Earl and Countess of Wemyss, at St. Mary's Church, Cairo. The bride was given away by Sir Ronald Graham, and the bridegroom was attended by Lieutenant Martin C. Albright. Dr. R. MacInnes, the Bishop in Jerusalem and the East, performed the rite. After the ceremony Lady Elcho gave a reception at 8, Zamalek, Gezira.

The Press Association is informed that the marriage took place in Cairo on Monday of Lord Loughborough, eldest son of the Earl of Rosslyn, to Miss Sheila Chisholm. The engagement was announced in July last. Lord Loughborough is the son of the Earl and his first wife, who was a daughter of that well-known sportsman, Mr. R. C. de Grey Vyner, of Gautby Hall, who left a fortune of nearly a million. The lady is now the wife of Mr. Charles Jarrott, of motoring fame. Lord Loughborough came of age about two years ago.

The death of Mohammed Zuhri Pasha, Under-Secretary of State for War, is announced at Cairo.

News has been received at Alexandria of the death of the Baroness M. de Menasce, sister of the late Padoa Bey.

It is reported from Fareham that Colonel Charles Jolliffe has died there at the age of eighty-six years. He received his commission in the Royal Marine Artillery in 1848, and saw service in the Crimean Campaign in 1854. At Balaclava he commanded a battery, and was attached to the Royal Artillery siege train at the bombardment and fall of Sevastopol, and was present at the bombardment and surrender of Kinbourn. He received a medal with clasp, and was made a Knight of the Legion of Honour. In 1874 he retired with the honorary rank of Colonel.

The funeral of Sir Thomas Jackson, Chairman of the Imperial Bank of Persia, took place at St. Mary's Parish Church, Stansted, Essex, last Friday. Immediately behind the coffin walked Captain Julius Jackson, 60th King's Royal Rifles (second son), and Mrs. Julius Jackson. Other mourners were Lieutenant Russell Jackson, R.G.A. (third son), Major A. M. Tabor, 3rd Hussars, and Mrs. Tabor (daughter), Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs. Raymond Marker, and Miss D. St. F. Jackson (daughters). The heir to the baronetcy, Brigadier-General Thomas Dare Jackson, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, and the youngest son, Lieutenant C. S. Jackson, Coldstream Guards, were unable to attend, both being on active service in France. There were also present Lady Cameron, Lord Blyth, the Hon. Herbert W. Blyth, Sir John McLeavy Brown, the Hon. Sir Fielding Clarke, Sir Walter Gilbey, Colonel David Chapman, Co'onel Healey, Mr. Annan Bryce, M.P., Mr. G. Newell (manager of the Imperial Bank of Persia).

A Memorial Service was held at noon the same day at All Hallows Church, Lombard Street. Among those present were the Persian Minister, Viscount St. Aldwyn, the Hon. Sir Eric and Lady Barrington, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Seymour, Lord Inchcape, Mr. W. H. N. Goschen, and Mr. Wynnard Hooper.

Mr. James Currie, C.M.G., has been appointed to give effect to the policy of the Labour Supply Department of the Ministry of Munitions in relation to the training of munition workers. Mr. Currie was Principal of the Gordon College, Khartoum, and Director of Education in the Sudan from 1900 till 1914. From 1911 till 1914 he was a member of the Governor-General's Council for the Sudan.

Captain Malcolm A. Macdonald, who was senior house surgeon of the Prince of Wales's Hospital, London, when he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps on the outbreak of war, is to receive the French Military Cross for conspicuous surgical services while under fire at Gallipoli. Captain Macdonald belongs to Row, Dumbartonshire.

The *Sunday Times* remarks that the ban which the Egyptian authorities is placing against any further arrival for the present of fashionable English women desirous of wintering in Cairo, has somewhat disturbed the plans of one or two notable families. The Marchioness of Tichfield, who went to pay a flying visit to her husband, the Duke of Portland's heir, is home again from Cairo, and so are Lady Henry and Lady Charles Bentinck. Lady Tullibardine is still there, and so are Lady Elcho and Lady Mary Strickland. These three ladies are doing noble work at Sir Milne Cheetham's convalescent home for officers.

Mrs. Webster, wife of Dr. Webster, a well-known professor of the School of Medicine in the Syrian Protestant College, Beyrout, arrived at Alexandria a fortnight ago from Syria, viâ Cyprus, together with some other lady passengers. According to the newcomers (says the *Egyptian Gazette*) the American College has begun to teach Turkish in its lower sections, in compliance with the request of the Turkish Government. The students of the college are about 700 in number this year, including many students from the other European schools of Beyrout, which have been closed since the outbreak of the war

Lord Ninian Edward Crichton-Stuart, the former M.P. for Cardiff, and younger brother of the Marquis of Bute, who was killed in action on October 2 last, in his thirty-third year, left unsettled personal property in England and Scotland of the value of £49,744. The bequests include £1,000 to King Edward VII. Hospital, Cardiff, to endow a bed in the children's ward in memory of his son Ninian Patrick; and a picture of himself in khaki uniform, done in the best way that can be from a photograph, to his constituents at Cardiff, to be held in trust by the Mayor of Cardiff for the time being.

Sir Charles Augustus Hartley, K.C.M.G., "The Father of the Danube," the distinguished engineer, of 26, Pall Mall, S.W who was born at Hedworth, Durham, in 1825, and died on February 20 last, left estate valued at £59,037 gross, with net personalty £58,338. Amongst the legacies were: £100 each to the English Church, the Roman Catholic School, and the British Seamen's Institute at Sulina, Roumania.

A correspondent of *The Times* recalls Lord Kitchener's opinion of the Bulgarians written nearly forty years ago, when he was a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. In 1877 he visited the Turkish lines during the Russo-Turkish War, and in recording his experiences in *Blackwood's Magazine* of February, 1878, he says of the Bulgarians:—"They seem to be a most despicable race. Morally they appear to be at the lowest ebb."

A Bucharest telegram to the *Giornale d'Italia* says the police have arrested a Hungarian and two natives of Transylvania who had come to the Roumanian capital to blow up the residences of MM. Filinescu, Jonescu, Constantinescu, and Bratiano. The three men had in their possession 50,000 crowns.

A telegram from Cairo states that the troops in Egypt celebrated the holidays in the heartiest fashion. Concerts and entertainments were given in hospitals and camps.

According to the *Egyptian Gazette*, Mr. Maurice Abbate, grandson of the late Dr. Abbate Pasha, has committed suicide by taking a large dose of corrosive sublimate. He died a few hours later.

In addition to the £2,800 from New South Wales, the Serbian Relief Fund has this week received £750 from the Mayor of Southport's Fund for the homeless and starving refugees.

By order of King Ferdinand the Bulgarian Military Attaché at Berlin has driven fifty golden nails into the statue of Field-Marshal von Hindenburg. Each nail cost £5.

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The late Mr. F. W. Manson, whose death was briefly announced in our columns last week, was the son of the late Mr. William Pitt Manson, barrister, and was born at Muswell Hill in 1850. He was educated at Highgate School, which he entered when he was eleven years of age. Mr. Manson, although a keen business man, was not generally interested in public companies, and was chairman of one only. He was Master of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers in Coronation year, when he took a prominent part in the festivities organised on that occasion; he remained a member of the Court of Ironmongers until the time of his death. His public appointments included that of governorship of the Westminster Hospital, and he was also on the executive of the City and Guilds of London Institute. Mr. Manson was one of the oldest members of the City of London Club; his other clubs included the Union and the Arts. He was a man of exceptionally wide interests, and was a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society. His personal tastes, however, tended rather to art, and he was a keen collector of pictures. He leaves a widow and five children—two sons and three daughters.

A correspondent writes:—"The production of Mr. Algernon Blackwood's phantasy, 'The Starlight Express,' took place at the Kingsway Theatre on Wednesday, and a brief notice of the play may be of interest to the many readers who are familiar with Mr. Blackwood, through his charming studies of Egypt or the medium of his novels. The play is adapted from 'A Prisoner in Fairyland'—the 'Book that Uncle Paul wrote'—and shows a wealth of imagination such as this author's works have led us to expect. If, as a play, it is not altogether satisfying, the fault may be traced to too keen a desire to point the moral, and a tendency to ignore the dramatic claim of action. This, however, is a fault that may very easily be remedied, and, on the whole, the piece may be welcomed as a very charming addition to our all too limited stock of children's plays. Sir Edward Elgar's music is charming. The production was very favourably received by a crowded house, which made insistent calls for the author and greeted him with vociferous applause when he appeared before the curtain."

The Countess of Chesterfield appeals for gifts for our gallant sailors and soldiers in the hospital and convalescent camps at Malta, in Egypt, and elsewhere in the Eastern sphere of the war. For the convalescent camp at Malta the Y.M.C.A. have been specially asked to send out two or three violins, two violoncellos, a double bass, and other musical instruments, new or secondhand. Games of all kinds are urgently needed, both for Malta and the Y.M.C.A. centres in Egypt. Bagatelle boards, footballs, gramophones, chess, draughts, dominoes, and cribbage are amongst the most useful. None of these can be procured on the spot. Gifts in kind and donations of money addressed to the Countess of Chesterfield (hon. secretary), Scudamore House, Regent's Park, N.W., will be most gratefully received.

Mr. G. R. Clarke, Postmaster-General in the Punjab, who is coming home on six months' leave, has been deputed to inspect the Field Post Office Administration in Egypt.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

M. Kallergis, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Greek Minister in Constantinople, states an Athens telegram to the *Petit Parisien*.

Kaim. C. L. Smith Bey, V.C., second in command of the Camel Corps, Egyptian Army, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

Bimbashi A. G. Cummins, M.B., of the Egyptian Medical Corps, has been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam.

Apropos of the appointment of Colonel G. Eskourt Matthews, C.B., R.M.L.I., to be a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, the *Naval and Military Record* gives the following details of his services, which, it will be observed, have been chiefly in Egypt and the Sudan:—He was seconded for service with the Egyptian Army, January 6, 1897, to January, 1910; served in the Egyptian Army, Nile operations, 1897 (medal and clasp), and was mentioned in the Sirdar's despatch relative to the battle of the Atbara, in which he served with the 14th Sudanese Battalion; and battle of Khartoum. He received the brevet of major, November 16, 1898; was with the Nile Expedition of 1899, including the first advance against the Khalifa (Egyptian medal with four clasps), was decorated by the Khedive with the Order of the Mejidieh, 3rd class, in recognition of his services during the Sudan Civil Administration, 1901; received from the Sirdar the thanks of the Sudan Government for his action with regard to the Mek of the Shilluks, May, 1903; 1st Class Military District, Upper Nile; Governor of Province, 1st Class, Upper Nile. On January 22, 1907, he received the King's authority to accept and wear the decoration of the Imperial Ottoman Order of the Osmanieh, 3rd Class, conferred on him by the Khedive of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered to his Highness. The Khedive also conferred on him the Order of the 2nd Class of the Mejidieh. He was seconded for service with the Egyptian Army September 1, 1910; and received the C.B. on the Coronation of King George V., June 19, 1911. The following, dated Khartoum, September 7, 1913, appeared in Egyptian Army Orders:—"On the departure of El Lewa Matthews Pasha, C.B., on relinquishing the command of the Khartoum District, the Sirdar desires to express his appreciation of the valuable service rendered by this officer in the above responsible and onerous appointment. By his untiring energy and devotion to duty Matthews Pasha has brought the troops under his command to a high state of efficiency. The Sirdar desires, on behalf of all ranks, to wish him all prosperity and happiness in his future career."

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY.

Mrs. Frank Barker is giving a "White Elephant" party at Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, Belgrave Square, S.W., on January 11, at 2.30 p.m., in aid of British subjects who have had to leave the Near East owing to the war, and who in many cases are temporarily in great monetary distress.

The "British Refugees from Turkey Fund," which started a year ago under the patronage of H.R.H. Princess Louise of Argyle, has done much good work, and it is hoped that anyone interested will attend the sale, and so enable the committee to continue giving relief to many who, through no fault of their own, are in great need. Tickets, at 2s. 6d., entitling the holder to a prize, may be had from Lady Neave, George Hotel, Bangor, Wales; Lady Lowther, "Whitehall," Sandwich; Mrs. Frank Barker, Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, Belgrave Square, S.W.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 2s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTH.

TEALL.—On December 21, at Cairo, the wife of Frederic H. Teall, Egyptian Police—a son.

DEATH.

TITE.—On the 7th inst., Norman Eric, the dearly loved infant of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Tite, Zeitoun, Egypt, aged nine weeks.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1915.

A YEAR OF STORM AND STRESS.

With the close of 1915 another year of storm and stress has passed over the Near East. Only one country, Roumania, has succeeded in keeping the war out of her territory; but she stands ready armed, waiting for the moment when she, too, will have to take her part in the fray. In the meantime the stress has been hers. Surrounded by belligerents on all sides, except where the Black Sea bounds her on the east, she has had to watch her commercial and industrial life subjected to all the disabilities of a nation at war. Her neutrality has only been maintained at the cost of much domestic bickering and bitterness. The causes which prompted it have changed with the varying phases of the war, and at no time has the Government appeared to be sufficiently sure of itself and of its policy to take the nation into its confidence. Its attitude of reserve has left the country a prey to the worst intrigues, with the result that, while every instinct pledges Roumania to the Entente Powers, no Roumanian can be sure that any social stratum has remained entirely impervious to the arguments of German gold. If such uncertainty prevails at home, it is inevitable that the Roumanians of Transylvania, who have looked to their kinsfolk across the Carpathians for salvation, should be concerned to see month after month pass without any steps being taken to liberate them from the Hungarian yoke. There is no reason to doubt, however, that an understanding exists between the Roumanian Government and the Entente Powers, on the strength of which the former is confident of being able ultimately to justify its policy in the eyes of the people and of Roumanians abroad.

Greece, too, has clung to neutrality, and her people are divided into two opposing camps. The absence of any enthusiasm for war and the fact that the only two men who can claim any great personal popularity are at the head of the rival factions have helped to bring about the present state of affairs. If the cause of neutrality had not been championed by King Constantine, there can be no doubt that the country would have followed M. Venizelos almost to a man in his espousal of the Allies' cause. As things are, the bulk of the electorate stand aside from the polls at his bidding, but feel powerless for the time being to thwart the policy of non-intervention in the war which the King and his advisers have adopted and are carrying, it seems, to strange lengths. Some idea of the political stress through which Greece has passed may be gauged from the sequence of five Ministries which have held the reins of government during the past year, while a further Cabinet crisis is threatened. The only result of these changes, as far as the nation can see to-day, is that one group of belligerents is in occupation of an important section of Greek territory, which may shortly be put to fire and sword by the other group of belligerents in an attempt to take possession of it. That second group includes Greece's hereditary enemies, the Bulgarians; but she has so played her cards that she is no longer in a position to strike a blow for the protection of her own soil against the threatened invasion. The sins of omission and commission which have led to this disastrous position are not confined to Greece. Not the least of the difficulties of her position has been to form a correct appreciation of the intentions of the Entente Powers. As the latter have consistently refused to formulate those intentions, Greece's perplexity has been great. But for this she has herself to blame. If instead of trying to adjust her policy to that of the Entente she had boldly pursued the one to which she was solemnly committed by a written pledge, she would have saved herself much embarrassment and laid the Allied Powers under considerable obligations. By proving false to her treaty with Serbia she has contributed as directly as has her arch-enemy Bulgaria to her present troubles. The New Year finds her probably at the zenith of her dilemma; but it is impossible to say how she will escape from it. She is admittedly living from hand to mouth, and the task of a patriotic Government in the coming year will be not only to extricate the country from a false position, but also to restore Greece to the honourable place which she once occupied in European esteem.

For Serbia the year 1915 opened, for a country at war, propitiously. The Austrians had been expelled from Serbian territory, and showed no inclination to resume the offensive. Time was given to the sorely tried army to recuperate and to replenish its supplies. Soon, however, the gaunt spectre of disease—almost more terrible in its effect than the enemy—stalked through the land. The loss of life was comparatively great, but in the end, thanks to Serbian physique and to the way in which the nation lent itself to foreign ministrations, this trouble too was overcome. By the middle of the year the continued freedom from Austrian invasion was beginning to have an unfortunate effect on the counsels of the Serbian Government. The Allied Powers, who had only just begun to appreciate the inwardness of the Balkan question, found that they were hampered at every turn by Serbo-Bulgarian antagonism. In an heroic attempt to put an end to this, Serbia was called upon to sacrifice some of her Macedonian territory to Bulgaria. Before she could be brought to acquiesce the menace of a fresh invasion had arisen on her northern frontier. This time the Austrians were reinforced by German troops, and the whole expedition was placed under the successful Field Marshal von Mackensen. It moved forward, after preliminary failures to cross the Danube and Save, on October 6. Eight days later the Bulgarians, who had begun to mobilize on September 19, joined in the attack on Serbia. From this date the enemy's advance was rapid. Serbia was overrun by the end of November, and the remnant of the Serbian army was making good its escape, at the cost of its supplies and heavy artillery, across Montenegro and the Albanian mountains. But in spite of the German Emperor's proclamation to his "Serbian people," in spite, too, of Bulgarian boasts, every Serbian, from King Peter to the humblest peasant, has probably a sincerer belief in the ultimate triumph of his country's cause than the majority of the Bulgarians, and, indeed, of the Germans, have in the victory of their arms.

The prospects for the New Year would be brighter, if it could be felt that out of the storm and stress of 1915 a new and purged Near East would arise. But at first sight the purifying effects associated with fire seem to be lacking in the conflagration which has swept across the Balkans. The need of the Peninsula was for peace. Its well-being might have been furthered by joint participation in the war on the side of the Entente Powers, as such action would have promoted a feeling of solidarity and emphasized the community of interests of the different States. But the recurrence of civil strife in the Balkans may well leave the situation as unsatisfactory as it was after the signing of the Treaty of Bucharest, unless wise statesmanship is to be given a free hand in determining the settlement when the war is over. It will be hard to reconcile righteous indignation at the treachery of Bulgaria, and the disappointment which Greece's attitude has caused, with the solicitude for the future welfare of the Near East which the Entente Powers ought to feel. If punishments are to be meted out to fit the different crimes, the last state of the Balkans will be no better than the first. A solution for this dilemma can only be found by the peoples themselves. Bad and criminal leadership has brought disaster on the Near East, and there can be no hope for the future until those directly or indirectly responsible have been deprived of all further opportunity for mischief. When in this respect the various States have been purified as a result of the present ordeal, there will be some hope for a lasting federation of the Balkans.

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A WAR-TIME EXIT FROM SMYRNA.

By Lilias McCrie.

A dingy Turkish gold coin rolled out from the torn lining of my old purse to-day, recalling vividly the outbreak of the war in 1914 and the plump Turkish woman at the port of Vourla, who tried to satisfy herself that I was not smuggling out of the country more than my share of Turkish gold, or any important letters or papers.

We in Smyrna first heard of the opening of hostilities on August 2, 1914, and our Vice-Consul called all his people together on August 4 to tell us that Britain, if not then at war, would probably be so on the morrow. The British subjects within the Consulate grounds took the news quietly, though there were a few excited faces and some white ones among them. We had some fatherly advice given us—Smyrna was as safe as anywhere else, and safer than a great many elsewhere; we need not anticipate any immediate rise in the price of foodstuffs; we might volunteer what services we could to help the Old Country, and so on. Then we sang "God Save the King" and dispersed, some of us feeling thankful that we had paid all our bills, and others just as thankful that we hadn't! Not a few anxious housewives made a hasty inventory of the stores they had in stock, and feverishly bought in provisions while ready money and provisions were available.

During the weeks that followed Home newspapers were very scarce, and, being in great demand, what there were had to be distributed till they were read into holes. There were no letters either for some weeks, most of the mails coming across Europe being delayed by the august German censor. The subdued excitement of the populace generally showed itself on the quay, which became more than usually a centre of interest, especially on the departure of the passenger steamers then in the harbour, these being chartered by their respective countries for the transport of reserves for the various armies in the field.

Those who returned from their summer holiday in Europe at this time brought with them thrilling tales of the spirit of the Old Country. We learned from them to sing "Tipperary" and to say to each other at meeting and parting, "Est-ce que nous avons le cœur brisé?" "*Non!*"

During August and September the Turkish army was mobilising. Bodies of troops were daily transported from the interior around Smyrna, north to Panderma, and thence, it was supposed, to the Russian frontier. Rumours of Turkey's entry into the war then began to circulate, and the last week-end in October will probably be memorable to many of the Smyrna residents. On Friday the 30th we heard of the sinking of Russian ships in the Black Sea by the Goeben and Breslau, and immediately thereafter came the news of the retaliation of the British Fleet on two Turkish ships just outside the Gulf of Smyrna. We were still without any definite information as to a final rupture between Turkey and Britain, but on Sunday, November 1, martial law was proclaimed in the city. Notices were posted up in the streets, and woe betide those who could not decipher intelligently those "squiggles on the wall," or who hadn't a kindhearted interpreter to translate for them. Even now I do not know what that notice said exactly, but as dusk came on part of its meaning became apparent, because the streets took on the appearance of a gymkhana, the people hurrying to and fro with lanterns varying from the simplest "Chinese" to the very latest invention in acetylene.

The adventures which follow concern more closely some half dozen families who were linked together by a common interest for the time being, and our own personal experiences in particular.

About half-past nine that same Sunday evening my husband was sent for to attend a meeting of a few gentlemen who were considering seriously the advisability of sending their wives and families home at the earliest opportunity. The house of Mr. X, where the meeting was held, was only a few minutes' walk from our own home, and I expected my husband to return very shortly; but as the evening wore on and it came to half-past eleven I grew a little anxious. When at length one o'clock struck, anxiety grew into certainty that something was wrong, and the long night dragged on with still no return of the wanderer. At daybreak I hurried out to make inquiries, to find that my vague fears had been realised: my husband was finding out, at first-hand experience, what it was to be a prisoner in Turkey. He had left the meeting at 11.30 the previous night, and, although he had a *kavass* (porter) in attendance with a lantern—this last in accordance with the military law that day proclaimed—the *passvante* (night watchman) stopped him and held him in parley until two gendarmes came running up, no doubt eager for the first fruits of the new law. These marched him off unceremoniously to the nearest police station, while his late convoy returned to tell Mr. X of the seizure. This gentleman tried to get word sent to me and to the proper authority to obtain his release, but the night watchman refused to let any messenger pass, so nothing could be done till the morning.

My husband had been hurrying home to tell me—what, in the unforeseen circumstances, I did not learn till 8 o'clock the next morning—that I was to be ready to leave Smyrna for Europe with a few other ladies that same day at 10 o'clock. It was short notice, but I managed to pack a suit-case and make some necessary arrangements within one strenuous hour, though there was no comforting prospect of seeing my husband set free before leaving. To my relief, however, just a few minutes before we drove down to the Consulate, he did arrive, a little grimy, but smiling, and not much the worse for his experiences. He had been challenged by the watchman the night before, and, knowing no Turkish and very little Greek, his side of the argument which followed was easily broken down. At the police station a Turkish officer questioned him most minutely, and wrote down all his answers most deliberately. It was no use protesting that he was an indispensable member of society out on urgent business; he was quietly marched off again to a second police station, where more questions were asked, and he was kept standing outside for an hour and a-half. Finally, about two o'clock a.m., he was taken to the chief prison at the Konak, and as he went, between two gendarmes and with a third close behind with his gun cocked, they met a Turkish officer, who looked at the prisoner closely and then called out something sharply in Turkish. One of the gendarmes immediately tore my husband's hat from his head and thrust it into his hand. The prisoner promptly put it on again, but this act was repeated, and, prudence overcoming valour, he carried it in his hand until the conceited young military arm of the law was safely out of sight. The small cavalcade at length reached the Konak, where the prisoner was thrust into a filthy passage some twelve feet long by six wide with iron gates giving on to the open street at one end. A few other Europeans like himself, the first victims of that day's newly enforced martial law, and a crowd of indescribably dirty loafers of mixed Eastern nationality were the other occupants of this pent-house, which itself was so filthy that the newcomer could not sit down on what available sacking there was for that purpose. So he stood there till morning, when, an order having been received through the intervention of the American Consul, an officer came to the gate, shouted his name—or something remotely like it—and on his responding, opened the gate and said peremptorily, "Git," which is quite classical Turkish, though it may not be the best English.

The Turkish Governor had promised every facility for a few ladies to leave that morning with the British Vice-Consul; and, Smyrna port being closed to all traffic and heavily mined, we were to drive some twenty-five miles down the coast to the port of Vourla in order to get a steamer for Mytilene or the Piræus. Accordingly those of us who were ready to leave on such short notice drove down to the Consulate at the appointed hour to join the Vice-Consul and his suite. The street was crowded with carriages loaded up with luggage—anxious mothers and nurses with children—and around us surged an expectant throng of spectators of all nationalities. The Consulate looked disconsolate, the flag and staff were down, and the revered emblems of Britain's greatness—the lions rampant adorning the gates—had been tenderly covered over with small sheets of tin. We waited for more than an hour while our Vice-Consul had a consultation with the Vali, and the end of it all was that, in truly Turkish manner, the potentate changed his mind, and ordained that no one should be allowed to leave

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— OF —

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except the Vice-Consul and his immediate suite. And we? We returned to our homes with mixed feelings, a little savage at having had all the worry for nothing, but also somewhat relieved at not having had to leave our men after all.

During the next few weeks the Turks gave us a magnificent lesson in patience and, incidentally, taught us the priceless value of a sense of humour. Daily came the most unsettling rumours about internment. Ridiculous orders emanated from the Turkish authorities, and when we had adapted our mental outlook to the proposed new circumstances the orders would be countermanded, and we left exhausted by the effort of trying to follow the amazing Turk in his fantastic attempts to impose martial law. Our letters were now heavily censored, and finally ceased altogether. The English language was forbidden in foreign correspondence, a stupid imposition which caused our American friends no little annoyance. We tried French, but all our communications in this language were returned to us. I suppose our school French either baffled the overworked Turkish censor utterly, or else he mistook its halting peculiarities for some mysterious and therefore dangerous code.

The only local newspaper upon which we could rely within limits was withdrawn, and residents in Smyrna will recall the reports we read in *La Réforme* of the extraordinary victories of the Turks and the Germans, but especially of the former. "London is in flames," "India is in revolt," "Egypt is in the hands of the Turks," who, loaded with bags of sand, marched across the desert, filled up the Suez Canal, and crossed into the promised land without so much as wetting their feet—a literal "walk-over!"

Houses were commandeered in the Greek and Armenian quarters for the billeting of soldiers and the storing of kerosene, and rumours were rife that this kerosene was to be of use in setting fire to the whole town in the event of a bombardment by the Allied Fleet. There was also an undercurrent of dread of wholesale massacre. Soldiers were everywhere, picketed at street corners, and patrolling the streets night and day. But in spite of all the misapprehension the life of the town kept much to its usual routine. Food had not risen appreciably in price, and the Turkish authorities were certainly considerate to the British subjects, who were now under the protection of the American flag.

The scare stories which were circulated with almost rhythmic regularity at week-ends were certainly disquieting. We often felt so foolish for having believed them when they died a natural death during each week, only to rise again, phœnix-like, towards Saturday and Sunday. No one who has not lived through it will understand the nervous tension of a time like this. The expression "Things are looking very black indeed" became quite a jocular form of greeting among us, and I am sure many of us wished something really would happen, if only to clear the air and give us some relief.

Six weeks passed after "Black Monday," as we called the day of the departure of our Vice-Consul—weeks of uncertainty and secret plottings for flight if need be. During this period several private British families succeeded in leaving the country viâ Vourla in twos and threes; but tales of their privations, disappointments, and difficulties encountered *en route* did not add to the joyousness of our outlook.

Then matters came to a head with the half dozen families in whom we are specially interested. The Turkish Government deprived the men of their means of livelihood, actually imprisoning one of their number because he expressed and acted upon his preference for British freedom as against Turkish tyranny. So long as the civil authorities were in power the British were left in undisturbed peace, but when any Germanised military potentate happened to remember Smyrna we always knew about it by the attempts made to curtail our liberties in various ways. It became advisable for alien subjects to be provided with all sorts of protective permits and certificates, otherwise if unprepared for a sudden peremptory inquiry as to nationality and standing on the part of a zealous gendarme, they ran the risk of being imprisoned, or perhaps forced into some form of military service, as happened with some less fortunate Greeks.

The police became more and more aggressive in the streets and workshops, visiting the latter frequently in their quest for recruits. The change in the attitude of these officials came out in small things, but none the less irritating. They insisted on the wearing of the fez among workmen, although they could not enforce it legally except among Ottoman subjects. One Greek workman was doing some small repairs for me one day, and on leaving he drew out a fez. I expressed my astonishment, whereupon he opened his jacket and slyly pointed to his own cloth cap in an inner pocket. He told me it depended whether there was a Turkish officer lurking round the corner or not as to which he would wear. All his fellow-workmen did the same thing for the sake of peace.

(To be continued.)

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The British in Persia.

Dec. 23.

Replying to Colonel YATE, who asked whether he could give any information as to the safety of the British residents at Yezd and Kerman, in Persia, Lord R. CECIL said:—The British Consul and colony at Kerman left under escort for Bunder Abbas on the morning of the 18th inst. As regards Yezd it had been difficult, in view of the interruption of telegraphic communication, to obtain reliable information, but, according to the latest reports received, I understand that the Acting Governor has been able to maintain order, and that the British Consul and colony have so far been able to remain in the town.

Dardanelles Casualties.

Mr. TENNANT stated, in reply to Mr. JOYNSON-HICKS, that the casualties in the Dardanelles up to December 11, including the Naval Division, were as follows:—

	Officers.		Other ranks.
Killed (including died of wounds and died) ...	1,609	...	23,670
Wounded	2,969	...	72,222
Missing	337	...	12,114
Total	4,915	...	108,006
Grand total	112,921		

The Under-Secretary for War added that the sick admitted to hospital between April 23 and December 11 numbered 96,683.

Mr. JOYNSON-HICKS: Can the right hon. gentleman give us any hope that the sickness is decreasing?

Mr. TENNANT: Yes, sir, I think there is every reason to entertain that hope.

Mr. HOGGE: Can the right hon. gentleman say how long a time the War Office allows to elapse before men who are marked as missing are counted as dead or prisoners?

Mr. TENNANT: That is an awkward question to answer. When there is no other information at all one has to give a very long period, but in many cases unofficial reports come from brother officers and others, and in those cases from four to five months would be about the time taken to give a certificate of death.

The Turks and Aden.

Sir E. CORNWALL asked the Secretary for India whether his attention had been drawn to an official Turkish statement that after successful fighting they were advancing on Aden; and whether he was in a position to give the House any information as to the military situation in those parts.

Mr. C. ROBERTS: I have not seen the statement to which the hon. member refers. There has been no material change in the position at Aden during the last two months. On the 20th inst there was a skirmish between our cavalry scouts and an enemy patrol, in which the latter lost nine killed and one prisoner, our casualties being one man wounded.

The Suvla Bay Landing.

Mr. LUNDON asked the Under-Secretary for War whether he was now satisfied that most people were well aware of the names of the officers who had charge of the Suvla Bay landing; whether he would now give the names to the public; would he say if one of these officers who was recalled and cashiered was now doing military duty in London; and, if so, what was the nature of that duty.

Mr. TENNANT: I do not think it desirable to give publicity to the names of officers who have been relieved of their commands at the front. As my hon. friend assures me that these names are well known the publication of them would be more punitive than informative. None of these officers has been cashiered. Cashiering is a punishment which can only be inflicted by court-martial, and then only for offences of the most disgraceful nature.

INTERNED BRITISH SEAMEN IN TURKEY

Lieutenant T. W. Moore, Secretary of the Imperial Merchant Service Guild, has received a message from Captain V. E. Lazzolo, of the Ellerman liner City of Khios, who is at present interned at the Magnesia Camp, near Smyrna, Turkey. Captain Lazzolo states that only merchant seafarers are interned at the Magnesia Camp. They have received letters from home inquiring for naval and military men. They have written to other places in the hope of finding these men, but have only had one reply, and that is to the effect that E. Mitchell, late of E 15, is well. It appears that letters from England are reaching the camp with fair regularity. All the occupants are keeping well, but the cold weather has set in and is keenly felt.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Bulgar Motive.

The *Observer* (December 26) devotes its notes of the week to a general view of the existing situation, with anticipations of the coming struggle during the next few months. "The Epic of the Dardanelles" is dealt with at considerable length. The Government is criticised for its handling of matters, and for the indecision which, in the opinion of the *Observer*, stood as the one effective bar to victory, but the most lavish praise is accorded to the men who took part in the operation:

We say, God bless the men of Anzac, living and dead, for their part in the deathless epic of the Dardanelles.

In turning to the question of what will happen at Salonika, the paper emphasises the fact of supreme confidence with which the higher command of France regards the situation, but it looks for a mighty attempt on the part of our enemies to drive us from the port.

Consideration for Greece does not at all count with the enemy, for the Bulgars are the masters of the local situation now and can constrain the Kaiser's reluctance to despoil King Constantine. The Bulgars hate the Greeks, burn for revenge, and now that Macedonia is in their hands they covet Salonika above all things. . . . Whatever understanding may have existed will be put aside, for to Tsar Ferdinand in this war one agreement is necessarily pie-crust like another. For every further assistance they may give, the Bulgars will make their further bargain. If by any turn of events they could make a better bargain with the Allies they would do it. They are the least sentimental of peoples, though among the most obstinate and ambitious. Seeking aggrandisement on every side and by no means content with what they have yet gained, they follow their own interests and nothing else. Thus, if the attack is undertaken in strength, we may be certain that the Bulgarians have already made their secret pact with the Kaiser, and that King Constantine's policy has resulted as M. Venizelos predicted.

The German Grip on Turkey.

An article under the above heading contributed by Mr. Ignatius Phayre to a recent number of the *Outlook* gives one of the best pictures of Turkish subservience to Germany that we have read. Mr. Phayre's informant was one Eyoub, a Young Turk genius, undoubtedly in German pay, one-time star reporter of the Government organ, the *Tanin*:—

Now, although he served them, I knew Eyoub detested Germans, and all they stood for in the Near East. He hoped to see the day when British guns would batter their Embassy—that arrogant, hill-set palace, whose eight spread eagles appear to "boss the Bosphorus" as Prussian colonels boss the army, and as the chosen of Von Tirpitz try to breathe fire into Turkey's rusting navy. Think of the Ottoman admiral who, after forty-nine applications for arrears of pay, stripped his flagship of brass and copper fittings and sold them to Levantine dealers around the docks!

"We must live," pleaded Eyoub on the despairing officer's behalf. I was having an hour of kayf with the Turkish agent one morning when the German Councillor rode by—a tiny, effeminate man, preceded by a giant Albanian kawass, who was armed to the teeth.

"I thought they were all at Therapia," I remarked of the Corps Diplomatique in general.

"All but the Germans," Eyoub explained. "They're never still. They've money to burn, as the Yankees say. And they're burning it—they're burning *us* at the same time, and we're helping the process." He named a high official of the Imperial Debt who'd been a fortune-teller up in the Stamboul bazaars and was now a prince of politics, with a fairy konak on the European shore, commanding glorious views of the snowy summit of Bithynian Olympus.

"We're sold," was Eyoub's detached opinion, "and not all the Ulema in the Chamber can save us from God's wrath." What tragi-comic tales the man told me of Turkey's grotesque parliamentarianism! How the Exarch of the Bulgars pulled one way and the Greek Patriarch another. How the member for El Kuds (Jerusalem) glowed with reforms. The hapless rayah, or peasant, was to have spring water and railways, as well as a noble harbour at Jaffa, which would make an Eden of the arid Holy Land.

Eyoub contrasted the day of German dominion with that before we "resigned the proud place in Turkish esteem":

What spacious days they were, when Stratford de Redcliffe drove a carriage and six with outriders! When British capital nursed Ottoman trade by sea and land, when a British fleet steamed into Besika Bay to save the classic city that broods by the Golden Horn, lovely as Helen among her maids! Now all is German. On the Kaiser's birthday Pera might be Potsdam—a place of spiky helmets, silk hats, and frock-coats, filling the Grande Rue with gutturals and smirks.

In the evening a grand dinner at the Teutonia and Artisans' Clubs, with speeches, clinking glasses, and telegrams to Berlin breathing unbroken fidelity—the "unverbruchliche Treue" of the Fatherland's fanatic sons.

"Ah, it's sad," Eyoub concluded; "but now we're sold, and must needs abide by our bargain." It was clear he admired as well as disliked his new masters. "Ma'ashallah, how they ousted you from Turkish hearts and hopes, since Von Kühlemann was made manager of the Oriental Railway!"

He thought the Kaiser the ablest man in Christendom, and pointed to his state entry into Jerusalem, and his subsequent greeting to the Sultan from beside the tomb of Saladin, as evidence of his genius:

He could do anything, that Emperor; Eyoub recalled the dramatic landing and fiery speech in Tangier. Why, France herself dismissed her Foreign Minister at the Imperial frown! The Kaiser's armed men were like the locusts for multitude. They were to shield Turkey from Russia's menace—a Power who could invade the Empire from Asia in overwhelming force.

"So we accepted protection," Eyoub concluded. He had himself seen the German legions manœuvring on a vast scale through Silesian stubbles after harvest. "To-day our protector is sitting on our shoulders, and we must carry him from Pera to the Persian Gulf. The German set up a Consulate at Bushire when he'd only six nationals in the whole region. He has money to burn, you see, and all goes into the Eastern furnace. But, yawash, man, let's talk of something else."

Lord Kitchener.

Mr. A. E. P. Weigall, late Inspector-General of Antiquities in Egypt, contributes to the *Star* (December 28) some interesting anecdotes and notes concerning the War Minister. Mr. Weigall points out that the popular view which makes of Lord Kitchener a man of iron without relieving traits of humour or kindness is by no means correct. "Lord Kitchener is a great deal more human" than he is usually supposed to be. The writer continues:—

It is not generally known that his lordship is a man of considerable intellectual and artistic attainments. As the result of his being, as a young man, for several years a member of the staff of the Palestine Exploration Fund, under the auspices of which body he conducted excavations and archæological researches in the Holy Land, antiquarian journals of thirty and forty years ago contain many papers written by him discussing with great earnestness the character of the Moabites or Ammorites, and demonstrating the verity of Holy Writ. In recent years he has given full play to these interests, and has made a collection of antiquities which is notable for its artistic and historical value. He is constantly engaged in adding to this collection, and he spends a considerable amount of time in pottering around second-hand shops and the galleries of small art dealers in search of masterpieces.

He is a very great authority on old china, and has a trained eye for almost all works of art. He is a connoisseur of antique carpets, early Christian paintings, ancient bronzes, and so forth; and it may be said that he is never so happy as when he has the leisure to spend an hour or two surrounded by his artistic treasures.

The writer includes the following anecdote, which shows the sort of material upon which the public estimate of his lordship's character is based:—

When he was Commander-in-Chief in the Sudan, a young subaltern was sent by him to blow up a certain disused fort with dynamite. The young officer set out upon his mission with sensations of the utmost pleasure and excitement, this being the first piece of work of a special character that had fallen to his lot. He hoped to carry it out with precision and dispatch, and he looked forward with the keenest expectancy to the Sirdar's commendation. Alas, for the hopes of youth! Owing to an unfortunate accident the dynamite exploded before its time, blowing ten of his Sudanese troopers to atoms, but leaving the fort quite intact.

In an agony of mind, the subaltern telegraphed the humiliating news to Lord Kitchener, deeply regretting the terrible accident, and deploring the loss of life. After an hour or two of bitter mortification, Lord Kitchener's reply came to hand, and with beating heart the youth scanned the message. It read: "Do you want any more dynamite?" That was all.

The Rift in the Lute.

The correspondent of the *Times* in the Balkan Peninsula in a dispatch from Bucharest dated December 11, and received in London on the 27th inst., describes the entry of the first German contingent into Sofia, when, with band playing and flags flying, it passed through streets gaily decorated by order of the authorities. It seems, however, that Bulgar satisfaction is not altogether untroubled by thoughts of the future, as the following quotation will show:—

No doubt now remains in regard to the existence of a secret compact between the Germans and Turks for the recession of the Dedeagatch railway to Turkey. The concentration of Turkish troops on the frontier provokes lively discontent and alarm in the minds of the Bulgarian public, who are beginning to lose confidence in the sincerity of German promises.

A further cause of uneasiness is found in the mystery surrounding the movements of Enver Pasha. After visiting Sofia

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where he was received by the King and decorated with the Order of Alexandre, Enver proceeded to Orsova, where he held a conference with various persons, known and unknown. The rumour is now current that the conversations which occurred related to the well-known Young Turk design of restoring the Turkish Empire in Europe.

The Problem of the Adriatic.

Mr. J. A. R. Marriot, writing under the above heading in the *Nineteenth Century* (December), considers that the problem which involves the future of the Adriatic and its coasts is one of the most difficult and perplexing, as well as one of the most intrinsically interesting, of the war. There are three primary factors to be considered in its regard:—

1. The position and claims of Italy . . .

2. The position of the Southern Slavs, who are inspired with a growing sense of national self-consciousness, but are as yet very far from having attained to political unity. They claim that the time has come for the fulfilment of their aspiration towards national unity, and they demand such access to the Adriatic littoral as will assure their national future in an economic and geographical sense.

3. The position of the central empires of Germany and Austria-Hungary.

The writer adds a fourth and "secondary element": that of the Balance of Power, the theory of a European Equilibrium.

The principal areas in dispute are: (1) the Trentino or Southern Tyrol; (2) the city and district of Trieste, with which we may conveniently group the district of Gorizia-Gradisca; (3) Istria, with the important naval dockyard of Pola; (4) Croatia-Slavonia, with the commercial port of Fiume; (5) Dalmatia, the mainland coast and the archipelago; (6) Albania, and (7) the Slavonic hinterland, including the existing kingdom of Serbia and the States such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, and perhaps Montenegro, which it is hoped to incude in the Greater Serbia of the future. At present this Serbian group touches the Adriatic only through Montenegro, with its port of Antivari. Of the whole of these contested areas, except Serbia, Montenegro, and Albania, the Dual Monarchy was, even before the war, in possession.

Following this statement of claim and position the writer includes a brief historical survey of events which constitute the origin of the Adriatic problem.

The quotation which we give below follows an examination of Italy's claim to Dalmatia:—

In Dalmatia the Slavs contribute 96 per cent. of the population. That they should possess the whole of the hinterland, to the west of the mountain barrier formed by the Carso, the Velebit, and the Dinaric Alps, is freely acknowledged even by the most extreme champions of the Italian cause. But if the Jugoslavia of the future is to be anything more than a third-rate Power, that concession is obviously insufficient. The Greater Serbia must have ample and assured access to the Adriatic coast. Had it not been for Austrian intervention, Serbia would have secured that access after the first Balkan war, and in that event the second Balkan war might never have been fought, and Bulgaria might not be at the throat of Serbia to-day. With consummate adroitness did Austro-German diplomacy attain the twofold object of heading Serbia off from the Adriatic, and thus thrusting her into sharp conflict with Bulgaria on her eastern frontier. It will be the special and urgent task of English diplomacy to frustrate any similar attempt to sow discord between Italy and Serbia.

The writer points to the fact that popular sympathy on behalf of a Greater Serbia is in England a matter of recent growth:—

It has taken a European war to open our eyes to the fact that the little Serbian nation has, with heroic endurance and self-sacrifice, been holding the gate of the East for the last fifteen months. The Serbians have, it is true, been fighting primarily for their own national existence; they have been fighting the battle of the whole Southern Slavonic race, but they have been fighting not less certainly for us and our Allies.

This fact gives them a claim which no words can adequately measure, not only to all the military assistance we can immediately afford, but to every possible consideration in the final resettlement of the map of the Near East.

The German Outlook.

In a leading article dealing with the German outlook for 1916 the *Morning Post* (December 27), while not failing to recognise and condemn the shortcomings of our own Government, considers that the situation from the German point of view is black indeed at the end of 1915. We quote from the latter portion of this article which refers to the operations in the Near East:

The Allies . . . in the Balkans bring men to her standards, but these if they are to keep the field will need to be armed and provided by her, thus aggravating the demand on her stocks. And how will it increase her opportunities except in the forms of distant and speculative enterprises leading right away from the vital theatre of operations? Salonika, doubtless to her immense chagrin, she has lost. The expedition which came too late to save the Serbians has closed that coveted gate against Austria and Germany, except at the cost of another Gallipoli, with the advantages this time on the side of the Allies. Does the prospect of Egypt or Mesopotamia console our instructed German? The chances might be attractive if the operations could be carried out by the faithful Allies, but the Bulgarians, he knows, are a dour people, who frankly repudiate altruistic enthusiasms and Quixotism of any kind, and to talk of their undertaking the descent upon Egypt is mere nonsense. On the whole, he will probably conclude that the opening of the passage to Constantinople does not do very much towards advancing the position of Germany. Meanwhile, he has to admit to himself that the sea has failed him altogether.

The Russians in Persia.

A recent number of the *Irish Times* devoted a long leading article to the subject of Persia's position in the great war:—

It is easy to see now that at the very start of the war, or as soon, at any rate, as Turkey joined the Central Powers, steps should have been taken by Russia and England in conjunction to send armed support to the Persian Government, to evict the German intriguers from the Persian towns, and to close the frontier against any more undesirable importations of the same kind. At that time, however, Russia had her hands full in other directions, and our Foreign Office was still endeavouring to carry out its generous, but unfortunate, policy of keeping the smaller nations out of the war.

Having prefaced his article with the sentence quoted above, the writer proceeds to a brief historical statement regarding Anglo-Persian relations for the past forty odd years, and arrives at the conclusion that British diplomacy has not made the most of its opportunities during that period. British mistrust of Russia, as evidenced by "a certain section in Parliament," was, in the opinion of the *Irish Times*, responsible for letting the Germans in at the beginning. The article concludes:—

The unfortunate consequence was that the moment when parallel military action by Russia in the north and Britain in the south might have brought a permanent settlement of the Persian difficulty was allowed to pass away. Germany, whose commercial interests in the country were small—her territorial interests were *nil*—was enabled to find a fertile soil for sowing the seeds of intrigue which, as we know now, she has been spreading all over the world for the last generation. Happily, the war has obliterated the last remaining vestiges of Anglo-Russian suspicion in regard to Persia. Just as Russians rejoiced in the British expedition against Mesopotamia, which was designed, among other things, to protect the British oil concessions in Persia, so do Britons wholeheartedly rejoice that at last the Russians have found themselves able to intervene by force in Northern Persia, and to rescue the young Shah from the evil influences which were surrounding him. A new and prosperous chapter, we may well believe, has now opened in the history of Persia.

A Black Sea Engagement.

The "Own Correspondent" of the *Morning Post* cables to his paper (December 28) an interesting dispatch from Petrograd regarding recent naval operations in the Black Sea, when two Turkish gunboats and a large sailing ship laden with coal were sunk by Russian torpedo-boats:—

The hero of this exploit is again Prince Trubetskoy, already well known as a dashing naval officer. . . . Details of the engagement show that the Russian torpedo-boats first attempted to cut the enemy ships off from the shore, but the Turkish gunboats, immediately they sighted the enemy, put about for shore and ran. When already close ashore they opened fire at three miles' range, but the Russian ships speedily proved their superiority. The cannonade lasted about an hour, and the larger of the Turkish gunboats struck her flag before the firing ceased. A series of explosions took place on both the enemy ships, of a character indicating the presence aboard of a considerable supply of position mines. The Russian ships were attacked during the fight by a submarine, whose attempts to torpedo them were, however, successfully evaded, and the submarine was beaten off.

Articles to Note.

"The Influence of Egyptian Civilisation upon the World's Culture," by W. J. Perry, B.A., in the *Architect* (December 24).

"Fimble," by A. H. Moreton, in the *Daily Chronicle* (December 28).

"Greece and the Four Great Powers." Interview with M. Skouloudis, by M. H. Donohoe, in the *Daily Chronicle* (December 23).

"Germany's Down Grade," by Edgar Wallace, in the *Manchester Courier* (December 24).

"Jaffa Oranges," by Eden Phillpotts, in the *Times* (December 28).

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

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WHITTALL, Edwin, and family, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The attention of the *Morning Post* has been called to the case of the Deutsche Baumwollpresse A.G. (see previous "Notes and News" on the subject), an enemy firm operating in Egypt, and it refers to it as "a remarkable illustration of British supineness in the matter of dealing with German firms." It is to be hoped that by now, and in view of the publicity which has been given to this enemy firm, the authorities in Egypt will take immediate steps to prevent a recurrence of the incident. It would appear by correspondence in the *Egyptian Gazette* on the Government's "supineness" that the British colony's ire is up, and judging by one signed "Four of the Old Brigade," the attention of army officers has been drawn to the incident; they rightly deplore that the British Army should be used to fatten enemy companies.

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As stated last week, I think that the whole question of enemy companies in Egypt should be treated on a broader basis than the mere institution of controllerships. It is generally admitted that the Deutsche Orient Bank, together with its subsidiaries, the Deutsche Hypothekenbank, the Deutsche Baumwollpresse A.G., etc., were mainly interested in Egypt in provoking the natives against our rule; they were the backbone of the German anti-English campaign which has done us so much harm; they were the centre of the Kultur propaganda which consists mainly of "buying favours" by ridiculously generous loans and mortgages on nothing like adequate security—*i.e.*, bribery. All this is generally admitted. Therefore, and considering that Egypt is now under our protection, there can be but one policy for our politicians to pursue, and that is: the German companies in question must disappear for ever from the Valley of the Nile; they must be swept clean out of Egypt. The method employed in attaining this end is immaterial.

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"The importations of fruit and vegetables into Egypt during the month of September," I read in the *Egyptian Horticultural Review*, "included 1,314,263 kilogrammes of pomegranates from Cyprus. The declared value of these is £6,534. Cyprus also sent us considerable quantities of water-melons, aubergines, peaches, and fresh figs in the same month. There is evidently a good deal of money going abroad which might otherwise benefit the Egyptian cultivators in these days of low cotton profits. Is it not time for us to give some study to these small matters whilst attending to the staple crop?"

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Admittedly no one can criticise the writer's desire to develop kitchen-gardening in Egypt, and I hope that all attempts in this direction will meet with the fullest measure of success. But I do object to the spirit in which Cyprus has been singled out for special mention. Cyprus is in no sense "abroad," and if the writer of the above paragraph had "thought imperially"—some people find it very difficult to do so—he would never have drawn our island into his argument. Personally, I am pleased to see that the Cinderella of our colonies (whom, in a moment of folly, we were going to wed to a Greek prince) has a market for pomegranates, aubergines, etc., in Egypt. And may that market continue to develop and increase! As for the Cyprus orange trade with Egypt, it should be fostered by the authorities for all that it is worth. Hitherto this has hardly been the case, and I am not far wrong when I assert that last year the trade was indirectly penalised by the Egyptian authorities, who, in order to favour the Jaffa (Turkish) trade, permitted the importation of enemy oranges into the country when they should have been forbidden, if only to give the Cyprus trade a fillip. In this case, again, the wrong was, I take it, unintentional; it was merely a case of being unable to "think imperially."

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I am pleased to see that the British Manufacturers' Export Union of London has organised an exhibition of British goods in Egypt. According to the Cairo papers to hand, the exhibition was opened at the Continental Hotel, Cairo, on November 29, and attracted a great many visitors. Mr. J. G. Marks, one of the managing directors of the company, was responsible for having got together the necessary samples, etc., and I wish him every success. Even if the results of this first practical attempt at bringing British articles to the notice of the Egyptian buyer should prove disappointing rather than hopeful, let us remember that the British Empire (to paraphrase a well-known saying) was not built in one day.

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I have received a circular letter from the British Manufacturers' Association, 1915, together with a succinct summary of its objects. Some of these are worth quoting:—The association is to be conducted on purely business lines in the interests of the manufacturers of the Empire; to be formed exclusively of British manufacturers; to endeavour to establish Free Trade within the Empire; to secure the appointment of a Minister of Commerce, and *to insist that such Minister shall be a business man*; to come to an agreement with our Overseas Dominions to prohibit the importation of all enemy goods for at least twelve months after the conclusion of the war.

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Needless to say, the association, whose chairman is Mr. G. R. Cheesman, managing director of Messrs. Cheesman, Braid and Co., has all my sympathy, and I shall give it what support I can within the limits and scope of a journal devoted to Near Eastern affairs. The association's objects are praiseworthy, and if members of Parliament can be induced to give us a Minister of Commerce who will be a *business man* and not a politician, a *business man* and not a lawyer, a *business man* and nothing else, the association will have deserved well of the Empire. Further, I see that the objects of the association are mainly concerned with home matters—*i.e.*, the British Isles and the Empire (let us not forget that Egypt and the Sudan are now integral parts of the Empire), and that consequently the development of our foreign trade, as such, does not figure prominently on the programme. However much this is to be regretted, I hope that the success to be achieved by the association in its particular sphere will be such that it will shortly be able to turn its attention to two matters of paramount importance if we are to win the coming trade war. I refer to the reform of our Consular Service and to the harnessing of capital, both State and individual, to the requirements of trade and industry. But, to achieve this result, as well as those mentioned above, the association must have the backing of the great majority of the Empire's manufacturers. Let us hope that that support will be forthcoming.

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The Egyptian Government (says the *Times* Cairo correspondent), considering the situation sufficiently satisfactory, is desirous that the stock and share Bourses should reopen forthwith. Negotiations to this effect are proceeding with the Cairo and Alexandria Bourse Commissions. Financial establishments generally agree as to the desirability of reopening with as few restrictions as possible, but a certain element in Alexandria insists on various conditions in respect to the liquidation of existing holdings which appear to be unreasonable. It is expected that a satisfactory settlement will be obtained soon and the reopening take place shortly.

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The news that the Government contemplates the reopening of the Bourses (there is really only one Bourse in Egypt, namely, that at Alexandria) does not come as a surprise to me. As a matter of fact, it is astonishing that this measure has not been taken before now, because, if stringent regulations as regards the liquidation of accounts were imposed, as was the case here, I see no reason why the Alexandrian Bourse could not have been operating these many months past. It is said, in the cablegram quoted above, that a certain element insists on various conditions in respect to the liquidation which appear to be unreasonable; but if the regulations to be enforced are identical (as they should be) with those in force in this country, they ought to prove acceptable to the most unreasonable client.

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Speaking yesterday with a City broker interested in the Egyptian market, he gave it as his opinion that the opening of the Bourse was an academic question. Egypt, he argued, has been buying both here and in Paris, which is not surprising, in view of the sound economic position of the country. Everything tends to discountenance the fear that the public would attempt to unload, and, therefore, if adequate regulations are imposed, no danger can be incurred in opening the Bourse. On the other hand, the market itself will not be affected either one way or the other, whether the Bourse is opened or not.

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The annual meeting of the Egyptian Land and General Trust was held in London yesterday. The Chairman stated that as litigation was proceeding with regard to the company's holdings, the directors were not in a position to present a report or a statement of accounts. The litigation, he thought, would be settled shortly in favour of the company, when a meeting would be held and the accounts presented.

COMMENTATOR.

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Egypt's Trade During October.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 19.
(Delayed in transmission.)

The Egyptian Customs statistics for October have just been published. During the month imports amounted to £E1,672,767, and exports to £E2,414,482, as against £E930,884 and £E906,214, respectively, in October, 1914, showing an increase of £E741,883 in the former and of £E1,508,268 in the latter.

Imports.

The principal imports during the month were skins and leather good £E19,833, flour £E46,541, coffee £E44,270, petroleum £E34,656, tea £E23,762, coal £E198,003, drugs £E22,452, textiles £E618,510, worked iron and steel £E52,448, and fresh and dried fruit £E32,242. Half of the imports came from Great Britain, whose share amounted to £E823,332, while that of the British Possessions came to £E142,715, so that the British Empire figured for 58 per cent. of the total imports, which, as it happens, is approximately the proportion for the current year—quite unprecedented as a matter of fact. The chief British imports were tissues £E357,117, coal £E178,647, flour £E41,220, and worked iron and steel and machinery £E71,997, whilst British Possessions contributed all the sacks, pepper, tea and indigo. The United States sent £E79,993—skins £E4,538, all the petroleum, coal £E19,356—Brazil as usual provided nearly all the coffee—£E41,654, India supplying the balance—France £E105,617, Italy £E193,356—cotton tissues £E91,258—Switzerland £E18,727 and Greece £E85,444.

Exports.

Under exports the chief items are leather goods £E20,508, cottonseed £E285,477 (314,599 ardebs), cereals £E92,132, sugar £E40,068, cotton £E1,804,171, wool £E23,566 and gold and silver articles £E19,773. The largest buyers were Great Britain £E1,379,614—cotton and cottonseed £E1,258,497—United States £E419,469—cotton £E415,312—France £E89,854, of which £E21,323 cereals and £E43,256 cotton—Italy £E151,977, Russia £E191,188—entirely cotton.

The cigarette trade improved during the month, for twenty-two tons valued at £E18,110 were exported.

The figures for October are certainly satisfactory for they indicate clearly that trade is fast picking up. A comparison only with October, 1914, except, that it shows, what a change has come over the commercial position, does not convey a complete idea of the state of affairs, seeing that at this time last year we were still suffering from the first shock of the war and commerce was in general very unsettled. Perhaps the following table may prove of interest in this connection:—

	Aug. 1—Oct. 31.		Year to Oct. 31.	
Year.	Imports. £E.	Exports. £E.	Imports. £E.	Exports. £E.
1913	7,338,209	7,106,286	22,468,667	22,060,683
1914	3,357,120	1,592,938	19,713,316	18,327,169
1915	5,270,388	4,967,475	14,905,101	19,285,991

Satisfactory Results.

From this we see that, whereas during the first three months of the war exports fell off by £E5,513,348 and imports by £E3,981,089, during the corresponding period of this year they picked up very considerably. If, in addition, we turn to the total figures for the ten months ending October 31, we find that the position is even more hopeful. In the first place the export figures for the current year, which cover ten months of war conditions, are better by nigh on a million than those for the corresponding part of 1914, which, be it noted, included seven months of pre-war, *i.e.*, normal conditions, and that these figures are only 12 per cent. below those of the same period of 1913, which was an entirely normal year. Imports, it is true, show a marked falling off, although during the past three months there has been a decided tendency to pick up, but the comforting feature about these figures is that the balance of trade, which has in the past nearly always been against Egypt, has during this year swung over in her favour to the extent of no less than £E4,380,890.

Cotton and cottonseed, which always bulk largely in the export figures of the country, show a falling off of £E46,950,082 and £E394,286, respectively, if one compares the above two years. This is due to the low prices ruling during the opening months of the current year, for the actual quantities exported are, respectively, 315,155 cantars and 98,186 ardebs in favour of 1915. The exports are, however, as mentioned, a million up by comparison with 1913, owing to the great impetus given to the products and industries of the country, and the final figures for the year will be found to furnish some remarkable proofs of the extension which Egypt's foreign trade has undergone since the outbreak of war.

GREEK TRADE.

J. B. C. K., writing in the *Aberdeen Free Press*, argues that a study of the industrial and economic position of Greece helps to elucidate the present very uncertain political situation, and to explain why the Greek Government is so anxious to keep out of the general European conflagration, and is not prepared to face the risks of intervention on either one side or the other in the struggle now proceeding in the Balkan States.

"Greece is a comparatively small and poor country, and is very sparsely populated. The industry of the country is mainly agricultural, but of its total area only one-fifth can be cultivated, and over one-third of the total area is still waste land. Agriculture is hampered by the dryness of the climate and by the lack of rivers which can be utilised for irrigation purposes. The leading crops are currants, olives, and wheat, and the economic position of the country is chiefly dependent upon the currant, which is the most favoured and most widely cultivated crop. In return for her exports of currants, olives, and agricultural produce, Greece receives coal, cotton, and woollen goods and other manufactured products from the more highly developed industrial countries of Europe. The total trade in 1912, the last year for which the completed figures are available, amounted to £11,962,000, of which total £5,800,000 represented the value of the export trade.

"The following tabular statement shows the relative extent to which the Central European and Entente Powers share in this trade, the figures being for the year 1911, the last available:—

Trade with the Central Powers.

	Imports from. £	Exports to. £
Germany	533,000	654,000
Austria-Hungary	948,000	540,000
Turkey	357,000	192,000
Bulgaria	565,000	14,000
Totals	£2,403,000	£1,400,000

Total of combined imports and exports, £3,803,000.

Trade with the Entente Powers.

	Imports from. £	Imports to. £
United Kingdom	1,634,000	1,351,000
Russia	1,377,000	104,000
France	417,000	549,000
Italy	261,000	160,000
Egypt	37,000	458,000
Totals	£3,726,000	£2,622,000

Total of combined imports and exports, £6,348,000.

The value of Greece's commerce with the Entente group of Powers is therefore considerably greater than the value of her trade with the Central European Powers. This trade amounted to rather over one-half of her total external trade in 1911, and the risk of having it entirely cut off is not a pleasant one for a small kingdom in which the revenue and expenditure seldom balance one another. As regards the United Kingdom's share in Greece's trade, the following figures, covering five years, show that this is growing, and that the percentage of the total trade in 1912 was considerably larger than it was in 1909:

Greece's Trade with the United Kingdom for Five Years (in Thousands of £).

	1909. £	1910. £	1911. £	1912. £	1913 £
Imports from Greece.	1,600	2,286	2,273	2,171	2,143
Exports to Greece ..	1,481	1,545	1,705	2,569	2,538
Totals	3,081	3,831	3,978	4,740	4,681
Percentage of the total external trade of the country.....	32	32	31	39	—

As regards the character of this trade, currants, iron-ores, and raisins, with sponges and olive oils, account for the larger share of the exports from Greece, the value of these commodities in 1912 amounting to £2,057,000, while coal with cotton and woollen goods account for the greater portion of the Greek imports from this country. The currant exports to the United Kingdom alone were valued at £1,600,000 in 1912, and it is the fear of losing this important market for her chief staple product that is causing Greece to hesitate at the cross-roads at which she has now arrived in her military and political history.

TRADE NOTES.

Egypt.

Tenders are invited by the Secrétaire Générale des Domaines de l'Etat (Service Technique), Cairo, for the supply (1) of 15,315 okes of "huile pour mouvements"; (2) 7,670 okes of "huile pour cylindres"; (3) 16,200 okes of "huile pour moteurs Diesel." Date, February 2.

Tenders are invited by the Secrétaire Générale des Domaines de l'Etat (Service Technique), Cairo, for the supply of 6,000 kilograms of axle grease. Date, January 16.

Tenders are invited by the Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, for the supply of equipment, etc., necessary for the scavenging and watering service for one year from April 1, 1916, to March 31, 1917. Date, January 15.

Messrs. J. Compton and Sons, Ltd. (calico bags), the Model Workshops (furniture and tricycles), Th. Hinshelwood and Co. (miscellaneous), Jeffery W. Eady (boots), and Th. De La Rue and Co., Ltd. (stamping ink, represented in Egypt by Messrs. Whitehead, Morris and Co., Ltd.), were recently among the successful tenderers to the Egyptian Postal Administration for the supply of articles as indicated in the parentheses above.

H.M. Consul at Cairo reports that a local firm of buying and commission agents wishes to get into touch with United Kingdom manufacturers of the following goods: Metal manufactures: Tin ingots, brass wire, galvanized iron sheets, tin plates, iron wire, and steel tubes. Hardware: Enamelled ware, bedsteads, buckets, nails, tacks, iron screws for wood, bolts and nuts. Paints and oils, etc.: Linseed oil, earth colours, zinc white, varnishes and brushes. Textiles: Cotton piece goods, laces, mosquito nets, woollen cloths, carpets, and cotton and woollen blankets. Clothing, etc.: Waistcoats; flannel, cotton, and woollen shirts; hosiery; and boots and shoes. The same firm also wishes to get into touch with United Kingdom buyers of old metals.

H.M. Consul further reports that a local Egyptian firm desires agencies (for all Egypt and Sudan) of United Kingdom manufacturers of the following goods: Household supplies, such as lamp glassware, earthenware, enamelled ware, buckets, safes, baskets, etc.; all kinds of leather and leather goods; cotton and woollen textiles; outer garments and underclothing for men, women, and children; fancy goods and toys; general stationery, packing paper, and cardboard; and pharmaceutical products. The same firm also inquires for the names of British firms desiring a representative in connection with contracts for the Egyptian Government.

United Kingdom manufacturers of the goods mentioned above, and exporters of United Kingdom goods, desirous of appointing an agent in Cairo, may obtain the name and address of the firm referred to on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

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PURSUIT OF THE GOEBEN.

Requisitioned Coal.

Mr. Justice Sankey delivered judgment on December 14, in the King's Bench Division, in the case of Seville and United Kingdom Carrying Company, Limited, *versus* Mann, George, and Co. The action arose out of disputes between the parties owing to the requisitioning by British cruisers in the Mediterranean of coal on board the Rosemount, a vessel belonging to the plaintiffs, which had been chartered by the defendants.

The defendants had sold three cargoes of Welsh coal to a firm of Gilchrist, Walker, and Co., in Constantinople, and the Rosemount was chartered by them to take one of the cargoes to Constantinople. The Rosemount was in the Mediterranean when the Goeben and Breslau were trying to enter Turkish waters, and it was arranged between the parties that the coal should be discharged at the Piræus, Malta, or Alexandria, at the defendants' option, on paying an extra freight. When the Rosemount arrived off Tenedos the British cruisers Indomitable, Indefatigable, and Gloucester, which had chased the Goeben and Breslau in the Dardanelles, appeared and requisitioned 3,178 tons of coal out of the Rosemount.

Messrs. Gilchrist, by telegram from Constantinople, instructed the master of the Rosemount to go to the Piræus, and the defendants undertook to pay the extra freight for discharge there—5s. a ton over the original freight of 7s. 6d. a ton for Constantinople. At that time they did not know that the greater portion of the cargo had been requisitioned. But they had agreed to sell the whole cargo to the Admiralty, who desired delivery at the Piræus.

The plaintiffs claimed the freight of 12s. 6d. a ton on the whole cargo in consideration of their consenting to go to the Piræus, although part of it had been delivered at Tenedos; and they also claimed £280 for demurrage at the Piræus.

The defendants denied their personal liability, and said that they acted only as agents for Messrs. Gilchrist, and not as principals.

Judgment.

Mr. Justice Sankey, in his judgment, said that, in his view, the defendants had offered to pay an extra freight of 5s. a ton on the whole of the cargo shipped in consideration of the vessel's being taken to the Piræus. He thought that the defendants were not acting as agents. None of the parties knew that the cargo had already been broached, but the defendants heard afterwards, and with that knowledge accepted personal liability.

He had next to decide whether the agreement was made in ignorance of the true state of facts in respect of a cargo which had ceased to exist, and was therefore not binding on the defendants. Mr. Leck, for the defendants, said that the cargo, which was the subject-matter of the agreement of August 24, had ceased to exist because it had been taken by the Government, and was not conveyed by the plaintiffs to the Piræus. In his (his Lordship's) view that was incorrect. The cargo had not, in fact, ceased to exist, nor had it perished in the sense of the words used in the cases mentioned above. Part of it had been sold to—or, at any rate, taken by—his Majesty's Government, and the price of the whole of it was eventually paid. There was no mistake going to the root of the contract. The defendants wanted the vessel to go to the Piræus, and it went there. The only mistake that could be suggested was that at the time when they made the agreement they were under the idea that the whole cargo was still in the vessel, but the tonnage was used as a basis of arithmetic, and the extra freight was calculated at the rate of 5s. a ton on the cargo shipped, and not at the rate of 5s. a ton on the balance then left. He therefore held that the defendants were personally liable for 5s. a ton extra freight.

As to the demurrage claim, he held that the defendants made no agreement to pay any demurrage, and that, having regard to the circumstances at the Piræus, the vessel was not detained more than a reasonable time. He therefore disallowed this part of the claim. The parties had come to terms. There would be judgment for the plaintiffs for an agreed sum, with costs.

Harbour Works at Alexandria

Lecture at the Institution of Civil Engineers.

On November 30 last, Mr. David Ernest Lloyd-Davies, M.Inst.C.E., read a lecture on "Harbour and Coast-Defence Works at Alexandria," at the ordinary meeting of the Institution, from which the following is an abstract:—

The city of Alexandria possesses two harbours, known locally as the Western and Eastern ports.

Western Port.

The first improvement of the access to the port was undertaken in 1889 and consisted in the deepening and widening of the Boghaz Pass, the only fixed channel. High and low lighthouses were built to give the leading line at night, the higher light being visible for a distance of ten miles. In 1900, the Gabbary dry dock was built by the Khedivial Mail Steamship Company, after the designs of Sir Benjamin Baker. In 1893, the western extension of the quay, south of the old careening-basin, was undertaken.

The general expansion of commerce in the port and the consequent lack of quay-space rendered imperative the removal of the timber-trade, which had increased in value from £288,000 in 1884 to £1,337,000 in 1907, to a more convenient site. For the quays and storage sheds an area of about 420,000 square yards of land was reclaimed and levelled, and three moles, each 131 yds. long and 87 yds. wide, 60 yds. apart, were constructed. The depth alongside is 30 ft. and the quay frontage 1,225 yds. which will allow nine ships to be berthed at one time in case of necessity. The works were completed in 1911 at an outlay, inclusive of road-paving, drainage, expropriation, and administrative charges, of £282,770, or roughly £50,000 less than the value of the lands reclaimed. The main breakwater and the quarantine jetty were also extended to protect the timber quays.

The western port of Alexandria now ranks third, after Marseilles and Genoa, among the Mediterranean ports, and its 1,850 acres of sheltered area are capable of accommodating 250 large vessels 100 yds. apart. The total tonnage of the ships entering and leaving the harbour increased from 2,052,000 tons in 1880 to 7,814,000 in 1908, whilst the value of import and export trade rose from £18,856,000 to £52,075,000, during the same period. The revenue in 1911 reached £325,000.

The Eastern Port.

The deplorable condition of the foreshore in the eastern harbour, owing to the direct discharge of sewage into the bay, induced the Alexandria municipality in the early nineties to consider proposals for the amelioration of the existing state of affairs. It was finally decided: (1) To construct a promenade with a sea-wall, of suitable design to resist the roughest sea, around the eastern harbour, and to lay a main intercepting sewer along its entire length, with outfalls at both Kaid Bey and Silsileh. (2) To abandon any idea of building breakwaters to protect the harbour. (3) To construct a promenade with a sea-wall and intercepting sewer around Anfoushy Bay.

The whole undertaking was carried out in the years 1900-4 at a cost of £377,000, inclusive of the intercepting sewers and the filling of the 630,000 sq. yds. of reclaimed land. The total cost was approximately £500,000. By the sale of reclaimed land the enterprise would have yielded a profit of at least £500,000 had all gone well, but unfortunately the violence of the sea had been underrated, and the waves during stormy weather washed over the sea-wall, inundating the promenade and adjacent property.

The author, who was appointed City Engineer of Alexandria in the autumn of 1906, was instructed to report on the matter. Investigation revealed the fact that a portion of the toe of the section had been scoured out in the most exposed places, and that the 17-ton blocks had slipped forward. The impact of the waves hurled huge masses of water to a height of 26 ft., and the force of the blow was calculated to be at least 1.56 ton per sq. ft. The whole of the additional apron of 1-to 2-ton stones in front of the vertical section was washed away, and the masonry was attacked, whilst the air compressed by wave-action drove jets of water through the mound (the lightest of the three sections) to a height of 3 ft. in the roadway. Evidently, therefore, the initial error was the omission of the breakwater.

Three alternative remedies were proposed:—

(1) The construction of breakwaters at the mouth of the bay, at a cost of £220,000.

(2) The construction of smaller breakwaters within the bay, at a cost of £180,000.

(3) The addition of a long rubble bank gently sloping towards the toe of the wall to reduce the velocity of the breaking waves, at an estimated expense of £130,000.

The first alternative was chosen, as it served the triple purpose of protecting the sea-wall, creating a fine pleasure harbour 600 acres in extent for the city, and providing an additional refuge for light commercial craft, which appeared quite to justify the additional expenditure. The length of the Kaid Bey branch is to be 547 yds. and average depth of water 26 ft.; the Silsileh arm will be 765 yds. long in 16 ft. of water. The width of the entrance will be 383 yds. and the depth 30 ft. The foundation consists of hard sand.

The section is an adaptation of Pascul's Marseilles composite type, with the outstanding feature of a double slope, 1 in 1 up to water-level, and afterwards 1 in 3 for the pell-mell blocks on the exposed face.

The pell-mell and set blocks, weighing 40 tons, are composed of five parts of broken limestone, two parts of sand and one part of hydraulic lime. The variation allowed for the voids in the pell-mell mass is between 25 per cent. to 35 per cent., to give an average of 30 per cent.; special precautions with regard to the first course of blocks were taken to lay them accurately endways at the toe, in order that they should offer as small a face as possible to the impact of the sea.

It was decided to undertake the Kaid Bey branch first, and Messrs. Schneider and Company have the work in hand.

The storm conditions at Alexandria vary from year to year to a remarkable extent, so that, by fortuitously encountering a bad year, the contractor might be unjustly penalized; to avoid this it is agreed that any day during which the wind blows for any complete hour with a velocity exceeding 15 miles per hour, no matter what the direction may be, is to be regarded as a *dies non*.

Under the author's main-drainage scheme for the city, on which £350,000 will be ultimately expended, all sewage is to be conveyed to a pumping station at Kaid Bey, and discharged half-mile out to sea at Y, the depth of water at that point being 82 ft., and the set of the tidal current being westward. The present outfalls will, under the new conditions, be utilized as storm-water outlets only.

EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Cairo, November 19.

During October there was a total turnover in trade of £E110,568 between Egypt and the Sudan—£E40,472 in imports from, and £E70,096 in exports to, that dependency. Imports from the Sudan into Egypt included livestock £E26,923, cereals £E3,659, whilst exports comprised wheat £E7,504, refined sugar £E6,346, coffee £4,688, and cotton tissues £E20,374. To the end of October the Sudan had imported from Egypt a total amount of £E720,891, and had sent in return goods to the value of £E416,494.

An exhibition of British goods, promoted by the British Manufacturers' Export Union of London, was opened at the Grand Continental Hotel, Cairo, on November 29. A large number of visitors attended, and the large and varied assortment of goods which Mr. J. G. Marks, one of the company's managing directors, had put on view was greatly admired.

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Alexandria Prize Court.

S.S. Rabenfels (ex cargo).

Judgment has been given by the Supreme Court sitting at Alexandria in prize in a salvage case relating to the s.s. Rabenfels, the facts of which are set forth in the judgment, as follows:—

The s.s. Rabenfels of the German Hansa Line arrived at Port Said on a voyage from Hamburg with a cargo of coal on August 2, 1914, her ultimate destination being Bombay. While the ship was detained at Port Said, on or about September 16, 1914, a fire broke out in holds No. 1 and 2 in the cargo of coal. . . . The Marshal of the Prize Court who had arrested the coal as prize on December 13, 1914, came to the conclusion that the best course to take was to sell the coal and have it removed, which was accordingly done, the price obtained being £E9,045 19s. 3d. for the 6,000 tons of Westphalian coal.

In January, 1915, the Procurator admitted the claim of Messrs. Turner Morrison and Co. as owners of the cargo, and granted them a release. Mr. Halford, on behalf of the Deutsche Kohlen Depot, now claims from the proceeds of the sale of the coal £1,581 17s. 3d. in payment of discharging and landing, hire of lighters and tugs, storage and Customs dues and expenses which were incurred by them in discharging the coal from the ship. Mr. Booth, who appears on behalf of the cargo owners, resists this claim on the ground that it is not a claim against the cargo, but a claim for work and labour done by the Deutsche Kohlen Depot as agents for the Hansa Line, to which the ship belongs, and that the money is due from the Hansa Line, the owners of the ship; that, if the cargo is liable in any way, the only way is by contribution in general average, because the coal was discharged not only to save the coal, but also because the ship itself was in danger from the fire and the discharging was necessary for her safety.

He further urges that the proper course for the Deutsche Kohlen Company to take is for the Bremen branch of the Deutsche Kohlen Company to bring an action against the Hansa Line in Bremen, as it is the master, or owners of the ship, who owe the money, and that the Kohlen Company cannot proceed directly against the cargo owners.

There was also a further point raised, namely, that the Deutsche Kohlen Company, being an enemy firm, had no right to appear and sue in this Court; but a licence to trade granted by the authorities to the Deutsche Kohlen Company at Port Said has been produced, which, although of a very restricted character, amply covers the present proceedings.

Mr. Halford, on behalf of the Deutsche Kohlen Company, argues that the Kohlen Company were not acting as agents of the Hansa Line, but as an independent firm, that they were acting as salvors, and salvors of the cargo only, and that the ship was never in any danger and the discharging of the coal was for the purpose of the saving of the coal only.

The first matter to consider is whether there was any real necessity for discharging the coal, and, if so, was it for the purpose of saving the ship, or the coal, or partly on account of the danger to the ship and partly for the purpose of preventing the complete destruction of the coal from the fire. . . Without any expert evidence to guide me, I feel bound to come to the conclusion that there must have been some danger to the ship.

The next thing to consider is, in what capacity were the Deutsche Kohlen Company acting. In their affidavit, they state that: "Although my company are agents at Port Said of the Hansa Line, owners of the s.s. Rabenfels, it was not in such capacity as agents that my company undertook the work of discharging and storing the cargo, but being the sole German coaling company in Port Said, our services were called on by the master of the ship and required by our director, Mr. Rickmers, as representative of the Bremen Insurance Company."

The fact is clear in this case that the master of the Rabenfels undoubtedly called upon the company to discharge the coal. But the question it is necessary to determine is whether he called upon them as salvors? . . .

In a case of salvage, the master of the ship is not bound to do everything himself; he may employ experienced persons to act for him. The master of the ship is the authorised agent of the owners of cargo as well as the ship owners, and, having custody of the cargo, is bound to do all he can to save it, and in this case he called upon the Deutsche Kohlen Company to discharge the coal not only for the purpose of saving the coal, but, as I have already found, for the purpose of avoiding the danger of the destruction of the ship.

The Deutsche Kohlen Company claim that they were not acting as agents of the Hansa Line, but were acting as an independent company in rendering their assistance to discharge the coal, but even if they were acting as agents of the Line it would not necessarily preclude them from claiming as salvors. Therefore, taking all the circumstances in this case into consideration, I am of opinion that the assistance rendered by the Deutsche Kohlen Company was that of salvors.

Mr. Booth urges that if any sum of money is due to this company they can only claim by contribution in general average, and there I am in agreement with him.

The final question I have to decide is whether the Deutsche Kohlen Depot have any power to proceed against the cargo owners for the expenses of their salving, or whether their right course is to proceed against the owners of the ship and, as Mr. Booth suggests, to bring their action through their branch in Bremen against the owners of the ship, the Hansa Line, at Bremen, in Germany. On this point I have not been able to find any precedents.

In Strang Steel and Co. v. A. Scott and Co. 14 A.C. 601, it was decided (1) Each owner of jettisoned goods becomes a creditor of ship and cargo saved. (2) He has a direct claim against each of the owners of ship and cargo for a pro-rata contribution towards in-

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demnity, which he can recover (a) by direct action; (b) by enforcing through the ship's master, who is his agent for that purpose, a lien on each parcel of goods salved to answer its proportionate liability.

If any owner of cargo has a direct claim on the rest of the cargo for his losses in the preserving of the ship and cargo, surely, in equity, the salvor of the cargo should also have the same rights for his expenditure in preserving the ship and cargo.

Carver, in his "Carriage by Sea," states: "A salvor who is in possession of property which he has saved has a possessory lien on the property, and whether in possession or not, he has a more extensive right of maritime lien which he can enforce through tribunals having Admiralty jurisdiction." And gives as his authority Hartford v. Jones I. Ld. Ray, but I have no opportunity to read the report of the case. . . .

Taking these cases into consideration, although some of them may not be directly in point, it does appear to me that the salvor has the right to proceed against the owner or owners of the cargo salved for that portion of his expenses which are due from the cargo owner under the General Average Contribution.

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Engineering Notes.

Gas By-Products in War Time.

People must have noticed that gaslight has recently been rather poor, seeming, at times, as if it were going out. Some consumers blame the gas companies, while others attribute it to some measure against air raids. But the real fact is that, owing to the great demand for benzol and toluol, which are constituents or by-products of gas, and which form the basis of high explosives, these by-products are being extracted from the gas for that purpose, with the result that the illuminating, as well as the calorific power of the latter, is occasionally affected. It may, therefore, be considered a patriotic duty not to grumble at the apparent poverty of gaslight.

Coke.

But there is yet another patriotic duty expected from the public in that direction. In a printed appeal the Parliamentary War Savings Committee points out that "the more coke is used the greater will be the production of the by-products which are required for making explosives for the Army and Navy." For, in order to obtain these necessary by-products, there must be an immense output of gas, which also means an immense production of coke; and unless this latter is utilised much more than has been in normal times of peace, the supply will be embarrassingly large. The use, therefore, of gas-coke by the public, and particularly by steam users and in all branches of industry where coke can be used as fuel, is a patriotic duty.

Coal Tar.

It has been justly said by a scientist that this is the era of by-products; and what modern science has discovered in recent years for the utilisation of by-products which were formerly thrown away is really wonderful. It is particularly so in the case of gas by-products. Apart from the two above-mentioned constituents of gas, we may refer to one of the principal by-products of gas—namely, coal-tar, that black substance which is so offensive to sight and smell that, only a few years ago, people did not know how and where to throw it away without causing a nuisance. Yet coal-tar, once a thing abhorred and hard to get rid of, is now the basis of many rich industries throughout the world. It yields dyes of remarkable stability and brilliancy, which have driven natural dyestuffs almost out of the market, one of them being, unfortunately, indigo, which once formed an important resource of commercial wealth in British India. It yields saccharin, which is four hundred times sweeter than sugar, and which is very extensively used instead of the latter for general purposes. A host of medicines for the treatment of various diseases, invaluable antiseptics, and most exquisite perfumes, indistinguishable from those of flowers, are also extracted from this black, ill-smelling coal-tar. It provides, also, commerce with naphtha, light and heavy oils, with pitch, which is utilised in roadmaking and in the making of varnish and roofing felt, with naphthaline and many other substitutes.

High Explosives.

A derivative, also, of coal-tar is picric acid, which forms the basis of lyddite, the most powerful explosive known to man. Picric acid was used for a long time as a dye without its explosive properties being suspected, until a method was discovered in 1888 by which these properties were developed in the formation of a compound which was offered to the British Government as a powerful explosive. Numerous experiments were subsequently carried out at Lydd in Kent, and eventually the compound was introduced into the service under the name of lyddite. The inventor of this explosive found that by reducing picric acid crystals to a liquid of the consistency of cream, and then mixing it with guncotton melted in alcohol, he obtained an explosive which, according to experts, is more terrifying and tremendous in its destructive powers than anything else known before or since. Shells which are used in British big guns are generally filled with lyddite. Some of these shells weigh nearly one ton, and can be thrown to a distance of twenty odd miles. To obtain this marvellous and terrific power, a smokeless powder, cordite, is used in firing the guns. Cordite is a great deal more powerful than either gunpowder or gun-cotton. It is composed of gun-cotton, nitro-glycerine, and vaseline, mixed together with certain parts of acetone until they form a soft putty-like paste, which is forced through the holes of a metal plate, and emerges in long strings (cords), whence the name "cordite."

The "Hog Motor."

The war, or the lack of labour arising out of it, are, undoubtedly, responsible for the numerous labour-saving mechanical contrivances that have recently been brought out. Most of them have apparently been designed with a patriotic view to help the farmer, who is suffering from lack of labour more than any other class. At a recent exhibition one of these new contrivances attracted considerable attention, for it was very ingenious as well as amusing. It is a machine by which pigs are induced to work for their living, and has been nicknamed "hog motor." The "motor" is the pig himself. The invention comprises a combined grinder and a feeding tray. The machine is cylindrical in form and is constructed wholly of metal, except the tray and sweeps, which are of wood. At the top is the hopper, which holds four and a-half bushels of grain. Within, the cylinder is rotated by the pig, using its snout as a lever, pressing against sweeps or projections attached to the cylinder, and resting on the tray The ground feed is distributed evenly to each of the feed openings by a deflector inside the cylinder, thus insuring each animal securing an equal amount of feed. The machine is 14 in. high, 40 in. wide, and the width of the cylinder is 28 in. It is said that it has been adopted by many farmers already with satisfactory results.

Reinforced Concrete.

The use of reinforced concrete has enormously increased in recent years, and it is evident that with experience it will continue to increase not only in all branches of building construction, but also for a great number of other purposes. Concrete is, indeed, a great boon to the engineers and architects, because it enables them to make or form their stones as they want them, instead of having to labour over the question of manipulation and use of natural stones for their purpose. The latest employment of reinforced concrete is in the construction of roadway arches, arch lining, etc., by an ingenious form of ferro-concrete blocks. The arching consists of a series of segmental inter-locking blocks which can be put together easily without specially skilled labour, and be made to stand even dry-laid, though in practice they are set in cement grout. It is possible to fit the blocks of the arch together without centring. Five or six blocks are first placed together and the right end of the partial ring thus formed is then lifted with jacks, and more blocks are added, and by repeating the process a complete semi-circle, or horse-shoe arch is obtained. A horse-shoe section, of course, demands solid ground to act as an abutment, otherwise outside pressure will tend to bring the feet of the arch together. There is no reason, however, why the section should not be a complete tube when needed. These blocks may be of small dimensions for the convenient handling of two men, or in sizes, weighing 5 cwt. each requiring more men. This latter size has been successfully used for a 12 feet diameter roadway, with 12-inch lining, the reinforcement being a skeleton of round iron bars. The system is very suitable for tunnelling work, and specially adapted for use in collieries and other underground works.

With reference to the Trading with the Enemy (China, Siam, Persia and Morocco) Proclamation, 1915, it is notified that inquiries as to whether specified firms in Persia or Morocco are desirable as consignees of goods, from the point of view of possible trading with the enemy, may now be made at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

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Near East Markets.

OLIVE OIL MANUFACTURE IN PALESTINE.

The United States Consul in Jerusalem reports that all olive oil made in the Jerusalem consular district, whether by the older processes or by more modern machinery, is considered as edible without refining, with the sole exception of that last pressed from the bruised berries. This, being dark and containing much of the pulp, is fit only for the soap industry, and then only after being mixed with better qualities.

Type of Crusher.

The old native oil presses consist of a circular stone trough elevated a little from the ground, in which a stone disc rotates around an upright shaft. This disc turns on its edge like a wheel, and is operated by a horse, mule, or camel. One man is constantly stirring, removing, and replacing the olives as they are crushed, another man carrying the whole olives to the mill and returning with the crushed ones. Once sufficiently crushed, they are placed where they can be filled into circular baskets that have a small opening and are quite flat. These baskets have been in use for a long time.

The older extraction method, and one still much in use, calls for a wooden box for a mould, in which a large piece of coarse goat's-hair cloth is laid. The box is filled with the crushed berries, pressed compactly together, after which the cloth is folded over the top in a cater-cornered style. These are now ready for the press. This method of crushing the olives is the oldest known, possibly dating back hundreds of years, as ruins of mills would seem to indicate.

Modern mills using imported machinery, when without power, employ exactly such a crusher; when driven by a motor, as many now are, two smaller stone discs are used, both placed on the same axle. In all cases these stones are from the local native quarries.

Primitive Oil Presses.

With the primitive oil presses there is built in one of the walls of the room a recess just large enough to admit the baskets of crushed berries and reaching to the ceiling, with a small cistern below to receive the oil. In the centre of the room is a mammoth wooden screw. A large beam extending across the room has one end entering the recess above mentioned, while in its centre lengthwise is a screw in which the larger one operates.

Once the olives are crushed and filled into baskets or haircloth, they are placed one upon another in the press recess, the screw is turned around and around by means of a stick of wood run through a hole for the purpose, and the gigantic beam descends, reducing the pile of baskets to half the height, while the oil runs in streams into the reservoir below. This press, being of insufficient strength, does not at once extract all the oil, so the pressed pulp is subjected to a second crushing and squeezing, and then packed away in a corner of the room until the olive season is over. It is then ground for the third time and re-pressed.

These primitive devices, while they still exist, are rapidly falling into disuse, as they are too laborious and do not produce as much oil as the more modern ones.

Modern Presses.

The modern iron oil presses are either imported from France or are copies made by local machine shops. Those used where no power exists have the pressing screw operated by a long, large beam pulled by rope and tackle, while the newer types have presses operated by kerosene engines. With these metal presses but one squeezing is the rule, after which the pulp is subjected to a second crushing and pressing only for the dark soap oil. During the pressing process boiling water is poured on the pulp to make the oil separate more easily.

Since the natives are not at all particular about cleaning their mills, especially with the old type of press, the rancid oil from the previous year soon impregnates the new. Besides this, the natives commonly collect their entire crop before beginning to press, piling the berries on the flat stone roofs of their houses. The olives thus lie in a heap, often for weeks, being left until the first winter rains descend upon them—all of which is thought to help ripen the olives and thereby produce more oil. It possibly may do so with the primitive methods, but this heating of the fruit results in a sharp and rancid product, which taste, however, the natives do not seem to mind.

Storage Methods.

A few modern mills endeavour to produce a better table oil, which they sell at an advanced price. In these the berries are not allowed to heat, and are pressed soon after being picked. The oil is stored in metal tanks, which are scoured before using, as is all the machinery employed, very sweet and clear oil being thus obtained. Some even collect the oil that of itself flows away from the crushed berries before being pressed, which is considered very superior. No methods of filtering or refining are known. The oil is simply allowed to settle and cure itself; and while it has a sharp taste when quite fresh, this taste is soon lost

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, December 29.

Currants.

Owing to the holidays, the market has been very quiet this week. Prices are unchanged, but recent news from Greece predicts a further advance.

Sultanas.

Only small business was done in Afghan fruit at late rates.

Figs and Dates.

The market is quiet, but prices for both articles are steady.

Seeds.

Linseed market is very strong, with buyers at a further advance. London-Calcutta in any position is readily saleable at 78s.; same price was paid for January-February. La Plata to London, January, was sold at 70s. 6d., and January-February at 70s. Cottonseed remains quiet: London-Egyptian loading is quoted £13 15s., and January £13 18s. 9d. per ton. Rapeseed is firm, but quiet: Guzerat pure basis, December-January, is quoted 67s. 6d.; Toria ditto, 62s. 6d.; Ferozopore ditto, 61s. 9d.; and brown Cawnpore ditto, 61s. 3d.

Oils.

Linseed oil is very strong, and business was done at fully 25s. over last week's reported prices. Spot pipes, quoted to-day, £39 7s. 6d.; barrels and month, £40 10s.; January-April, £41 10s. was paid; March-April, £42 is asked. Cotton oil is also strong. Crude spot, in pipes, £42; refined pale pipes, £45; and barrels, sweet, £47 to £48, as to makes. Rapeoil is dearer: Ordinary brown, naked spot, £44 is asked; English refined, barrels, £47.

Oilcakes.

Only very small business was done this week of a retail character, but prices for all kinds are about the same as reported last week.

Locust Beans.

There is a good demand, but the scarcity continues, and nothing is expected at present, especially from Cyprus.

The Mixed Courts at Alexandria are selling two large estates in Lower Egypt. The land belongs to Messrs. B. J. Huri and Company, a large cotton firm in Alexandria and Liverpool, which is now in liquidation. One estate consists of 341 fed lans of excellent agricultural land at Nosf Tani Bechbicha, in the Mehallet Kobra district of the Gharbieh Province. The upset price is £E80,000. The other estate consists, of 2,437 feddans at Abou Badui, in the Kafr Sheikh district. The upset price is £E66,434. The sale, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, is at the request of the Crédit Foncier Egyptien.

COTTON MARKET.

Liverpool.

Thursday Night.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph:—There has been good demand for Egyptian spot cotton this week, and large business resulted at advancing prices. Quotations are raised twenty points. The sales, including 600 Sudan, are estimated at 4,000 bales for three days, against 4,100 bales for six days last week.

Manchester.

Although a broken week, owing to holidays, we cannot report much decline in trade as compared with a normal week. Of late there has been a fair general inquiry.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

According to an Exchange Telegraph Company's message from Cairo, a serious cotton fire broke out in Alexandria on December 18, causing damage estimated at £60,000.

The death is announced in Cairo, on the 15th inst., following an operation for appendicitis, of Mrs. F. E. Johnston, wife of Brigadier-General Francis Earl Johnston, C.B.

Among the names of those enrolled on the Commission of the Peace for the County Palatine of Lancaster last week was that of Colonel Henry Concanon, T.D., a manager and Liverpool director of the White Star Line.

Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons have appointed as their agents for Egypt and the Sudan Messrs. Mosseri, Curiel and Co., late A. Aboaf and Co., Nubar Pasha Street, Alexandria.

We are informed by Mr. Herbert Allen that in consequence of the suspension of telegraphic communication between England and Russia no returns of production have been received since the week ended November 28 by the following companies:—Baku Russian Petroleum, Bibi Eibat Oil Company, European Oilfields Corporation and Russian Petroleum Company.

A Reutergram from Athens yesterday stated that the scarcity of coal is seriously preoccupying the Greek Government, and a decree is being published restricting the lights in the streets and limiting the hours of places of entertainment.

SUEZ ROUTE AVOIDED.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha announces that, beginning with the departure of the Kitano Maru now loading in London, and until further notice, the company's steamers will proceed viâ the Cape of Good Hope to the Far East instead of through the Suez Canal. In consequence of the change of route, passengers and cargo for Marseilles and Port Said cannot be accepted.

Nine days ago the Yasaka Maru, one of the finest and newest of the Nippon Yusen fleet, was torpedoed in the Mediterranean without warning while carrying 120 passengers, and sank in forty-nine minutes. On December 15 the Rotterdam Lloyd Line announced that certain of its steamers would use the Cape route to the Far East instead of the Suez Canal, the reason advanced by the company for the change being the alleged uncertainty as to the amount of coal available for bunkering at Port Said.

We understand, says the *Times*, that since the loss of the Yasaka Maru intending passengers by the Nippon Yusen Line have expressed the hope that the vessels would be diverted to the Cape route. The decision is likely to be welcomed by many merchants for the reason that lower war insurance rates are quoted by underwriters for the Cape than the Suez route. The British Government insurance scheme only applies to British ships and their cargoes, so that merchants shipping by the Japanese lines must insure either under the Japanese Government scheme or in the insurance market, where rates vary.

The change of route means an addition of ten days to the duration of the voyage by the mail liners to Japan.

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EGYPTIAN FINANCES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 10.

The State accounts for the month of October show that the total revenue collected up to the end of that month was £E9,386,753 and the expenditure £E8,932,156, as against £E8,849,284 and £E10,531,904 a year ago. In other words, the revenue during the seven months has increased by £E537,469, and the expenditure has decreased by £E1,599,748. As a result there is a surplus of £E454,597, as against a deficit of £E1,682,620 a year ago.

During October, as compared with October, 1914, Land Tax increased by £E66,670 Customs by £E81,800, Tobacco Dues by £E28,521, Legal Fees by £E29,350, Railways by £E94,374, and Domains Receipts by £E150,103. There were decreases in only minor items, and the total thereof amounted to but £E35,505.

On the expenditure side the chief reductions were :—War Office £E146,836, Railways £E458,428, Irrigation £E424,375, Main Drainage £E43,313, Public Works £E130,447, Education £E62,399, Interior £E98,018, and Justice £E61,755.

As I have pointed out before in these notes, it is not entirely satisfactory to compare this year's figures with those of a year ago, seeing that last year we were still suffering from the shock of the outbreak of war, and that comparison can only serve to show whether we are recovering by relation with 1914. The best test is a comparison with the figures for 1913. If we do this, we find that, whereas the budgetary revenue for the current year was put at £E1,784,000 less than for 1913, the revenue collected so far is only £E569,211 less than that collected during the same period of 1913. Similarly, the expenditure was fixed at £E2,714,000 less than that for 1913, and to date it is £E1,756,622 under what it stood at on October 31, 1913. Be it noted, too, that at that date there was a deficit of £E732,814, and that this year the position is one of a surplus of £E454,597. The State accounts are therefore in a better position than in 1913 by £E1,187,411, which is, to say the least of it, very satisfactory.

Of course, the weak part about it is that the improvement in the financial situation of the Government has been obtained by the almost complete cessation of new works, which is bound to react on the country. It should, however, be possible to resume part of these works early in the new year instead of awaiting the conclusion of the war, if the recovery, which the revenues of the country have shown, is maintained.

BULGARIAN WAR CREDITS.

Reuter's correspondent in Amsterdam reported yesterday that a semi-official telegram from Sofia stated that at the sitting on Wednesday of the Sobranje a war credit of £20,000,000 and a second credit of £1,200,000 were discussed. The second credit is destined for the relief of the families of poor soldiers. The Doctrinaire Socialists again expressed their pacifist views and their opposition to all war, but said they would vote for the credits. The Reform Socialists declared that they would abstain from voting. The remaining parties expressed themselves enthusiastically in favour of the credits, and demanded that peace should in every respect correspond with the sacrifices made by Bulgaria. The Agrarians and Labour members expressed themselves in the same sense.

THE CITY AND THE BALKANS

The *Economist* of December 18 contains a summary of the situation in the Balkans, from which the following are extracts :—

Roumania.

In spite of her difficult and central position, Roumania has maintained her neutrality throughout the year. Her foreign export trade and shipping have been seriously affected by the closing of the Dardanelles, which practically involved seclusion from the neutral world. Since the renewal of the campaign in Serbia the route from Salonika to Roumania has necessarily been closed, and the Roumanian Government has since been endeavouring to arrange by treaty for overland connection with Great Britain *viâ* Russia and Sweden. Her relations with Bulgaria and the Central Powers have been delicate, owing to the demands made upon the Roumanian Government to allow the passage of munitions through to Turkey. Her difficulties were enhanced by the fact that nearly 60 per cent. of her total imports are ordinarily supplied by Germany and Austria-Hungary, on whom she is almost wholly dependent for machinery and machine-made goods. The Central Powers have a certain financial grip in Roumania, especially, perhaps, due to the financing of local Roumanian banks by the large banks in Germany and Austria-Hungary.

On the other hand, in spite of the hampering of her trade, Roumania has been engaged on active military preparations; she has been deterred from war partly (it is alleged) by lack of munitions. Accordingly, a new Department (a Munitions Ministry) has been set up to work in co-ordination with the Ministry for War. Negotiations are said to have been carried through with Russia, by which Roumania is given facilities for the transit of merchandise and munitions across Russian territory to the Port of Kola. The Roumanian Government, though in a strong financial position compared with the other Balkan Governments, cannot well afford the cost of a mobilisation. Bribery and other influences have been at work to induce Roumania to abandon neutrality in favour of the Central Powers; while, on the contrary, she is bound to the Entente side by the £5,000,000 loan of the British Government in January of this year.

Among neutral States Roumania has been especially clever in drawing money from the belligerents and profits from the war. She has supplied grain to the Central Powers by selling her own supplies at exorbitant prices, and then importing cheap grain from Russia to satisfy her own needs. Then she has been getting very high prices for oil.

Bulgaria.

Perhaps the most unfortunate event in the course of the Great War was the adhesion of Bulgaria to the Central Powers. The Bulgarian peasant must have been reluctant to take arms again. Although remaining outside the conflict for so many months, Bulgaria thought it necessary to copy the economic devices adopted by the belligerents. A three-month moratorium was proclaimed on August 7, 1914, and then extended, and a week later the export of food staples and transport animals was prohibited, additions to the prohibited list being made from time to time. The closing of the Dardanelles left Bulgaria with no outlet to the world except from her inhospitable coastline on the Ægean, and Dedeagatch acquired an unwonted importance and could not cope with the stream of commerce. At that time the railway and the Turkish territory through which it ran had not been ceded to Bulgaria.

Apparently the average expenditure and revenue of the country balance one another at a little over ten millions sterling, just two days' cost of the war to us; so that Great Britain might easily have offered to pay all existing Bulgarian taxes for the next fifty years in return for her assistance in the war.

The first indication that Bulgaria was inclining towards the three Emperors was the agreement of September 6, by which Turkey ceded the territory west of Adrianople to Bulgaria. On September 28 Sir Edward Grey warned Bulgaria that we should support our Balkan Allies if she took the aggressive, yet even now the die seemed not to be cast, for two days later M. Malinoff, the Democratic leader, was authorised by the Opposition to treat with the Ministers of the Quadruple Entente. However, the end soon came. On October 3 Russia sent an ultimatum requiring the expulsion of German officers from Bulgaria, and on the 5th diplomatic relations were broken off. Up to this date, however, the Russians have taken no effective military measures against Bulgaria.

Greece.

By a curious and unexpected interpretation of her treaty with Serbia, Greece has kept out of the war. Yet she has not escaped the economic consequences of war. Piræus customs have fallen heavily as compared with 1914, the seven months to the end of July, 1915, showing a decline from 17½ million drachmæ to 14½ millions. In April France made a loan of £800,000, and last month the Allies offered a further £1,600,000 to meet the expenses of mobilisation. In all, Greece has a debt of nearly £50,000,000, against an "ordinary" revenue of £5,600,000, which does not meet her "ordinary" expenditure.

COMPANY REPORT.

COTTON GINNERS OF EGYPT, LTD.

The following are the report and accounts for the year ending August 31, 1915: The quantity of cotton ginned in our factories attained during the year 1914-15 only 1,350,594.71 cantars, as against 1,646,532.16 cantars in 1913-14. This decrease of 295,937.45 cantars in our turnover is caused principally by the same factors as those mentioned in our report to August 31, 1914, explaining the decrease in turnover of that year as compared with that of the previous year, viz.: the decreased buying in the interior of our principal clients on account of the poor quality of the crop. The same reasons have also naturally brought about a still more noticeable falling off in our steam-pressing business, which from 343,660.63 cantars in 1913-14 fell to 71,011 cantars in 1914-15. In effect, the result of the crop and the falling off in our business generally have exceeded even our own pessimistic anticipations. We have, on the other hand, to report further development in the ginning done for the smaller category of clients and no efforts are being spared to still further increase this class of *clientèle*.

The results to August 31 last are as follows:

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

Head Office: ATHENS.

BRANCHES.

Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère Dimitsana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos, Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante.

Every kind of Banking Business Transacted.

Cable Address—NATIONALBANK, ATHENS.

Correspondents in all Parts of the World.

Codes Used—LIEBER'S; B.C. (5th Edition).

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Profits on the factories		£E21,176
Less:—Sundry alterations		293
		£E21,183
Less:—Expenses and management at head office, Alexandria	£E2,892	
Interest on debentures	£E6,210	
Less: Profit on redeemed debentures..	93	
	£E6,117	
Less: Interest earned	910	
	5,207	
Sundry expenses	855	
Insurance premiums	2,248	
Less: Depreciation on new buildings and machinery	6,000	
Debentures redeemed	3,900	
Expenses on debentures	300	
		21,402
Loss		£E219
Amount brought forward from last year		15,084
Leaving a balance of		£E14,865

which, on account of the difficult circumstances at present prevailing, the directors recommend should, as a necessary precautionary measure, be carried forward. In view of what precedes and owing to the special circumstances existing during the year in review, due to the restriction, decreed by the Government, of the area to be planted and the continued and important damage threatened by the pink boll worm, the directors took steps in time to considerably reduce the company's expenses by provisionally closing down three factories. Certain reductions in expenses have also been made in the factories which remain open, so that, together with these and those above mentioned, economies in wages and general expenses of over £E6,000 will be realized. Two of the directors, Messrs. C. Bacos and S. Ritscher, have resigned and it is not proposed for the moment to replace them.

The retiring directors are Messrs. T. A. F. Critchley and M. Sinadino, both eligible for re-election.

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT AUGUST 31, 1915.

Liabilities.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Subscribed capital—		
360,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each		360,000 0 0
Debentures issued—		
£150,000 (part of an authorised issue of £200,000)..	150,000 0 0	
Less: Redeemed by purchase	20,000 0 0	
		130,000 0 0
Statutory reserve fund—		
As per last balance-sheet	21,984 11 6	
Less: Depreciation on investments	1,378 4 3	
		20,606 7 3
Sundry creditors—		
Choremi Benachi and Co.	831 9 6	
J. Planta and Co.	683 2 6	
Sundries	8,778 5 3	
		10,292 17 3
Profit and Loss Account—		
Balance as per last balance-sheet	15,469 5 4	
Less: Loss for year ended August 31, 1915	224 3 4	
		15,245 2 0
		536,144 6 6

Assets.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Land, factories, and buildings (at cost)		360,281 10 6
Additional constructions, 1905-14		170,465 18 0
Additions during year—		137 8 9
Less: Depreciation written off Aug. 31, 1914	£0,145 1 4	530,884 17 3
Depreciation written off for year ended Aug. 31, 1915	6,153 17 0	
Debentures redeemed out of profits to Aug. 31, 1914 £16,000		
For year ended Aug. 31, 1915 4,000	20,000 0 0	76,298 18 4
Discount and expenses on debentures issued—		454,585 18 11
As per last balance sheet..	6,164 15 2	
Less: Proportion written off for year ended Aug. 31, 1915	307 13 10	5,857 1 4
Furniture in Alexandria—		
As per last balance sheet		74 9 3
Stores at Factories—		
As valued and certified by the Managers		42,235 5 3
Sundry Debtor Accounts ..		6,861 2 6
Investments—		
£19,000 Egyptian Unified 4% Debt at 82¾	15,722 10 0	
£60 First Mortgage Debentures Associated Cotton Ginners of Egypt, Ltd.	56 7 4	
		15,778 17 4
Cash at bank and on hand—		
Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd	9,713 18 2	
At offices and factories..	1,037 15 9	
		10,751 11 11
		£536,144 6 6

Profit and Loss Account for Year Ended August 31, 1915.

Dr.	£ s. d.	
To salaries and wages	46,259 5 8	
,, stores, materials, etc.	28,269 19 8	
,, general expenses (including insurance)	7,204 14 4	
,, expenses of transport.	13,532 17 5	
,, rent and taxes	1,974 7 3	
,, repairs and renewals	746 13 6	
,, interest on debentures	6,369 13 8	
,, balance down	10,237 7 6	
	114,594 19 0	
To depreciation on buildings and machinery	6,153 17 0	
,, redemption of debentures	4,000 0 0	
,, amount written off "Expenses of Debenture Issue"	307 13 10	
	10,461 10 10	

Cr.	£ s. d.	
By Receipts from Ginning and Pressing..	110,841 14 0	
Rents received	1,200 0 0	
Interest received	935 3 6	
Sundry receipts	1,618 1 6	
	£114,594 19 0	
By balance brought down	10,237 7 6	
Balance carried to balance sheet, being loss for year ended August 31, 1915 ..	224 3 4	
	£10,461 10 10	

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

NINE MONTHS' RECEIPTS.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to September 30, 1915 (New Style: January 14 to October 13, 1915) :—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Sep., 1915		3,084,821	1,894,000
Do. do. do 1914		2,596,500	1,683,674
Estimated Receipts for 9 months (Law of Control)		21,675,000	8,025,000
Actual Receipts, 9 months, 1915		27,258.968	17,991,887
Do. do. do., 19 4		17,642,190	20,493,378
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 9 months	1915	+ 5,583,968	+ 9,966,887
	1914	+ 5,967,190	+12,468,378

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

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 30 Octobre, 1915, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

	£E.	£E.
Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien		651,486
Titres divers		386,640
Comptes-Courants		382,452
Avances sur Marchandises		1,493,383
Avances sur Titres Locaux et Etrangers		1,722,663
Avances sur d'autres garanties		1,353,867
Effets sur l'Etranger		1,343,748
Effets sur l'Egypte		310,867
Immeubles et mobilier		246,586
Placements à courte échéance		877,500
Comptes Banquiers		853,128
Ministere des Finances		90,966
Gouvernement du Soudan		455,321
Encaisse:		
Especes:		
Or	£E.91,558	
Argent et nickel	£E.156,125	
	£E.247,683	
Billets de Banque	£E.1,009,527	1,257,210
Divers		209,030
		£E.11,634,847

	£E.
Capital	2,925,000
Réserve:—	
Statutaire	1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	4,996,910
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,269,965
Ministère des Finances	116,948
Compte des Wakfs	14,094
Comptes Banquiers	291,619
Chèques et effets à payer	257,176
Divers	495,635
	£E.11,634,847

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Espèces	£E.7,121,799	
Titres	3,928,201	
	£E.11,050.000	
Billets émis	£E.11,050,000	
	£E.11,050,000	

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1909..	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	
Egypt. Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	85	74
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	78	66½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	65
Do. 4½% State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5%, 1881	57	52	54
Do. 5%, 1884	56	52	53½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	40	41
Do. 5%, 1890	56	52	53½
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	60
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	71
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Se., £60p.	92	—	86
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855..	103	97	—
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	—	81xd
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73xd
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4%, 1909	69	—	47⅞
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4½	—	3½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½% Bonds Red.	80	—	69½
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red...	83	—	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9⅝
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10⅝
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	—	90
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½% Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb ..	87	—	57
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb...	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	—
Do. do. 3% Bonds..	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1⅛	—	1¼
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2½	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	6
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	½	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅜
,, ,, Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5% Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6
Do. 4½% 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	75
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	5/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅛
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	103	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½% 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	—	1⅜
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99⅛	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	15/6
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	10/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	—	3
Do. do. 4½% 1st Mt. ..	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	£—
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Dec. 29.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	5/6
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	¼
European Oilfields	4/9	2/6
Roumanian	20/-	12/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Dec. 28.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	—	475
Canal de Suez	4050	3979
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	565
Turkish Unified 4%	59.95	59.95
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	89
Serbian, 1895	—	69.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 244.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The new leaven in the conduct of the war is showing very satisfactory results at Salonika, where it is of French make. On the morning of December 30 six enemy aeroplanes in all flew over the town and dropped several bombs. One Greek was killed, and, according to another account, one British soldier was killed and two were wounded, but the material damage done by the bombs was small. The same evening the German, Austrian, Bulgarian, and Turkish Consuls and Vice-Consuls were arrested, and with their families and the *personnel* of the Consulates were placed on board a French battleship. The plans for this drastic action had been prepared in advance. The French authorities had ample evidence of the secret activities of the enemy Consulates to justify their action many days, or even weeks, previously, but they waited for the first act of hostility before showing their hand. It is gratifying to find that the arrangements worked smoothly and effectively. The staffs of the Consulates were taken entirely by surprise, and the "haul" in the matter of incriminating documents must have been practically complete. It has led to subsequent arrests on a very large scale—thousands, if we accept the version of the German Press, a few hundreds, according to more reliable sources of information. For the most part the people arrested are of enemy nationality, and include a number of German and Austrian women employed at the local *cafés-chantants;* but the espionage network went beyond the nationals of the four countries, and a number of Greeks are involved. Proof is also said to have been forthcoming of the complicity of the Norwegian Vice-Consul. He is, however, of German nationality, and his arrest is no reflection on the friendly country of Norway and her people.

Greece has naturally entered a strong protest against the arrest of the Consuls, and the enemy countries have been stirred to a very high pitch of self-righteous indignation. Without doubt at an earlier stage of the War the Entente Powers would have warned the consular spies that their presence was no longer desired, and would have placed the necessary transport at their disposal in order to convey them and the *dossiers* of their intrigues to their respective countries. But no dispassionate observer, with knowledge of the whole situation, will pretend that the French authorities at Salonika could have acted otherwise in the circumstances, or will feel that the technical breach of international etiquette calls for even a perfunctory apology. A warning to the Consuls would have deprived the Allies of invaluable evidence necessary to protect their interests and the lives of Greeks as well as of their own nationals against enemy machinations. The incriminating documents seized afford abundant justification for the drastic step. If treatment on German lines had been meted out to them, probably few of the sixty or more people connected with the Consulates would have escaped the fate of Edith Cavell. As things are, they have been taken to France and allowed to return to their own countries by way of Switzerland.

The Greek Government has followed up its protest against the arrest of the Consuls by a protest to the German Government against the bombardment of Salonika from the air. When the evidence collected by the French authorities can be placed before it we may hope to hear of a further protest to Berlin against the use of Greek soil for German machinations having for their object the opening of hostilities in Greece, while Germany claims to respect Greek neutrality. The next step on the part of the Greek Government ought to be to see whether it is not called upon, as the United States Government was, to adopt drastic measures against the Dumbas and Boy-Eds in its own capital. It is reported that the decision to proclaim martial law has been arrived at, and that the Chamber will be convened a week earlier than was originally fixed in order to ratify the Government's action. If this course should be taken, the Government will have at its disposal the necessary machinery for purging the country of others besides the Salonika Consuls who have abused Greek neutrality.

Another satisfactory feature in regard to Salonika is the good-will that now reigns between the Greek General Staff and the Anglo-French authorities. General Moschopoulos, commanding the Greek Third Army Corps, testified to this feeling by sending on New Year's Day a message of greeting from himself and his officers to General Sarrail and the forces under his

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command. There can be little doubt that the whole course of events, including the action of Germany and her allies, particularly in connection with Monastir, and the resolute action now being taken by the Entente Powers, is exercising a powerful influence on Greek opinion. The vacillation shown in the early days of the occupation of Salonika, following upon the failure of the Dardanelles operations, which the Greek General Staff had predicted from the outset, must have impressed the latter very unfavourably in the face of all they knew regarding German precision and thoroughness. Since then a great change has taken place. As *The Times* correspondent reports: "The utmost confidence exists amongst the Allies. The regular and systematic arrival of troops, artillery, munitions, and transport has added to this confidence. The whole organisation is reported as beyond criticism, and the Greek General Staff, always inclined to pessimism, is unstinting in its praise." He adds that the relations existing between the British and Greek authorities, in circumstances entailing no little difficulty, are excellent. The original and natural feeling of resentment has now entirely disappeared, and has given place to sentiments of mutual confidence and good-will. In view of this change, it may not be without significance that General Moschopoulos should conclude a General Order to his troops with the words: "When the opportune moment comes our glorious King and Chief will put himself again at the head of his army to assure the rights of the Fatherland and lead it again to glory and triumph."

Opinion regarding the imminence of an attack on Salonika is undergoing a change. If it be true that in the enemy Consulates documentary proof was found of a scheme to have Salonika attacked by *komitaji* bands simultaneously with an advance of the Austro-German and Bulgarian forces, the discovery of the plot will have upset the enemy's plans not a little. The chances of an attack, however, would still seem to be even. On the one hand von Mackensen is said to have been recalled to face the Russian advance in Galicia, and his visit to Sofia seems to have been in the nature of a farewell audience of King Ferdinand; on the other hand there is evidence of military movements at Monastir, from which direction an advance would probably be made at the time of any attack on Salonika, and the course of events in Galicia may make the Germans anxious to distract the attention of their Bulgarian and Turkish allies from the increasing difficulties of the Central Powers, by giving them a formidable task upon which to concentrate their minds and all their energy.

An interesting and not unimportant episode at Salonika is the arrival of King Peter after his arduous experiences in the great retreat from Serbia. Refusing the proffered hospitality of the Italian Government, King Peter proceeded at the earliest opportunity to Salonika, more as an embodiment of his nation's pluck and determination than from any desire to resume a rôle which he had previously laid aside. In the eyes of the world, however, he still represents Serbia, and it is as the Serbian monarch that the Greek Government has sent him an official message of welcome. His presence on Greek soil may provide the golden bridge required to enable Greece to recover the lost alliance with Serbia. It should not be long before he is followed by what is left of the Serbian Army. The movements of the latter are necessarily somewhat obscure. A statement is attributed to General Boyovitch, Serbian Minister of War, to the effect that the Serbians in two months will offer the Allies an army of 100,000 men, reorganised and in excellent spirits. In the meantime the reorganisation is taking place in Albania.

Some light has now been thrown on the Italian operations in Albania. From Avlona a contingent of troops was sent overland to Durazzo, where they arrived on December 21, after a march which occupied a fortnight owing to the necessity of constructing bridges and opening a way. Preparations for their arrival had been made by Essad Pasha, who once more enters upon the scene in Albania. He has thrown in his lot whole-heartedly with the Grand Alliance, and is even reported to have declared war on Austria, promising the Allies the co-operation of a force of 20,000 men. Before the arrival of the Italians at Durazzo the usual army of Austro-German spies had been let loose on Albania, and achieved some success in stirring up some border tribes to slaughter defenceless Serbian refugees. Their main purpose seems to have been to prepare the ground for the return of the Albanian chiefs who had followed Prince William of Wied to Austria. Essad Pasha is said to have taken energetic measures against the agents of the Central Powers, and in so doing has rendered good service to the Allied cause. With a junction effected between the Serbians and Italians at Durazzo, it should now be possible, with the co-operation of Essad Pasha's following, to stem the Bulgarian advance in Albania, and eventually to dispose of it altogether.

To the loss of the Yasaka Maru, to which reference was made in these columns last week, has now to be added the sinking, also by enemy submarines, of the French steamer Ville de la Ciotat and the P. and O. steamer Persia. All three passenger ships were torpedoed without warning, in direct conflict with the explicit undertakings given by Germany and Austria-Hungary to the United States Government, quite apart from considerations of legitimate warfare and the dictates of humanity. As an American subject—this time a consular official—on board the Persia was drowned, it is to be expected that an opportunity will be given to the Austro-Hungarian Government to offer some explanation. A hint has been thrown out that the submarine may not have been Austrian, but—Turkish. That aspect of the matter may concern the United States, but does not concern the Allied Powers. Whether masquerading as Turkish, Arab, or Bulgarian, the submarine originated with one of the Central Powers, and the heinousness of the offence has to be laid to their charge. The first business of the British and French Governments is to take such steps, either by reorganising their patrol areas or by other measures, as will put an end to the activities of enemy submarines in the Mediterranean. The second duty is, while the accumulated horror of these outrages is fresh in the public memory, to resolve that some conception of the villainy of this method of warfare shall be brought home to the Central Powers. A penalty over and above the ordinary terms imposed on those who have been unsuccessful in a war of their own seeking must be agreed upon, which will remain a continuous penance spread over a generation or more, for the crimes of a nation. Perhaps the most suitable form that this could take would be an embargo—to be in force for a period of fifty years—on any German or Austrian ship, or any ship belonging in part to any German or Austrian, using the ports of the Allied Powers, and a further embargo on any German or Austrian financial establishment or shipping office being established on the soil of any of the Allied countries.

The official reason given for the occupation of Castellorizo by the French is that the island will serve as a base in the event of operations against Adalia. Not less important is the fact that the presence of French troops there will prevent the island from being a base for submarines, while the occupation of the German Emperor's property, the Achilleion, at Corfu, for hospital purposes will put an end to rumours that it was also being used by the enemy. Although the enemy reports give a far larger list of submarine successes in the Mediterranean than has been made public in this country, it would appear that these vessels have been almost entirely eliminated from the northern Ægean. They continue to haunt its southern waters, and must be based on the Greek coast (Crete or the mainland) or some of the islands off Asia Minor not yet occupied by the Allies. So far the number of their victims is only a small proportion of the shipping using the Eastern Mediterranean, but the loss of three liners within a few days calls for renewed efforts in dealing with a problem

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which presents probably greater difficulties than it did in home waters and the North Sea.

The British position at Kut continues to be exposed to the enemy's heavy artillery fire, a clear indication that General Townshend is still awaiting the reinforcements that are to make him more of a match for the Turkish forces. An enemy report claims that the relieving column is being successfully held up at Ali Gharbi, sixty miles distant from Kut; but, though we may expect to find the Turks in this neighbourhood, we shall do well to wait for confirmation of the nature of the opposition before placing any reliance on this version of the situation. General Townshend reports that the Turks suffered very heavy losses—estimated at 10,500—at Ctesiphon and in the recent attacks on Kut. The fact that they asked for a four hours' armistice to bury their dead and to remove their wounded in front of the British position, as well as the limitation of their efforts to artillery fire, points to the accuracy of the information regarding the Turks' losses.

The German Press devotes much space these days to Egypt and the Middle East, and some credit must be given to it for having discovered that both the British in Egypt and the French in Syria have done much in the past for the two countries. With regard to what France has done, particularly in the Lebanon, Germany is exhorted to lose no time in picking up the threads of her work and extending it. The same moral, of course, awaits Germany in Egypt. The British "mistake" of a one-sided development, by which is meant making all progress dependent on the Nile, is to be avoided. As might be expected, the fact that the British still happen to be in possession of Egypt is hardly allowed to interfere with the pleasure derived from this *Zukunftsmusik*. "When the Turco-German expedition, already in an advanced stage of preparation," Dr. Paul Rohrbach informed a Hamburg audience, "moves towards Egypt, the British have no means of stopping it; they can only await it on the Suez Canal. If they make their stand in front of the Canal, their position—the Canal behind them—is extraordinarily dangerous. If they place themselves behind the Canal, they will not be able to prevent us from closing the Canal to all shipping by means of our heavy artillery." Dr. Rohrbach, however, does not seem to contemplate Egypt in the permanent possession of Germany. He is content with an economic federation of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey, with the "freedom of the seas" secured by a Turkish railway constructed to the immediate neighbourhood of the Suez Canal, "with strong military posts close to the Canal," which is to exercise such pressure on Great Britain that at any time she can be forced to give way.

In the meantime the German Press claims to be fully informed of all the steps taken to place Egypt in a state of defence. "Several hundreds of thousands of natives and English soldiers," it alleges, "are employed in strengthening the defences; six or seven lines of trenches are being dug." The strength of the British forces is stated to be 240,000 men, and will eventually amount to 400,000. Ninety thousand men, according to German information, are already stationed at Tel-el-Kebir. Waterworks for flooding part of the country are in readiness. Alas, however, for the credibility of the interesting message, which is dated from Constantinople, it ends with the statement that there is good ground for believing that Japan is only waiting for the blocking of the Suez Canal in order to take possession of China, India, and the French colonies in the Far East.

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS.

The list of New Year's honours granted by his Majesty the King, which was issued this week, contains many names that are well known in the Near East.

Earl Curzon of Kedleston, who receives the Garter, is one of the keenest students of Near Eastern politics and one of the most trenchant critics, and his book on Persia remains the standard work of reference on that country.

Lord Charles Beresford, second son of the fourth Marquess of Waterford, who is raised to the Peerage with the rank of Baron, entered the Navy as a cadet on the Britannia in 1859. He commanded the Condor at the bombardment of Alexandria, and landed there after the bombardment to institute a regular police system. He has sat in Parliament as a Unionist for various constituencies since he was first elected as a Conservative for Waterford in 1874.

Sir Thomas George Shaughnessy, who has also been created a Baron, has been during the greater part of his career connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, which has done much to further British interests in the Near East.

Major-General Lovick Bransby Friend, C.B., who has been in command of the South-Western Coast Defences since 1914, has been appointed a member of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council in Ireland. Major-General Friend passed into the Royal Engineers in 1873. He has had distinguished Staff service, and he was promoted to the rank of major-general in 1912. His active service was seen in the Nile Expedition of 1898, when he fought in the Battle of Khartoum and was mentioned in despatches, and received the medal struck for the Omdurman Campaign. He afterwards had employment in the Egyptian Army, and also in the Irish and Scottish Commands.

Sir William Edward Goschen, who has been created a Baronet of the United Kingdom, was our Ambassador at Berlin on the outbreak of war. He is the youngest brother of the late Viscount Goschen, and entered the Diplomatic Service in 1869. After filling many posts, he successively represented Great Britain as Minister at the Courts of Belgrade, Copenhagen, Vienna, and Berlin.

Rear-Admiral Sir Frederic Charles Doveton Sturdee, who has also received the honour of a Baronetcy, is famous for his victory over the German Fleet in the battle of the Falkland Isles. He became a lieutenant in 1880, and was present at the bombardment of Alexandria, for which he received the medal with clasp and the Khedive's bronze star; and for his services in Samoa during the Civil War he was made a C.M.G. He served as Rear-Admiral 1st Division of the Home Fleet in 1909-10, and was in command of the Third Cruiser Squadron, 1911-12, and of the Second Cruiser Squadron in 1912-14, since when he has been Chief of the War Staff.

FOREIGN OFFICE LIST.

ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL AND ST. GEORGE.

This list includes the name of William Edwin Brunyate, Esq., C.M.G., Legal Counsellor to the Egyptian Government. He entered the Egyptian Government Services in 1898 after having been educated at Kingswood School, Bath, and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was Second Wrangler in 1888 and Smith's Prizeman in 1890.

HONORARY K.C.M.G.

Sheikh Said Ali Morghani, C.M.G., who has received this signal honour, has shown a very active spirit of patriotism ever since the outbreak of the war He is one of the most influential and popular native celebrities in the Sudan, and can claim direct descent from the Prophet.

C.M.G.

The above list includes Andrew Ryan, Esq., late First Dragoman at his Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, and Colonel William Hacche Drake, R.A., Adjutant-General for the Sudan, who has many years of service in that country to his credit. Colonel Drake was badly mauled by a wounded leopard some years ago.

COLONIAL OFFICE LIST.

ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL AND ST. GEORGE.

Sir Edward Marsh Merewether, who has received the K.C.M.G., has served with distinction under the Colonial Office in the East. In 1902 he was Lieutenant-Governor of Malta, and in 1911 he became Governor and Commander-in-Chief in Sierra Leone.

NAVAL OPERATIONS.

K.C.M.G.

Vice-Admiral Sackville Hamilton Carden, who was in charge of our early operations at the Dardanelles, and Vice-Admiral Arthur Henry Limpus, C.B., are included in the above list. Admiral Limpus was Naval Adviser to the Turkish Navy at Constantinople when war broke out. The Admiral, who is now at Malta, was exceedingly popular in Turkish circles, and his departure from Turkey was genuinely regretted.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 20.

Anniversary of the Sultan's Accession.

Yesterday was the first anniversary of the accession of Sultan Hussein. By contrast with last year—when, of course, his Highness made his State entry into his capital and subsequently held a reception at Abdin Palace—no ceremonies in celebration of the day have been held this year. Salutes of twenty-one guns were fired yesterday morning from the Citadel and from Abbassia, and the customary book was opened at Abdin Palace for signature by those who wished to pay their respects to the ruler of the country. During the day, H.H. received the Princes, Ministers, Advisers, Sir H. McMahon, Sir J. Maxwell and Sir Milne Cheetham, and in the evening the Prime Minister, Rushdi Pasha, gave a banquet of seventy covers to celebrate the occasion.

The Canal Defences.

There is very great activity in and around the Canal zone, where several thousand labourers are working, and every effort is being made to put the defences in the best condition possible. Exactly what scheme is being followed this year I am, of course, not permitted to state, but I think I may safely say that our defence will be on a very different scale from that of a year ago. Sir George Macauley, Under-Secretary of State for Railways, has been gazetted as Colonel R.E., Director of Railway Transport, and Major J. S. Liddell, Inspector-General of State Telegraphs, as Lieutenant-Colonel, Director of Army Signals. In addition, in view of the large Public Works staff working on the Canal defences, Sir Murdoch MacDonald, Under-Secretary of State for Public Works, has been gazetted Colonel R.E. These commissions are, of course, merely temporary ones.

The Question of Enemy Firms.

It is stated, though no official confirmation can be obtained, that an order has been given for all German and Austrian commercial establishments to be liquidated at once.* If this be true, then no decision would be more welcome; for, during the past year, many people have often wondered how much longer our policy of toleration in this matter was going to be continued. The leniency shown has certainly been amazing. to say the least of it. In Cairo, for instance, we have had Diemers, the chief bookseller; Hackh, the chief pianoforte dealer; Weinrich, the chief hairdresser; Stein and Co., Tiring and Co., Meyer and Co., the leading linen-drapers and ready-made clothiers, not to mention other more or less prominent enemy establishments in other parts, all plying their trade apparently just as in the piping times of peace.

It is true that most of these establishments have had an official controller appointed, and that it has been stated unofficially that the companies are being worked for the benefit of the Entente shareholders and the other concerns for that of their Entente creditors. Two questions, however, may in all fairness be asked. In the first place, as regards the private firms, which, it may be noted, were thriving concerns in pre-war days, how is it that after fifteen months the Entente creditors are still unsatisfied, or if they have been satisfied, how is it that the firms in question are still allowed to operate, even under British control, under their old name-signs? And, secondly, with reference to the companies, what is happening to the profits? Are they all going to the Entente shareholders, and is there any guarantee that such shareholders are not figure-heads for Swiss, Dutch, Scandinavian, or other neutral agents of Austro-German capitalists?

Neither here nor at home have we distinguished ourselves in the past by firm action when it was a question of eradicating Austro-German influences from our midst. In view of the mistaken and sentimental ideas of fair play we as a nation have displayed since war broke out, and of the added information that, although general liquidation has been decided on, exceptions will be made in special cases, it is not surprising that in certain quarters out here there is a fear that when peace is declared we may, through our at times exaggerated sense of justice, hand back intact to our enemy some of the commercial establishments which we had magnanimously kept going during the war, and which had in pre-war days constituted an effective cloak for the Pan-Germanic propaganda which their owners had carried on, thus undoing all the good that the war may have done for British trade and British prestige.

It is no exaggeration to say that no other nation would for fifteen months have tolerated in its midst the existence of enemy firms and the parade of their names before the public, or, in the case of enemy companies with national and friendly capital interests, would have delayed taking steps that would have removed all doubts as to the object for which those companies continued to be worked, and as to the chances the enemy interests might have of reacquiring the goodwill after the war.

If the intention attributed to the authorities is correct, it is sincerely to be hoped: first, that, if they are so satisfied as to the bona fides of the Entente and neutral capital interests in certain enemy establishments that they deem it necessary that they should continue working, steps will be taken to confiscate all Austro-German interests therein and ensure the severance of all outward association with our enemies, and that a definite statement of policy to this effect will be made: secondly, that the liquidation of all other enemy firms will be speeded up, and that they will be forced forthwith to remove their name-plates and all signs of Austro-German origin; and, thirdly, that, with the exception of concerns with Entente and neutral interests worthy of consideration, no exceptions will be made. Only by some such action and declaration of policy to-day will it be possible to frustrate the subsequent efforts of the slobbering sentimentalists at home and out here to favour the under dog.

A Case Meriting Investigation.

Whilst on this topic I would like to say that the military authorities might well give their attention to a certain stationer's shop in the Sharia Maghraby. Whatever its nationality may be, there can be no doubt as to the direction of its sympathies, for it boldly displays in its windows stationery and other office requisites of Austro-German manufacture. One can quite understand that, desirous of showing some consideration to firms which, in obedience to the public demands, may at the outbreak of war have had in stock a supply of German-made goods, the authorities might not interfere with the continued sale thereof; but the line should surely be drawn in a flagrant case of this sort where, so that there should be no mistake as to their enemy origin, the articles are flamboyantly displayed with the names of the maker and place of manufacture plainly marked on them. This public advertisement, with brilliant lighting effect every night, of Austro-German wares is without a doubt nothing less than a gratuitous insult to our intelligence. It is an affront which should not for one moment be tolerated, and it is to be hoped that steps will forthwith be taken to put an end to a state of things which is as little calculated to improve our prestige in the country as it is to raise us in the esteem of neutrals and of our Allies.

A Necessary Administrative Reform.

Apropos of the suppression of the first year of the French side of the Law School owing to the great reduction in candidates, referred to in last week's letter, the time has surely come when an end might well be put to the absurd practice of corresponding in French which is prevalent in Government administrations. That letters between English officials should be written in Arabic is, perhaps, excusable, as this is an Arabic-speaking land, but that such letters should have in a parallel column an official translation in French, or that correspondence between two English officials should actually pass in French, is surely the height of absurdity. The practice assumes an absolutely Gilbertian complexion when it is added that few Anglo-Egyptian officials, even if they understand and can speak it, know French sufficiently well to be able to dictate their replies therein, and that in most cases their English draft answer has to be translated into that language by an Egyptian or Syrian clerk. It is high time that this absurd practice, the relic of days when French influence

* Further references to this subject will be found on page 273.

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was paramount, were done away with throughout the Government. The desire to avoid unnecessarily wounding susceptibilities is very laudable, but it has its limitations. The days when international susceptibilities had to be considered in the most trivial matters in this country are gone for ever, and our Gallic friends, who would be among the first to appreciate the humours of the present situation, would certainly be the last to raise objections to the introduction of more rational methods into the official correspondence of the Egyptian Government.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, December 23.

The Government's Dilemma.

The situation in Greece is becoming more and more critical. Government circles are now realising that it will be difficult to extricate themselves from the impasse into which they have been driven by following their policy of neutrality. It is certain that Germany and her allies will not sacrifice their vital interests in order to spare the susceptibilities of Greece by acceding to her request that Bulgarian troops should not enter Greek territory. It is stated that, after vain efforts to avoid the entry of the Bulgarians, an exchange of views is now taking place between Athens and Berlin with the object of rendering the entry of these troops as little hurtful as possible to Greek *amour-propre*. Thus it is reported that the Bulgarian troops who are to invade Greece will be allowed to do so through the zone evacuated by the Greek troops between Doiran and Salonika. Another report has it that the Germans have proposed that the Bulgarian troops crossing the Greek frontier should wear German uniforms! The Government seems faced by the impossibility of preventing their entrance, and, as it does not wish by any means to be drawn into military action, it seems disposed to content itself with a guarantee that the troops who enter Greece will leave the territory as soon as their operations against the Allies have been carried out. It has even been stated by a paper which has some connection with the Government, and is regarded as the organ of M. Gounaris, that the Sovereigns of the four allied States would also give their personal guarantee.

According to communications made by one of the Ministers to an Athens journal, the Government is of opinion that Greece, after the guarantees already received in regard to the integrity of her territory, would stand to risk nothing by letting the Bulgars enter, as, if they were not disposed to quit at the conclusion of operations, they could easily be beaten at a time when, whether successful or defeated, they would be exhausted; and in view of the present disposition of the Greek troops, they might even be made prisoners. Thus Greece, while maintaining her neutrality, would favour the weakening of the Bulgarian army. The *Hestia* attributes these views to M. Gounaris.

This line of argument does not appear to rest on very solid foundations. If the Bulgarians are successful, Greece could not defeat them so easily by herself, since, in that case, the Allies would be beaten. On the other hand, independently of the guarantees that the Central Powers may have been able to give Greece regarding her territorial integrity, is it likely that their troops would stand by while the Greek army was attacking and defeating their allies, to whom they would be indebted for the success of their Balkan campaign? In such an eventuality Greece would find herself confronted by far greater difficulties than those in which she is now placed, through not having attacked the Bulgarians at the commencement, with Serbia and the Allied troops. Besides, it is almost certain that it would be sufficient for Greece to persist in declaring seriously that she would attack the Bulgarians if they entered her territory, and to grant free passage for the Central Powers, for the latter, in their own interests, to dispense with the co-operation of the Bulgarians and prevent them from entering Greek territory, so as not to bring about fresh complications and create a new front, which would hardly suit them. In that case, it is not very likely that the Germans would decide to undertake such a campaign by themselves, in view of the fact that the only railway line—Uskub-Nish—by which their army could be provisioned, would not only be insufficient, but would not even afford absolute security, as it passes through hostile Serbian populations, and would require considerable forces to guard it.

M. Gounaris and the Cabinet.

M. Gounaris, who obtained a majority of from 200 to 250 deputies in the elections, has announced that he does not wish to assume power, and that he is prepared to support the Government. The fact is that M. Gounaris has no wish to accept responsibility at such a difficult juncture, preferring that it should be shared between his colleagues. Thus the composition of the Cabinet will remain the same. It is true that M. Rallis had a disagreement with M. Gounaris on the subject of the Attica electoral lists, and wished to resign, but he was dissuaded from taking this course by the Premier and his Majesty the King, who wishes that all the statesmen composing the present Cabinet should remain in power until the end of the crisis.

"A BISHOP IN MESOPOTAMIA."

In our issue of December 10 we referred (under the above title) to the Bishop of Lahore's visit to our Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force and the appreciation of that visit by our troops. The following passages, reproduced from an interesting letter written by the Bishop, and published in the *Civil and Military Gazette*, will, we think, prove interesting in connection with the previous note:—

My chaplain and I (writes the Bishop) were met at the mouth of the Shatt-el-Arab by the Rev. H. N. Bridge, Senior Chaplain to Force "D," and he accompanied us throughout the tour. It was a great satisfaction to find that the provision of chaplains is now adequate. At Busreh itself, where there is a large base hospital, Mr. Bridge is working. One chaplain, the Rev. O. W. Birch, is with the troops at Nasriyeh, on the Euphrates, and two—the Rev. H. Spooner and the Rev. P. Graydon Tibbs—with the force operating on the Tigris. I saw many signs that the officers and men deeply appreciate the fact of having their chaplain with them, and the response to the faithful work that is being done is real and manifest. In addition to the chaplains, the Army Branch of the Y.M.C.A. has four men under the leadership of the Rev. L. Dixon working in Mesopotamia. Good work has been done both by the Royal Army Temperance Association and the Y.M.C.A. at Busreh and Amarah, and there should be still further opportunities for this. Later on my object was to visit the British troops, and by the great kindness of those in authority, who, from the Army Commander downward, gave me the warmest of welcomes, and took endless trouble to make things easy for me, I was able to accomplish this. "S" Battery R.H.A. was the only British unit that I did not see. In most cases I was able to spend a week or sometimes more in each camp. . . .

Of one service, held on the Sunday evening before the big fight for Kut, the Bishop writes: "General Townshend had expressed his wish for a special service, and there, on the dusty aviation square, was gathered the whole of the British force. And as we said together the old words, and sang the old hymns, and I noted the strained and eager attention with which they listened to the old message, I realised and thanked God for the deep hold that the old Faith had on the officers and men of the British Army. . . .

"In conclusion, I may perhaps be allowed to bear my humble personal testimony to the spirit of the officers and men of this force, not that such testimony is needed, but for my own satisfaction. . . . Of the military side I must not presume to write, though I have seen and heard enough in the last six weeks to believe that when the full history of this campaign comes to be written, even as a military achievement it will rank very high. . . .

"I shall always remember with deep gratitude the hearty comradeship with which I was welcomed, and the readiness with which I was helped by all ranks; and while life lasts it will be an inspiration to remember the resourcefulness and courage, the patience and devotion, and the great-hearted endurance of the officers and men of the Indian Expeditionary Force."

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

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, December 8.

The Coming Parliamentary Session.

There is a general impression that during the coming Parliamentary session the present Government will not enjoy last year's immunity from attack on the part of the Opposition. M. Bratiano's sphinx-like attitude on the subject of the country's foreign policy, his absolute reticence with regard to negotiations which have taken place or are taking place between Roumania and the different belligerent groups, have given rise to a feeling of satisfaction or discontent in the breast of each, according to his personal attitude with regard to the great matters that sway the nations in this year of grace, and according to the sense of confidence that the Prime Minister's personality and attitude—or suspected attitude—have inspired in him. The absolute reserve which the Prime Minister has imposed upon himself and upon his colleagues has, if not strengthened his position, at least vested him in a shroud of mystery, which leaves him less exposed to the shafts of his critics. No man can say "You have done this" or "You have done that," for he would first have to produce evidence that the Prime Minister had followed one course of action or another, evidence which is not at his disposal. Nor can you rend a man for what he has said when that man has said nothing. This attitude may give rise to much dissatisfaction, but it disarms the critic to a great extent. The latter's discontent is without doubt enhanced by his feeling of impotence. We venture to prophesy that M. Bratiano's reserve will be taxed to the utmost in the coming session, for all the Opposition's ingenuity will be directed towards the framing of questions that command an unequivocal reply. The struggle promises to be of interest.

Opening of Parliament, November 28.

For the first time since Roumania has a dynasty the royal procession started from the Palace of Cotroceni instead of the Palace in the Calea Victoriei occupied by the late King Charles. Unusual precautions had been taken against some mysterious danger. The procession was accompanied by mounted police in considerable number, and on the road leading to the Metropole, where his Majesty interrupted his journey to the Chamber in order to attend a Te Deum, a line of armed police was drawn up. The previous day a house to house visit had been made along the streets to be followed by the royal *cortège*, and householders had received orders to close all windows opening on to the street during the passage of the procession—vexatious and unnecessary precautions, as everyone will agree who knows the people of Bucharest. The Roumanian may be independent in speech; he may not be by education and tradition sufficiently imbued with the sense of what is due from subject to sovereign; but for the authorities to apprehend what the above measures imply calls for a smile of amusement.

Speech from the Throne.

A little after twelve the King entered the Chamber of Deputies, accompanied by his Prime Minister and the other members of the Government. His Majesty was received with applause, to which all factions contributed. His message was as follows:—

Senators, Deputies,—This year's session opens in the same disquieting atmosphere as last year's.

The war, which claims such a toll of blood from the world around us, follows its course with increasing vehemence. New States have joined in the struggle, thus adding to the proportions of the European conflict.

These circumstances impose upon us the duty of uniting our efforts for the purpose of defending Roumania's great interests, thus raising ourselves in heart and mind above all other preoccupations.

In the course of the session which opens this day you will have to pronounce upon different legal and financial projects which my Government will submit to you in order that we may face existing difficult circumstances, and we doubt neither the good sense with which you will examine them nor the high patriotism which you will bring to their support.

More especially are we convinced that you will continue to satisfy the needs of our beloved army, that has ever known how to show itself worthy of the love and confidence of the country, and on which depends more than ever the position due to Roumania.

Gentlemen,—Full of confidence in the future of our dear Roumania, we pray that the Almighty may bless your works.

We declare opened the ordinary session of the Legislative Bodies.

Interruptions by Opposition.

A group of members belonging to the "Unionist Federation," which includes not only members of the Opposition, had at a previous meeting resolved upon an organised manifestation. A little before the King's arrival the entire Opposition entered the Chamber in a group, MM. Take Jonescu and Nicolas Filipesco seating themselves together on the front bench. All who possessed Serbian decorations seemed to be wearing them. Conspicuous by their absence were decorations belonging to the Central Powers and their allies. The King, as mentioned above, was greeted with lively applause, but no sooner had he pronounced the first words of his speech than some sixty deputies broke out into cries of "Down with the Hungarians! We want Ardeal! Long live Ardeal!" A little later the speech was again interrupted by similar cries, oft repeated. The passage referring to the Army was warmly applauded by all parties, and the end was marked by cries of "Long live the King!" and "Down with the Magyars!" Governmental organs refer to the interruptions as a premeditated breach of respect towards the Sovereign, a reproach which may be allowed to apply to the form, but does not take into account the spirit, of the manifestation.

A Step in the Right Direction.

A British telegraph agency has been instituted in Bucharest, which will offer valuable support to the French and Russian telegraphic services in supplying the public with information from sources other than German. Roumania is one of the few countries left which present a wide field of activity for German propaganda, and it was high time for us to take some measures to neutralise this state by supplying the public with reliable news. I am, of course, far from suggesting that German methods should be resorted to; this war is a great melting-pot, from which we are likely to emerge only too similar in appearance to our enemies, unless we avoid dubious methods and continue to keep ourselves from dabbling in disreputable transactions. If there is one thing we can pride ourselves on more than another it is that we have so far kept clean. The good reputation we still enjoy among the neutrals—I refer entirely to the Balkans—is largely due to this, and to the fact of our having so far adhered to the principles proclaimed by us since the outbreak of the war. The future generations may give us credit for this when they come to analyse the causes of the Balkan fiasco.

December 16.

The New Contingent.

King Ferdinand had the happy idea of suggesting that the contingent for 1916 should be reviewed on the anniversary of the fall of Plevna, and this coincidence lent special significance to the ceremony of swearing in the new recruits. Accordingly on December 11 some 10,000 young men formed up in a square at the barracks of St. George, their Majesties, King Ferdinand, Queen Marie, and the Royal children, the Prime Minister, and a number of general officers being gathered around the altar set up in the centre of the square. The almoner of the garrison having celebrated a service, the recruits raised their right hands and took the oath of allegiance, whereupon the King favoured them with an address, in which he recalled the circumstances that lent special importance to this anniversary.

Miss Cavell and Roumanian Women.

It has been decided to open a subscription for the purpose of contributing to the expenses of the proposed monument to the memory of Miss Cavell. The initiative is due, I understand, to the kind heart of Mrs.

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Take Jonescu. Subscriptions are not to exceed 20 frs. A long list of sympathisers, rather than a large sum of money, is the aim of the subscription. The fair sex alone are invited to contribute. We do not doubt for a moment that ample funds will be collected in England alone, but Miss Cavell's martyrdom reaches the hearts not only of English women but of the women of all nations. Those of Roumania claim their right to register at once their horror of a crime that degrades humanity as a whole and their veneration for the victim whose spirit so completely dominated the flesh, and who has left mankind the richer for her example.

Escaped Serbian Prisoners.

Some twenty Serbian soldiers are reported to have reached Salonika after passing through extraordinary trials. Having been made prisoners in the course of a recent engagement, they were led into Bulgarian territory. One night on the road the captives, taking their guards by surprise, massacred them all. Seizing their arms, they contrived to escape over the frontier, subsequently making their way to Salonika. They are described as fine specimens of the soldier, active, high-spirited, and dauntless.

Russian Preparations.

It is stated that the Russian port on the Danube, Reni, was closed on December 3 for all traffic of a general kind, and that fresh troops have arrived there. Ships expected at Galatz from this port have not arrived. Another wire announces the closure of the Russian frontier at Ungheni in view of the large concentration of troops at this point and of an approaching offensive against Bukovina.

A wireless from Poldhu reports that German troops are being withdrawn from Serbia and sent to Rustchuk, in order to defend Bulgaria against a Russian invasion, which is considered to be imminent. The Austro-Germans continue to fortify the principal Bulgarian river ports. Powerful guns and projectors have recently been established at Rustchuk and Vidin. Some people think that the Bessarabian army has been formed in order to support an expected offensive on the part of Roumania, Russia being unable to send an army into Bulgaria until she has assured herself of a safe base of operations, and that she is seeking to obtain this base in Roumania.

BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, December 14.

The Germans in Sofia.

A diplomatist who arrived here recently from Sofia reports that on the arrival of German troops Sofia and Rustchuk were beflagged by order of the Bulgarian Government. The first German regiment to enter Sofia was the 16th Hamburg. Received on the border of the city by the Minister of War and a special deputation, the regiment marched through the principal streets headed by its band. The same evening a banquet in honour of the German officers was given at the Military Club, at which the Crown Prince was present.

The entire Fifth Division of the Bulgarian Army has been moved to Rustchuk, as has also the 1st Brigade of the First Division.

Eighteen thousand German soldiers were disembarked at Rustchuk, having been taken thither down the Danube from Lom Palanka. They were immediately sent on by train to Shumla, where the German General Staff is—or was—located.

Turkish Troops in Bulgaria.

Two Turkish regiments have arrived at Varna and Burgas. This is all the more significant in view of the fact that ever since her entry into the war Bulgaria has categorically refused to allow Turkish troops to enter the country, making no secret of her suspicion that the Turks intended to occupy all that part of Thrace which they lost during the Balkan War. It needed the intervention of Berlin to allay the Bulgarian suspicion of their former enemy and new ally, and the German Government, it is said, decided to send troops to Constantinople as a guarantee of loyal conduct on the part of the Turks towards the Bulgarians!

It is to be noted that the state of tension between the Turks and the Bulgarians appears to become more acute; and the existence of a secret German-Turkish agreement, which aims at the retrocession of the Adrianople-Dedeagatch line to Turkey, seems to be beyond all question. In these circumstances it is not surprising that the stationing of Turkish troops on the Bulgarian frontier causes lively dissatisfaction amongst the Bulgarian public, who are commencing to lose all confidence in Germany's promises.

Prohibited Exports.

The Council of Ministers has prohibited the exportation of maize and eggs. In view of the need of the former, especially in Germany and Austria, this prohibition seems rather a strange one. Germany also imported from Bulgaria between 30 and 80 tons of eggs monthly.

ROUMANIAN CATTLE SMUGGLING.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, December 8.

The high prices offered in Austria-Hungary are a great temptation to those who are not convinced that compliance with the regulation prohibiting the export of cattle will result in the starvation of the Central Powers. The authorities have to contend with great difficulties, for prices offered over the frontier are so high that in some cases smugglers can afford to bribe police and frontier troops stationed at likely points for the purpose of preventing such illegal traffic. A few days ago a herd of some eighty head of cattle was stopped as it was being driven over the frontier at Mitarcea. The smugglers were fired upon, and this led to their surrender.

A horrible crime was committed recently under peculiar circumstances. An officer of the reserve stationed at Dolhasea, on the Austro-Roumanian frontier, taking advantage of his post of confidence, agreed to offer facilities for the conveyance of cattle over the frontier. This had been going on for some time, when one night the officer and his accomplice, a sergeant, were surprised by two soldiers under suspicious circumstances. Having acquired the impression that the soldiers intended informing against them, the officer and his subordinate resolved to do away with them. They had the two soldiers placed on guard, and, creeping up in the course of the night armed with rifles, shot them down in cold blood. The shots attracted some members of the police force, who arrived in time to hear the testimony of one of the expiring victims. This led to the arrest of the officer and of his accomplice, who are now awaiting trial. The officer was a licentiate in law, and the price of his crime was the paltry sum of 90 frs.

This morning's edition of the *Dimineatza* refers to the existence of an audacious band of cattle smugglers, which has assumed the proportions of an organized association, with its headquarters at Cernowitz, and widespread ramifications along the whole Austro-Hungarian frontier. The founder of this organization, which has the approval of the Austrian civil and military authorities, is said to be a notorious business man of the name of Coco Wassilko, a baron, a deputy, and the leader of the Ruthenians of Bukovina. Thanks to the extraordinary adroitness employed, over 42,000 head of cattle are said to have been conveyed over the frontier in the course of three months, but no doubt the figure has been exaggerated. Wassilko's personal gain is said to amount to two million crowns.

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NEWS FROM SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Port Said, December 21.

Referring to my last notes.* the following supplementary information has been supplied by the same person. Out of the eight individuals hanged three were Ruadians who were suspected of carrying on a propaganda among the Moslems.

The Supply of Fuel.

With regard to the persistent rumours of the cutting down by the Turkish Government of pine-trees and olive-trees in the vicinity of Beyrout, it is gratifying to learn from the same informant that they are totally unfounded. The fact of the matter is that the Turkish authorities have been buying firewood, consisting principally of pine-trees, which abound in that region, from private owners, and paying about 40 piastres per ton, delivered on the spot. Owing no doubt to the great scarcity of money, the proprietors of pine groves have found it to their interest to sell large quantities even at this low price, as the Government is said to have now a large stock of about 30,000 tons of firewood for the supply of fuel to the railway. There is, happily, no truth in the report that the Government has been cutting down the fine pine forest of Ibrahim Pasha fame, lying on the southern outskirts of Beyrout.

Street Improvements.

To the credit of the authorities at Beyrout may be mentioned also the fact that new streets have been opened up across the old city from the quay right up to the square, thus creating new arteries of considerable utility in the business part of the town and clearing away old insanitary buildings and dirty narrow lanes. The opening up of these streets has formed the principal feature of several schemes conceived by progressive *valis* and municipalities, but these plans never materialised, owing to the chronic impecuniosity of the municipality and the difficulty of raising municipal loans through existing legislation. Now, by a strange irony of Fate, these two streets have been opened up at a time of great economic distress for Beyrout. But it is precisely because of this distress that such work has at last been undertaken. The relief funds raised in America to alleviate the distress caused by war amongst the working class have, by arrangement between the American trustees and the local authorities, been allocated to the work, thus serving a double purpose of charity and utility.

Two Corrections.

My informant has also corrected the reports regarding the alleged engagement between an Allied aviator and the Turkish garrison stationed in a Lebanese village overlooking Beyrout, and the forcing by the Turkish Government of the sealed doors of the French Consulate in defiance of the protests of the American Consul-General. The aviator in question, I am now informed, never dropped bombs on the garrison, but was simply reconnoitring; and although at one time, when he hovered very low, the Turkish soldiers fired on him without effect, he never retaliated.

As to the archives of the French Consulate that were ransacked by the Turks, they contained no incriminating documents, the French Consul-General having taken the precaution to remove all correspondence that might implicate any Ottoman subjects who had had dealings with the Consulate.

Jemal Pasha and the French.

It is gratifying to all the friends of the Director of the French Post Office, who was a leading spirit in all French intellectual activities at Beyrout, to learn that he has been allowed to leave. Jemal Pasha is said to have declared to him that he is still a great admirer of the French people and of the French army, but, of course, not of the French Government, which is now at enmity with his own. This guarded and diplomatic expression of sympathy has still its significance.

* Published in The Near East of December 31.

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THE OUTRAGE AT SHIRAZ.

By the kindness of a correspondent, we are enabled to give the following extracts from a letter written by one of the Englishwomen who were arrested and carried into captivity by the Persians at Shiraz last November. The letter was written from Bushire, and dated November 29:—

I wonder whether you have heard of what happened to us? On November 10 the whole English colony in Shiraz was arrested individually by the gendarmerie. My husband and his accountant were on their way to office, and Major O'Connor had an ultimatum sent in to him and had to surrender. We were summoned to join my husband, no special reason being given, so we got into the carriage and drove off just as we were, not dreaming that we should never return to our home. We were kept prisoners all day, then packed off in *Khajavehs* and riding, and brought as prisoners down to Borasjun. We had only a few things that our servant was allowed to scrape together for us, and for ten nights we lay on the ground and never took off our clothes. The Bank and all our private property was seized, and we left the house at a minute's notice. Our party consisted of seven men—the Consul, my husband, two telegraph officials, Mr. L——, our accountant (Mr. A——), and a Cingalese clerk, with ten Indian sowars and four women, Mrs. S——, myself, and my two girls.

At Borasjun Mr. Wassmuss, the famous German agent and the cause of all our troubles, appeared on the scene, and we were taken to Shoak, and there handed over to him and the Tangistani chiefs. Next day we were separated—the men were taken to Ahram, Mr. Wassmuss's headquarters, and we women were escorted to Ahmedi, where the chief interviewed me and made me the bearer of his terms and views, and then to the British in Bushire. . . . . Since then I have been frightfully busy in every way, and the shock has been very severe.

The prisoners are being well treated, and they are allowed to communicate with us and to receive parcels. We are absolute refugees, and feel our position keenly. The gendarmerie officer who escorted us treated us very well, and we are grateful to him. We were thankful that he realised his responsibilities and would not let Mr. Wassmuss interfere with us. You can imagine how anxious we are. On the road we kept a cheerful face, but the suspense now is most trying. Major O'Connor has been ill for months, and ought to be under medical treatment, and my husband is far from strong. Mr. P—— suffers from a recent broken leg, and everyone is more or less ailing.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Greece and the Entente. Jan. 5.

Mr. King asked whether the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had given his attention to the statements of M. Skouloudis, the Greek Premier, especially to the statements that the Entente Powers offered to Greece terms which included her co-operation in the Dardanelles on the condition that Greek troops should not march on Constantinople nor come within fifty miles of Constantinople, and whether he could make any statement on the subject.

Lord R. Cecil: I think it would be very undesirable to make statements about particular communications that may or may not have occurred in past months with other Powers in previous stages of the war.

Mr. Outhwaite asked why statements made in Greece by M. Venizelos and M. Gounaris could not be repeated in the House, and whether those gentlemen had not said that Greece had offered to lend a landing force at the time of the first Dardanelles enterprise.

Lord R. Cecil: I do not think my hon. friend has seen the question.

Mr. King asked whether the noble lord realised that members had to get their information of what the Foreign Office was doing from neutrals and Allies rather than from our own Foreign Office.

Lord R. Cecil: I think that would be a very injudicious course.

Mr. King asked whether the noble lord could point to a more judicious course, and one that would be more successful.

Lord R. Cecil: No one is more averse from unnecessary secrecy than the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs or myself. We always give information which it is possible to give with due regard to the public interest.

LOYAL INDIAN MOSLEMS.

Reuter's Bombay correspondent reports under date of January 1:—The All-India Moslem League concluded its Congress to-day. Strong demands were made for self-government under the ægis of Great Britain, which, it was declared, was the only possible form of government for India. It was admitted, however, that the matter was not imperative until the end of the war, when the whole Empire would be reconstructed. The president, Mazhar Ul Hague, emphasised the loyalty of British Moslems, and dwelt on the great good derived from the British connection and the conscientiousness of the administrators, although, he added, the Indian point of view was sometimes forgotten. The Congress passed unanimous resolutions expressing loyalty to the Crown and appreciation of Lord Hardinge, whose term of office, it was hoped, would be extended.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I am pleased—and not at all surprised—to learn from a Reuter's message that there has been a scene in the Turkish Parliament between Enver Pasha and Talaat Bey, both Ministers using violent language and apparently being restrained only with difficulty from resorting to fisticuffs. When rogues fall out honest men come into their own. Even now I should not be greatly surprised to see the Committee of Union and Progress come to grief through a development of the rivalry between Enver and Talaat, which has been steadily becoming more acute of late.

***

That reminds me that it is not only Turkish statesmen who are bent on turning the war to their own personal profit. I was told recently by someone who was at least in a position to know what he was talking about that two of Bulgaria's very highest Cabinet Ministers had divided between them a very tidy *backsheesh* from Berlin as a reward for their share in pushing their country into the embrace of the Central Powers. I hesitate to give the names of there two patriots; for though, were they published, one of them would not cause any surprise to readers of these notes, the other is that of a man whose honesty has never been publicly called in question heretofore.

***

A correspondent writes:—"The courage and incapacity of the average Englishman are never more conspicuous than in his adventurous grappling with the difficulties which the pronunciation of the names of unknown places presents. The inclusion of the Near East in the theatre of the War has brought him face to face with many such difficulties, but he has tackled them without hesitation and, as usual, without success. Salonika and Cattaro are cases in point. Each has the accent on the penultimate, but everywhere in London one finds that, with his passion for dactyls, the Englishman throws the accent one syllable further back." I cannot say I entirely agree with my correspondent, especially as to the "incapacity" of the "average Englishman," who seems to me to be no more incapable than the average man of most other nationalities. I have heard even a highly-cultured Teuton, after long residence in our midst, constantly mispronounce the name of our capital city! But that is by the way. What interests me chiefly in the note is the reference to the pronunciation of "Salonika," for this was for some time a question that vexed me not a little. I have visited the place, and I have heard its name pronounced three different ways by people who have lived there—Greeks, Turks, and British. Also I have heard it pronounced in probably half a dozen different ways of late in England. Sal'onika, Salonika, Salonika, and so forth. The consequence is that I have once more become fogged, but I believe I am right in saying that, as a matter of fact, the correct pronunciation is Saloniki; and therefore the final "i"—with which the American Consular reports always spell the name, by the way—is to be preferred to the final "a."

***

One or two items in the accounts of the Civil Contingencies Fund for the year ended last March have quite a fascination for me. Thus I note that the "expenses of the journey of the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador and Suite to Falmouth" amounted to £479 4s. 10d., while "the journey of the Turkish Ambassador to Folkestone" cost only the paltry sum of £2 5s. Making all allowance for the difference in mileage, it still seems to me that these figures mark a disparity between this country's estimate of the importance of the representative of the Sultan and the representative of the Austrian Emperor which can hardly be flattering to the former; and though I do not regret the courtesy shown to the latter, I cannot help feeling just a little sorry for Tewfik Pasha, who, whatever his faults may have been, was certainly a gentleman.

***

A friend who knows my weakness for such things has sent me an "Arab Saying" which seems worth passing on. Here it is:—

> A man who knows not and knows not he knows not, he is a fool—shun him.
>
> A man who knows not and knows he knows not, he is simple—teach him.
>
> A man who knows and knows not he knows, he is asleep—waken him.
>
> A man who knows and knows that he knows, he is wise—follow him.

This is sententious, perhaps but it contains, I think, a good deal of sense and wisdom.

My attention has been called to a letter from Mr. Thomas H. Mawson which was published some little time ago in the *Manchester Guardian*, and I have read it with very real interest. Mr. Mawson, as readers of THE NEAR EAST will remember, was for some time in Greece in connection with plans for improving and beautifying Athens, and he was brought into close contact with King Constantine and Queen Sophie. Now he has written a letter designed to show that their Majesties' sympathies are with Great Britain rather than with Germany; and that if they "are now what some people assert," the change may be due to, "on the one hand, the fear of an implacable foe, and, on the other, the assurance that, whatever happens, an English gentleman may be trusted." If he will allow me to say so, this letter does as much credit to Mr. Mawson's head as it does to his heart. After reading it, so strong a case does he make out, I am inclined to feel very sorry not only for King Constantine, but also for his consort, who, we must remember, is half-English on her mother's side, and who may, therefore, have been perfectly sincere when she said to Mr. Mawson, "England is home to me, and I love it."

***

In her younger days her Majesty spent a good deal of time in this country, where she doubtless found far more freedom, and therefore more happiness, than at the Prussian Court; and early impressions are lasting ones. So, when, during her tour of a number of country seats in Sussex, she said to her conductor, referring to her hosts: "Mr. Mawson, where do these old English gentlemen get their delightful manners? They are incomparable," she was probably expressing an entirely unaffected enthusiasm. At any rate, we know that the more intelligent Germans themselves admit that one of the articles "made in Germany" that has never been able to compete with the British product is—well, you remember the remark of the German officer who, being recalled to the Fatherland when war was imminent, said to his English host: "Good-bye, old fellow. You always will be fools, and we never shall be gentlemen." Smart clicking of heels and ramrod-backed hauteur of manner are impressive in their way, but Queen Sophie's preference in this matter, at least, is easy enough to understand.

***

As for King Constantine, a friend of mine, who had met him many times, described him to me as "a capital fellow, excellent at parlour games, and given to being enthusiastic." His Majesty's enthusiasm for our old gardens is therefore quite likely to be genuine; he may even like us very, very much indeed, but—as Mr. Mawson hints—he is afraid of the mailed fist and its cr—r—r—ushing power, and he knows that the "English gentleman may be trusted." Indeed, has he not said as much? Of course, that is not a very kingly attitude to take up, according to our crude, unkultured, old-fashioned notions, but perhaps King Constantine is suffering as a result of having been placed on too high a pedestal. After the late Balkan War his subjects insisted upon the world regarding him as a kind of Napoleon-*cum*-Alexander the Great, just as they represented themselves as straining at the leash to get at the Bulgarians again and finish the job off once and for all. Now—! . . . . Yes. I am sorry for the Greeks and for King Constantine. The enthusiasm and the patriotism of the Greek are admirable qualities, but they are apt to get out of hand at times and to land him in difficult situations. True, Fortune has been very kind in the way of helping him out of awkward predicaments in the past, and she may be so in the present instance. Meanwhile I would only add that, after reading Mr. Mawson's letter, I am convinced that it would be a very good thing if *all* Kings and Queens could be compelled to live always in gardens; for, as Mr. Mawson observes, "such a setting does not conduce to high statecraft or deep-laid plots," and the world would get along quite well without such things.

CORSAIR.

THE CURATOR AND THE COIN.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The hero of the story, in your last issue, of the coin lost at the British Museum was, I think, Mr. Taylour Thomson (afterwards our Minister in Persia), on his return from Khiva in his search for Stoddart and Connolly. He told it to me at Teheran in 1875, and I am under the impression that he told it as having occurred to himself.

I am, etc.,

ALEXANDER FINN.

Richmond, Surrey.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

EGYPTIANS.*

It is a little difficult to understand why Mr. Wallis should have chosen the title of "Cleopatra, a Gipsy," for his latest romance. As a matter of fact, although the story is built up on the adventures of a hero who had been kidnapped by the gypsies in his infancy, the greater part of the book has nothing to do with the tribe at all. Mr. Wallis is, however, nothing if not versatile, and the wealth of incident which he introduces to the support of his plot makes any conceivable title inadequate. The plot itself is as old as the hills, and concerns the life of a young man, presumed to be the son of a traitor, but really the kidnapped son of a noble lord. This, however, is one of the books in which plot is an entirely secondary consideration—a mere peg on which to hang episode, and it may be said at once that the author has written an interesting romance. The scene of the book is laid in England in the time of Elizabeth. Incident follows incident in a fashion which, although almost bewildering to the reader, ensures his interest to the last page. And then one wonders what it was all about and why it was ever written. It is written in a manner which lacks a great deal in the way of continuity, but which is redeemed by unquestionable descriptive and imaginative power. The author has, moreover, succeeded in endowing most of his characters with very distinctive personalities; his portrayal of Miraben, the gypsy heroine, being, perhaps, the most disappointing in this respect, because it is unequal.

Throughout the book the old-time designation of Egyptian for gypsy is generally used. It is curious why these travellers should be always regarded as having originally come from Egypt, because, although it is possible they made their first appearance in the West after a passage through Egypt, it is certain that they owe their origin to the Far rather than the Near East. An examination of their language—which, by the way, is in popular use among members of the tribe in England to-day—reveals many words of Sanskrit and Hindustani origin; there are very few which can be traced to Arabic. Mr. Frank Cutriss, in his recently-published work on Romany life, deals with the subject of Romany ethnology in a manner which clears up all doubt on this score. On the other hand, he shows that the crescent of the Orient is one of the commonest designs in real Romany jewellery of the present century, and it is probable that members of the tribe as we know them to-day reflect traits of most of the different countries through which it has passed since its first migration from the Far East.

In the days of Elizabeth gypsies were, by the law of the land, outlaws, and much that Mr. Wallis has given us descriptive of their life in those days is interesting and at the same time historically accurate to a great extent. Their conditions of existence are now happily altered in this country, although they are still, in certain districts, pursued by the irritating and narrow-minded aversion of persons in authority, who regard them dubiously for the simple reason that their lack of imagination leads them to condemn anything that they cannot understand. In Serbia the gypsies have been doing yeoman service in the ranks of the army since the beginning of the present war; our own gypsies have also given largely of their numbers. And we welcome any book which may serve to induce a fuller standard of understanding and justice for a folk who, after all, retain to-day much that was common to our forbears in the way of life centuries and centuries ago, and give even to our scurrying, overwrought civilisation a much needed note of Eastern simplicity. We venture to hope that Mr. Wallis may at some future date give us another romance in which he will devote his historical knowledge to a fuller treatment of this fascinating subject. In his present work he has consistently spelt gypsy with an "i"; this, we hope, was an oversight that may be remedied in his next work.

* "Cleopatra a Gipsy." By Arthur F. Wallis. (London: Sampson Low Marston and Co., Ltd. 6s.)

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Messrs. Harrap are shortly publishing a new book, "Warwick the King Maker," from the pen of Mr. René Francis. Mr. Francis, who was at one time in the service of the Egyptian Government and is the author of many successful books, is a part-owner of the *Athenæum*, a paper which has been connected with his family since its foundation. An interesting interview with Mr. Francis concerning the change from weekly to monthly publication of that journal appeared in the *Observer* of Sunday week.

We have received from Messrs. Hutchinson and Co., publishers, of Paternoster Row, E.C., a copy of a charming original lithograph, by Spencer Pryse, entitled "The Uhlan's Raid," which has just been published. The price of the picture is five shillings, and the entire profits are being devoted to the Belgian Relief Fund, 3, Savoy Court, Savoy Hotel. Apart from the estimable purpose to which the profits are to be given, the picture should command a large sale on its own merits. The central figure is that of a young woman who, having found her slain, gazes blankly over the desolation left in the track of the Huns. It is a vivid and pathetic picture, well reproduced.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

Last Monday, at the Kensington Town Hall, Mr. H. C. Woods delivered one of the Royal Geographical Society's lectures to young people, his subject being "Constantinople." He said that after the wearisome and often rough passage across the Sea of Marmora there was no more beautiful sight than that which confronted the traveller just before he arrived at Constantinople. When the ship rounded Seraglio Point and entered the Golden Horn this was seen to be crowded with shipping, while hundreds of *caïques* moved up and down over its deep blue waters. Over all was the sense of mystery and romance which belongs to the East. Three towns combined made Constantinople: Stamboul, on the site of the ancient Byzantium; Galata, across the Golden Horn, inhabited, with its suburb Pera, chiefly by Europeans; and Skutari, on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus, inhabited, like Stamboul, mainly by Moslems. Constantinople, said Mr. Woods, has nearly a million inhabitants. Of the Turkish woman, he said that, with the exception that she can have no intercourse with any man except her husband or her nearest male relations, she has almost as much freedom as any European woman. Once she has put on her veil she can come and go as she wishes; she may even pass her husband in the street without his knowing her.

Lantern slides illustrated the various points of the lecture; one showed a Turkish porter with his enormous burden. Mr. Woods said he well remembered that on one occasion an amount of luggage which had completely filled a four-wheeler on his departure from London was carried from the quay to Pera (a distance of one and a-half miles) on the back of a porter. He had seen a porter carry a grand piano.

AFTER THE WAR.

Speaking at Devonshire House, Bishopsgate, on Monday last, Mr Charles Roden Buxton said that, in determining the fate of peoples such as those of Alsace-Lorraine, Poland, and the Italian districts of Austria, the chief consideration should be the wish of the people themselves. With regard to the Serbs, they desired unity with their brother Serbs within the Austrian Empire, and also with the Croats and Slovenes, the two other branches of the Jugo-Slav race, from whom they were but slightly distinguished. They desired also freedom and national independence. At the conclusion of the war they might be faced with the very difficult choice between unity and freedom. It was conceivable they might have to choose between the unity of their whole race within the Austrian Empire, with an autonomous but not independent government; or, on the other hand, the absolute independence of the Kingdom of Serbia as it has been until now, but with no hope of unity with the other southern Slavs. Whether these or other alternatives were presented, the chief factor in settling the question should be the desire of the people immediately concerned.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Owing to the sinking of the "Persia," thousands of copies of THE NEAR EAST *of December 17 last have been lost with the rest of the mails, and in consequence subscribers in Egypt, Cyprus, and India will not have received their copies of that issue. An effort is being made to replace, as far as possible, the lost copies, but any subscribers who may have been overlooked, and are desirous of completing their files, are asked kindly to communicate with the Manager, who will be happy to send them a further copy post free.*

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Jan.	1915. Dec.		1334. Rebi I.	5676. Shebat.
7	25	Friday	1	2
8	26	Saturday.....	2	3
9	27	Sunday	3	4
10	28	Monday	4	5
11	29	Tuesday	5	6
12	30	Wednesday	6	7
13	31	Thursday	7	8

To-morrow is the birthday of H.M. the Queen of Italy, who is the third daughter of King Nicholas of Montenegro, and was born at Cettinje on January 8, 1873.

Sunday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Marie of Roumania, the second daughter (and third child) of King Ferdinand and Queen Marie, who was born at Gotha, December 27, 1899, Old Style.

H.M. the King of Serbia has arrived at Salonika from Brindisi. Telegraphing on the 1st inst., Reuter's correspondent at the former port announced that his Majesty was "still somewhat indisposed owing to the recent severe strain on his constitution." His journey from Prizrend to San Giovanni di Medua was, indeed, sufficient to try many a younger and stronger man, and at times he had to be borne in a litter by some of the devoted soldiers who accompanied him. It is understood that the palace at Caserta was placed at his disposal, but that, owing to his determination to share the lot of his troops, he preferred to go on to Salonika. It is understood that his stay there may be a prolonged one.

Reuter's Athens correspondent reports (January 1) that the Greek Government addressed a cordial message of welcome to King Peter, through the Prefect of Salonika. The *Giornale d'Italia* has received a telegram from Athens stating that the Serbian King proposes to hold a conference with King Constantine imploring the latter to keep his promise towards Serbia, but that King Peter, being so weak and ill, and it being feared that the dramatic meeting might prove fatal, his entourage are attempting to dissuade him.

The Athens correspondent of *Le Temps* reports that interviews have taken place between King Peter and Generals Sarrail and Sir Bryan T. Mahon, the French and British Commanders at Salonika.

Under date of January 4, Reuter's Rome correspondent reports :—"The *Corriere della Sera* publishes an interview which its Salonika correspondent had with Dr. Simonovic, King Peter's physician. In the course of the interview Dr. Simonovic said King Peter stayed five days at Brindisi and took frequent walks about the town. The friendship and cordiality shown towards him by Italy had been a great comfort to him. King Peter expressed his pleasure at visiting Italy, who had come to the help of Serbia in her greatest need."

The Serbian Minister in Paris has left for Salonika to confer with his Sovereign.

H.H. the Aga Khan has left town for Paris on his way to Monte Carlo, and will return to London in May.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent reports that Lord Kitchener has telegraphed to General Sir John Maxwell and to the troops in Egypt his best wishes for 1916.

H.E. the Greek Minister and Madame Gennadius, who left London on Saturday for the country, returned to town on Wednesday.

The Consul-General for Montenegro and Lady Roper Parkington arrived at Claridge's Hotel from Tunbridge Wells last week.

General Castelnau has returned to Paris from Greece and Italy.

We regret to learn that Sir Gerard Lowther, formerly H.M. Ambassador in Turkey, is still too ill to be moved to London, though his medical advisers hold out hope of his being strong enough to undertake the journey in a few weeks.

The arrival of the Serbian General Putnik is expected at Salonika.

Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., and Lady Sykes are converting their seat at Eddlethorpe, North-East Yorkshire, into a convalescent home for soldiers.

A French official report issued last Friday stated that on the previous day some Aviatiks dropped bombs on Salonika, one of which fell on a Greek detachment that was carrying out manœuvres in the presence of Prince Andrew, who thus had a rather narrow escape.

Mr. Einstein, Secretary of the American Legation at Sofia, has sent through the American Minister at The Hague the following telegram to Mr. Bertram Christian, chairman of the Serbian Relief Fund in London : "Lady Paget and all her mission at Uskub are well, and send their holiday greetings."

The Times' correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula has received a letter from Lady Paget stating that all the members of the Serbian Relief Fund Hospital at Uskub are well. A loan has been obtained for relief work from the Bulgarian National Bank in Sofia.

Dr. Clemow, head of the British Red Cross Society's units in Montenegro, arrived in Malta on December 28, and is expected in this country at almost any time now.

Admiral the Hon. Sir Stanley Charles James Colville, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., who has just been appointed to succeed Admiral Sir Hedworth Meux, G.C.B., as Commander-in-Chief on the Portsmouth Station, served in the Egyptian Campaign of '82, for which he received the medal and the bronze star. In 1884-85 he took part in the Nile Expedition, and in 1896 served with the Dongola Expedition, in which he was severely wounded. His services were rewarded with the medal with clasp and he was promoted to Captain. He became Rear-Admiral in 1906 and Vice-Admiral in 1911.

On December 27, at Khartoum, a son was born to the Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Wilson, of the C.M.S., Sudan.

The marriage arranged between Captain Evans-Gordon, Special Staff Officer, Mysore Cavalry in Egypt, late Central India Horse, only son of Colonel Evans-Gordon and Mrs. Evans-Gordon, of Wican Croft, Northwood, Middlesex, and Irene, younger daughter of Sir Henry McMahon, G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., C.S.I., High Commissioner of Egypt, and Lady McMahon, will take place quietly, in Cairo, early in February.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place quietly on the 18th inst. in Kilbarchan Parish Church, between Major E. H. Ross, the Leicestershire Regiment, attached Egyptian Army, and Evelyn Margaret, youngest daughter of Neil Robson, The Grove, Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place at Ulverston on February 2, between Herbert Goldsmith, eldest surviving son of the late Hon. Herbert Goldsmith Squiers, United States Minister to Panama and Cuba, and of Mrs. Squiers, of New York, and Thornes Beach, Hampshire, and Ethel Marguérite, elder daughter of Myles Kennedy and Mrs. Myles Kennedy, of Stone Cross, Ulverston.

A marriage has been arranged and will shortly take place between Mlle. Yvonne Harari, the third daughter of Harari Pasha and Mme. Harari, to Mr. M. Rolo, the son of the late Mr. J. Rolo, of Alexandria.

The marriage of Captain Barron, the Worcestershire Regiment, to Miss Elinor Blyth, will arouse the interest of a wide circle in the Near East, where both bride and bridegroom are well known. Captain Barron's military record has been one of very varied experiences, some account of which has appeared already in THE NEAR EAST. Miss Elinor Blyth is one of the daughters of the fourth Bishop in Jerusalem, whose name will long be a household word throughout "Jerusalem and the East," and a sister of Captain Blyth, of Roseires. The wedding, after the manner of war weddings, was at very short notice, taking place within two days of Captain Barron's arrival from the trenches. The bride was given away by her brother-in-law, Dr. d'Erf Wheeler, and after the wedding there was a small gathering of friends and relations at the house, after which Captain and Mrs. Barron left for Eastbourne. Captain Barron returns almost immediately to the front.

On December 18, at the British Consulate, and afterwards at the Scottish Church, Cairo, the marriage took place of Mr. Ian Stuart Mackay, of the Egyptian Irrigation Service, to Miss Mary E. Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Smith, of Sidi Gaber.

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Bonham-Carter have returned to London after their honeymoon tour in the Southern Counties and Italy, and Mr. Bonham-Carter has resumed his duties as principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Captain Edward Courtney Moore, R.N., retired, has died at Brighton, at the age of sixty-six years. He was a lieutenant on H.M.S. Thalia during the Egyptian War of 1882, when he was employed in the transport service, and received the Egyptian Medal and the Khedive's Bronze Star. He also served as a lieutenant on H.M.S. Briton during the naval and military operations in the Eastern Sudan in 1884, and landed with the Naval Brigade for the protection of Suakin.

Captain Robert Henderson Begg, Royal Garrison Artillery, who has been killed in action in the Mesopotamian operations, took part in the operations at Aden in 1903.

Lieutenant Leonard Hall White, R.N., who was killed in the explosion on H.M.S. Natal on December 30, was serving in H.M.S. King Edward VII. in 1913, and was one of the landing party which went to Scutari under Sir Cecil Burney.

The death is announced of Captain Eustace Gambier Mansel, at Chinnor Hill, Oxfordshire. Born in 1853, he received a commission in the Oxfordshire Light Infantry in 1873. He saw service in the Egyptian Expedition in 1884, and was in the battles of Teb and Tamai. He was awarded a medal with clasp, and also the bronze star.

Captain and Adjutant Robert Hutchinson Booth, Army Service Corps, 1st East Lancashire Divisional Train, of Turton, near Bolton, eldest son of Major John Booth, was wounded in Gallipoli on Christmas Day and died in Malta Hospital on January 2. He was for some years an officer in the 4th East Lancashire Regiment (T.F.) at Blackburn, but later joined the Army Service Corps and became adjutant in Egypt. In Gallipoli he served as Deputy Quartermaster-General and Shore Commandant at Cape Helles. He was thirty-two years old and was married.

Writing on December 16, our Bucharest Correspondent says :—I hear that Mrs. Také Jonescu, the English wife of the well-known statesman, is having plum puddings made for British prisoners in Bulgaria. Without reflecting on their quality, we are sure the giver will join us in our hope that there may be few to eat them, provided they do not fall into the wrong . . . hands.

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Colonel the Hon. Clive Charles Bigham, C.M.G., who was one of the passengers on the P. and O. Persia, and who had such a remarkable escape, is, we are informed, at present attached to the Residency in Cairo. He is the eldest son of Lord Mersey, upon whom the King has just conferred a Viscounty, has travelled much in the Near and Far East, and is the author of several books of travel. His "A Ride Through Western Asia" gives a racy account of a journey he made in 1895-96 in the company of Mr. Labouchere, a nephew of the famous editor of *Truth*. In 1896-98 he was an Honorary Attaché at the British Embassy in Constantinople, and in 1897 he acted as *Times* correspondent with the Ottoman Army in the Greco-Turkish War, subsequently publishing an account of his experiences, "With the Turkish Army in Thessaly." He also served as British delegate on the International Commission in Thessaly for the Repatriation of Refugees, in 1897-98. He was A.D.C. and Intelligence Officer with Admiral Sir E. H. Seymour in the Pekin Expedition of 1900, and was afterwards attached to the Intelligence Division of the Army Headquarters Staff. He also acted as Secretary at the Titanic Inquiry, over which his father presided.

Among the missing passengers of the Persia (says the Cairo correspondent of *The Times*) is Miss Etta Hughes, who was last seen talking to Colonel Bigham, with whom she was precipitated into the sea by the explosion. Miss Hughes was formerly Lady-in-Waiting to the present Queen of Spain, and, before the recent change in the Egyptian régime, she was for many years English Lady-in-Waiting to the Khedive's mother. She was much esteemed in Egyptian Court circles, and she will be greatly missed socially by our diplomatists, to whom, both here and at Constantinople, she often gave invaluable assistance.

The four Y.M.C.A. workers on board the Persia included Mr. Arthur H. Johnson, one of the branch secretaries, who had been at work in the Tring district; Mr. L. W. Gascoigne, of Northampton; Mr. R. W. Heame, of Northampton; and Mr. H. A. Hopkins, of Henley-on-Thames. The three first named are reported safe, and the Y.M.C.A. is waiting for further news of Mr. Hopkins.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Gribble, daughter and son-in-law of Mr. R. M'Neill, M.P., whose names have appeared in the list of passengers in the Persia, were not on board the vessel when she was torpedoed in the Mediterranean. They had booked passages to Egypt in the vessel, but were obliged to cancel them at the last moment.

In a message dated January 2, Reuter's Alexandria correspondent, in reporting the loss of the Persia, says:—"So far as is at present known, two Anglo-Egyptians were drowned, Miss Hughes, sister of an Egyptian Government official, and Mr. Shilston, of Boyes, Shilston, and Co., an old-established Cairo firm."

Reuter's telegram from Alexandria dealing with the sinking of the "Persia" described the escape of two bank clerks who were seen to dive from the doomed steamer just before she disappeared. The gentlemen referred to were Mr. A. Grave and Mr. R. Warner, both of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, who were proceeding from the London office to take up appointments in the bank's branches in Egypt.

Bimbashi Gibbons, R.A.M.C., attached to the Medical Corps, Egyptian Army, has assumed the duties of Senior Medical Officer, Cairo District.

The *London Gazette* of last Friday announced that the King has been pleased to give orders for the promotion to the honorary membership of the Military Division of the Second Class, or Knights Commanders, of the Order of the Bath, of Vice-Admiral Emile Paul Aimable Guépratte, C.B., Commandant la Division des Dardanelles, in recognition of his distinguished services in command of the French squadron which co-operated with the British Eastern Mediterranean Squadron in the Dardanelles operations.

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to approve of the grant of the Victoria Cross to Squadron-Commander Richard Bell Davies, D.S.O., R.N., and of the Distinguished Service Cross to Flight Sub-Lieutenant Gilbert Formby Smylie, R.N., in recognition of their behaviour in the following circumstances:—On November 19 these two officers carried out an air attack on Ferrijik Junction. Flight Sub-Lieutenant Smylie's machine was received by very heavy fire and brought down. The pilot planed down over the station, releasing all his bombs except one, which failed to drop, simultaneously at the station from a very low altitude. Thence he continued his descent into the marsh. On alighting he saw the one unexploded bomb, and set fire to his machine, knowing that the bomb would ensure its destruction. He then proceeded towards Turkish territory. At this moment he perceived Squadron Commander Davies descending, and fearing that he would come down near the burning machine and thus risk destruction from the bomb, Flight Sub-Lieutenant Smylie ran back and from a short distance exploded the bomb by means of a pistol bullet. Squadron-Commander Davies descended at a safe distance from the burning machine, took up Sub-Lieutenant Smylie, in spite of the near approach of a party of the enemy, and returned to the aerodrome, a feat of airmanship that can seldom have been equalled for skill and gallantry.

The King has been pleased to give orders for the appointment of Lieutenant Wilfrid Bayley Pirie, R.N. as a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, for his services in command of a submarine in the Sea of Marmora, where he inflicted much damage on enemy shipping, and co-operated with Lieutenant-Commander Bruce in the chase of a Turkish gunboat.

General Sarrail communicated to the troops of the Allies a letter from the Commander of the Third Greek Army Corps, conveying to the French Commander-in-Chief a message of good wishes to the Allied Army for the New Year.

We regret to announce the death, which occurred in Switzerland on December 27, of Mr. Arthur John Cotterill, who was at one time Engineer-in-Chief of the Egyptian State Railways. Mr. Cotterill, who died very suddenly, was a son of the late Dr. Cotterill, Bishop of Edinburgh.

Our Bucharest Correspondent reports (December 8):—

M. Ang. Nichy, Secretary of the Roumanian Legation at Vienna, who was recently in Bucharest, has returned to his post.

Colonel Rudeano, Director of Armaments at the Roumanian War Office, has returned from abroad.

M. N. Cantacuzene, Minister Plenipotentiary, at present "Directeur de Service" at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, has left the country.

M. Turasoho, Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires in Serbia, has been obliged to move to Salonika in consequence of the Serbian retreat.

It is reported that the Prince of Wied is at present in Prizrend, awaiting the conquest of Albania.

A correspondent writes:—The appointment of Mr. James Currie, C.M.G., to give effect to the policy of the Labour Supply Department of the Ministry of Munitions, in relation to the training of the munition workers, will be received by his many friends in the Sudan and elsewhere as a fitting—if somewhat tardy—tribute to the abilities of a public man whose conspicuous work has too long been overlooked. It is only now, after nearly two years' retirement from the Sudan Government Service, that the opportunity of utilising Mr. Currie's services has been availed of. Scarcely more than forty-five years of age at the time of his retirement, Mr. Currie has since been desirous of taking some active part in the public life of this country. His exceptional experiences would appear to have peculiarly suited him for a further useful career. The demand for men of his stamp and ripe experience can be regarded as imperative at the present time. Especially would the House of Commons benefit from a dozen such. Mr. Currie, for example, would be able to speak upon Imperial matters with no uncertain voice, and to place at the disposal of his colleagues the fruits of a valuable and almost unique knowledge, gained over nearly two decades, in dealing with and moulding the difficult Eastern mind. For fifteen years as the first Director of Education in the Sudan, he laboured to perfect the organisation of, and to advance the results aimed at by the Gordon Memorial College; and when he resigned (in April, 1914) he must have known that his work had not been in vain. With the spirit of an enthusiast and the capabilities of a genius at organisation, Mr. Currie succeeded in placing the whole of the different educational departments in a high state of efficiency; the new office conferred upon him by the British Government will benefit enormously in its working by such experiences already gained. The labour involved and the great amount of patience necessary in training munition workers—especially women—are by no means small; neither was the preliminary work undertaken in connection with the educational awakening of the Sudan. But the task was entered upon with zeal and perseverance, the result proving one of the finest and most fruitful enterprises carried out by the Sudan Government during the whole sixteen years of its administration. It is generally admitted that this success was entirely due to the fact that Mr. Currie was at the head of affairs and to the following with fidelity the lines of the well-considered original scheme evolved by him. He will find that the work which he is now asked to take under his charge will need revision, and, not improbably, complete reorganisation. This is where his peculiar abilities should be most usefully employed.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND.

With the help of several members of the Committee, the President of the Committee of the British Refugees from Turkey Fund, Lady Neave, has organised a "White Elephant Party," which, as announced in these columns last week, is to be held at Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, S.W. (by the kindness of Mrs. Frank Barker), next Tuesday, January 11, at 2.30 p.m. An announcement regarding the sale will be found in another column, and we commend it to the notice of our readers, who will, we hope, support it heartily.

The Fund, which was started a year ago under the gracious patronage of H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, has done much good work in assisting former British residents in Turkey who have been reduced to severe straits by the war, through no fault of their own. Friends and sympathisers have shown much generosity to the Fund in the past, but the calls upon it have been numerous, and the Committee feels bound to make fresh efforts to enable it to continue its good work. It therefore earnestly appeals for help, which in the case of this sale may take the form of: (1) "White Elephants" for prizes—soldiers' comforts will be particularly appreciated; (2) the purchase of tickets, which cost 2s. 6d. each, and entitle the holder to a prize; and (3) attendance at the party. All unclaimed prizes will be sold on the day of the party. Tickets may be obtained from Lady Neave, George Hotel, Bangor, North Wales; Mrs. Frank Barker, Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, S.W.; or Lady Lowther, 27, Belgrave Square, S.W.

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ROLL OF HONOUR.

Members of Near East Bank Staffs on Active Service

The following is a complete list of members of the staff of Banks connected with the Near East who have joined His Majesty's Forces since the outbreak of war :—

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER.

*Lawrence, Major-General Hon. H. A.
*Goschen, Colonel Viscount, The Buffs (East Kent Regt.), T.F.
Procter, Captain J. (Manchester), King's Royal Rifles.
Fisher, Captain and Adjutant F., King's Royal Rifles.
Murrane, Lieut. H. D., King's Own (Royal Lancaster) Regt. (*Wounded.*)
Duncan, Lieut. H. H., Norfolk Yeomanry, T.F.
Brown, Lieut. A., Army Ordnance Dept.
Robertson, Lieut. D., Army Ordnance Dept.
Booth, 2nd Lieut. F. A., The Buffs (East Kent Regt.). (*Killed in Action* Sept. 27/29, 1915.)
Martin, 2nd Lieut. E. W., Norfolk Regt.
Hayes, 2nd Lieut. N., The London Regt., T.F.
Lyster, 2nd Lieut. H. N., The London Regt., T.F.
Samuel, 2nd Lieut. G., East Yorks Regt.
Green, 2nd Lieut. H. C., R.F.A.
Sharpe, 2nd Lieut. G. N., York and Lancaster Regt., T.F.
Rains-Bath, 2nd Lieut. J. G. (Manchester), Devonshire Regt., T.F.
Bond, 2nd Lieut. R. G., Army Service Corps.
Kenny, Sub-Lieut. B. W. (Manchester), R.N.V.R.
Hannan, Temporary Assistant Paymaster A., R.N.R.
Warner, Temporary Assistant Paymaster S. H., R.N.R.
Canham, Temporary Assistant Paymaster G. W., R.N.R.
Frecker, Temporary Assistant Paymaster H. E., R.N.R.
Astor, Private K. W., The London Regt., T.F.
Atter, Gunner S. R., H.A.C., T.F.
Bygrave, Gunner E., H.A.C., T.F.
Campbell, Private H., The London Regt., T.F.
Correnson, Soldat R., Regt. d'Infanterie.
Coulson, L. G., R.N.A.S., A.A.C.
Crick, Corporal C. J., Essex Regt., T.F.
Dickinson, Corporal B. N., The London Regt., T.F.
Eddowes, Private F. E., The London Regt., T.F.
Fitzmaurice, Private R., The London Regt., T.F. (*Killed in Action.*)
Garreau, Soldat A., 1ere Classe, Regt. d'Infanterie. (*Wounded.*)
Green, Private W. R., R.A.M.C.
Guyon, Private A. G., The London Regt., T.F.
Hewitt, Sergeant-Instructor M. B., The London Regt., T.F.
Hodgetts, Private P., Army Service Corps.
Hughes-Roberts, Private G., The London Regt., T.F. (*Missing*, May 8, 1915.)
Jones, Lance-Corporal D. E., Royal Fusiliers.
Jones, Private S. W. (Manchester), R.A.M.C.
Koe, Sergeant G. D. C., County of London Yeomanry. (*Wounded.*)
Lee, Gunner H. D., H.A.C., T.F.
Little, Bombardier C. J., R.F.A.
Lord, Private J (Manchester), R.A.M.C.
Park, Private A. (Manchester), Manchester Regt., T.F.
Parker, Gunner L. L., H.A.C., T.F.
Perkins, Private L., Royal Fusiliers.
Polge, Sergeant W. E., The London Regt., T.F.
Porter, Private H. S., Royal Fusiliers.
Roberts, Lance-Corporal J., Royal Welsh Fusiliers.
Sheppard, Private H. A., The London Regt., T.F.
Smith, Private P. L., Royal Fusiliers.
Ward, Lance-Corporal G. S., H.A.C. (Infantry), T.F.

*Directors.

BRITISH STAFF FROM TURKEY.

Thompson, Sub.-Lieut. H. H., R.N.V.R.
Moss, 2nd Lieut. C. J., Suffolk Regt.
Le Bouvier, 2nd Lieut. L., East Yorks Regt.
Constantinidi, Private W. A., Royal Fusiliers.

BRITISH STAFF FROM EGYPT.

Cull, Lieut. A. T., Seaforth Highlanders.
Field, J. G., Q.M.-Sergeant, Huntingdon Cyclists Corps.
Roll, Private A. W. C., H.A.C. (Infantry), T.F.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Alban, Lieut. A. A., 114th Brigade, R.F.A.
Beaty-Pownall, Asst. Paymaster J. T., R.N.V.R.
Benson, D., Westminster Dragoons.
Boulenger, Captain C. R., 8th Lancs. Fusiliers
Bowler, J., 17th County of London.
Braisby, Bomb. J., Dorset R.G.A.
Callender, Lieut. R. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
Chapman, E. G., London Scottish.
Clarke, Capt. J. B., Egyptian Labour Corps.
Coudrey, Lieut. R. C., 2/3rd East Lancs., R.F.A.
Dennistoun, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 1st Seaforth Hghs.
Dolman, Lieut. L. H., A.S.C.
Dupont, Trooper A., 2nd Dragoon Guards.
Evans, Lieut. C. V., 3rd Res. Brigade, R.F.A.
Evans, H. C., City of London Rough-riders.
Everitt, W. D., 15th County of London (Civil Service Rifles).
Garwood, G. D.
Gilliber, 2nd Lieut. E. O., 8th Royal Fusiliers.
Gruchy, E., London Rifle Brigade.
Joel, Trooper G. W., West Kent Yeomanry.
Lovett, Trooper E. R., West Kent Yeomanry.
Padbury, G. F., Artists' Rifles.
Posgate, H. S., Kent R.G.A. (T).
Read, W. J. M., H.A.C.
Rigg, J. N. P., 16th Middlesex Regt.
Robertson, Lieut. R. H., 0th Black Watch.
Ross, M., London Scottish.

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

Arnold, 2nd Lieut. A. L., Warwickshire Regt.
Binning, 2nd Lieut. K. R., Manchester Regt.
Butters, Lieut. O. A., Wiltshire Regt.
Connolly, 2nd Lieut. H. F., A.S.C.
Cuthbert, 2nd Lieut. W. N., East Surrey Regt.
Eakin, Private S. H., H.A.C.
Machan, 2nd Lieut. D. P., Royal Fusiliers.
Nash, Lance-Corporal R. R., H.A.C.
Nethery, Private W. C. E., Artists Rifles.
Stansfeld-Smith, 2nd Lieut. L., Wiltshire Regt. (*Accidentally Killed in Flanders.*)
Ward, Trooper W. R., Inns of Court O.T.C.
Weldon, 2nd Lieut. G. H., R.F.A.
Williams, 2nd Lieut. N. M., Gloucestershire Regt.

NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY.

Cook, Mr. Alexander J., appointed Temporary 2nd Lieut., 2/5th Lincolnshire Regt.
Gilbert, Mr. W. H., appointed Temporary 2nd Lieut., 6th Batt. Durham Light Infantry.
Martin, Mr. R. D., appointed Temporary 2nd Lieut., Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

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Beachcroft, 2nd Lieut. E. A., Dorset Yeomanry.
Berry, 2nd Lieut. D. M., Royal Fusiliers.
Cooksey, Sergeant J. Gill, R.A.M.C.
Cooper, Bombardier H. J., 1st London Brigade, R.F.A.
Covill, Trooper C., 11th Hussars.
Davis, Private H. K., London Rifle Brigade.
Edwards, Trooper T. N., Middlesex Yeomanry.
Fleming, Trooper P. F., Scottish Horse.
Gear, Private L., Hon. Artillery Co.
Lord, H.
Newlands, Trooper O., Scottish Horse.
Richardson, Captain W., King's Own Scottish Borderers.
Van Weede, 2nd Lieut. C. F., Somerset Light Infantry.
Warne, Private C., 10th Royal Fusiliers.

A lantern lecture on "Serbia and the Serbians," which was given in December by Lady Beatrix Wilkinson, will be repeated on the 12th inst. at 7, Carlton House Terrace, by permission of the Hon. Lady Herbert. The proceeds of the lecture will be given to the funds of the Children's Union.

A telegram from Toulon, received in London last Saturday, stated that a cruiser had arrived there having on board the contents of the Serbian Treasury, which were being taken to Paris, and the members of the Russian Legation lately in Serbia.

The Dutch Serbian Relief Committee, says a telegram from The Hague, has again sent £2,000 to the Dutch Minister in Sofia for the purchase of maize from Roumania.

The entire staff of the British Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance Brigade, married and single, at Malta, Egypt, Salonika, and the Dardanelles, have volunteered to join the Army under Lord Derby's scheme.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

DEATH.

Cotterill.—On December 27, in Switzerland, suddenly, Arthur John Cotterill, late Engineer-in-Chief, Egyptian State Railways, son of the late Dr. Cotterill, Bishop of Edinburgh, and dearly loved husband of Helen Cotterill, of 52, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.

MARRIAGE.

Barron—Blyth.—On December 29, at St. Paul's, Hammersmith, by the Rev. G. N. Walsh, vicar, and the Rev. Canon Moore Attwood, St. George's Collegiate Church, Jerusalem, Captain John Bernard Barron, the Worcestershire Regiment, to Elinor Anne Popham, daughter of the late Right Reverend G. F. Popham Blyth, D.D., formerly Bishop in Jerusalem and the East. Indian and Egyptian papers please copy.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 1916.

EGYPT AND THE WAR.

The turn of the year finds Egypt occupying a far more prominent position in regard to the world-war than it has done at any time during the past seventeen months. It still remains outside the actual sphere of operations, if we except the Arab raids on the western frontier. But the importance of Egypt lies in the fact that for the moment the centre of gravity of the war has shifted to the Near East. It is not that a decisive action is to be looked for here, or that the Near East is about to supersede the Western and Eastern fronts. The main forces of the belligerents face one another as before on these two fronts; but attention is temporarily taken off their doings, in order to watch the progress of some comparatively small skirmishing on the edge of the chief arena, which may, perhaps, develop into an important flanking movement. We do not forget that the Russians are once more moving in the Bukovina, which has hitherto figured in the eastern theatre; but this fresh advance is at the end of Russia's long European line, and may at any moment become linked up with events in the Balkans. Whatever military canons may be broken by the dissipation of our fighting strength, the fact remains that the operations in Serbia or Greece and the advance up the Tigris have a particular interest for all Britons at this juncture. There is a feeling abroad that both have suffered from being associated with subsidiary theatres of the war, and however much it may be asseverated that all that is possible in the circumstances is being done for these expeditions, the conviction grows that the "possible" can be improved upon by better organisation. One of the first steps to suggest itself is that the main base of these operations might with advantage be nearer to them than England is. Unless we are mistaken, the change implied is in process of being carried into effect, and Egypt is likely to play a bigger part than it has hitherto in relation to the conduct of the campaigns in the Near and Middle East. Moreover, Egypt has its own problem to face in the menace of a Turkish attack, which requires that it should not be starved either in the matter of troops or in the competency of its highest military command. A little less than a year ago a feeble effort to force the Suez Canal was as feebly repulsed. To-day the Turkish army is almost entirely under German control, and if a second attempt on Egypt is made, it will not be the half-hearted effort of last February. We may doubt whether the Turks mean to advance again; but there can be no justification for neglecting to make all our preparations as though von Mackensen himself was to be at the head of the attacking force.

But while Egypt has its military cares and wears a warlike aspect on two fronts, it reflects to a wonderful degree its distance from the main theatre of this long-drawn war. Its main industry being agricultural, it has been able to avoid much of the dislocation that has disturbed communities enjoying a more complicated civilisation. Life in the fields and in the towns shows little variation from that of the days when American and German tourists were wont to crowd to its hotels and railways. There are more troops than usual, and the Arab street-boys have learned to sing "Tipperary"; but the economic aspects show little, if any, change. This peaceful exterior has, no doubt, only been achieved at the expense of many heartsearchings, for it is impossible that a military occupation should be superimposed on civil government without embarrassing in some measure the ordinary working of the latter. But the complete absence of any appearance of confusion of authority at the present time says much for the ability and tact with which both the civil and military administrators are facing a difficult position. The unobtrusive exercise of executive responsibility has, however, been one of the traditions of the Government of Egypt for many years past, and so long as things run smoothly and the people continue to be prosperous, there is little need to dwell on the exact procedure by which these results are achieved. The key to the situation is to be found in the fact that both sets of authority are actuated by the one desire to promote the interests of the country. While the civil Government knows that Egypt's future depends largely on the maintenance of steady progress on the lines already laid down, it recognises that everything may have to be subordinated to the elimination of the Turco-German menace. The military authorities, on the other hand, can have no object in encroaching upon the civil jurisdiction one inch beyond the point required for the adequate discharge of their duty—the defence of Egypt in the interest, present and future, of its people.

In this connection two letters which we publish in this issue from our Cairo Correspondent are of special interest. One deals with the progress of elementary education, a subject with which the future of the country is indissolubly connected; the other has reference to enemy firms in Egypt, a subject which at first sight would seem to be essentially a war matter. But in the leniency with which, it is held, the Egyptian authorities have treated enemy firms hitherto we may, perhaps, find an example of concern for the economic welfare of the country carried to excess. It would seem that throughout the war the Government has allowed a number of German and Austrian commercial establishments to continue trading to all outward appearances just as they did before the war. An official controller has been appointed in most cases, and the firms were understood to be carrying on their business for the benefit of Entente shareholders. But there is clearly some uncertainty regarding the ultimate destination of the profits made, and an order has now been given, it is reported (though our Correspondent is unable to obtain official confirmation of the report), for the compulsory liquidation of all alien firms. If the facts are as stated, there would seem to be no cause operating at this stage to necessitate their liquidation which did not exist at the outbreak of the war. The procedure contrasts strangely with that adopted in Hongkong, for example, where all enemy concerns were liquidated and persons of enemy nationality expelled from the colony. The German colony in Egypt played a definite part in the scheme of Germany's preparations for the war. A correspondent in the *Morning Post* writes of it as follows: "The members of the German colony were organised like a regiment, and given to understand that they were an outpost of Empire *in partibus*. They soon attained a local importance which had never hitherto attached to their slender numbers. Two prominent merchants, who had openly and seriously quarrelled, were summoned by the Consul-General to a meeting of the whole colony. There he ordered them, willy-nilly and in the Emperor's name, to shake hands, and they obeyed. While internal discipline was thus masterfully established, the outward signs of energy and expansion multiplied every day." The rôle allotted to the Germans in Egypt in the event of war was performed in due course, and led to numerous deportations. The action of the Egyptian authorities in delaying liquidation of a number of alien firms may be susceptible of explanation. But, apart from its possible conflict with the policy of veto on trading with the enemy, the people of Egypt are actuated by a desire to look ahead. They realize that the German is likely to be as grave a danger to the peace of the country after the war as he was before it, and that the best safeguard against foolish sentimentality which will urge that he should be given "another chance" is to have him and his affairs eliminated betimes. As both the Turkish and the German Press are full of details—some true, others false—concerning matters Egyptian, the popular view must appeal to the military authorities in the face of a possible attempt to renew the attack on Egypt.

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EDUCATION IN EGYPT.

THE PROGRESS OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

A very interesting pamphlet has been issued by the Statistical Department of the Ministry of Finance, giving the scholastic statistics of Egypt for the year 1914-1915. The importance of this publication reposes in the fact that for the first time a general census of the "Maktabs," or elementary native schools, has been made. Hitherto the biennial scholastic statistics have only dealt with the relatively higher order of schools.

The figures collected by the Statistical Department show that there are in all 8,726 educational establishments in Egypt—7,596 Maktabs and 1,130 other schools—and that the total number of pupils is 537,417, of whom 382,287 are in the elementary and 155,130 in the other scholastic institutions.

The Maktabs are divided into three degrees:—The first, numbering 2,686, where the Koran, religious subjects, and elementary Arabic are taught; the second, 4,689 schools, where the pupils are instructed in the Koran and the three R.'s; and the third, numbering only 215, where, in addition, they learn geometry, history, and geography. The majority of the pupils are in the Maktabs of the second degree, and it is interesting to note that, whilst most of the boys are over eight years of age, the opposite is the case amongst the girls, two-thirds of whom are under that age. The boys number altogether 340,047, and the girls only 42,240; but while there are 13,600 male teachers, there are only 408 of the opposite sex.

Of the 7,596 Maktabs, 3,630 are under private control; and of the rest, the Ministry of Education maintains 142 and subsidizes 255. The Provincial Councils maintain 509 and subsidize 2,985, and 49 are maintained by the State Railways and 20 by the Ministry of Wakfs. From this it can be seen that over half of the Maktabs are under the control of some State body.

As the compiler of the pamphlet points out, these elementary schools are sorely in need of reform. That the instruction given cannot be very satisfactory, even in the subjects given, is evident from the fact that, of the 14,008 teachers employed, only 2,696 have any educational certificates of any description. The Government is quite rightly endeavouring, by all the means in its power, to improve the situation of these schools, which, after all, constitute the basis on which the intellectual development of the masses must be built up. With this in view it is concentrating its attention on the raising of the standard of the teachers employed. The need for this is evident from the above-mentioned figures and the extension of the facilities for the education of girls.

With regard to the higher schools, the statistics show that their number had decreased by five, and that of the pupils by 7,226, as compared with the previous period reviewed—i.e., 1912-1913. This is attributed purely to the war, which, the compiler says, caused the closing of a certain number of schools and forced some parents to bring the studies of their children to a premature conclusion. Egyptian schools number 823 and foreign ones 307, with, respectively, 110,730 and 44,400 pupils.

Amongst the foreign schools, the French take first place with 128, having 18,981 pupils. The American schools appear to prosper most, for although there are only 30, they have 5,061 pupils. Of English schools there are 37, of which sixteen are in Cairo and eight in Alexandria—with but 2,427 pupils. It is interesting to note that nearly 40 per cent. of the pupils at the foreign schools—to be exact, 16,543—were Egyptian, and that, practically alone among the foreign communities, the British do not loyally patronise their own schools, seeing that of the 2,069 British children who go to school only 261 go to those run by British bodies. This lack of support probably explains why, in a country which has been under British occupation for thirty-three years, British-run educational institutions—I refer, of course, to private ones—are not more *en evidence* all over the country.

In conclusion, the compiler of the pamphlet under review points out that the statistics demonstrate a glaring error in the figures of the last general census of the country taken in 1907. According to the total figures for the scholastic establishments in the country, there were 537,270 pupils at all those schools in 1914-1915. Now, the census of 1907 put down the literates at 609,322, which is obviously incorrect and far below the correct figure, in view of the enormous impetus that was given to education at the dawn of the present century. The reason for the mistake seems to be that the census takers omitted to take particulars of the young children between the ages of five and nine who were able to read and write. Since the total of these children came in 1907 to 1,565,545, and the majority of the pupils frequenting the Maktabs are between those ages, it is evident that some such mistake must have been made. The next census, due in 1917, should show a phenomenal increase in the literacy of the country, and thus rectify the error.

A WAR-TIME EXIT FROM SMYRNA.

By Lilias McCrie.

II.

Our means of livelihood being politely taken from us, we felt there was nothing for good Britishers to do but turn "homeward," and this impulse was decidedly strengthened on receiving quiet warning from friendly Turks, who told us that the sooner we got away the better for us—lest worse should befall. So we began to make plans for our departure with seriousness and determination. First of all we had to get permission to leave Turkish territory. This meant an American passport with a Turkish visé, and it took several anxious days—not to mention piastres—to materialise. When it did it was signed by the Chief of Police, whose kindly consideration for the British population will not be forgotten by them. Then this passport, being made out for Athens, had to be viséd by the Greek Consul also. This all sounds simple enough, but once the intricacies of the avenues of approach to these dignitaries is realised—especially at a time when their staffs are already grievously overworked—unless one is a very high official indeed oneself, it is seen to be an undertaking of no common order.

There was also the quite important point of our money matters to be cleared up. The Turkish Government forbade the export of gold beyond the sum of £T10 per head. Our personal money affairs lacked the complications of the average individual, as we had no dealings with banks in Smyrna, for the excellent reason that there was a shortage of the wherewithal necessary to open up a connection with them during our first year's sojourn in this city of "payments in advance." But for a few months ready money had been accumulating, and with childlike simplicity we "buried it darkly, at dead of night," under the cellar floor. The only disquieting thing about this arrangement was that, to add to our terrors at this time, the country was visited by some very severe earthquakes. Several villages in the interior were entirely destroyed, and we were once or twice rudely shaken out of sleep by the shocks. We wondered if one of these would remove all our worldly wealth a foot or two beyond our ken, and then—well, it is humiliating to think how dependent one can be on even Turkish gold. Our gold coins had to be converted into Bank of England notes, or any other medium that would secure the realisation of their full value when we reached civilisation once more. There was a dearth of English notes in Smyrna, an astute Britisher having effected a corner in them; but our little fortune, reluctantly exhumed from the protection of Mother Earth, was converted into a most varied assortment of Egyptian, French and Italian notes, American greenbacks, Greek coins, and a slip of paper entitling the bearer to a tidy sum out of another man's private account on arrival in England.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.

DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

H.M. KING OF SPAIN.

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While the men were scouring the district in search of reliable paper money and truthful shipping agents, a process involving the consumption of much *mastika* and many Regie cigarettes, we women packed and repacked suit cases, invented brainy schemes for smuggling gold out of the country, sewed our gold to us, hid letters and jewels only to uncover them again, and wondered if we would get home in time for Christmas. In our own case there was hasty provision to be made for the worldly goods we were leaving behind, the stores we had accumulated, the newly furnished house, the books, papers, music—all of little value to others, but simply the essence of home to the owners. And above all there were the many and varied cats who depended on us for at least one meal a day, for Smyrna is no paradise for the feline species, and when any of their kind discover a vulnerable Britisher they are not likely to ignore her. I remembered how, on opening the door into the garden, a small avalanche of black and grey pussies would fall in, with bright eyes and eager, expectant purring, in anticipation of good things to come. There were eight regular habitués in all on our free list!

Our affairs came to a crisis in the second week of December. We had our permits, we were free to go if we could find a steamer sailing from Vourla. One was not available, however, and we were still being urged from various friendly sources to get away from Ottoman territory as soon as possible. Ultimately a small steamer was chartered on our behalf, and this was to leave on Sunday morning, December 13. On Saturday morning we had a hasty message advising us to leave that morning and at once. Half a dozen of the party were off by ten o'clock, and we with another couple were ready by noon. It was an unforgettably strenuous forenoon; for twice in the course of it my husband rushed in to say we might as well give it up, as no horses or carriages were to be had for the long drive to Vourla. But it was done somehow, and we and two others set out on this, our second attempted flight in a *karotsa*, with a pair of sturdy horses, our luggage, a modest suit case to each person, on a similar turn-out behind. On we rolled through the crowded thoroughfares of Smyrna, and the long, rambling, picturesque, dirty outlying districts of Gueuztepe and other places, of which I feel too diffident to attempt either the spelling or the pronunciation. We were held up at every tiny police station en route, while our papers were leisurely examined by Turkish officers. Halfway we had to stop for an hour to feed and rest the horses, for the roads were very heavy after the autumn rains, and it was a hard pull for the patient beasts. When Vourla was in sight we met the returning carriages of the advance party, and, to our dismay, the drivers informed us that, while we were driving down, the port of Vourla had been closed by special order. Our first party had succeeded in boarding the vessel, but no amount of persuasion—or anything else—would achieve the same for us. The Customs officials and gendarmes were adamant; this was a Germanised military order this time, and must be obeyed. So we gazed wistfully out over the glistening expanse of water to where the little steamer lay in the rays of the setting sun, and envied those serenely tucked aboard with a prodigious envy.

Vourla was too dirty and inhospitable for us to spend the night there; so we sadly re-entered our carriage and were driven back to Smyrna, reaching it just before midnight. That melancholy drive in the dark was a memorable one. The searchlight from the fort outside Smyrna travelled round unceasingly, our tired horses slipped pitifully on the greasy mud, on which our dim lamps shed a ghastly, flickering radiance. We met a procession of patient camels toiling along the heavy roads, some of them with burdens so out of proportion to their strength that the unwieldy creatures had slipped in the mud and were unable to rise. It was like a nightmare.

As our homes had passed into other hands, we put up at the Kraemer Hotel, and next morning we gazed out from the balcony upon the quay and the glittering gulf, prisoners still, to be hailed in astonishment by those who thought we were safely on the homeward way by that time.

Disheartened by our experience on the previous day, my husband and I had resigned ourselves to remaining in Smyrna, but as we were going along to reclaim our home, we met our driver of the day before, and he informed us that the port was again open, and anyone might leave who had the necessary permits. It was on such casual sources that we had mainly to rely for news in Smyrna. This time our companions of yesterday had half an hour's start of us with fresh horses. We secured a carriage with difficulty; but our horses, although the driver swore they were fresh, soon showed us that they were not so. Some demon possessed the Turks to stop us more frequently this time, and the gendarmes persisted in saying, "*Yok vapori*" (no steamer). Our driver broke his rein, and took an interminable time to repair it with string; we met a runaway horse with a cart, which threatened to annihilate us on a steep grade; we had to give our horses as long a rest as on the day before; and when we again came in sight of Vourla it was sundown, and we were greeted with the spectacle of a small steamer disappearing among the islands that stud the bay there. Intuition, instinct, disappointment, despair, as well as a few sympathetic and many hard-hearted onlookers, told us that it was our steamer. Our two former fellow-passengers were aboard; for that at least we were thankful.

Inquiries elicited the information that a Greek steamer then in the bay would sail for the Piræus the following day, and we might board her that night if we could pass the Customs and other officials and pay the necessary fees. I was told that a woman would inspect madame, and before going into the dingy cupboard which did duty for an examination bureau I handed over our money bag to my husband quite openly, so the dame found me above suspicion. My husband quietly handed me back the bag before undergoing his examination, and we might have had secret despatches, jewels, Turkish gold untold, for all the authorities knew of it; although if the searching committee had compared notes afterwards they must have wondered how we were going to get to Athens with no money in our possession. Our suit cases were thoroughly searched by a polite but unmethodical Greek, and at last I was free to emerge from the dismal room. I went to the end of the jetty preparatory to stepping into a small boat which was to lead us to freedom. One of three Turkish officers lounging about courteously brought me a chair, which I accepted with a sort of despair, for it seemed as though my husband were never coming.

As he was leaving the Customs House, a Turkish official accosted him. Monsieur would no doubt be glad to contribute something to the Ottoman Navy before quitting these hospitable shores. My husband replied genially that he had no objection to presenting him with the price of a Dreadnought or so, and spread three octorakias (equal to three fourpenny pieces) over the table. Dazzled by the sight of so much wealth at one time, the official solemnly handed back three receipts, and then 'phoned back to Smyrna headquarters to see if it were wise to allow this Crœsus to leave the country. After twenty minutes' further delay, during which our fate hung in the balance, and I underwent a species of refined torment, my husband joined me, and at last we stepped off the jetty. When we arrived at Athens and compared experiences with the rest of the party, we found that some of them had been victimised by the "Navy" official to the tune of as many liras as we had given fourpenny pieces. It was a moment when we could enjoy jibes about our Scotch characteristics.

The night and day spent aboard the steamer was rather an anxious time, for there was still a chance that the Turkish authorities might recall us. We passed the long hours with eyes glued to the white ribbon of road stretching away along the coast, looking eagerly for the few families who were yet to come, and great was the rejoicing when all were safely gathered in. The arrival in Athens was in the nature of a triumphal entry for us all, and we felt much like school children starting on a long vacation. Life had been vivid for the last few months, breaking away from dull routine had been delightful; the war in its grim reality had not touched us yet. It was not until we reached poor, sombre Paris, so different when we had last seen her, eighteen months before, in the midst of her July festivities, that we felt the chill of the dread European conflict.

What is going on in Smyrna now, I wonder? Are the friends remaining there still going about their daily round, scared to death one day and calm to boredom the next? Is our little house in the hands of the Turks, or are the familiar objects bestowed unromantically in the safe seclusion of some British merchant's warehouse? Has the piano been ruthlessly plundered, not only of its power of music, but of the special treasures that an over-anxious housewife hid in its harmonious interior?

If we return and meet all the familiar things once more it will be more than a joyful reunion. If not, then we shall be no worse and much better off than many of our fellow-creatures to-day.

I shall keep my old Turkish half-lira, if only in the hope of bartering it away for goods to some grimy but unspeakably romantic mendicants in the streets of that fascinating Near Eastern city. And should I not return, I think I shall still keep it in memory of one of the most vivid, tantalising, humorous, annoying, reckless and interesting experiences of my life.

*** Part I. appeared in THE NEAR EAST of December 31, 1915.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT
23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

THE CENTRAL VOID.

Writing on the last day of the old year, we particularly emphasised the necessity for clearing Salonika of its host of spies; we also drew attention to the importance of the new Russian offensive in Bukovina.

'Clearing the Ring."

Hardly had we insisted on the urgency of this measure when news arrived to the effect that General Sarrail had ordered the arrest and deportation on December 30 of the enemy Consuls in Salonika, together with their staffs and satellites. These gentlemen had long ceased to officiate as Consuls according to international law, and had degenerated into spies and political agitators of the most dangerous type. The subsequent examination of the archives has proved their guilt up to the hilt, and has further implicated scores of nondescript individuals of both sexes, who are to be summarily dealt with. For once it looks as though Salonika were to be cleared of its most obnoxious vermin, and it was high time, in view of the continual dangers to which our men were exposed by the presence in their very midst of an unscrupulous crew of spies. The fact that just prior to the arrest of the ringleaders' enemy aircraft had bombarded our positions (without, happily, doing much damage) seems to show that General Sarrail s order went forth not a moment too soon.

The Bukovina Campaign.

The new Russian offensive in Bukovina, though, strictly speaking, beyond the scope of this survey, is fraught with so many possibilities, all bearing on the Balkan situation, that no review of the latter could be even partially satisfactory without mention being made of the new campaign to the north-west of Roumania. The advance of our brave Allies during the past week between the Pruth and Dniester has brought them to the very gates, if not to the very streets, of Czernovitz, the capital of the Bukovina and an important railway junction. Mackensen, it would appear, has left the Balkans to take command of the Austro-German forces, and troops are being hurried up from other enemy fronts to oppose the Russian successful advance in this sector. The campaign has, however, only just begun, and though it is unlikely that our Allies will be able to repeat their rapid advance into Galicia in 1914, there is no reason to doubt that the Tsar's General Staff have decided that the moment has come for them to push on into Galicia and along the western slopes of the Carpathians, inflicting as heavy losses as they possibly can on the enemy, and pressing him back from the terrible void he has created in the heart of the Balkans. No theatre of the Continental war is of greater immediate interest than the campaign in Bukovina. Successful, it will deprive the enemy of any possible benefits he may have speculated on reaping from the Serbian campaign and convince him of the futility of his strategy; if, on the other hand, the advance of our brother-in-arms should be stemmed, it will have the effect of holding immobile in Galicia a strong Austro-German army.

The Central Void.

The fact is, the enemy have created in the centre of the Balkans a vast void where Serbia used to stand. This void is now being submitted to pressure from three sides: by the Russians from the north, by the Italo-Serbs, Montenegrins, and Albanians from the west, and by the Anglo-French forces from the south. The long line from Berlin to Constantinople, passing through Austria, Hungary and Bulgaria, transveres this void, and is in imminent danger of collapsing. Had the enemy been able to destroy the Serbian army, instead of merely driving it back into Albania, there to recuperate; had he conquered Albania and Montenegro, and driven the Allied forces out of the Peninsula, his line to and from Constantinople and Berlin would have been relatively secure. But, as it happens, he succeeded in none of these attempts, and now the moment has come when, for him, the Balkan situation is a pitfall of dangers. The Russians are seriously menacing him from the north; in Montenegro the armies of King Nicholas are more than holding their own: in Albania the Italians are landing important troops, are revictualling the Serbian army, are modernizing the roads leading into Macedonia, and have obtained the adhesion of Essad Pasha, the "uncrowned King of Albania." Thus, there is being formed in the west of Macedonia a strong army which, when the time comes (its date depends on the success of the Russian advance) will burst through the Albanian gap. Then there is Roumania to be considered: a Russian success along the western slope of the Carpathians would do more to bring that country into line than all the kid-gloved overtures of diplomats.

Salonika.

As for Salonika, the situation there, with the exception of the arrest of the consuls, etc. alluded to above, remains unchanged. Unfortunately, some Greeks were arrested as spies by General Sarrail, which has naturally drawn from Athens a protest. It would be better from all points of view if the Allies took over, temporarily at least, the entire administration of the town; it would tend to remove friction between the Greek civil administration and our military authorities. As for the enemy, he has restricted his offensive to bomb-throwing, pending the arrival of big siege guns, the settlement of political differences between Germans, Austrians, and Bulgars, and the results of the Russian campaign. The latter, so far favourable to our arms, will prevent any immediate action against Salonika by the enemy, and in the meantime we are preparing to exert pressure northwards—when the time comes.

DIARY OF THE WAR.

The following are, according to the *Times*, the principal events in the Balkans during the month of December:—

December 1.—Baron Sonnino announces Italian adhesion to the Pact of London; aid for Serbia promised.
December 2.—Fall of Monastir; Serbians retreating in good order along the Ochrida road towards the Albanian frontier.
December 4.—Fresh British forces landed at Salonika.
December 5.—Austrians and Bulgarians, pursuing the Serbian Army, cross the Montenegrin and Albanian frontiers; Bulgarian attack on French bridge-head at Demir Kapu repulsed.
December 6.—Germans capture Ipek. French retiring from Krivolak and Kavadar to strong positions in the Demir Kapu Pass. Bulgarian attack on British at Strumnitza repulsed.
December 7.—British retiring from Strumnitza. Bulgarians occupy Demir Kapu.
December 8.—Fierce Bulgarian attacks on Allied front in Macedonia; Allies withdrawing towards the Greek frontier.
December 9.—Retreat of the Allies in Macedonia; British lose eight guns—1,500 casualties; Bulgarian irregulars across the Greek frontier.
December 11.—Bulgarians attack the French and British front at Furka and lose 8,000 men.
December 12.—Bulgarians enter Doiran and Ghevgeli. Greek ships detained at Malta released.
December 13.—Allied troops safely withdrawn across Greek frontier; Salonika being fortified.
December 15.—Italians announce landing of their army at Avlona and elsewhere in Albania.
December 20.—Greek Government admits Bulgarians and Greeks in collision at Koritza
December 28.—French submarine, Monge, sunk off Cattaro.
December 29.—Austrian destroyers Triglav and Lika sunk by Italian and Allied warships off Durazzo.
French occupy island of Castellorizo.
December 30.—Enemy airplanes throw bombs on Salonika: German, Austrian, Turkish, and Bulgarian Consuls arrested by General Sarrail.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND.

By the courtesy of Mrs. FRANK BARKER,

A "WHITE ELEPHANT" PARTY

will be held at

LOWNDES HOUSE, LOWNDES PLACE, S.W.,

On TUESDAY, JANUARY 11th, at 2.30 o'clock,

in aid of the above Fund.

Tickets 2s. 6d. each, every one of which entitles the owner to a Prize.

"White Elephants!"—i.e., Ornaments, Sofa Cushions, Work Bags, Comforts for Soldiers, etc., will be thankfully received at Lowndes House.

Tickets may be obtained from:—
Lady NEAVE, George Hotel, Bangor, N. Wales.
Mrs. FRANK BARKER, Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, S.W.
Lady LOWTHER, 23, Belgrave Square, S.W.

All unclaimed Prizes will be sold on the day of the Party.

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"Almost up to the Trenches"

"My son, who is somewhere in France, tells me what a great comfort your Y.M.C.A. has been to him from the time he started his training at . . . . . and all through his stopping places almost up to the trenches."
Extract from a recent letter enclosing subscription.

THOUSANDS of our brave soldiers have placed on record their joy and thankfulness at finding the Y.M.C.A. established not only in the home and base camps, but practically *up to the trenches themselves*. The Y.M.C.A. have spared no effort to place these buildings just where they are needed most. When the men return from a long spell in the firing line it is to the Y.M.C.A., with its shelter from rain and wind, its facilities for writing home, its material comforts, and, above all, its spirit of Christian comradeship, that their thoughts turn. Do you wonder that they so often describe one of the many Y.M.C.A. buildings scattered throughout the fighting area in Europe and the Near East as "Just like a bit of home."

There are now more than 1,000 Y.M.C.A. centres throughout the Empire for the men of His Majesty's forces. 87 of these are in France; there are 40 in India, 30 in Egypt and the Dardanelles, 3 in Mesopotamia, 2 in Malta, in addition to hundreds in the home camps.

To maintain this vast chain of social service, and to extend it, it is estimated that £250,000 will be required during this the second year of the war.

An Ernest Appeal for more Buildings behind the Firing Line and the means to maintain those already established.

Never has the need for the vast work of the Y.M.C.A. been greater than it is to-day. The worst of the winter is rapidly approaching with its days of rain and fog, its long and often bitterly cold nights is probably still to come. Yet there are many vast camps both at home and behind the firing line in which, as yet, there is no Y.M.C.A. Hut or centre of any kind.

Who will help to complete the chain by giving another building? If you cannot give a complete building, will you help to maintain the work in one or more of them for a day, a week, or a month?

Will you not give your own Building TO-DAY?

Donations should be addressed to Captain R. L. BARCLAY, National Council of Y.M.C.A.'s, 13, Russell Square, London, W.C.

WILL YOU POST THIS TO-DAY?

To CAPT. R. L. BARCLAY,
13, Russell Square,
London, W.C.

I have pleasure in enclosing £..... towards the special work of the Y.M.C.A. for the troops.

Name.....

Address.....

U. .....

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

1916.

Mr. Lovat Fraser, writing in the *Daily Mail* (January 3) on the probable course of events in 1916, includes the following reference to our present position in the Balkans:—

The lull before Salonika is deceptive. The Allied positions will be attacked as soon as the enemy can bring up their heavy ordnance. Detailed discussion is meanwhile out of the question, but the Allies appear to have taken up a good although an ambitious line. As I have said before, the Salonika base is no Torres Vedras, still less is it a Chatalja; but the coming onslaught may not now be overwhelming.

The writer then turns to Egypt, and continues:—

That there will also be an attack on Egypt is beyond question. It is the price that must be paid by Germany for Turkish adherence. The Turks demand to be led by their German masters into the Nile Delta, and Enver Pasha is credited with a desire to sit upon the throne of Saladin. It may sound ridiculous, but the inflated little peacock is quite serious, and it is certain that he was bought with more than gold. We have had warning enough about Egypt, and in due course it may be necessary to ask why for a whole year we were as idle as Mark Antony in the land of the Nile.

Mr. Fraser refers to the strange way in which mobile operations have led to sieges in the present war:—

"Townshend at Kut appears to be in a position which almost resembles a siege, and we hear of relieving columns on the way. The siege of Salonika is now expected. There may be a siege of the Suez Canal. There is something like a siege at Dvinsk. The lines in the west resemble siege operations; so did the siege of Gallipoli."

He concludes:—

But the greatest siege of all is the siege of Germany by land and sea. It is telling now, and the besieged are making desperate strokes to break out. They are feeling the pinch. *Let us hope that the year* 1916 *will be for the Allies the Year of Victory.*

German and Bulgar.

In an article on the Military Situation the *Spectator* (January 1) evinces a highly optimistic mood. The blunders and disappointments of the past year are freely admitted, but an examination of the situation shows the enemy preponderance in munitions removed; Germany, with all the advantages of the early days of war on her side, has nowhere broken a hostile army; our resources in men and material are increasing day by day. "We are not safe yet by any means, but are on the right road to safety." We quote from passages in this article which deal with operations in the Near East:—

The business of the Allies at Salonika is turning out much better than even optimists dared to hope. The Greek troops by removing themselves to a distance have ceased to impede our preparations, and the tremendously strong natural features of the place are being turned along a line of some fifty miles into what is said to be an unassailable fortress line. The map will show any one what a splendid geographical position Salonika has for an army which wishes to gather strength, and (even while it is gathering strength) to act as a thorn in the flesh of its enemy. At Salonika the Allies lie on the flank of their enemy. We may be sure that the Germans will not feel very comfortable along their celebrated open road to Constantinople while the Allies hold Salonika. If the enemy try to march against the place and tackle the most formidable hills with all the lakes and marshes and the incomparable artillery positions, so much the better for us. With the sea and the ships with their big guns behind us, and the unceasing flow of supplies, we are on velvet at Salonika. And if the enemy should tempt us to try to cut his line—but again let our readers look at the map. The Bulgarians talk as though the war were ended for them. They little know! We shall be surprised if men in this frame of mind do not find the task of pleasing the Germans more than they bargained for before the winter is over. Salonika, in fine, is a magnificent place of arms. It is easy to hold, and we shall be just beginning to make real use of it when the Bulgarians are discovering raw places from the chafing of the German yoke and the embarrassments of the horribly unnatural Turkish alliance.

Where we Stand in the War.

Under the above heading Dr. J. Holland Rose contributes to the *Daily Chronicle* (January 1) a most interesting survey of military events up to the end of the year 1915. The writer insists that, although "none but busybodies and self-advertisers" would pry into the political secrets of our Dardanelles adventure during the war, it is none the less essential that a searching inquiry should be made after peace comes into all topics connected with "the administration, or maladministration, of our offices of State." He continues:—

Pessimists point to the Balkan muddle as due to us. Clearly, they do not realise either the keenness of the racial hatreds bequeathed by the fratricidal war of 1913 or the proneness of Balkan politicians to be swayed by the passions of the moment or mere peasant cunning. It is on natures such as these that Sir Edward Grey has worked without effect, and the Kaiser and King Ferdinand with effect. But (to take our enemies' standpoint) have they succeeded in the Balkans? The fiendish betrayal of the Slav cause by Bulgaria has enabled them to batter in the Serb defence and to accomplish the physical ruin of Serbia and reveal the moral bankruptcy of Greece. But the Central Empires have only conquered devastated territory; they have not conquered the Serb nation, and they have not annihilated the Serb Army, some 140,000 of whose sturdy fighters hold out undaunted in the mountains of Montenegro and Albania. Consequently there, as in Belgium, Northern France, Poland, and Lithuania, the Germans have merely extended their military responsibilities; they have not crushed either the army or the national spirit of a single one of the nations over whom they chant their pæans of triumph. The lines before Salonika may prove to be their Torres Vedras.

The Problem of the Balkans.

Writing upon the above subject in the *Globe* (January 1), Major C. W. Redway thinks that after pitting Serbians and Montenegrins against the Bulgars, and neutralizing the Turks by the Russians, the French, Italian, and British forces available should be sufficient to meet the demands of any exertions required of the Austro-German armies in the Balkans:—

Now, what suitable military objective presents itself to-day in the Balkans? There is room for choice, no doubt, but for purposes of discussion we may speak of the seizure of the Danube from Belgrade down to Widin. Why? Because the enemy's lines of supply are concentrated in this quarter. To secure these lines of supply is practically to intercept all the Austro-Germans then south of the river, and our determination to march on these communications would cause all enemy forces, including the army corps which are said to be destined for Egypt, to hasten to this point and give battle.

And presumably that is what we desire. We are in the field in order to put our fortune to the test in strategic conditions chosen by ourselves, and we cannot suppose that the Entente Generals fear to meet Marshal Mackensen or his successor.

Major Redway concludes his article in the following words: "Opportunities are abundant; plans stare us in the face, and all that is needed on the part of our leaders is courage to decide and resolution to execute."

France and Syria.

The *Evening Standard* (January 3) says that public interest in France regarding the problem of the East is increasing, and translates a portion of an article which appeared in the *Œuvre* in reference to Syria. Our quotation is from the latter portion of this article:—

Strategically, Syria is a dependence, an ante-chamber, of Egypt; the English need to dispose of it at will for the defence of that country, and both our diplomacy and fleet must second the English in their action there. Syria, her present and her future, Syria and the Syrians, with their preferences and their rights, should be a subject of conversation between France and England; but in no case a field of operation for any Franco-English expeditionary force. The English undertook to look after Egypt by the Franco-English Agreement of 1904, which was, and still is, the charter of the Entente Cordiale, the contract of Franco-English alliance

It is our duty to say loyally, frankly, clearly what we claim in the name of our interests, rights, and duties in Syria; the agreement once drawn up, signed and sealed, we know that the English signature gives to a compact, as to a cheque, a value that is unequalled in the world.

The Menace in Egypt.

The possibility of a Turco-German invasion of Egypt in force is the subject of an article by Mr. Sidney Low in the *Sunday Times* (January 2). He inclines to the belief that the expedition will materialise:—

Everything points to the probability that, as soon as weather conditions are favourable, and the Germans and their allies have got their hands free in the Balkans, the move upon Egypt will be made.

When it comes it will be unquestionably of a most formidable character. The Turkish Army of invasion will be one very different from that scratch force which we were able to repulse (without however destroying or seriously crippling it), last winter. The Sultan's Ministers, under their German mentors and masters, have been busy recruiting and reorganising for many months past. There seems no reason to doubt that the Turkish Government has or will soon have nearly two millions of men in arms, including some of the best fighting material in the world.

Assuming that a good half of this host will be required for the defence of Constantinople territory, and for operations in the Caucasus, Thrace, Mesopotamia, Gallipoli, and elsewhere, and making a liberal deduction for all other contingencies, there would still remain four or five hundred thousand men available for the Red Sea campaign.

Mr. Low thinks that it is wise to ignore the supposed obstacles of the desert to an invading force. Small

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armies overcame them successfully last year; larger and more perfectly trained forces may do so now. Be prepared.

German Designs on Montenegro.

The correspondent of the *Morning Post* (January 3), in a despatch from Budapest on December 23, gives some interesting details of the situation on the Albanian-Montenegrin frontier. Our first quotation refers to the terrible hardships of the Serbian retreat over the mountains of Albania:—

The Albanian comitadji bands, under Turkish and Austrian officers, were pursuing the retreating Serbian detachments, who were generally in smaller groups, as wild beasts are hunted on the wild summits of the mountain ranges. The Albanian bands harassed the fatigued and famished Serbians on the narrow mountain passes from well-concealed positions behind the cliffs surrounding the defiles, where only one or two persons can pass at a time, and the chief amusement of these bands was to kill the mules and horses, which carried the scanty supplies of the retreating columns, rather than the men themselves. This ruffian who told the story gloated in the idea of how they picked off the mules, and how these fell headlong down the ravines, and how the men following in their wake had to come up and afford a good target for the hidden riflemen, as there was no possibility of returning by the path they had elected to follow.

Thousands of the men fell victims to the bullets of these bands, and thousands to starvation, and even those who succeeded in reaching Montenegro found little comfort there, as that little country is also suffering from famine.

The writer goes on to deal with the enemy designs against Montenegro:—

In this theatre of war they do not expect to make any further movements at present, for it seems the whole Balkan strength of the Central Empires which can be released from the frontier positions will be concentrated on the Greek frontier for the operations against Salonika. This is being prepared with the utmost vigour, and a general attack is expected early in January. The numbers of the Allied troops in Greece are known to the Austro-German General Staff to a man, and this gives them the advantage of preparing to meet the position in a manner satisfactory to them. They will not attempt to attack the Greek port unless they are certain of absolute superiority, for a long-drawn fight in Greece would not serve their purpose at all.

If they succeed in driving the Anglo-French troops away from Salonika, the next move will be Montenegro, a very hard little nut to crack, for the natural defences of the country are extremely formidable. On the other hand, it is part of the Austro-German political campaign in the Balkans to eliminate the Kingdom of the Black Mountain from the map once for all, for Austrian interests in the Herzegovina demand the absolute humiliation of King Nicholas's people after the Serbians have been driven from their country. All military critics here agree that Montenegro will suffer the same fate as Serbia at the hands of the Germanic Allies, for the programme of the Balkan campaign contemplates the settlement of this question once for all before attention is turned in other directions.

The Gulf of Ismidt.

A most interesting article headed "A Memory of the Gulf of Ismidt" appears in the *Outlook* (January 1) from the pen of Mr. F. G. Aflalo. The "memory" is five years old now, and Mr. Aflalo admits that had he realised the possibilities of the importance of this gulf "as the theatre of such deeds of daring and as the refuge of derelict German Dreadnoughts," he would have given to it more attention with both camera and notebook. As it is, however, he succeeds in giving a vivid picture of this backwater of the war.

To the angler and yachtsman the Gulf itself is more attractive than the verminous villages along its shores. Most of these are inhabited by a mixed population of Turks, Greeks, and Armenians, of which the last two are drunkards and gamblers, and may be seen on Sunday mornings crowding the waterside cafés, dicing and fuddling themselves with "mastic," while grave Muhamadans stride past and spit in their beards at the sight of these dogs who give their Sabbath to hazard and strong drink. For the rest, the southern shore, separated from the railway and from European influences by the deep and occasionally stormy waters of the Gulf, has preserved its old-time traditions. Of its villages, Ghonja is wholly Greek, Deirmenderé Turkish, and Baktchejik Armenian, with a flourishing mission under American control, but virtually self-supporting with its silkworms.

On one occasion the writer himself while visiting Lake Sabanja was forced to share his bedroom with a company of a thousand cocoons, for during the months of May and June most of the house room is given up entirely to make room for the cocoons. He continues:—

Deirmenderé, the most interesting village on the south side, is exclusively Turkish. At one time it had a bad name, and yachts from Constantinople would not anchor at night too close to its quay. I had been warned by friends against going ashore, but one morning, returning in my caïque from early fishing, I smelt delicious coffee and threw caution to the winds. I was quickly served with the steaming brew from the little brass pot embedded in glowing embers, and while one poured it out in little cups, another gave me flowers, a third sold me a clothes-basketful of cherries for a few piastres, and the whole male population begged to be photographed. Thus vanished the apocryphal ferocity of the men of Deirmenderé, and we were the best of friends for the rest of my stay on the opposite shore. The cherry orchards are marvellous, the fruit swelling with the pure water that trickles down from the hills and ripening in a summer climate as perfect as any between here and Paradise.

The article concludes with the paragraphs quoted below:—

Most of the time the Gulf is as gentle as any pond; but now and again the west wind comes raging into it, and then it goes white with anger, and the Armenian fishermen pull their nets and boats high and dry and cower in their hovels, drinking themselves helpless till the storm has passed. But for such passing disturbance, the Gulf in normal times is the same year in, year out, like the empire of which it is a part. Even under the driving power of Enver, to whom, as to the revolutionary propaganda of the "Committee of Union and Progress," the Old Turks living hereabouts are unequivocally hostile, the first two years of the "Constitution," so pregnant with changes in Constantinople itself, left it untouched. It stood for the immutable Turkey that prided itself in its heyday on standing still while Christendom rushed to ruin. It was the kind of scene that inspired a traditional conversation between Allah and the Archangel Gabriel, which they relate to this day in the bazaars. They were looking down on Europe, and Allah had declared that, whereas the rest was changed beyond recognition, Turkey was the same as when it was created.

"But who," he asks the Archangel, "are the men in red caps?"

"Softly, Sire" answers Gabriel, "or they will report us to Hamid!"

They were the Palace spies of the Padishah.

Articles to Note.

"The Sacrifice of Serbia," by Robert Machray, and "The Integrity of the Empire: The Offer of Cyprus to Greece," by Sir Francis Piggott, in the *Nineteenth Century* (January).

"The Balkan Question," by Sir Edwin Pears, in the *Contemporary Review* (January).

"A Winter Campaign in Armenia," by G. M. Chesney, and "Our Nearest and Dearest Enemies," by Dr. E. J. Dillon, in the *Fortnightly Review* (January).

"Serbo-Slav Customs," by M. W. Patterson, in the *Standard* (January 4).

"Islam et Chrétienté," par M. Marmaduke Pickthall (Septembre-Octobre), and "Les Capitulations Ottomanes," par M. Kémal Hilmy, in *La Revue Politique Internationale* (Novembre-Décembre).

"Serbia's Soldier-King," by Joseph Reinach, in the *Morning Post* (January 6).

Y.M.C.A.

We would again direct the attention of our readers to the excellent work of the Y.M.C.A. in various parts of the world, and more especially in Egypt and Mesopotamia. In England, we all know how great a part this vast organisation has played in bringing comfort and recreation to our troops; but great as the need has been here, it is a thousand times greater abroad. In Egypt, for instance, the desert camps offer few opportunities for diversion, and the Association has done admirable work in establishing recreation-rooms and so on, thereby materially assisting the authorities in keeping the men fit and happy. It is the same in all theatres of the war.

The ramifications of the Association's work stop only at the actual fighting line, and every expansion of our Army necessitates increased expense and energy by the Y.M.C.A. and its officials. It already possesses twenty-seven centres in Egypt, and now the base camp at Salonika opens up a new field requiring recreation huts and the general equipment of comfort that the previous activities of the Association have led our sailors and soldiers to expect. In order that there may be no break in the good work, it is important that the Association should receive adequate financial support, and we trust that our readers may give it all the aid in their power. Donations have already been received in response to our previous appeal, but the expenses of the Association in the Near East are very great. Subscriptions for the "Egypt" fund may be sent to THE NEAR EAST, when they will be duly acknowledged in these columns, or to the London offices of the Association, 13, Russell Square, W.C.

THE BRITISH IN PERSIA.

Reuter's Agency states that news has been received in London that the members of the British community at Sultanabad, who had to leave that place after acts of looting at the end of November, arrived at Kum on December 12, and were proceeding to Teheran.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The interview granted to our Bucharest Correspondent by the President of the Union of Agricultural Syndicates for "Central Commission" is of more than usual interest. We learn, for the first time, that we had a unique opportunity to purchase Roumania's corn, thus preventing it from being acquired by the enemy; but that, as usual, we let the opportunity slip by, and now the Germans are buying it. Is this policy? Those who are unacquainted with the economic conditions obtaining in Roumania will, doubtless, blame her for selling to our enemy. The blame does not, however, hold good. Roumania depends entirely on her crops, and she must sell them. We cannot, or will not, buy them, and so she sells them to the Central Powers, with whom she is not at war. We may regret it, but the blame rests not with Roumania, but with us. Had we bought the grain in question, not only would the blockade of the Central Powers have been more effectual, but we should have increased our prestige in the Kingdom of the Danube. As it is, by neglecting to thwart Germany's corn deals in the East we have rendered ineffectual our naval blockade in the West.

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Whether the difficulties which seem to have supervened between buyers and sellers have been overcome is not definitely known, but from messages which appeared during the latter part of the month in the Press it would seem that a contract between Germany and Roumania has been definitely arranged. News from Bucharest comes to us in such a roundabout way, viâ Zurich, Athens, or Amsterdam, that no faith is to be placed in it, but it would appear that German gold has found its way to Roumania, and that trucks of grain have left for the West as the direct result. All of which is most unfortunate, and very regrettable.

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Apparently one of the conditions imposed by the Roumanian Government is that the buyer of the grain (Germany) must provide her own trucks. This is wise—and significant. It shows that Germany cannot be trusted. If the grain is loaded on Roumanian trucks the latter *are never returned to their proprietors!* In other words, theft pure and simple in the guise, I suppose, of military exigencies. It is a nice reputation to have, that of truck-thief. Nevertheless, that is what Germany has become. Austria is not a whit better. Our Bucharest Correspondent writes:—"The Ministry of Finance is concerned about several hundred trucks containing coal bought in Germany. They have *completely disappeared en route through Austria!*" And he adds, laconically: "Unfortunately the coal has been paid for."

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The long and the short of it is that Roumania's position is not an enviable one. She has, at present, and in view of the closing of the Dardanelles, only one set of customers, and they are thieves. She might have sold her grain to the Entente group (and kept it in the country), but we were blind—seemingly—to the opportunity thus presenting itself, and thereby placed her unreservedly in the grip of the Huns. It will be argued that if we had purchased her grain she would have bought with our money coal in Germany, and that thereby the enemy would have profited. The question is a delicate one, but two remarks are pertinent: First, that in any case the coal would have to be bought by Roumania and that, the Dardanelles being closed, it could only be bought in Germany or Austria; and, secondly, that hard cash (or, what is more likely, paper bills) would never have fed Germany's hungry millions.

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I read that the new bridge over the Save at Belgrade has been completed and that, therefore, the Berlin-Constantinople route is on the eve of being or is already opened to traffic. The significance of this can hardly be overrated. Turkey is a producer of raw material—foodstuffs, cotton, wool, ore, etc—eminently desirable to the Boche, and the latter is a producer of industrial articles necessary to the Turk. But here, again, the German has the best of the bargain, because the replenishing of his larder is more vital to him than his articles are to the cryptic Ottoman. The *Drang nach Osten* was, in a sense, an instinctive movement, a necessary one for self-preservation and, for the time being, its object has been achieved. Had we been earlier in Serbia, the consummation of the German plan would have failed, and she would not be in a position to-day to procure raw material from Turkey. On the contrary, it is we who have failed to prevent her from attaining her great goal, and it is going to cost us something—in time, money and men. Personally, I consider the economic consequences of the Berlin-Constantinople link, the provisioning of Germany with Turkish raw produce, to be a greater misfortune than the purely military consequences.

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The "Persia" outrage is dastardly murder. It again raises the question of the value of the Mediterranean route to the Far East in war time. We have seen the Dutch shipping companies abandon it for the Cape route, before any of their vessels had been torpedoed, and the Japs follow suit after they had lost the "Yasaka Maru," near Malta. What about the P. and O. Company's sailings? Would it not be safer and better for them to do likewise? His Majesty's mails for the Eastern Mediterranean and the Red Sea could be taken by swift Government boats from Marseilles to Alexandria, whence they would be distributed as far south as Aden. Smaller cargo steamers could do likewise as regards freight, and the P. and O. would temporarily devote itself to the Cape and Indian trade. As far as the Cape is concerned, the departure would, I am sure, be most welcome, because there is a tremendous dearth of freight steamers. India and Australasia would, admittedly, get their mails, passengers, etc., with a considerable delay, but in view of the gravity of the issues at stake in this war they would not grumble inordinately. Better the delay than a repetition of the "Persia" outrage. As for the much overrated "loss of prestige," it is too vague and negative to be taken into consideration. There remains to be solved the question of the P. and O.'s contract with the Government, but compromise between the two parties, without Parliamentary discussion, eloquence and interference, should easily be arrived at. I strongly suggest, therefore, that the P. and O. be asked, or allowed, temporarily to change its route for the Cape route.

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We publish on page 256 a spirited letter from our Cairo Correspondent on enemy firms in Egypt, which supplements the remarks already made in these columns on the same subject. The *Morning Post* has also during the past week published a strong article on the same subject, from which I quote the following paragraphs, at the same time upholding the opinions I have expressed in these columns during the past three weeks:—

"The Entente with France altered much in Egypt, but public attention was then and thereafter mainly concentrated on the improved relations with France. France no longer played the part of a sleepless opponent, versed in every form of enmity, from open political rivalry to secret commercial intrigue. But her abandoned rôle was at once taken up, studied, and extended by Germany. The few Englishmen in Egypt who had any independent knowledge or experience of German ways soon found growing reasons both for interest and apprehension. In the first place, the members of the German colony were organised like a regiment and given to understand that they were an outpost of Empire *in partibus*. They soon attained a local importance, which had never hitherto attached to their slender numbers. The entire hotel system of Egypt had long been mainly in German or Austrian hands. The highly educated managers of the various establishments were excellently placed for acquiring information on many details of British administration and policy in Egypt and our Empire generally—for most of our great roads lead to or from Cairo. This knowledge was soon assimilated and carried home by the swarms of German waiters who made their annual appearance for the winter season.

***

"Meanwhile much was going on outside the coffee-rooms. Churches and schools of pretentious size arose in the best sites obtainable, and flew the Imperial colours on every possible occasion. German booksellers, engravers, electricians, agricultural implement makers, engineers, chemists, dentists, and hairdressers appeared, flourished, and bore down all competition. The State Railways found their demands for engines and rolling stock more readily and quickly met in Germany and Austria than in England. In 1878 one might search all over Cairo for a few grains of quinine. Some twenty odd years later the most elaborate chemical analyses for judicial or other purposes could be performed by a learned German chemist.

***

"There appeared banks with fields of operation, embracing the entire East, and offering, with a kind of missionary enthusiasm, facilities for loans hitherto rare in the world of business. Germany had an Orient Bank before owning any of the Orient. It is here that we may look for the financial parentage of the 'Presses Allemandes' and other like concerns. The chief interest for us lies in the proof here afforded that in Egypt, as throughout the Empire and at home, one and the same situation prevailed until the first gun was fired in this war."

COMMENTATOR.

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Roumania's War Exports.

Interview with M. Demetre Greceano.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, Dec. 20.

M. Demètre Greceano, late Minister of Justice, and now President of the Union of Agricultural Syndicates, has granted me an interview, the substance of which is as follows :—

If there is one subject which interests all classes in Roumania at the present moment, it is that relating to the exportation of the grain derived from the harvest of 1915. This country, as most people are aware, is eminently agricultural, so that not only individuals, but the State, have only agricultural produce to fall back upon in order to meet their expenses. Since the beginning of this war Roumania has been unable to avail herself of the chief route by which she exports her produce, namely, the Black Sea and the Dardanelles, and, therefore, Germany and Austria-Hungary are the only buyers.

Grain Exports.

This economic situation might have given rise to a certain form of political activity on the part of the Central Powers, who are thus provided with a powerful means of exercising coercion in the matter of Roumania's attitude. In order to obviate this very real danger, certain public men of the country, resolute partisans of the Quadruple Entente, proposed to the representatives of these Powers that they should acquire the produce of the country that was destined for exportation. It would have been a matter of some seven or eight hundred million francs (thirty million sterling), a portion of the harvest having to remain in the country for internal consumption. This harvest, acquired by England and France, would have been stored away and guaranteed for by the State up to the time when access by way of the Dardanelles should have been re-established. In spite of insistence on the part of those diplomats who were aware of the political importance of such a transaction, the project did not prove acceptable, so that the Roumanians, who have no other means of existence than their agricultural produce, found themselves at the discretion of the Central Powers. The danger of political pressure on the part of Germany became especially menacing when that State formed a monopoly for the purchase of grain. By buying exclusively from sources indicated by the German and Austrian Legations at Bucharest, and backed by efficient means of corruption, Germany was in a position to create an atmosphere more or less favourable to herself. In order to guard against this danger the Roumanian agriculturists have, in agreement with the Government, formed a special "Central Commission," which has secured a counter-monopoly for the sale of grain. In this way the Central Powers are forced to pay for the corn according to its quality, and not according to the owner's political opinions.

During the first week of December the "Central Commission" entered into negotiations for the sale of 50,000 truckloads (500,000 tons) of corn to Germany, on terms which promised to be advantageous. There is reason to anticipate a satisfactory termination to this transaction, which will bring some relief to the precarious situation in which most of this country's agriculturists find themselves. Meanwhile, it may be of interest to note some of the difficulties that have arisen.

Negotiations with Germany.

The total stock of grain designated for exportation amounts to about 600,000 truckloads, of a value of some two thousand million francs. The 50,000 truckloads, the sale of which is being negotiated, represent 150 million francs, to which must be added the export taxes payable in gold, which amount to 50 million francs.

The obstacles which have arisen in the way of the transaction may be summarized as follows :—

(1) The question of exchange. One of the conditions insisted upon is that payment shall be made in Roumanian *lei*, and not in Austrian crowns, which are quoted at 83·84, nor in German marks, which are also low. The National Bank of Roumania insists that Germany shall buy the Roumanian *lei* with marks at the exchange of 1.20 per mark. German representatives propose 1.22, but will come down to a minimum of 1.21.

(2) The Minister of Finance insists that the export taxes, which amount, for instance, to 500 fr. per truckload of wheat, shall be paid in gold. His reasons may be explained as follows :—The National Bank has the right to issue banknotes representing three times the value of the stock of gold in its vaults. It has now reached the limit in the output of paper, and therefore needs no less than fifty million francs in gold in order to be able to issue 150 millions in banknotes, this last sum, as I stated above, representing the price of the 50,000 truckloads of grain in question.

A few days ago the Austro-German representatives were received by the Minister of Finance, and offered him value on Berlin, but the Minister declared that he could not accept any payment other than in gold.

The Roumanian Minister told the Austro-German representatives that Germany had exported large quantities of gold to Bulgaria and Turkey, and that if Germany needed Roumanian corn she could not do less for this country. The Germans replied that they give gold to those who are allied to them. From which we deduce that they have not given up all hope of exercising political pressure on Roumania through this channel. As Roumania cannot afford to give in, the sale will only be concluded in the case of Germany's need of grain becoming greater than her political ambitions.

LOSS OF THE S.S. "PERSIA."

The s.s. Persia, of the P. and O. Company, was torpedoed at 1.10 p.m. on December 30, and by 1.15 p.m. the vessel had completely disappeared. No warning was given and no periscope was seen, but the track of a torpedo was observed by the Second Officer Wood four points on the port bow one second before impact.

The torpedo struck the ship abaft No. 3 hatch opposite the boiler-room, and Eves, the second engineer, is of opinion that the forward port boiler blew up, this accelerating the sinking of the ship.

The outrage took place at a point about forty miles due south of Crete. There were about 200 passengers aboard, and the crew numbered from 200 to 300 men. Six boats were known to have got clear, of which the occupants of four were brought to Alexandria on the night of January 1, and a fifth was rescued on the following day. The total number saved of crew and passengers was 170.

The Persia had letter mails on board for Egypt, Cyprus, Aden, British East Africa, Zanzibar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Ceylon, India, Persian Gulf Ports, Malay States, Straits Settlements, Dutch East Indies, North Borneo, Sarawak, Siam, Manila, and Hong Kong, containing letters for those destinations which reached the General Post Office, London, after 7 a.m. on Friday, December 17, and up to the same hour on Friday, December 24; also newspapers and other printed matter, received at the General Post Office, London, between Wednesday, December 15, and Wednesday, December 22.

There were also parcel mails on board for Egypt, Cyprus, Aden, Seychelles, and India, containing parcels which reached the General Post Office, London, after Wednesday, December 8, and before the evening of Wednesday, December 15.

So far as is known no mails were saved.

Until this loss the liners carrying on the mail services of the P. and O. Company had been immune from disaster of the kind, points out the *Times*. It was only on December 8 that Lord Inchcape, the chairman, referred at the annual meeting to this immunity, and to the possibility that disaster might have to be borne. The passage in his address to the proprietors dealing with the subject was as follows :—

"I am glad to say that week after week with unfailing regularity, without exception, all through these sixteen months of war, the P. and O. mail steamers have started on their voyages from this country to the far ends of the earth with their usual complement of passengers just as in times of peace. . . .

"We cannot be too grateful to the Admiralty and to the Navy for the complete immunity from casualty from enemy ships with which the P. and O. vessels, their passengers, and their ships' companies have been able to sail the seas all through this war. Of course, we cannot tell when some disaster may overtake us, but if and when it should come, the board, and, I feel sure, the proprietors also, will bear it philosophically, knowing that all that could have been done by the Admiralty, the Navy, and our commanders, officers, and engineers has been done to avert it."

It was in no boastful spirit that Lord Inchcape mentioned the previous immunity which he tempered with a warning, but with a sense of indebtedness to the Admiralty and the company's officers.

The Persia was of 7,974 tons, built by Caird and Co. at Greenock in 1900, was fitted for wireless signalling, and had a speed of 18 knots. She was a very popular boat with passengers. She was of the same size as the India, built by the same company four years earlier, which when commissioned as an armed cruiser was destroyed by an enemy submarine on August 8 last. The India was manned by a Government crew, and there was considerable loss of life.

The Persia met with a mishap in July, 1912, when, while bound from London for Bombay, she stranded outside Marseilles in dense fog. The passengers were safely landed, and the liner was refloated with the assistance of the French cruiser Jules Ferry and the naval tugs Goliath and Vulcain. Presentations on behalf of the P. and O. Company were subsequently made to the Préfet Maritime at Toulon, the captain of the cruiser, the lieutenants in charge of the tugs, and other officers.

The Persia was insured against war risks under the British Government scheme. The loss falling on marine underwriters should not be very serious, because, though heavily laden with parcel post and mails, she carried little cargo. In any case the liability of underwriters and insurance companies for cargo would have been strictly limited, since for some weeks past their rates for cargo viâ the Mediterranean have, as a rule, been considerably above the Government flat rate of £1 1s. per cent. It was because the Government scheme only applies to British vessels that the destruction of the Japanese liner Yasaka Maru last month involved London underwriters in one of the heaviest war losses they have had to meet.

GREEK LINER ABANDONED.

Seventy-five per cent. was quoted in London on Wednesday evening for reinsurance on the Greek liner Thessaloniki of 4,682 tons, on news from New York that her passengers had been transferred to the steamer Patris and that her crew had left in their boats. The Thessaloniki, which belongs to the National Steam Navigation Company of Greece, was reported on December 31 to have been 150 miles south of Nantucket unable to proceed owing to engine trouble, and, according to a Reuter message from New York, she is known to have been badly buffeted during the past few days and to have had her engine-room filled with water. She was built at Belfast in 1890 as the City of Vienna, and is valued at £30,000.

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Egypt's Trade During November.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 22.

The Egyptian Customs returns for November just published show a continuation in the improvement already reported. During the month imports amounted to £E1,787,213 and exports to £E3,276,832, as against £E938,099 and £E3,018,191 respectively in November, 1914. The totals up to the end of last month stood at £E16,692,314 for imports and at £E22,562,823 for exports. It is interesting to note that for the same period of 1913 the figures were respectively £E25,054,508 and £E26,566,995, so that although the import trade has by no means caught up, exports are within very appreciable distance of their level in the last normal period prior to the war.

Imports.

Under imports the chief items for the month were:—Alimentary products £E72,255, cereals £E136,549. It is to be noted that in 1913 this category stood at £E411,280 at the end of November, the falling off being due entirely to the increased local production. Sugar £E102,957, tea £E37,454, coffee £E28,390, coal £E186,341; although the value is £E71,710 more than in 1913, the quantity is 29,838 tons less, and the situation locally is becoming serious owing to the non-arival of further cargoes. Matches £E27,908, chemical products £E34,983, textiles £E572,147—only £E42,308 below the figure for November, 1913—and worked iron and steel £E54,048.

For the eleven months the chief heads showing decreases are cereals £E1,468,644, skins and tanned goods £E159,673, chemical products £E282,088, textiles £E103,079—£E5,116,091, as against £E5,219,170 (£E6,304,578 in 1913)--ironwork £E1,618,265, stone and glass £E196,443, construction wood £E809,034. The principal items with increases were frozen meat £E316,448, coffee £E132,638, tea £E107,524, coal £E604,326, cotton tissues £E311,408, and sacks £E162,216.

Exports.

Under exports during November the figures were:—Eggs £E9,190, skins £E21,176, cereals £E167,905, cotton seed £E296,793, sugar £E29,406, natural phosphates £E13,327, cotton £E2,641,818 (752,640 cantars). For the eleven months the chief increases were:—Eggs £E163,643, skins and tanned goods £E47,526 (the total is £E57,246 better than in 1913), cereals £E1,147,120 (only £E300,183 was the total for the period of 1913, it is to be noted)), cotton seed £E118,237, sugar £E391,473 (£E542,629 as compared with £E74,656 in 1913), wool £E88,584, and gold and silver bar £E411,788. Cotton during the period has fallen off by £E1,208,476 in value, but the quantity has increased by 876,206 cantars. Cigarettes improved in November by £E7,688 (the imports fell off by £E5,649), but the eleven months show a falling off of £E48,850.

The British Empire is certainly improving its relations with this country; its total share of the imports during November was £E978,621, or 54.7 per cent., as compared with 31.6 per cent. in November, 1913. The proportion for the entire eleven months of the two years was 57 and 37 per cent. respectively. Great Britain during November provided 80 per cent. of the coal and of the ironwork, 60 per cent. of the entire textile imports (80 per cent. of the cotton threads), whilst the whole of the flour imports amounting to £E51,327 came from British Possessions, which also supplied 90 per cent. of the tea, 50 per cent. of the chemical products, and practically all the butter. India sent 50 per cent. of the cotton threads, all the sacks, rice and indigo—all the latter previous to the war came from Germany. Of the exports the Empire took a little over 50 per cent. both during the month and the rest of the year (as against 42 per cent. in 1913), mostly cotton and cotton seed.

Amongst the other countries America again sent all the petroleum and benzine and the balance of the coal (£E35,135), Switzerland condensed milk for £E14,310 out of a total of £E16,795, whilst Japan appears on the market as a supplier of millinery and linen goods with £E13,553 out of a total of £E46,285. Under exports Morocco took, again, a large portion of the sugar; America took one-third of the cotton—of the balance, Russia bought £E193,737 and France £E108,429—whilst wheat to the value of £E38,013 was sent to the Hedjaz for the holy shrines, and a third of the gold bar went to India.

Sudan Trade.

During November traffic with the Sudan amounted to £E113,886, imports thence into Egypt £E49,888, and exports to the Sudan £E63,998. The former included livestock £E27,545, cereals £E7,435, and senna £E2,506. Exports to the Sudan comprised, among other things, flour £E2,139, sugar £E4,488, coffee £E5,063, cotton tissues £E15,260, tanned goods £E2,589. The total imports into Egypt from the Sudan since the beginning of the year amount to £E466,382, and the exports to that dependency £E784,889.

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Turkey is said to be demanding a cash advance of twenty million pounds from Germany to meet the deficiency disclosed by the recent Budget.

A telegram received in Zurich from Bucharest states that the Bourse Committee has asked the Minister of Commerce to permit the reopening of the Bourse. The Minister has refused, remarking that the present conditions are unfavourable for Bourse operations.

Reuter reports from Amsterdam that a Constantinople telegram states that the Turkish Government has prepared a Bill introducing the Gregorian Calendar for the civil year. The financial year will begin on March 14. The ecclesiastical year will remain lunar.

It is reported from Sofia that the Bulgarian Minister of Finance estimates the cost of the war to Bulgaria from September 16 to January 1 at the figure of 250,000,000 fr., says a Reuter message from Athens.

It is reported that the Bulgarian War Credits, totalling £21,200,000, were adopted by the Sabranje with only a few dissentient votes.

The name of Reuter's Bank has been changed to the "British Commercial Bank, Limited." The new title was adopted as from yesterday.

It is announced that Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Turkey have come to an agreement concerning the import of cotton from Asia Minor to Austria-Hungary and Germany.

A Hamburg telegram states that the German Christmas market was very short of meat, but that ample quantities of Serbian pork have now arrived. The military administration in Serbia is despatching thousands of live hogs to Dresden, where they are slaughtered, the pork being sent to cities where the scarcity is greatest.

TRADE NOTES.

Egypt.

Tenders are invited by the Secrétaire Générale des Domaines de l'Etat (Service Technique), Cairo, for the supply (1) of 13,315 okes of "huile pour mouvements"; (2) 7,670 okes of "huile pour cylindres"; (3) 16,200 okes of "huile pour moteurs Diesel." Date, February 2.

Tenders are invited by the Controller, Cairo Tangier Department, for the supply of 320 tons of "extra hard pitch" required during the financial year 1916-1917. Samples shall be submitted at the Roads Service Depot, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, before noon, on March 1, 1916. Date, March 1.

A Ministerial Decree has been issued permitting the free export of coffee from Egypt. It is pointed out that this "free export" is subject to the regulations which are in force as to the destinations to which this commodity may be exported.

Sudan.

The general manager, Sudan Government Railways, is prepared to receive tenders for the supply of the following timber:—

100,000 ft. run of Swedish pine in sizes varying from ¾-inch by 9 in. to 2 in. by 9 in.
2,500 ft. run of 3 in. by 3 in. by 13 ft.
1,500 ft. run of 4 in. by 4 in. by 13 ft.
25,000 ft. run of pitch pine in sizes varying from 1 in. by 9 in. to 4 in. by 12 in.
6 pitch pine baulks, 9 in. by 9 in. by 36 in.
6 pitch pine baulks, 9 in. by 12 in. by 20 ft.
12 pitch pine baulks, 12 in. by 12 in. by 20 ft.

Tenders, which should state prices and possible date of delivery of timber, may be sent to any of the following:—

Sir A. L. Webb, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W., quoting price f.o.b. London.
Agent, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria, quoting price for delivery in Alexandria.
General Manager, Sudan Government Railways, Atbara, quoting price c.i.f. Port Sudan or for local delivery.

From all of whom also tender forms and fuller information as to the sizes of timber required may be obtained. Tenders, which should be enclosed in sealed envelopes, plainly marked on the outside "Tender for Timber," must reach any of the above addresses by not later than noon of February 1, 1916.

Cyprus.

A notice has appeared in the *Cyprus Gazette* (Extraordinary) notifying that the High Commissioner has approved of special licences being granted by the Provost Marshal for a limited quantity of potatoes being exported to Egypt, subject to certain regulations which are designed to facilitate exportation after local requirements at reasonable prices have been satisfied.

The Government of Cyprus has for sale about 266 Cyprus okes of harpoon-fished sponges, good quality, and 29 okes skarta from Cyprus waters this year; also 748 okes of machine-fished sponges, good quality, and 89 okes skarta. Tenders for the purchase of same will be received by the Inspector of Fisheries up to 12 noon on January 29, 1916. The sponges may be seen on application to the Collector of Customs, Limassal, and full information obtained by application at the office of the Inspector of Fisheries, Nicosia.

A correspondent writes:—

"Sponges of good quality are taken annually in Cyprus waters, the industry being in the hands of Greek islanders, who visit Cyprus with their own boats. They are taken both by harpoon, or dragging system, and by divers. The sponges belonging to the Government are advertised for sale by the Inspector of Fisheries, as above."

The French Government has informed the Greek Government that it holds at its disposal 10,000,000 fr. as an advance from the loan now under negotiation. This demonstration of French goodwill forms an eloquent denial of the malevolent rumours alleging that unsatisfactory relations exist between the Entente and Greece.

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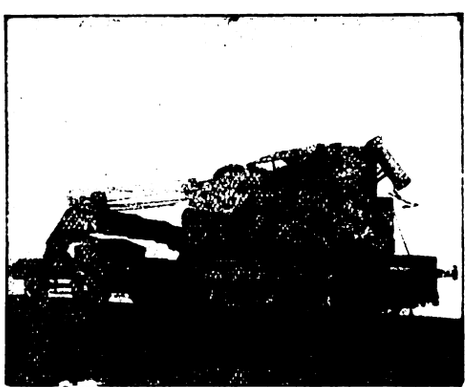
Engineering Notes.

"Ethol."

The problem of finding new contributory sources of fuel that can be adequately used as a substitute for petrol is evidently going to be practically solved in South Africa. In our Engineering Notes, December 3rd, ult., we referred to an alcohol-fuel produced in Natal—wherefore named "Natalite"—which in prolonged tests, carried out by the Royal Automobile Club last autumn, has given most excellent results with an ordinary petrol engine. We now hear of another new alcohol-fuel called "Ethol," which has recently been introduced in the Transvaal. From its name it may be inferred that it is a mixture of ether and alcohol. In extended official tests it was shown that the consumption of this new fuel was .165 gallons per h.p., compared with .125 gallons of petrol; while its thermal efficiency was about 2½ per cent. better than that of petrol. "Ethol" can work up to compressions of about 180 lb., and as the tests were carried out with an ordinary petrol engine, it is asserted that the results will be even better with engines designed for taking advantage of the special characteristics of alcohol-fuels, such as high compression, expansion, etc. It must be mentioned here that this substantial progress in the solution of the alcohol-fuel problem is due to the incessant and practical efforts of the Government of South Africa, which is offering every possible encouragement and assistance for research.

An "Iron Horse."

When one has read of the wooden horse of Troy, the invention of the wily Ulysses; or the wooden horse of the Arabian Nights, which was fitted with two pegs by which, on turning the one, the horse rose into the air, and on turning the other it descended wherever the rider wished—an evident prediction of the modern aeroplane—or the wooden horse in Alkman's "Reynard the Fox," which could go a hundred miles an hour; or the brass horse of King Cambussan, in Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales," which could within a single day transport its rider to the most distant region of the world—one naturally cannot resist the invitation to view an "iron horse" at an exhibition where there was to be found nothing mythical, but only samples of the latest products of modern science and industry. The view was by no means a disappointment, for although not an effigy of the quadruped, the "iron horse" is a very interesting, compact, and light three-wheeled tractor for agricultural use, and has probably been so nicknamed because it is designed to haul and operate any farm implement with only one man in attendance. Having started the engine, the driver can sit either on the tractor or on the implement and steer it, by means of a pair of rope reins, which are a special feature of the "iron horse." Stopping and starting are effected by means of a telescopic rod, which works by tension. It is fitted with an 8 h.p. semi-Diesel engine, and uses paraffin as fuel. One minute only is required to start the engine, and the gearing is entirely enclosed, being thus protected from any dirt or stones whilst at work in the field or on the road. The drive is transmitted through one of the road wheels, which runs on the land, whilst the outside guide wheel runs in the furrow when ploughing. A suitable pulley is also provided, which enables the tractor to drive, when desired, barn or other machinery. The weight of the "iron horse" is between 6 and 7 cwt. (240 to 280 okes), there being one speed forward and reverse; and it is stated that a two-furrow plough was hauled by this tractor, in stiff clay, with very satisfactory results. The machine is not intended for road haulage, but, as we noted above, it can haul ploughs, cultivators, sowing, mowing, and other machines and implements in the field, and drive pumps or barn machinery. This light and useful machine will interest farmers in the Near East, who, owing to the scarcity of labour and the commandeering or forced sale of horses, mules, and draught



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bullocks, are unable to cultivate their lands. To farmers who find it inconvenient to purchase outright such a machine—although, we were informed, its price is not beyond the means of the average smallholder—we would suggest the co-operative purchasing system, or the buying of one by two or three jointly. It would help them out of their difficulties, and they could rest assured that their "iron horse" would not be commandeered.

ENEMY TRADING ACT.

Engineers and Banks.

In view of the general and growing dissatisfaction with the attitude of the Government in permitting enemy concerns to carry on trade in Great Britain during the war a representative of the *Morning Post* has interviewed Mr. Stafford Ransome, the Organizer and Secretary of the British Engineers' Association, on the subject. Mr. Ransome pointed out that since the war began the British Engineers' Association has repeatedly drawn the attention of the Government to the inadequacy of the Trading with the Enemy Act.

"In the Trading with the Enemy Act, 1914, the Government has adopted certain of the suggestions put forward by the Association in the way of appointing supervisors to enemy concerns in this country, etc., but the Amended Act does not in any way deal with the matter satisfactorily.

"The law in its present form supports enemies and enemy concerns in this country. This will strengthen the hands of enemies after the war at a time when the Allies will be very seriously weakened financially and commercially. It will, in fact, tend to nullify the effects of a victory. Though it professes to prohibit, it does not in effect prevent trading with enemies in enemy countries or the passage of British money to enemy countries. This is rendering victory more difficult and is prolonging the war."

German Influence.

Mr. Ransome considered it inconceivable that a British Government, whatever its party-political views might be, could adopt the line that had been adopted unless there were some influence behind it about which the public were altogether ignorant. No doubt Cabinet Ministers, he said, would be grieved if they were told that they were pro-German, and yet it was difficult to conceive that if our "Trading with the Enemy" law had been framed in Berlin how it could have played more directly into the hands of Britain's enemies. He was sorry to say that German influence was being used for all it was worth in all the countries of the Allies, but while the Russian and French Governments had seen their way to ignore these influences by framing their legislation, the British Government had not done so.

"Great Britain has lent enormous sums to Germany—money in many cases which ought to have been employed by our bankers in the development of British industries. People often wonder why our financial people should have adopted this unpatriotic method. In practice, however, a banker or a bank is a thing without a soul. It puts its money out in the markets which it considers the most secure, and our bankers have found a ready market for their loose cash among the German banks, whose security was practically backed by the German Government and therefore the assets of the Empire. On the sound, if not patriotic, principle our bankers were right in preferring such a security to that of an individual firm in this country. They would have been right, that is to say, if it were impossible for us to be at war with Germany; but the moment such an event came about the bottom was entirely knocked out of such a policy. Now our financial people are wondering, when the war is over, if they are going to get their money back and they say to themselves and to the Government: 'How shall we do this if we crush Germany's trade?' Certain it is that financial influence will be very strong against any drastic steps which will really inconvenience the German trade after the war."

Banks.

"The attitude of the British banks in recent years is best exemplified in the following manner. The money actually placed in the banks on deposit by our engineering firms was lent in the ordinary course of the bank's business to German firms, who at once lent it to their manufacturers for the development of their trade, more particularly abroad. But the English engineering firms could not obtain the same facilities from their own bankers. The result was that the money accumulated by our own manufacturers was actually being used to finance their foreign competitors.

"In spite of the Government attitude there is a great feeling against dealing with enemy firms in this country, and I am happy to say that it is extending to the municipalities. At the instigation of this Association, a number of these have already passed a resolution not to deal with such firms in the future. Among them are Manchester, Aberdeen, Dundee, Lincoln, and Newark. It is to be hoped that all of them will follow their patriotic lead, and that some day the British Government may wake up to the conviction that patriotism is not only desirable, but the best policy."

ENEMY SUBMARINES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

A correspondent writes in the *Echo de Paris*:—It is estimated that there are now twenty-five enemy submarines operating in the Mediterranean. A few of them are Austrian-built; others have been sent overland in sections by rail to the Austrian naval arsenals; many have made their way round by sea.

At the outset German submarines, coming by way of Gibraltar, were supplied on the Spanish coast, between the Portuguese and French frontiers, then in the Balearic Isles, where there was a determined provider of petrol. But these coasts are now so closely watched that the supplying of U boats has become impossible.

Another centre of supplies was organised later, it is thought, in Sicily, on the Girgenti coast, and in Augusta Bay (S. coast of Sicily), into which a French destroyer pursued a German submarine and nearly caught it. Since the month of May, i.e., ever since Italy declared war on Austria, things have changed; the Sicilian coast-line has been closely watched by the Italian navy, and the German submarine suppliers have found other lurking places.

General gossip states that they are now installed in Greece, where they form a powerful organisation with an ex-Minister, whose name is common property, at its head.

It is on the Adriatic coast of the Peloponnesus that the supply bases are most numerous. Two other bases of supply are still said to exist on the south coast of Crete and on the island of Corfu, where submarines, it is said, found shelter for a long time in the roadstead of the Achilleion, the Kaiser's property. Other bases of supply are reported in the Greek islands of Cos, Leros, and Samos. To complete the story, I should mention a base which is said to be situated on the Spanish coast of Morocco, near Melilla.

The submarines are fitted with Diesel engines, which can work at will on petrol, the heavier petroleum oils, and petroleum residue. But the Greek Government has a monopoly of these products, which come exclusively from the Standard Oil Company in oil-tankers, and are quite familiar to the British Navy. All such oil arriving in Greece is consigned to the Government, and any German control of it is impossible. All we can say is that petroleum imports into Greece have increased in enormous proportions.

The *modus operandi*, says the *Daily Chronicle*, quoting from the French paper, is as follows:—

The German supply agents buy the oil or petrol from the Government; they then consign the precious liquor to depots hidden inland not far from the sea. On certain specific days or nights—usually nights—the tanks are transported on muleback to the point of the coast where local craft are waiting. The oil tanks are put aboard, and the boats carry out their cargo to the submarines, which are lying in wait in the offing. In a few hours the whole thing is over. Another method is to sink oil-barrels out at sea, indicating their position by buoys.

Now that the Greek Government has allowed the Allied warships to exercise a close inspection of the coasts, it is hoped that these alcoves will become rarer.

EGYPTIAN DATES.

There is a good market in the United Kingdom for dates of superior quality suitable for household consumption and for use in confectionery, and the demand would appear to be capable of considerable expansion provided that a high standard of quality of the dates is maintained, says the *Chamber of Commerce Journal*. At the present time, it is understood, the Egyptian Government desires to encourage the export trade in dates from Egypt to the United Kingdom.

Date cultivation in Egypt and the Sudan has been carried on since very ancient times. In the Nile valley the date palm is cultivated with little interruption from the Mediterranean coast to Khartoum, a distance of about 1,100 miles, the longest continuous north and south extent of date cultivation in the world. This embraces a range in mean annual temperature of more than 15 degrees, and a range in the percentage of mean relative humidity varying from 74 per cent. at Port Said to only 24 per cent. in Dongola Province in the Sudan. The cool and humid maritime zone produces few packing dates, but almost exclusively those used in the fresh or "rutab" state. In the moderately hot and dry portions of the desert subtropical zone packing dates of superior quality are produced. The hotter, less humid portion of the desert subtropical zone and the desert tropical zone produce almost exclusively the hard, dry, self-cured dates, which are easily stored and transported, and which form an important part of the diet of the Arab people.

The following table shows the imports of dates into the United Kingdom during the years 1913 and 1914:—

From	1913. Cwt.	1914. Cwt.
France	37,565	23,647
Asiatic Turkey	497,074	120,398
Egypt	3,485	1,952
Persia	5,426	86,165
India	7,620	361
Other countries	7,639	3,194
Total	558,809	235,717

About 40 per cent. of these dates were re-exported to America, the continent of Europe, Australia, South Africa, etc.

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Near East Markets.

THE TURKISH MARKET.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, December 22.

The prospect of direct railway communication soon being established between Constantinople and the Central Powers seems to have created quite a flutter amongst the Turks in Constantinople, and many of them are said to be going in for commerce. It remains to be seen, however, whether their expectations will be realised.

It is reported that Austria is sending several hundred wagons to Constantinople to facilitate transport, but where transport is deficient is in Asia Minor, and not so much from want of wagons, but rather from want of coal, and also of carts and horses to convey produce from the villages to the railway.

In anticipation of the possibility of making sales to Germany, the prices of many articles, such as figs, raisins, valonea, cotton, etc., have gone up, though in one article—namely, mohair—in which a large trade has been done with Germany, there has been a large drop in price. As much as 36 piastres per oke was paid for good Kutahias, but according to latest advices there has been a drop to 27 piastres, owing partly to slackening of demand and to loss on exchange. It is difficult to learn what the stock of mohair is in the interior; some reports put it as low as 15,000 bales, but this is probably too low an estimate In Constantinople there were a few weeks ago only 500 bales.

There has not been much demand for opium lately, and prices remain at 180 to 210 piastres the oke, according to quality. The stock in Constantinople was about 300 cases, and in the interior there are now only 3,500 to 4,000 cases.

Sheepskins, of which there was a stock of about 200,000 in Constantinople, were selling at 7½ piastres the kilo with the wool. Lambskins were selling at 20 piastres the pair.

There are, it is estimated, some 15,000 bales of sheepswool in the interior, for which the quotation was 8 piastres the oke at the railway, but this article is generally requisitioned by the Government and the export is prohibited.

Hazelnuts continue to be cheap, and can be bought at the Black Sea ports at about 3½ piastres the oke for shelled, but the absence of any means of transport renders any business impossible. The stocks at Kerassunde, Ordou, and Trebizonde are estimated to be about 400,000 kantars (20,000 tons).

The total stock of canary seed is estimated at about 27,000 bags, practically the whole of which is at Rodosto. The price there is 60 paras the oke, but at Constantinople 71 paras has been paid by a few speculators in expectation of shipments to Germany becoming possible. A demand from Germany for the article would probably send up the price, considering the small stocks and the probability of the coming spring sowings being very limited.

The stock of linseed is practically exhausted, though there are buyers at 110 paras the oke.

It is impossible to obtain any reliable information about stocks of grain in Asia Minor. There are reports that the stock of wheat is running very low, and Talat's visit to Angora and Konia is said to be in connection with the accumulation of supplies for the capital. The price quoted for wheat is 4½ piastres per oke, which would indicate that there is very little in the hands of merchants and that the authorities secure all they can. Maize is quoted at 3 piastres the oke, but apparently there is not much offering.

Barley is quoted at 3½ piastres at Constantinople, the high price no doubt being due to the difficulty of bringing supplies in from Anatolia, where stocks must be fairly large.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, December 14.

It has been decided that all the grain remaining from the 1914 crop can be exported. Of the present crops permission has been given to export 60 per cent. of the wheat crop, 30 per cent. of oats, 30 per cent. of barley, and 50 per cent. each of beans and peas.

The Roumanian Tobacco Monopoly directors have concluded with a Viennese firm a contract for the supply of 500 tons of Roumanian tobacco.

The Roumanian Mission despatched by the Railway Direction to Petrograd to consult as to the transit of goods and munitions for Roumania through Russia are expected back in Bucharest in a few days. The results of their interviews with the Russian railway authorities have been completely successful, an agreement of a satisfactory nature having been come to.

The engineers of the Roumanian State Railways have commenced surveying the new railway line which is to be constructed from the river port of Calarash, on the Danube, to the point known as Chiciu, 20 kilometres above that town, and just opposite Silistria. Communications between Bucharest and the territory received from Bulgaria after the Balkan War will thus be greatly improved.

According to the plans drawn up at the time, it was intended to construct a bridge across the Danube, which would put the newly acquired districts in direct railway communication with Roumania proper. This has had to be left over for the time, but the idea is in no way abandoned, and peace will see this and other railway and bridging projects successfully carried through.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, January 6.

Currants.

There has been a noticeable activity in the market this past week, especially in medium qualities, and prices are well maintained.

Sultanas.

The demand is only moderate, but holders remain firm in their quotations, and do not sell except at full prices.

Figs and Dates.

There is a fair demand for both, small business passing at late rates.

Seeds.

Linseed is very firm and dearer. There are buyers for London-Calcutta January-February at 79s. 6d., whilst large business was done in La Plata at a further advance for January-February at 71s. 6d. to 71s. 9d.; February-March, 71s. 6d.; January-February and February-March combined, 71s. 9d. For Bombay on passage 81s. is asked. Cotton seed is very strong, sellers being scarce. London Egyptian loading is quoted £14 15s., whilst Egyptian to Hull, December, was sold at £15, with more buyers to-day at same price. Rapeseed is firm and largely nominal. Toria pure basis January-February is quoted 66s.

Oilcakes.

Nothing special to report, except that linseed cake and kindred foods continue in very short supply.

Gums.

Only very moderate business is being done. Turkey sorts (Arabic), £3 5s. to £4 10s.; Ghezira, 15s. to 2s. 6d.; East India, common to fine, £2 5s. to £2 15s.; Myrrh, good to fine, 50s. to 60s.; Tragacanth, first £28 to £42, low to good sorts £4 10s.

COTTON MARKET.

Liverpool. Thursday Night.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph: There has been an active demand for Egyptian cotton this week, and large business has resulted, a fair portion of which is said to be for export to America. Prices have rapidly risen, and quotations show an advance of 65 to 80 points for Medium grades, while Fine qualities are 50 to 70 points higher. Sales, which include 450 bales Sudan cotton, are estimated at 5,500, against 4,000 last week.

COTTON FOR GERMANY.

German spinners who are without cotton are discussing the possibility of getting a supply from Asia Minor, now that a route has been opened out. The output of that part of the world in recent years, the *Egyptian Gazette* is informed, has been equal to about 70,000 American bales, but it does not follow, of course, that there is anything approaching that amount available now. Very probably there is enough to make a difference to the manufacturers of explosives, but certainly not enough to relieve the cotton famine at the factories. The extent of the need may be judged from the fact that in 1913 Germany's cotton imports amounted to about 620,000 tons, and 440,000 tons of this was required for home consumption. Before the war most of the Turkish crop was exported to France and Spain, but last year almost all of it was sent to Germany via Genoa. There is a spinning mill at Smyrna which since the outbreak of hostilities by Turkey has been engaged solely on military contracts.

EGYPTIAN COTTONSEED.

It was reported from Alexandria on January 3 that the arrivals of cottonseed for the previous week were given as 6,400 tons, and the shipments as 12,100, leaving stocks in hand at 72,260, as compared with 74,600 tons a year ago.

JEWELS CONFISCATED.

Judgment was recently delivered by the Mixed Court of Commerce, Alexandria, in the case brought by Messrs. Orosdi Back and Co. against the Customs Administration, which had ordered a parcel containing jewels sent to the firm without the value being declared to be confiscated. The plaintiffs contended that the sender, the Italian firm of Bernacchi, of Milan, omitted to declare the value by error, and had no fraudulent intent.

The Court pointed out that valuable jewels imported under registered cover without the exact value being declared was a breach of the Egyptian law involved. The importation of such articles through the medium of the Post Office can be made only by parcel or registered envelope with the value declared. Cases of the kind come under Article 33 of the Customs regulations, and the judge is not concerned in ascertaining whether there is or is not any fraudulent intent. The Court decided, therefore, that the jewels, which were of a value of 1,050 fr., had been properly confiscated.—*Egyptian Gazette.*

COMPANY NOTES.

Near East Trust.

Under a compulsory winding-up order made against the Near East Trust, Limited, 1 and 2, Great Winchester Street, E.C., Mr. E. C. Bliss, Official Receiver and liquidator, reports that the company was formed in September, 1913, to obtain concessions for public works, etc., in the Near East and to finance and exploit them. Mr. David Paisley agreed to sell to the company for £100 the benefit of certain negotiations resulting from his connection with Serbia. Shortly after the company was formed Mr. Paisley went to Serbia and Roumania and purchased on behalf of the company an option to acquire the "Baican" oil wells at Bustenari for £8,800, and the "Orient" petroleum refinery at Ploesti, Prahova, for £15,000. He subsequently acquired options for the purchase of the "Sultana" oil wells and the "Cometa" oil refinery in Roumania. The options, however, have all now expired, and £1,600 expended upon them is stated to have been irrevocably lost.

Oriental Carpet Manufacturers.

As announced elsewhere, the annual general meeting of the shareholders will be held on the 17th prox. in London. In consequence of the war and communication between the various branches of the company being cut off from the head office at Smyrna and the branches in enemy countries, it has been impossible to prepare and submit a report and balance-sheet, and the declaration of a dividend is altogether out of the question. The meeting will be asked to pass the following resolutions:—(1) That until the expiration of three months after the cessation of the war the headquarters of the company shall be in London or such other place as the board shall from time to time appoint; (2) that no dividend be declared for the financial year ending December 31, 1914.

Imperial Bank of Persia.

Sir Hugh Shakespear Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., has accepted the chairmanship of the Imperial Bank of Persia, rendered vacant by the recent death of Sir Thomas Jackson.

*** Sir Hugh Barnes, the son of James Ralph Barnes, of the India Civil Service, joined the Indian Service at Allahabad in 1874. Two years later he was appointed private secretary to Sir John Strachey, the Financial Member of the Viceroy's Council. After having occupied the post of Political Officer in Kandahar, he rose rapidly to be Resident in Kashmir (1894), Foreign Secretary to the Government of India (1900-1903), and Lieutenant-Governor of Burmah (1903-1905). He was decorated for distinguished service in 1903, in which year he also acted as President of the Central Committee for the Delhi Durbar.

Anglo-Bulgarian Oilfields.

At the recent annual meeting of the Anglo-Bulgarian Oilfields, Limited, it was stated by the chairman (Mr. Montagu Summers) that, owing to the state of war, it had been impossible for the directors to take any steps with regard to dealing with their oil concessions. Several battles had been fought in the vicinity of their property.

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THE CLEOPATRA ESTATES.

The Egyptian Appeal Court has given judgment in the case of liquidators of the Zervudachi bankruptcy v. Luigi Stagni, confirming the judgment of the lower court, and stating that in order to justify the remuneration claimed it was necessary that an express convention should have recognised this as due to the firm of Stagni at the time that it agreed to recognise the Salvago Company instead of the Zervudachi firm as regards all future payment. The Court orders Messrs. Stagni to pay the liquidators interest at 7 per cent. on the amounts recovered for the common account. The following is the story of this remarkable lawsuit (says the *Egyptian Gazette*) :—

According to an agreement signed in 1886 between Commendatore Stagni and Mr. Constantin Zervudachi, it was decided to acquire, by means of payments of the purchase price in half portions each, a large stretch of land in the locality known as Cleopatra's Baths. Commendatore Stagni bought the land in his own name, but for the common account, and also took upon himself the management of the lands thus acquired. He divided them into lots, which he also sold; sold deeds of sale, cashed the money, and supplied all the expenses.

As soon as a little profit was realised it was divided between Messrs. Stagni and Zervudachi.

The sale of land lots proceeded slowly and in small instalments. In June, 1906, when the value of land had enormously increased, a group was formed, which was known later as the Société Civile des Bains de Cleopatre, who offered to buy the property of 149 lots from Messrs. Stagni at a price of P.T. 101 per pic.

The offer having been accepted, the 149 lots were sold by Messrs. Stagni for £E299,266. Of this sum £E70,112 was paid in cash to the vendors, who, as was the custom, hastened to hand half of the sum over to Messrs. Zervudachi, after the deduction of expenses and brokerage.

As the purchasing company did not make any more payments, Messrs. Stagni and Sons brought an action of expropriation, and in September, 1911, Messrs. Stagni handed to Messrs. Zervudachi £E15,000 on account of the sums due to them from the judicial sale of the property. Some days later Messrs. Zervudachi contracted a loan of £E39,900 with Messrs. Salvago, in guarantee for which Messrs. Zervudachi ceded the balance of the money due from the Société Civile des Terrains Cléopatra.

Later, in 1913, the liquidators of Messrs. Zervudachi asked Messrs. Stagni for a balance-sheet of the encashments effected since the date of the failure of Messrs. Zervudachi. In reply, Messrs. Stagni sent a digest of accounts, in which there figured for the first time the sum of £E2,046 as 5 per cent. commission under the heading of working expenses.

As the parties were unable to agree to this item the matter was taken before the Alexandria Civil Court, which decided that Messrs. Zervudachi need not pay any commission whatever to Messrs. Stagni, as nothing had been signed by either of them to that effect.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Telegram from Egypt states that Hurgada No. 7 stopped producing at 10 a.m. on December 31, starting again at 1 p.m. and continuing until midnight. It recommenced producing at 10 a.m. on the 1st instant.

Egyptian Markets.—First Five per Cent. Debenture Coupons No. 34, which fell due on December 1, 1915, are payable at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, 27, Clement's Lane, London, E.C., at the face value, and at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank Limited's Branch Offices at Cairo and Alexandria, at the current rate of exchange.

Egyptian Delta Light.—Ten days ending November 30, £6,589 (increase £428); aggregate from April 1, £113,955 (decrease £14,547).

Egyptian Salt and Soda.—A dividend of 8 per cent. for the year ending August 31 (less income-tax) will be paid on or after January 10.

Land Bank of Egypt.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held on the 18th inst., at the offices of the bank in Alexandria.

Oriental Carpet Manufacturers.—The annual general meeting will be held at No. 4A, Newgate Street, E.C., on Monday, January 17, at 11 a.m.

Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway (Three per Cent. Bonds).—Coupons due January 5 will be paid on and after that date at the offices of Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons, Austin Friars House, E.C.

Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway Co. (Four per Cent. Bonds).—The Bank of Athens announces that Coupon No. 8, due January 15, will be paid on presentation on and after that date at 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields.—Production for week ending December 11, 1,314 tons.—Office note: Owing to interruption a telegraphic communication, above return has only just been received by post.

"IN THE CITY."

The demand for rubber shares continues an outstanding feature of the Stock Exchange. In this connection special interest attaches to Johore Rubber Lands. This company, whose authorised capital is £400,000 in £1 shares (issued, 399,507 fully paid), has a property of 5,936 acres, of which a considerable portion is in bearing, and the rest is coming on. From the very satisfactory reports to hand there is every indication that the crop harvested during the current year will exceed the official estimate of 400,000 lb. of rubber. The financial year ended December 31, and a one-shilling dividend for the current year is the minimum of market expectations. From this date enormous progress is expected; the official estimate for 1916 is 874,450 lb., and for 1917 1,405,575 lb., from which large increases in dividends and capital appreciation can be confidently looked for. The all-in cost of production last year was 1s. 2d. per lb., and this should be reduced to the neighbourhood of 1s. this year, and taking rubber at only 2s. 6d. (the present price is actually 4s.), the profit for 1916 should be £62,000, and for 1917 £99,500. The Johore Rubber Lands also holds 30,000 shares in the Segemat Company, which stand in the Johore balance sheet at only 5s. each, whereas the present market value is 25s. per share. Johore Rubber Lands are round about 21s., and it is certain that they will have a big rise before very long; in fact, they are talked to 30s. In Java shares, Waverley Plantations are in demand at about 2s. 3d. for the fully-paid 5s. share, and are expected to go to par.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to October 30, 1915 (New Style: January 14 to November 13, 1915) :—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Oct., 1915		2,907,481	2,224,000
Do. do. do 1914		2,997,624	2,161,475
Estimated Receipts for 10 months (Law of Control)		24,083,333	8,916,666
Actual Receipts, 9 months, 1915		30,166,449	20,215,887
Do. do. do., 1914		30,639,815	22,654,854
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 10 months	1915	+ 6,083,116	+11,299,220
	1914	+ 6,556,482	+13,738,187

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

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Ms. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	..
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	74
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	66½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82⅛	73½	65
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80¼	75	75⅜
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	55xd
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	53½xd
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45½xd
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	41½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	61xd
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	57½xd
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, 80., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94¼	—	81xd
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73xd
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	-
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅞
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½xd
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9½
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	-
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	—	10
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	90
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	-
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅞
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	1⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¾	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¾	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	6
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	¾	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅞
" " Founders	¾	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	75
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	5/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅜	—	¼
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅜	—	¾
United Egyptian Lands	1/3	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅛
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅝	—	15/6
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	10/-xd
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	—	3
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (£7.500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Dec. 29.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	9/-
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	18/-
European Oilfields	4/9	2/6
Roumanian	20/-	10 6

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Dec. 28.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	425
Canal de Suez	4050	3979
Credit Foncier Egyptien	539	506
Turkish Unified 4%	59.95	59.95
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	89
Serbian, 1895	—	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 245.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Gallipoli Peninsula has now been completely evacuated by the British and French forces. The fact that the operation of removing the Allied troops from the southern point of the Peninsula was carried out with the loss of only one man wounded constitutes a triumph of organization and judgment. When the evacuation of Anzac and Suvla Bay was effected with only three casualties it seemed impossible that the Turks should allow themselves to be outwitted a second time. But the more difficult task was accomplished with the same measure of success and within two weeks of the first withdrawal. The troops were taken off by night. On the last day the Turks launched a determined attack on the Allies. After a bombardment lasting for more than three hours, an attempt was made to attack along the whole line. But the Turks could only be induced to advance at two points, and were completely repulsed. Our casualties amounted to 135 killed or wounded, but the engagement kept the enemy quiet during the night and facilitated the withdrawal of the remainder of the troops. A gale sprang up in the evening and necessitated modifications of the original programme. But by 4 a.m. on January 8 the last parties had been embarked, and the stores left on the beaches had been simultaneously fired. The enemy artillery at once became active, and firing was continued until after daybreak. As soon as the real state of affairs became known the first consideration of the Turkish commanders was to despatch messages to Constantinople describing the manner in which the Allied forces had been driven off the Peninsula.

Now that the evacuation of Gallipoli has been accomplished so easily there is a natural tendency to ask why the step was not taken a long time ago. The main reason, apart from the fact that the Allied Governments are only just emerging from a period when decisions on any point were not the order of the day, will probably be found in the bogey, started at the time of the first bombardment of the Dardanelles, that a withdrawal would seriously affect British prestige in the East. We entered a *caveat* against this view, but it was insisted upon on all sides, mainly with the idea of galvanising the authorities into such action as would make failure impossible. As things are, the actual withdrawal takes place almost simultaneously with a setback in the Eastern operations in Mesopotamia. We have never believed, and do not believe now, that any temporary reverse to British arms would be taken seriously in the Eastern world, provided the general conduct of the war is characterised by determination and sound policy. No doubt a bad impression would be created in Egypt and east of Suez if the evacuation of Gallipoli meant that the Allies were abandoning the Eastern Mediterranean to the enemy. That course, however, was never proposed. What ought to have been done was, as soon as the hopelessness of the Dardanelles Expedition was realised, to have withdrawn our forces in order to use them elsewhere. It was not suggested that the effort to reach Constantinople should be abandoned, but that we should not choose the only way that had little chance of success. The prestige of the Allies is far more likely to be undermined by the knowledge that the Greek General Staff had warned them against the Dardanelles route than by a change in their military plans. It is too soon to gauge the effect of the evacuation on the Eastern mind, but we may be certain that a determined offensive in any other quarter will soon distract attention from the Gallipoli failure.

At first sight it would appear that by evacuating Gallipoli the Allies had made the enemy a present of a large mobile force which may now be thrown against them in some other theatre of the war. In practice the effect of the withdrawal will not be quite so advantageous to the Turks. That it will liberate a certain number of troops is clear, but no great harm will be done if the few divisions help to increase Bulgarian uneasiness by their presence in Thrace and Macedonia. That a sufficient number of Turks will at once be available to exercise a decisive influence at one or more of Turkey's battle fronts may be doubted. There will certainly be a substantial nucleus of German officers and gunners at the disposal of the German Commander-in-Chief in the Balkans, and these will be used to good purpose somewhere. But so long as the Allied force at Salonika remains a menace to the line of communication connecting Berlin and Constantinople, the German Government will show increasing unwillingness to

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detach large bodies of Germans for enterprises in regions where they can be permanently cut off from the Fatherland.

The capture of Mount Lovtchen by the Austrians is a serious matter for the Montenegrins, for the position dominates the capital Cettinje. At the same time the enemy is advancing from the East. Unless help comes speedily, Montenegro will be overrun as completely as Serbia was, and its brave inhabitants must follow the Serbians into the wilds of Albania, unless they make terms with the enemy. It is difficult to believe that it was absolutely impossible for the Allies to save the Montenegrins from such a fate. They represent the extreme left of our fighting line on this southern front, and it was to the interest of the Allies to keep every portion of the line intact. It will probably be found that no one of the Allied Powers has made it its business to inquire into the situation in Montenegro. The Anglo-French authorities at Salonika may well argue that their jurisdiction does not extend beyond the territory occupied by their troops, while the Serbians have not been in a position to give their Montenegrin brethren any practical assistance. Italy, it might be thought, would have taken definite steps to spare the country Serbia's fate, if only on account of the relationship between the two reigning houses. Little, however, is known of Italy's military preparations outside her northern theatre. She has landed troops in Albania and sent foodstuffs for the relief of Serbian troops and refugees. But the delay in realising that her interest in this European war cannot be restricted with any advantage to herself to the operations in *Italia irredenta* is likely to embarrass both the Italians and their Allies.

No very large force was required to stem the Austrian invasion of Montenegro, provided it were well supplied with artillery. But unless an adequate army is already on its way, and is in time to rally the Montenegrins on their own territory, the work of ejecting the Austrians will be difficult when once their two forces from the western and the eastern frontiers have joined hands. If Montenegro should be completely overrun, the need for the strictest co-ordination of all the Allies' efforts in the Near East will become more urgent than ever. There will be no point in allowing Italy to fritter away her resources over impossible country, if a more effective blow can be dealt at the enemy elsewhere. So long as the Allied line on this southern front remained unbroken, there was much to be said in favour of a general advance from the Adriatic to the Gulf of Saros, but the situation is changed, if Austria is in possession of an ideal terrain for withstanding attacks in one quarter. It is to be hoped, therefore, that a War Council for the Near East may yet be formed with a view to retrieving the mistake of the past and prosecuting the war in this theatre with determination and efficiency.

The importance of the discoveries made in the enemy consulates at Salonika renders an official statement on the subject desirable. From information gleaned by correspondents it would appear that a more serious charge can be laid against the representatives of the Central Powers than that of merely maintaining a comprehensive system of espionage on Greek soil on the lines with which the German and Austrian Embassies in the United States have made the world familiar. The Austrian Consulate at Salonika, it is stated, was found to be a military arsenal in miniature. Among the articles discovered in it were 180 Mauser and Mannlicher rifles, 150 revolvers, 10 dynamite cartridges, one parcel of unspecified explosives, 50 cartridge belts, 50 complete Turkish uniforms, 2,000 Turkish flags, 2,000 red-cloth armlets bearing the Crescent. There can be but one explanation of this ominous collection of material. It must have been intended for the purpose of equipping the Turkish rabble of Salonika with a view to inciting them to murder and pillage at a preconcerted moment, which would bear some relation to the progress of the attack to be made on the town by the Austro-German and Bulgarian forces. Evidence of this nature places the activities of the representatives of the Central Powers in a different category from what was anticipated when it was decided to deport them as the fountain-head of the spy system. Consequently it is not a matter for surprise that the *personnel* of the consulates on arrival at Toulon should not have been given a safe conduct to Switzerland, but have been interned for the present until there has been time to consider the matter more carefully. It would not be possible for any evidence to show German morality in a worse light than that in which it appears already before the world, but an official *exposé* of Austro-German activities on Greek soil would convince the Greek Government that the step taken by the Anglo-French authorities in Salonika was as much in the interests of Greece and her sovereign rights as it was in the Allied interest.

The situation at Salonika has undergone no material change during the past week unless the gunfire now reported from the frontier implies that the attack has begun. Evidence that it was pending was said to be accumulating daily. The Bulgarians continued to receive important supplies of munitions and guns of all calibres, while considerable activity was noted at Monastir, where an Austro-German force had assembled. But it is to the interests of the Central Powers that the Allies should be kept in expectation of an attack, if only in the hope that it will deter them from assuming the offensive before the Austro-German and Bulgarian forces have had time to strengthen their positions. One reason for the enemy's delay is said to be that the repairs to the line connecting Veles and Ghevgheli are not yet completed, but it is also probable that the Bulgarians are not altogether satisfied with the part they have to play in the new venture. So long as the Allies remain at Salonika they constitute a menace to the permanency of Bulgaria's success in this Balkan campaign, and for this reason there must be considerable anxiety in Bulgaria to see them expelled. On the other hand, if the brunt of the work before Salonika is to fall to the Bulgarians, then, in the event of the attack failing, they must be in a much less favourable position to withstand an Allied advance than they would be if they kept their present army intact. In the circumstances, therefore, King Ferdinand's acquiescence in the plans of the Central Powers is likely to depend on the value he places on their assurances that they will give him at a later date, if it should be necessary, the assistance that they are unable to let him have now. If he is well informed regarding the progress of events in Galicia he will contrive to interpose still further delay before he arrives at a decision.

Further information regarding the operations in Mesopotamia has thrown not a little light on the situation. The chief factor is that for over a month General Townshend's force has virtually been besieged at Kut. The Turks, while holding him at that point, were able to advance some twenty-five miles further east, and there established themselves in a position on the river, where they hoped to withstand all attempts to relieve General Townshend. On January 6 General Aylmer's relief expedition left Ali Gherbi, and on the following day engaged the enemy in force. The fighting was of a stubborn character, and lasted for two days. General Aylmer was unable to dislodge the Turkish infantry from their main position, but succeeded in inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. His own casualties, however, were also heavy. The next day the experience of practically every engagement in the original advance up the Tigris was repeated; it was found that the Turks, without waiting for further fighting, had withdrawn. Weather conditions, the necessity of sending the wounded down by river, and the exhaustion of his own force prevented General Aylmer from following the retreating Turks. They had, however, been located by the cavalry at Es Sinn, a place only six miles from Kut, and it speaks volumes for the closeness of the siege in which General Townshend is held that with the Turkish force between him and the relief expedition at only this distance away he should be unable to co-operate with General Aylmer.

It is evident that the facts now made known regarding the situation in Mesopotamia reveal the campaign in a very different light from that in which it appeared

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before. The difficulties experienced by the relief expedition in reaching Kut and the losses it has sustained make it doubtful whether General Aylmer's and General Townshend's combined forces will suffice to gain any decisive victory over the Turks. It was noticed in the first advance that the enemy's plan was to spare his regular troops as much as possible, and to withdraw them at the first sign of any danger of their being overwhelmed. By these tactics a strong nucleus of Turkish troops was kept intact all the way back to Baghdad, and when reinforced they were able to render a good account of themselves at Ctesiphon. A fresh advance on Baghdad would only be justified in two sets of circumstances: if adequate reinforcements for all eventualities could be sent up the Tigris, or if a Russian force could simultaneously threaten Baghdad from the north. We have no means of knowing whether either or both of these conditions can be fulfilled, for they seem to depend on a variety of factors which must of necessity remain indeterminate for some little time to come.

An Austrian communication to the British Government provides an instance of the "lighter vein" in a grim war. It appears that a certain number of women and children of enemy nationality who have been in India during the war were about to be repatriated to Europe. Their male relatives, being concerned for their fate in view of the ruthless way in which passenger ships are being torpedoed by German and Austrian submarines, drew up a set of suggestions with a view to ensuring their safety at sea. In passing this petition on to the British Government through the American Embassy, the Austro-Hungarian Government makes the amazing statement that it will hold the British Government responsible for the lives and well-being of these passengers, "the majority of whom are better class people"—*scilicet*, against the danger of their losing their lives through the action of Austrian or German submarines. Perhaps when the Vienna Government reads Sir Edward Grey's reply the humour of the position will appeal to its dormant intelligence. The tacit admission that one of its own submarines is liable to sink a ship with its own nationals, unless it is kept off by the vigilance of the Allied fleets, throws a lurid light on the methods of warfare to which the Central Powers have stooped.

"The Adriatic Slavs and the Overland Route to Constantinople" was the subject of an illuminating address given by Sir Arthur Evans last Monday to the members of the Royal Geographical Society. As the war drags on and attention is concentrated on the necessity of crushing Prussian militarism, it is well that the Allies should be reminded that there can only be lasting peace in Europe after the war if effect is given in the final settlement to the principle of nationality in certain parts of Europe. One of these parts is undoubtedly the mainland on the eastern side of the Adriatic inhabited by a solid Slav population of strong national sentiments. Until these people achieve national unity and independence the germs of an upheaval must remain. Their struggle to-day is against German or Austro-German dominion, and it is in the interests of the Allies and of the peace of Europe that a strong South Slavonic State should be created as a permanent bulwark against the Central Powers. That consummation, as Sir Arthur Evans reminded his audience, cannot be attained if a tract of the Dalmatian *terra firma* or large Slovene or Croat districts east of the valley of Isonzo and of Italian Istria are annexed by Italy. It is the duty of the Allies, therefore, to keep the details of the final settlement of this region constantly in view, and to avoid all commitments likely to prejudice the ties of friendship which will be established between the new Slavonic State and themselves. Recent events in Serbia and Montenegro point to the far-reaching effects that an extension of Austro-German power in these regions would have on the position in the Mediterranean. When, therefore, the war comes to an end there should be no obstacle to a close understanding between the Powers on either side of the Adriatic. In the meantime there would seem to be an urgent call to Italy, and the Allies as a whole, to stem the Austro-German thrust to the south.

The only contribution that the Allies have made so far to the solution of the troubles of Montenegro and Serbia is to seize the Achilleion, the German Emperor's property at Corfu, with a view to placing the remnant of the Serbian army there. In a Note to the Hellenic Government it is pointed out that after a minute inquiry into the conditions of the Serbian evacuation the Allied Governments recognized that only the island of Corfu offered the necessary facilities from the point of view of the health of the Serbian troops, the speed and security of transport, and the means of revictualling the soldiers. Accordingly a detachment of French troops has been landed on the island and preparations for the reception of the Serbian troops are being pushed forward. The troops now on their way to Corfu are presumably those recently at Scutari. In referring to them last week Sir Edward Grey stated that there was a period when the force was in acute distress, but there had been considerable improvement, and supplies were by that time reaching them.

BRITISH SEAMEN'S HOME, CONSTANTINOPLE.

The Foreign Office has circulated for publication the copy of a despatch sent to Washington by the American Ambassador at Constantinople, and transmitted to the British Foreign Office through the American Ambassador in London. The despatch relates to the evacuation by order of the Turkish authorities of the British Seamen's Home at Pera, and the removal of its inmates to a building formerly occupied by the Russian Archæological Institute.

Mr. Morgenthau reports, under date October 30 last, "that a house belonging to the British Government, known as the 'British Seamen's Home,' which for the past ten months has been affording shelter to over seventy destitute British subjects, was yesterday ordered to be evacuated by the Turkish police authorities in spite of the protests of the Embassy—which had been given formal assurances that this building would not be taken so long as it was used for charitable purposes.

"The Director-General of Police further gave orders that the people who had been living in the 'British Seamen's Home' should move into a building at No. 25, Rue Sakiz Agatch, Pera, formerly occupied by the Russian Archæological Institute. The Embassy objected to this arbitrary assignment, and suggested a different building, but the authorities refused. As no delay was possible without risk that the families would be forcibly ejected from the 'British Seamen's Home' by the police, they had to be installed in the building assigned to them. The Embassy, however, has made it clear to the authorities that it in no way consents to, or acquiesces in, the above dispositions."

In acknowledging the Note, Sir Edward Grey requests "that the thanks of his Majesty's Government may be conveyed to Mr. Morgenthau for the efforts made by his Excellency to induce the Ottoman authorities to abandon this arbitrary and unwarrantable proceeding."

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LETTERS FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, December 28.

H.H. the Sultan.

The Sultan's birthday falling on December 26 this year—he is sixty-two according to our calendar, and sixty-four according to the Arabic—European and Western Christian Government officials had three days' holiday this week. No reception was held at the Palace, but his Highness gave special audience to the members of his Household and the Ministers, and to Sir Milne Cheetham, who conveyed the congratulations of the High Commissioner, who, with Lady McMahon, is spending the Christmas holidays at Luxor. The health of the Sultana-Mother is causing a great deal of anxiety to the Sultan, who spends a portion of each day at his mother's residence at Heliopolis.

An Educational Reform.

The Higher Education Board of the Ministry of Education met this week, and decided to recommend the abolition of what is known as the primary certificate in the Government schools. The Council of Ministers will be asked at its sitting this afternoon to approve of this proposal. Introduced in 1891, the primary certificate was intended to serve as an entrance diploma, if one may so term it, to the secondary schools, and aimed at checking the promiscuous promotion of backward pupils from the primary to the secondary schools, which had become an unfortunate practice. In 1892 it was decided to divide the Egyptian Civil Service into two distinct divisions—an Upper and a Lower—for admission to which candidates had to possess respectively the secondary and the primary certificate. At the same time minimum salaries were fixed for holders of these certificates who might be selected for vacant posts in the State administrations. The object, of course, was, in the first place, to feed the secondary schools with pupils of a recognised standard of education, and, secondly, to provide a satisfactory element from which the Government could recruit its Egyptian staff.

To-day a great change has come over the country by comparison with 1892. The secondary schools turn out quite as many pupils as the State can provide with employment every year; indeed, the number of candidates holding the secondary certificate for even the most minor positions in the Government administrations has of late years become alarmingly large. The State, therefore, has no longer any need to recruit its staff from holders of the primary certificate as well, and can fill all its vacant posts from amongst the holders of the higher certificate. The *raison d'être* of the lower certificate, except as regards its position as an entrant diploma to the secondary schools, has thus disappeared, and since arrangements have been made to safeguard the satisfactory selection of entrants to those higher schools, the Government has deemed it advisable to abolish the primary certificate altogether. The reform, it is hoped, will enable an improvement to be made in the syllabus of the primary schools; it will also raise the standard of education in the country generally; for there is no doubt that service in a Government administration being the sole ambition of most Egyptians, parents were tempted to, and to a great extent did, stop the education of their sons on the completion of their course at the primary schools if, as repeatedly happened, there was a chance of their obtaining State employment with only the primary certificate. Henceforward this temptation will not exist, and the standard of education of the coming generation of young Egypt should accordingly show a great improvement.

The Khedivial Wakfs Scandals.

In a recent letter I reported that Ahmed Khairy and Hussein Moharram Pashas had appealed against the sentences passed on them in the Seif-ed-Dine Daira cases. The Parquet had a month within which it could appeal, but that period has lapsed without any such action being taken by the Public Prosecutor, although as a general rule the Parquet appeals in all cases where the accused have done so—this in order to enable the higher court to increase the penalty. As a consequence the Parquet will merely ask for confirmation of the sentences. Counsel for the defence will claim an acquittal on the grounds that the accused were throughout the tools of the ex-Khedive, who was very much the principal in all the transactions complained of, and that they derived no pecuniary benefit from the carrying out of those transactions. The reason the Parquet has taken no action in the matter is, I gather, that the main motive of the prosecutions was to establish publicly the scandalous and dishonest conduct, especially in Wakfs matters, of Abbas Hilmy Pasha. Having attained its object, the Ministry of Justice is of opinion that any further action on its part, such as appealing against the sentences, would lay it open to the accusation of spite and vindictiveness towards the two Pashas concerned, who, it may be noted, are appealing because anything short of an absolute acquittal will close the doors of the Palace to them. One cannot help feeling that from every point of view the decision of the law officers is an ill-advised one. There is no valid reason, legal or political, why in a highly important case like this one any deviation should be made from the course which as a general rule is followed in the most minor cases.

The Question of Enemy Trading.

With reference to my remarks last week anent the latitude accorded to enemy firms in this country, it should be added that, in addition to the appointment of controllers to certain enemy establishments, licences to trade are in certain circumstances granted to persons of enemy nationality in virtue of the Proclamations of January 25 and August 16 last. The *Egyptian Gazette* in a note on the subject states that it has received a communication from the Cairo branch of Siemens Schukert, the representatives in Egypt of Siemens and Halske, of Berlin, to the effect that they have been authorised by licence No. 239 to collect amounts due to them. Whilst the fact that this licence is the 239th granted in this country does not necessarily mean that that is the number actually in operation to-day, seeing that some of them may since their issue have been cancelled, nevertheless this figure *donne furieusement à penser*. It would be interesting to know exactly how many of these licences are in operation. There is every fear that the interpretation placed at home on our obligations towards "persons of enemy nationality" is not having the effect on trade in Egypt—and other parts of the Empire where that interpretation has to be followed—that one might in the present political circumstances be entitled to expect; and your contemporary is perfectly justified in stating that there is good ground for believing that after the war Germany and Austria will recover, as a result of the policy being followed at present, all the hold that they had over Egyptian trade prior to the war.

January 4.

The High Commissioner.

The High Commissioner returned to Cairo on New Year's Eve from his trip to Upper Egypt. His Excellency, who had been accompanied by Lady McMahon, Miss McMahon, and Lord Edward Cecil, had been away just a week. He made a short stay at Luxor, and went as far south as Assuan, where, in addition to inspecting the schools and the hospital, he paid a visit to the Dam and Philæ. Sir Henry McMahon also visited the temple at Edfu and the Kom Ombo estate, where he was much interested in the pumping station.

Yuletide and the Troops.

The Yuletide festivities have passed off quietly. At one time the military authorities contemplated ordering the cessation of the sale of alcoholic liquors after 5 p.m. during the holiday week, but in the end they decided to leave the time-limit at 9 p.m. One is glad to say that, despite the, even for present war conditions, abnormally large number of troops in the cities, there has not been one single untoward incident, and the authorities have had no cause to repent their decision. Every effort has been made to cheer the wounded and sick soldiers in the various hospitals; concerts and entertainments of all descriptions were held; whilst, in addition, the convalescents were similarly catered for outside the homes. Altogether the season was made as cheerful for "the boys" as it is possible for it to be to anyone away from the home country.

The Bomb Outrage.

The preliminaries in connection with the actual trial of the men implicated in the bomb outrage last July

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on H.H. the Sultan have now been practically concluded, and very shortly will appear the order convening the special military court.* Although no official pronouncement has as yet been made, I gather that only two men will be brought before the military court on the direct charge, viz., Ibrahim Neguib El Helbawi, the schoolmaster who threw the bomb, and Mohammed Shams-ed-Dine, the man who rented the house from which the bomb was thrown. The other seven men originally implicated in the same charge, together with several others at present in custody, will, I understand, be taken most probably before a commission, which is specially to be constituted for the purpose of investigating the cases of persons suspected of political intrigue and of deciding whether they should be deported or not. This new departure, if as proposed it is carried out, ought to have a very salutary effect on the agitator element which has been at the back of these outrages, but which has so far never been laid by the heels, owing to the absence of any direct evidence of complicity. Henceforward it will be possible to take action against "suspected" accomplices, and we may expect that these gentlemen will be less active in getting weaker-minded men to do their dirty work when they find that, however cleverly they cover up their own tracks, the absence of direct evidence will not prevent their being deported on account of the well-founded suspicions to which their actions and their antecedents may have given rise.

The New Year Honours.

The bestowal of the K.C.M.G. on Mr. W. E. Brunyate amongst the New Year Honours has given very great pleasure out here. Mr. Brunyate, who is regarded as one of the soundest lawyers the Government possesses, has done yeoman work in Egypt. He has for several years been legal adviser to the Ministry of Public Works—one of the most onerous legal posts in the service—and has on several occasions acted for Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, the Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government. Mr. Brunyate has played no unimportant part in the administration of the country since the outbreak of war, and soon after Egypt was declared a British Protectorate he was appointed legal adviser to the Residency, which post he combines with that held by him at the Ministry of Public Works. In the judicial reorganisation, which is bound to take place on the conclusion of war, the new knight is destined by his experience and his ability to figure prominently, and it is generally conceded by all who have been able to appreciate his work that his promotion in the Order of St. Michael and St. George is one of the best-deserved honours bestowed of late years on Anglo-Egyptian officials.

SUDAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Sheikh Ali El Morghani, C.M.G.

Sheikh El Sayed Ali El Morghani, C.M.G., upon whom the King has recently conferred the distinction of an Honorary K.C.M.G., is one of the most powerful chieftains of the Sudan. At the time of the outbreak of the European War he and his brother, Sayed Ahmed, the heads of the influential and widely-established Morghani sect, at once struck the keynote of fervent loyalty to the British Government, thus killing at a blow the long-cherished hope of the German agitators of a strong current of opposition to the Administration, with the consequent trouble involved in suppressing it. The honour which His Majesty has now bestowed, at the suggestion and with the approval of the Governor-General of the Sudan, will be regarded as a just and well-merited reward for faithful and most timely services. Indeed, Sir Reginald Wingate, in his dispatch of November 13, 1914, addressed to Sir Milne Cheetham, K.C.M.G., Acting British Agent at Cairo, said: "I attach as typical of the general sentiments, translations of the declarations sent to me by El Sayed Ali El Morghani and by his brother. I need hardly point out that these declarations by influential leaders of Mohammedan opinion afford striking testimony to the appreciation by the natives of this country of British rule, of which they have now had some fifteen years' experience."

The early good work of the British Administration in Egypt has thus had its recognition. In the pre-Mahdi days a magnificent mosque stood at Kassala, known then, as now, as the Khatmia. That sanguinary iconoclast, Osman Digna, to whom nothing was sacred, not even the prayer-house revered by the members of his own faith, burned and defaced the beautiful structure, enraged to find that he could not tear down the solidly-built walls. One of the first tasks undertaken by the Anglo-Egyptian Army of Occupation in 1897 was to rebuild, as far as possible, the Khatmia mosque, which was deeply venerated by the natives throughout the Sudan as containing the tomb of the celebrated missionary, Sheikh-el-Morghani, who, with an equally famous brother, had done much to convert pagan Africa to Islam. The Sheikh, who was then living in Egypt, was sent for and installed as custodian of the tomb and mosque of his ancestors. This move proved at the time very wise, since it inflicted a deadly blow at the holy reputation and the influence of the Khalifa, and it has since been the cause of the unswerving adherence of the whole powerful Morghani sect to the British Administration.

A Hun's Gratitude.

In The Near East of November 26 last, under the title of "The Situation in the Sudan," I referred to the enemy agitation against constituted authority, observing: "In the capital one of the most prominent citizens, of alien birth and long residence, was found to be in active correspondence with German and Austrian agents. He was promptly expelled, but there were those who declared that, rightly, he should have been shot, in compliance with the conditions of the Governor-General's Proclamation." The name of this individual has now been revealed through the Central News Agency, and the seriousness of the results attending the leniency shown by the Sudan authorities towards him, even when his malafides were no longer in doubt, is now apparent.

When the British troops under Lord Kitchener arrived in Omdurman in the month of September, 1898, they found a number of wretched prisoners, neglected and starving, in the terrible "zaptia" of that town, where they had for long years been under the tyranny of the bestial gaoler known as the "saier." Among these victims of the Mahdists' rule was Charles Neufeld, who had been in their hands since 1887, when he had fallen into the power of the Dervishes while pursuing his calling as a trader. He was rescued and treated with the utmost kindness, liberally fed, and provided with means to exist until he could obtain assistance from his own country, which, it may be added, at no time since his imprisonment had made the slightest effort to obtain his release. It is this same Charles Neufeld who has since acted as the willing and successful *agent provocateur* among the Mohammedan races in the Sudan. The Germans chose their representative with some shrewdness, since, during the ten years of his captivity, Neufeld had made himself thoroughly acquainted with the Arabic language and with the peculiar attributes of his captors, not the least conspicuous of which is the tendency to conspiracy and revolt even against those who—like the British—have befriended them and rescued them from a hideous fate. After his expulsion from the Sudan, and, in fact, while still enjoying all the advantages of living under the protection of the Anglo-Egyptian Administration, Neufeld devoted himself to the congenial and doubtless well-paid task of spreading fantastic stories concerning the heavy hand of the British governors, the benevolence of the German rule, and the immense number of happy Moslems living under Teutonic administration. The blood-stained Kaiser he represented as the embodiment of all that was just and noble—a veritable God-sent Khalif and the designated protector of all good Mohammedans. He declared that Germany had gone to war "for the deliverance of the Prophet's faithful followers from their Christian oppressors." Then he is said to have returned to Berlin "with a mass of useful information and a flask of miraculous water which Arab admirers had sent to Field-Marshal von Hindenburg as a curative of gout."

LOSS OF NILE STEAMERS.

Telegrams from Cairo received in London this week announce the destruction by fire of three steamers of Messrs. Thos. Cook and Sons' Nile fleet. The cause of the outbreak has not yet been ascertained, but the loss is a heavy one, the lost steamers being the "Rameses," "Rameses the Great," and "Tewfik." These boats were fortunately not of the very latest type, Messrs. Cook having recently increased their fleet by additions of the "Egypt" class, but they were large and valuable steamers. According to the telegraphic information we have alluded to, these steamers had recently been taken over by the Government, although whether they were purchased outright or merely chartered we are unable to say.

* Telegraphing on Wednesday, Reuter's Cairo correspondent states that the trial will take place early in February. Sir Wm. Brunyate, Legal Counsellor to the Egyptian Government, will lead for the prosecution. The military authorities have appointed Mr. Perrott and Mr. Foster to defend the accused.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, December 30.

The Situation at Salonika.

The situation at Salonika remains unchanged. German circles declare that the attack will not be delayed, and that a force of 100,000 men will advance from Uskub on the south, but so far the German Government has not made any representations to Greece to the effect that Greek territory will be invaded. On the other hand, the way in which the Greek army is distributed and the encounters which, besides those at Koritza, took place a few days ago on other points of the frontier between Greek and Bulgarian detachments—and which resulted in a defeat for the latter, who were driven back some kilometres on their own territory—were not of a character to dispel their doubts about crossing the frontier. Moreover, from the point of view of their own interests, the Bulgarians have no further incentive to go on with the war, since the Germans cannot make up their mind to advance on Constantinople without first freeing themselves of the danger threatening their flank.

The Government's Attitude.

As I have already reported, according to declarations made by certain Ministers to the Press, the Government appeared to be disposed to permit the entrance of Bulgarian troops on Greek soil without any formal guarantees for a subsequent evacuation, but these declarations produced a painful impression. The Venizelist Press has been at pains to point out the grave dangers—to say nothing of the shame and discredit—to which such a course would expose the country. Indeed, what guarantees could reassure Greece, and who would undertake to evict the Bulgars from Greek territory if they decided to stay on there? Certainly the Germans would not go so far as to attack them in order to drive them out. In these circumstances, it is generally held in political circles that, should the Bulgars decide to enter on Greek soil with their allies, Greek public opinion could not remain mute, and that certainly the army—which was mobilized solely to ward off the Bulgarian peril—could not stand idly by, a passive witness of a Bulgarian invasion. In such case the Government and others responsible for the direction of affairs would be placed in a position of extreme difficulty, and should they decide still to abstain from taking action, and endeavour to impose their will on the nation, they would assume a heavy responsibility and be playing an exceedingly dangerous game.

These considerations lead one to believe that in the eventuality referred to the King and the Government will have to decide to attack the Bulgarians. Possibly they may endeavour to make it appear otherwise, in the hope of inducing the Allies to quit Salonika, and thus avoiding the invasion that might compel Greece to abandon her neutrality. For the Government declines to recognize that Austria is still bent upon securing Salonika for herself, that, similarly, Bulgaria still covets Kavalla, and that they are only kept from realizing their ambitions by the presence of the Allied forces on Greek soil; and, therefore, it is bending all its efforts to getting rid of those forces. Its Press indulges in the most violent attacks upon the Anglo-French troops, and one of its organs—which has been characterized by M. Venizelos as a mercenary of the German propagandists—goes to extraordinary lengths in its insinuations against the Allies' soldiers. In Entente circles, however, no importance is attached to these attacks, for it is recognized that the Greek people still preserves its feelings of friendship and of gratitude towards its former protectors and helpers. Those feelings it demonstrated recently at the elections, when, by its abstention, it proclaimed in favour of the Ententist policy of M. Venizelos. Again, the day before yesterday, on the occasion of his Onomastic Day, M. Venizelos was made the object of a great popular demonstration, in which all classes of society took part, and which amounted to a popular verdict in favour of his policy and of regret for his absence from power.

M. Venizelos on the Situation.

Replying to an address presented to him by a deputation of business men, and expressing the confidence of the commercial world, M. Venizelos criticised the present Government for—amongst other things—failing to recognise that it is geographical situation and circumstances that ought to determine its attitude in the present great struggle. "To-day," said he, "our interests in the East are in no way opposed to those of the two Great Powers who will prove the final arbiters of the present conflict, while they are diametrically opposed to Austro-German interests. But the present Government remains blind to this fact and to the Bulgarian peril. I hope that all the ills I foresee may not materialise. Our only hope lies in the presence of the Franco-British forces at Salonika and their reinforcement in the near future. I do not wish to be a prophet of evil, but I much fear that before we celebrate the centenary of Greek independence, or, possibly, long before that, the Bulgarians may attack us and compel us to withdraw to our old frontiers. There will then be left to us only the sacrifices in men and money that Greece will have made. Certainly we have to-day no longer any hope of realising our great national aspirations. The only thing we can still hope is that Bulgaria may not become immeasurably greater."

These declarations, being in flat opposition to the views of the Government, the Censor has only allowed foreign correspondents to telegraph them in a much modified form. They have, however, made a deep impression upon the country.

HELLENIC CONGRESS IN PARIS.

Under date of January 10, Reuter's Paris correspondent reports:—

The resolutions adopted by the Hellenic Congress, which has just concluded its sittings here, were as follow:—

(1) That it is of urgent importance to see that the Constitutional liberties of Greece are respected.

(2) That it is to the interest of Greece to abandon her neutrality and join the Entente.

(3) That the Congress will only dissolve when its task is completed, and that meanwhile it delegates its powers to an Executive Committee, whose duty it shall be to secure the accomplishment of the above decisions.

At a dinner which was given at the close of the Congress M. Triantaphillides, the President, expressed the hope that the voice of the Greek colony would be heard by those whom the Greek Constitution rendered responsible for the present situation, and that they would stop on the brink of the abyss whither they were leading the nation.

M. Joseph Reinach said that, in spite of the mourning and sorrows of the war, which she had not sought, France was still with Greece, whom she had saved from the Turk.—Reuter.

There seem to be two sorts of neutrality—neutrality and Greek neutrality.—*Kansas City Star.*

Considering the effectiveness of the relief expeditions to Belgium and Serbia, nobody could blame Greece and Roumania for demanding the relief first.—*New York Evening Sun.*

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Obtainable from all leading Grocers and Druggists in Egypt and the Levant.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of the "NEAR EAST" to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)
Salonika, December 27.

Elections Extraordinary.

While the Anglo-French troops were still fortifying Salonika and putting it in a state of defence, the inhabitants of the town were invited to elect their parliamentary representatives for the new Chamber. A strange situation truly: the townsfolk, naturally peace-loving, making their preparations for departure in the not improbable event of a bombardment of the town; the Allies, especially the British, making prodigious exertions to bar the way to any advance of the enemy; the disembarkation of troops going forward, and at an accelerated rate, day by day; and—the citizens called to the polling stations!

As might have been foreseen, the result of these elections was a complete fiasco. Of 40,000 electors, barely 4,000 registered their votes; and telegrams from the interior announce similar results. The abstention of the Venizelists and the Socialists, the entirely abnormal situation, and the stirring events in progress around us, have combined to make the elections valueless. The Gounarists, or Government party, have gained the victory, but it is a victory without glory.

The Allies' Activities.

The visit of General Castlenau to this town has naturally given rise to much speculation; for the third General of France would not abandon his work in Paris, even for a short time, save for some purpose of extraordinary importance. General Castlenau, accompanied by General Sarrail, inspected the Allies' positions and their lines around Salonika, which has been made a second Calais, and as impregnable. From the preparations that the British and French are making, the former all round the town, and the latter farther out, it would appear that the Allies intend to make a vigorous fight in this region. In fact, the British force have cleared the neighbouring villages of their inhabitants—who have been amply compensated—and have installed themselves therein; and the defence works constructed are of a most formidable character.

Citizens and Soldiers.

The local inhabitants show much interest in the British soldiers, and particularly in the Scots. Indeed, the Scottish and Irish soldiers, who greatly distinguished themselves in the last fighting against the Bulgarians, are objects of admiration to all the people of the town. Even the Greek soldiers, *blasé* though they be, cannot refrain from remarking, "Orea afta ta Scotchas" ("Admirable, these Scots").

In the midst of the continual disembarking of troops and munitions, of the elections carried on in such warlike surroundings, the town presents an aspect of outward calm. First a Greek police force and then Franco-Serbo-English police maintain perfect order, which is in no wise disturbed by the alarming reports that are put into circulation by interested parties.

Exodus of Spies.

Diplomatic *pourparlers* are still being carried on regarding Turco-Bulgarian co-operation with the Germans and their entry upon Hellenic territory. Whatever other effect it may have, the suspension of military operations has served the interests of the Allies well, enabling them to carry on uninterruptedly the work of putting Salonika into a state of defence and converting it into a base for a Balkan campaign. On the chance of a commencement of hostilities in Macedonia many subjects of the Central Powers, of Turkey, and of Bulgaria have begun to take themselves off from the town. In so doing they are rendering good service to the Allies, who are thus rid of a lot of spies who formed part of an organised system.

The Soldiers' Christmas.

True to his traditions, the British soldier contrived to enjoy his Christmas. On the 23rd and 24th *pioupious* and "Tommies" made large purchases in the town, in order to enable them to observe this, the second Christmas of the war, in a fashion as fitting as possible in the circumstances; and one of the leading pastrycooks received orders for more than 1,500 *tortas* (special cakes for the holidays). While religious services were held in both Catholic and Protestant places of worship, the Franco-British troops guarded their new front in Macedonia, their weapons to hand, ready for any surprise attack by the enemy. But the English troops on the mountains of Hortiadj, which command the peninsula of Chalcidice, spent a happy Christmas, the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages doing everything in their power to make a few hours pass pleasantly for them.

The "British Army Central Office" in the town is always a scene of animation, night or day. Situated on the quay, the half-dozen powerful motor-lorries stationed before it serve to attract a large crowd of idlers and sightseers; and when any high officer enters or leaves his car, and the sentries present arms, these spectators instantly uncover mechanically.

Admiration for the Allies' fighting men, and still more for their armament, grows each day in the town. The people watch with deep interest the unloading of French flying machines and British guns, which did such wonders in the last battles of Strumitza and Demir-Kapu, and from which such great things are expected in the near future. According to competent military critics, the Allies' defences round the town, provided as they are with Franco-British armaments of the latest type, should suffice to keep back any advance of the enemy, and may render it possible to undertake a bold offensive and to dislodge the Austro-Bulgaro-German forces from the Serbian territory that they now occupy. For the time being military action is suspended, however.

A NEW-OLD ROAD TO CONSTANTINOPLE.

Sir Arthur Evans, speaking last Monday before the Royal Geographical Society, said that in the most ancient days the road from Rome to the East was by way of Brindisi, but later, when the empire had extended over Gaul and Britain, the road from its western parts was by way of Milan and Aquileja at the head of the Adriatic. From Aquileja the road went over the Julian Alps and by the Save valley to the Roman predecessor of Belgrade. Thence it made its way along the southern shore of the Danube, one branch crossing into Dacia, while the main road made its way southwards by the Morava valley and divided at Naissus (now Nish), one branch going on to Salonika, while the main road continued to Constantinople. To-day the road from Western Europe to the East made a long detour by way of Vienna and Budapest, but the old road could be revived. The Simplon tunnel has greatly shortened the distance from London and Paris to Milan. From Milan the railway could be followed to Mestre (the junction for Venice) and so to the Austrian frontier. Then by making a short link across the lowest pass of the Julian Alps on the line of the old Roman road, the whole western system could be joined with that of the Save valley railways; and by shortening that system in one place Belgrade could be reached by a route taking only 30½ hours from London—a saving of about fourteen hours. Moreover, it would be a route which ought to be entirely through friendly territory—France, Italy, the country of the Adriatic Slavs and the Save valley. One result of the present war would be to make it immeasurably less desirable that our through route to the East should pass through German-Austrian-Magyar territory, and in this connection the extraordinary geographical importance of Belgrade should be remembered. It was situated on the very confines of the Serbian kingdom, but on the other side of the Danube was a compact Serbian population; and in any future re-arrangement of that part of the world it was much to be hoped that Belgrade would be protected by the union of that population with Serbia on the other side of the Danube

In the discussion that followed Dr. Seton-Watson said that the Southern Slav question was one that concerned the vital interests of the British Empire. The attempt to annihilate Serbia was made in pursuance of a great political plan to establish an area under German control extending from the North Sea to the Persian Gulf. Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria were the tools—to some extent the unwilling tools—of Germany in doing this. It was for us to meet and oppose this scheme by encouraging the formation of a great Jugo-Slav nation.

Mr. Charles Woods said that since 1881 the policy of Austria had been to divide the peoples of the Balkan peninsula. He did not think a reconstituted Serbia would be a sufficient barrier to the German advance; our policy should be to encourage good feeling among the Balkan States, so that strife might be avoided amongst them and no encouragement be given to projects to destroy communities that lay in the German path.

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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

A KEY TO THE ADRIATIC.

"The strategic importance of Mount Lovtchen," we wrote on December 31, "is enormous, and it is to be hoped that Italy, with her fleet, will come to the aid of its defenders, should their defensive position be imperilled."

Unfortunately, our hopes have again been shattered, as they have been continuously throughout our inglorious Balkan campaign. We have gone from one error to another, from one neglect to another. We arrived too late to save Serbia; we occupied Salonika for months before we thought it necessary to "clear the ring" of a vile horde of paid spies and *provocateuses*, and now we—the Quadruple Entente—have gone to no special effort to keep Mount Lovtchen from falling into the hands of the enemy.

A Key to the Adriatic.

The paramount strategic value of Mount Lovtchen is that it commands the Bay of Cattaro; that, together, the bay, with its harbour, etc., and the Mount, form the most invulnerable naval base in the Adriatic. So long as Montenegro held the Mount, the Austrian base in the bay was not safe against attack from the land side. For the past many decades the Hapsburgs have been trying, by foul means rather than by fair ones, to obtain possession of Lovtchen, and had Italy been more rapid in the small help she was enabled to send to Montenegro towards the latter part of last and the beginning of this year, doubtless we should still be defending the height against General Koewess. But once again we have been tardy, or neglectful of the importance of side issues, and Lovtchen fell on Tuesday. Admittedly, the Italians are, after the Montenegrins, the chief losers, owing to their intensely difficult Adriatic position; their loss, however, is not our gain, but that of the enemy.

The Fate of Montenegro.

Apart from its strategic importance in the Adriatic, Mount Lovtchen dominates the plain leading to Cettinje and its surrounding defences. The capital of Montenegro is thus at the mercy, practically, of the enemy, who, advancing from the newly acquired position to the east of Cattaro, and also from the Bosniak frontier to the north and from Novi Bazar to the east, can surround the defenders of the capital on three sides. The overwhelming superiority of the Austrians in artillery, ammunition, and number of men must tell in the long run, and however bravely the heroic Montenegrins, whose country has never been sullied by a foreign oppressor, fight against tremendous odds, the hour is at hand when, driven along the only available route of retreat towards the south, King Nicholas's army will have to escape into Northern Albania, already seething as it is with a population bought by enemy gold and promises. Heroically have the Montenegrins fought against the Austro-Germans, but odds have been against them from the first. They saw Serbia left in the lurch by her friends, and still they helped them; they saw Serbia destroyed as was Belgium, and still they stuck to their guns; they saw the Austrian armies take yard after yard of their defences during the month of December, but still they fought on. Now—the fate of Montenegro, in the absence of any timely, reliable help, bids fair to equal that of Belgium and Serbia. It is piteous. If pledges are to be kept, however, it cannot, dare not be lasting

Albania.

To all intents and purposes Central and Southern Albania, with the island of Corfu (where French soldiers have landed) off the Albanian-Epirus frontier, are to form an enclave in the Balkans similar in strategic significance to our enclave at Salonika. From the very beginning of the Balkan campaign we urged on the Entente Powers the necessity for speedy action in Albania. The idea was pooh-poohed in many quarters because of the topographical difficulties to be overcome. They are being overcome now. Then, why, in the name of all that is logical, could they not have been overcome six months ago, when the Serbian and Montenegrin armies were intact? This is a question, we think, which will have to be answered some day by those who have been responsible for the Entente war policy. In the meantime, in Central Albania, where Essad Pasha's influence among the hill tribes remains paramount, the tardy concentration of troops under Italian auspices continues. The Serbs, driven back from their own country, are reorganising in this region, Italian troops—to the best of our knowledge—are being landed, and soon their ranks will be strengthened by the arrival of the plucky Montenegrins ousted from their own country. In these circumstances it is likely that serious attempts will first be made to contain the enemy in Northern Albania, The military value of the whole Albanian enclave, like that of Salonika, is, of course, its strong position on the flank of the Belgrade-Sofia (*i.e.*, Berlin-Constantinople) line, and it is, therefore, essential to the enemy's plans that he should dislodge us, and equally important to us that we should not be dislodged. The German campaign in Montenegro is a phase of this general plan, and when, and if, it is consummated, the armies under Koewess will attempt to force their way into Northern Albania, the while other enemy forces attack Central Albania from the east.

Salonika.

The situation in Salonika has considerably cleared. The discoveries made in enemy Consulates, both in Salonika and Mytilene, have revealed a whole network of espionage, with the result that we have been able to get rid of a great number of spies. This undoubtedly renders our position much more secure than hitherto. There is little or no information about military operations in this sector during the past week, excepting for a vigorous bombardment of our Doiran lines by the enemy on Monday last. The *Giornale d'Italia* (quoted by Reuter) states that, according to news received from Athens, the attack of the enemy appears to be developing in grand style, the German command proposing to employ with its own troops Austrian, Bulgarian, and Turkish forces. The participation of the Turks (continues the same journal) was doubtful up to a few days ago, but now it is certain, and has, perhaps, been determined by the evacuation of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The same journal gives the distribution of the troops to attack the Anglo-French positions as follows:—"The Germans, with their headquarters staff and main concentration at Monastir, are to the west, in the centre the Bulgarians are disposed along the Gevgheli-Doiran line, and the Turks are to the east on the line Kanthi-Gumuldjina."

Mr. Ward Price, the representative of the London Press at Salonika, emphasizes in a recent despatch the confidence of the Allies in their almost impregnable positions, and gives the following interesting description of the lines held by the French:—

The French are responsible for the western flank of the Allied front, and their line starts in the marshes at the Vardar mouth, then runs up on the eastern bank of the river for about fifteen miles before it turns eastward and goes on to join the English sector, which follows the chain of lakes right across the head of the Chalcidice Peninsula and reaches the sea at the Gulf of Orfano on the other side. Much of this French sector of the line is naturally strong from the military point of view, and in the low-lying swamps that surround the Vardar mouth there is no need to cover the front with a continuous trench line. Farther up the stream, towards the place where the French front makes a right angle with the left bank of the Vardar, which they hold, the line rises to higher ground and dominates the plain on the western bank of the river, across which the enemy would have to advance. The River Vardar, without a bridge, boat, or ford, to cross, is the most formidable obstacle in the defence. Even then, if they won through so far, the Germans and Bulgarians would at last come up against the entrenchments. The French have been working at them ever since they arrived here on December 17 from their previous positions farther up the river. They have employed every device, art, and expedient that this campaign of trenches has taught them, and the result is a redoubtable position.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Two questions regarding the Armenian massacres which were asked by Herr Liebknecht in the German Reichstag on December 20 last must have made even that pachydermatous Personage, the Imperial Chancellor, a little uneasy in his conscience, if he has one. For the Socialist leader did not mince matters. I have been reading the text of his questions, as published in the *Morning Post* of last Wednesday, and I note that he spoke roundly of hundreds of thousands of Armenians having been "driven from their homes and butchered," of "atrocities," and of the necessity of taking steps "to ensure the remainder of the Armenian population in Turkey being treated as human beings." In reply, the Pachydermatous One talked vaguely of "seditious intrigue of our enemies" having compelled the Porte to "remove the Armenian population from certain districts of the Turkish Empire" and to "assign them new places of residence." For sheer callousness such a reply would surely be hard to beat. The world knows quite well—and the Imperial Apologist's cant will not deceive anyone outside Germany—what became of the majority of the poor people who were "assigned new places of residence." What new place of residence, I wonder, will be eventually assigned to the Imperial Chancellor, his Imperial Master, his Imperial Master's son, and the rest of the gang that, for the sake of Turkish aid, countenanced—and, indeed, urged on—the massacre of these hundreds of thousands of helpless women, children, and old men? I am not at all surprised to learn that the Chancellor announced that details of the interchange of views that is taking place between the German and Turkish Governments "cannot be published."

***

In addressing the House of Representatives on Tuesday, Mr. Fess, member of Congress for Ohio, declared (so I learn from a Reuter's message from Washington) that "Great Britain's guilt in violating American rights on the seas was greater than that of Germany and her Allies." I should like to ask Mr. Fess whether he has ever heard of the sinking of the Lusitania, the Ancona, and the Persia, to say nothing of a few other vessels on which a good many innocent people lost their lives. Then I should like to ask him whether he can point to a single instance in which Great Britain and her Allies have caused the loss of innocent lives by similar methods of piracy, and whether he considers that any amount of interference with dollar-making can possibly be regarded as balancing such crimes. I should also like to ask him how much—but no, on second thoughts, Mr. Fess, member of Congress for Ohio, cannot be regarded, fortunately, as representative of American opinion. I suspect that he really represents the opinion of —Mr. Fess, if that.

***

I wonder if many people who read this column are interested in coincidences? There may be some, and, if so, the following experiences which have occurred to me during the past fortnight or so seem to me to be worth the telling. One morning I was in the telephone room at my club waiting for a reply from a number I had called. On a table in front of me lay an open telephone book. For some inexplicable reason I suddenly thought of a soldier man I used to know in Egypt, but whom I had not seen for fully six years, and of whose whereabouts I had not the vaguest idea. I turned the pages of the book and found his name—not a common one—correct initials and all. My other call over, I rang up his number. The people owning it had, I was informed, just had the instrument removed. Half an hour later I met the man himself in Brompton Road! He was not, by the way, the owner of the name in the telephone book. The similarity of initials had been a mere coincidence.

***

A few days later I dined with him. At dinner I met a man who had that afternoon visited a palmist in Bond Street. She had told him that he was about to meet a man he had never seen before, a man who had been to Egypt and who would ultimately be of great assistance to him. The latter part of this prophecy is unproved as yet, but it must be admitted that the former part came true pretty rapidly. This is not all.

***

The following week a friend complained of the difficulty he was experiencing in finding a man to do certain work he required done. I happened to know the very man capable of the work, but, unfortunately, had not seen him for several years, and did not even know whether he was in England. He, also, had been a friend in my Near Eastern days. We met in the Strand on the day following this conversation; he had just returned from the East, where he had been touring with the "Quaints" in "The Pedlar of Dreams." I turned into the theatre in his honour and found that the spirit of the East had laid tender hands upon the entire production. I have seldom seen any play so light and charming. From the roof-tops of Pierrotland I looked across the moon-bathed cities of Egypt; in the music I felt the soft throb of an Egyptian night. But this is by the way.

***

After the performance I went round to the back and was commenting upon the coincidence of meeting with my friend, when Salisbury, the producer, burst into the room and, unknowingly, into our conversation: "It's not coincidence and it's not superstition; it's fate," he said. He was in a rage. Earlier in the day he had encountered an individual with cross eyes, and it had affected his receipts. For twenty minutes he discoursed on coincidence, and he certainly has a remarkable record of experiences in that direction. But he will not have it called by the name of coincidence. Telepathy, Fate, anything but that. I have never met any man of the Western world with such a strong regard for such experiences as a direct working of Fate. In the East such things are common. I am beginning to wonder whether the pressure of war in that quarter is driving the ethnical characteristics of Eastern psychic penetration into other minds.

***

I wonder whether "Who's Who?" of 1917 will come out in two volumes to meet the growing demand of names for inclusion in its pages. Many names will, alas! be erased, transferred to a never fading scroll; but their places will be more than filled, for these are the days of opportunity. It is curious how great accomplishments of the past recede from one's memory in the light of present-day events. Viscount French of Ypres is certainly remembered as the "man who never made a mistake" in the Boer War, but I doubt if 50 per cent. of our people remember General Mahon as the reliever of Mafeking. It will be remembered that during the South African War mobility of force was one of the points of greatest importance in the campaign. On one occasion a division had failed, or imagined that it would fail, in the execution of some ordained movement, because of its shortage of horses. An officer of high rank was inclined to cast blame on the colonel of the impoverished regiment. "Horses," he snorted, "look at the———; *they* are never short of horses." And, "Faith, they never were," said Mahon, telling me the story afterwards; "they were the most expert horse-thieves in all Africa."

***

Hajji Wilhelm is in a dilemma again. Why did the Young Turks carefully exclude the Germans from the post of Sheikh Ul Islam when they were apportioning other positions of State to gallant Teutons? Why is the greatest post they have to offer withheld from the disposal of Islam's latest and greatest recruit? Why? Are the Young Turks not taking their Imperial and devout master as seriously as they wish the world to believe? Poor old Hajji. He will certainly need a rest cure when the war is over, and as he is so well qualified to go there, why not let him pay a protracted visit to the Kharga convict settlement, where he will meet other birds of his feather? It is almost as healthy as St. Helena and far more suitable, if we have due regard to the creed of the patient. Apropos of this, a writer in the *Irish Times* tells an amusing story. The report of Wilhelm's conversion to Mohammedism spread to Persia. Shortly afterwards a German official died in one of the Persian cities, whereupon a band of Persian notables appeared at his house to carry off the body for sepulture in the Mohammedan burying ground, much to the annoyance of his friends.

***

When the war is over and tourists flock to Egypt as of old, I hope that they will remember that their careless patronage of German concerns in the past assisted that country to the great campaign which has spelt so much desolation to the world. Personally, I hate to think of the money I have spent at German establishments in the Near East and Egypt in particular. The list of mercantile houses in Cairo owned by our enemies which appeared in this paper last week led me to an examination of conscience that has left me a sadder and a wiser man. It has, however, also left me with a clear resolve that the Huns will never again profit by my carelessness, and if we, as a nation, combine with our Allies in giving the cold shoulder to all goods bearing the mark of the beast in future, and if our business men support us, the Hun will be robbed of those powers of recuperation that might enable him to repeat the horrors of the nineteenth century for generations and generations to come.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

OUR NEW PROTECTORATE.*

Divided into three parts, "Sixty Centuries," "The Nile," and "The Dwellers in Egypt," Mr. W. Lawrence Balls has written a book about Egypt. It is a small book, 7½ by 5½ inches; it numbers 266 pages, and contains the most comprehensive survey of Egypt of the Egyptians that we have ever read. Anyone who knows Egypt will appreciate the difficulties which beset an author who attempts to confine an adequate survey embracing an historical resumé of ancient Egypt into the limited space we have described. Mr. Balls has not only succeeded in doing this, but he has accomplished his task in a manner which will make his work acceptable equally to the readers who know their Egypt and to those who have never been out of England. The secret of the author's success is probably to be found in the fact to which he alludes in an introductory note, "To Some Friends in Egypt." He is a specialist, accustomed to weigh his words and to avoid rhetoric when a plain phrase will serve to make his meaning clear. In a book of this description, which strikes the balance between a work of reference and a "travel" book of the ordinary descriptive variety, rhetoric is unnecessary, and the author's personal opinions are less valuable than a plain, easily digested statement of fact. Mr. Balls has evidently recognised this. His nine years' residence in Egypt has enabled him to pass matured judgment upon many of the questions that are of the greatest importance to the future of the country, and when he offers advice he will be listened to with all the greater attention, because he seldom proffers it.

The book is, as we have already said, divided into three parts. The first part is entitled "Sixty Centuries," and deals in a brief manner with the essentials of Egyptian history from its earliest recorded periods up to the time of the British Occupation. All through this history of early times the author writes with evident regard for its bearing upon the country and people to-day.

> The East in general, and Egypt in particular, will never be impressed by democratic control. More than one man saying the same thing suggests collusion to her, and stimulates impish desire to make them say different things. It is sufficient that one man shall say something firmly and clearly. Therefore, when the Caliph sent a strong man called El Ikshid, already Governor of Syria, to Egypt in A.D. 935, the country sprang smartly to attention and there was not a single disturbance during the eleven years of his control.

No one who knows the Egyptian can deny the reasoning of the above remark. A Kitchener can accomplish more in Egypt in one week than the most learned assembly of Cabinet Ministers could accomplish in fifty years.

To Mohammed Ali Mr. Balls gives the credit for establishing a cult which is still alternately blessed and cursed by officials of the Egyptian Government—the cult of the amateur:

> His head was buzzing with projects for the advancement of the country, and almost every one of them was materialised direct into full working order, without wasting time on experimental trials. The result was, naturally, variegated. . . . Still, even if he had confined his efforts merely to putting the country in order, as he did—it was his private estate—and clearing the stilted canals, he would have been a notable ruler. As it was, he did all this, and very much more, for he brought Western civilisation into Egypt. It was a dangerous experiment, and even to this day it produces sad and ludicrous and amazing results—not always by the fault of the Egyptians—but it started a new line of development and gave food for thought.

In his first mention of the present war Mr. Balls shows that his conviction regarding the people, arrived at after mature study of their characteristics and political tendencies, coincides with the opinions of newspaper correspondents who cable to their journals in London the attitude of the Egyptian to-day:

> Financially, it would have been better for Egypt if the Great War had come a year or two sooner, before her reserves had been locked up in constructional works; but this has only involved minor discomforts. So long as Egypt is taxed to the minimum possible, concurrently with the maximum safe State expenditure on productive works, she will henceforth be easy to govern and reasonably loyal to her protectors, provided only that they hold the dominion of the High Seas and the respect of Islam.

In the second part of his work, "The Nile," the writer utilises his extensive knowledge of the country to good purpose. No place of importance appears to have escaped general description and comment. As we have intimated, Mr. Balls does not waste words. Cairo, as Cairo, is dismissed in a few short sentences, which, however, go straight to the point:—

> There is a Cairo of the "season" and a Cairo of the summer. The one is restless as a catherine wheel, pivoted on the great hotels, and the other is nearly as peaceful and subdued as a Trappist monastery. The Opera Square in the winter is a dancing maze of traffic: taxis, cabs, and donkeys, itinerant vendors and snake charmers, dragomans and tourists. On a summer afternoon it is a wide emptiness, with a native asleep in every patch of shade, the kerbstone his pillow, and the two mules drawing the water-cart prop one another up affectionately as they jingle along.

To the late Sir Eldon Gorst the author accords the credit of having saved Egypt by the raising of the Assuan Dam. The completion of this work took place, it will be remembered, just in time to reserve 1,400,000,000 tons of water for use in a year which proved to supply the lowest flood recorded for over a century. Mr. Balls looks forward to further improvements in the irrigation system of the country. Great as have been the achievements of our engineers in this direction, he is confident that there are many more to follow.

The third part of the book, "The Dwellers in Egypt," reveals Mr. Balls as he is most generally known—as an authority upon cotton. The first chapter of this part is entitled "Clover, Corn, and Cotton," and deals exhaustively with the methods adopted by the natives for the raising of these three essentials of the country. The question of small holdings was much discussed before the war, and the author's remarks on this subject are interesting:—

> The future of the small-holder is a matter for interesting speculation. Under a certain limit of size, which is the amount one family can handle, a small-holding is economical. On the other hand, there can be no doubt that agriculture in Egypt will, in the course of time, become a more exacting business for the brain, if not for the body, than it has formerly been, and unless the mental activity of the fellah increases, he will stand but little chance in competition with the big landholders and companies, who can counteract the disadvantages of mercenary labour by mechanical devices and by their capital resources. It would seem as if machinery is likely to present the Egyptian with two alternatives: either to become a hired labourer, or else to devise some means of letting the able men get to the front, while yet remaining fellaheen, so raising the mental average of the race. Up to the present time the effect of the British Occupation has been steadily and deliberately to increase the proportion of small holdings, but there seems to be some reason to believe that there is a temporary swing of the pendulum, which must presently begin to move in the opposite direction.

The author is emphatically of the opinion, which all students of Egypt will endorse, that the training of the fellah must be in the direction of fitting him for a prosperous continuance of his accustomed mode of life. "The development of the fellah into a town-dweller's clerk is unthinkable." It is here that the difficulty of education arises. Everyone agrees that education is necessary to progress; no one will deny that any attempt can seriously be made to graft an extended system of knowledge upon the fellah without jeopardy to his contentment. Lord Kitchener was known to favour a line of practical education while he was at the Agency. Mr. Balls advocates a course of nature study and in the training of the faculties to observation and deduction. With his assertion that the failure of the examination system to turn out anything more than "a useful routine clerk, who might equally well have belonged to other nations," is due to the fault of the Egyptian rather than to the system, we are inclined to disagree.

It is not the "fault of the Egyptian" that centuries of ignorance have left him incapable of at once grasping the correct interpretation of benefits which the lower classes, even in our own country, do not understand. It is in the nature of the uneducated to distort the advantages of education when they acquire it suddenly and without hereditary preparation. Practical education in the department of life that the student is destined naturally to live is the first essential. The remainder will follow; but future generations will not bless us if we press the matter too rapidly.

Mr. Balls thinks that the next century of the world's history will possibly be the farmers' epoch, and he urges that nothing but the best scientific work will be of any use to Egypt if she is to achieve agricultural distinction.

His book is a valuable contribution to the literature of a country which is often considered to have been over-written. Its arrangement is admirable, and it is admirably turned out. It contains numerous photographs by the author, some good and some indifferent. The frontispiece is an autographed portrait of the Sultan.

* "Egypt of the Egyptians." By W. Lawrence Balls. (London: Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd. 6s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

The Oxford University Press has published "An Historical Atlas of Modern Europe, from 1789 to 1914," by C. Grant Robertson and J. G. Bartholomew. The price is 3s. 6d. net. Several maps of the Ottoman Empire at different periods and two of the Balkan States (1878-1911 and 1911-14) are included.

The C.M.S. has published recently, at the price of 3s. 6d., "Mary Bird in Persia," by Clara C. Rice. The Rt. Rev. C. H. Stileman, lately Bishop in Persia, contributes a foreword.

The Waifs and Strays' Society has published, at the price of one shilling, "Serbia and the Serbians: Letters from Lady Muriel Herbert." The letters are published by permission of Lady Beatrix Wilkinson.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

THE BULGARIAN PRESS ON ENGLAND.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—It is not without importance to know what the enemy Press is writing on England. Some newspapers are to be found that are regularly publishing extracts from the German Press, but, generally speaking, not much attention is paid to what appears in the Bulgarian dailies. This is a mistake. The Bulgars are the foes of England just as much as are the Germans themselves, and if one cares to ascertain what the latter are thinking, one should take the same interest in what the former are saying. No doubt it is very difficult to come across Bulgarian newspapers in this country; but the German and Austrian Press ventilates what the Bulgarian Press has to say, and through this channel we may get the necessary information.

By what cynicism and insolence the Bulgarian Press is inspired when writing about England I trust the little selection of extracts quoted below will help to form an idea.

The *Narodni Prava*, the organ of Radoslavoff, Prime Minister and leader of the Liberal Party, published in its issue of November 3 an article entitled "The Road to India." England, it was said, is making desperate efforts to save India. She is trying by all possible means to induce her Allies to help her to that end. She does not, however, meet with much success. The Dardanelles expedition has proved a failure, and so have been her several attempts in Mesopotamia and Persia. "Until now English statesmen have done nothing beyond employing all means through which they might impose upon the Allies in order to satisfy England's egoism."

What it says about England generally, the same journal (see its number for December 5, in a leader "The Bankrupts") says in a still more violent way about Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey:—

> The intervention of Bulgaria—so the article runs—caused Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey to lose their heads. They ceased to be the overbearing lords they had been until then, and their ideas got confused. They began by making on one day certain declarations which they hastened to deny on the day following. . . . The unworthy leaders of world politics are now but a shame in every country. . . . They resemble the merchant who sees bankruptcy drawing nigh. Bulgars have every reason to rejoice at such a situation.

Glorifying the success of the Bulgarian Army against the Allies, the Deputy Daskaloff wrote in the *Kambana* (see the *Neue Freie Press*, December 15):—

> On December 12 the Bulgarian Army defeated for the first time the pirates from England and France, who have the pretension to represent civilized countries. These two Powers have hereby lost in a most shameful way all the glory with which past centuries had covered them.

On the same subject the military critic, Angeloff (see the *Neue Freie Press*, December 15) writes:—

> The great Anglo-French Army, after a terrific defeat, has been compelled to retire on Greek territory. . . . It has no excuse, since it was occupying excellent positions and was truly like a powerful bulwark of soldiers and guns. . . . The Bulgar has been giving a terrible lesson to those Westerners who affected to despise him, thinking they were his superiors. Glory, therefore, to our heroes who took the devil by his horns when he dared attack Bulgaria!

These Bulgars, however, are not satisfied with deriding the Anglo-French Army; they go so far as to accuse it of having used barbarous methods of warfare. "The Bulgarian Government," says the Bulgarian Telegraphic Agency (see the *Frankfürter Zeitung*, December 18), "has sent to its Allies and to neutral countries a Note *protesting most categorically against the barbarous methods which the English and the French have used in Macedonia.*" So that we find these Bulgars—the same, alas! who cut off the ears of Serbian soldiers in 1913, and whom the Carnegie Committee found guilty of more atrocities during the Balkan wars than even the Turks ever perpetrated themselves—daring to protest now. The Bulgarian Government has the impudence to declare openly, in the same Note, that in return it is going to have recourse to most severe reprisals upon English and French war prisoners!

From these extracts we see that it is not only the Bulgarian Government that is delivering itself up to such ferocious hatred against England, but also the organs of the various political parties, and the journalists generally.

Everybody in Bulgaria is decidedly siding with the Triple Alliance against the Allies. It suffices to read what the Russian Chargé d'Affaires in Sofia declared when he left the Bulgarian capital (see *Birmingham Post*, October 27), and what Mr. Stephen Graham, who last summer paid a visit to Bulgaria, said in his article "The Truth About the Bulgars" (*English Review*, November); and it will then be seen that the Bulgarian Press as we have quoted it is but expressing the feelings of the whole Bulgarian nation, and all its political parties. And so that no shade of doubt may be left on this point, the Bulgarian Minister, Petkoff, lost no time in declaring in an interview (*Berliner Tageblatt*, December 27) that "the sympathies of all the leading political parties in Bulgaria are decidedly with the Triple Alliance. The ideal of every true Stambulovist—so he declared—has always been to seek the friendship of the Triple Alliance. Therefore, in every question that concerns foreign policy, complete harmony reigns among the Radoslavists (Liberals), the Toncheffists (Young Liberals), and the Stambulovists (Dr. Ghenadieff's party).

Unfortunately, it is for this very foe, who is so cynically laughing at England, that the English Press has still occasional moments of weakness and sentimentality. Quite recently the Balkan correspondent of a great English journal was rejoicing at the entrance of the Bulgars into Ochrida, which he considered "an event of the highest importance"—an event of the highest importance, this? The final success of Bulgaria against Serbia in Macedonia, an event of the highest importance? The final success, likewise, against the Allies, an event of the highest importance? But for whom does it carry so high an importance? For the Allies, perhaps? Well, then, if ever, and for our misfortune, the Bulgars were to enter Salonika, will it be, too, an event of the highest importance and one at which we ought still more to rejoice?—I am, etc.,

D. JANITSCH.

London, W., January 11, 1916.

TROODOS AS A HILL RESORT.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I should like to call the attention of your business readers to the natural attraction which Tröodos, in Cyprus, offers as a hill station to British officers, residents, and officials in Egypt and the Levant, and to the fact that, while this place is being now used for this purpose, there is scarcely any accommodation worthy of the name. I do not complain of the nature of the existing building, which is necessarily rather primitive, because it is liable to demolition by the military authorities at twenty-four hours' notice. The sense of injury under which I and many of my fellow visitors to Tröodos are labouring is due to the fact that, while good food is plenteous in the neighbourhood, it was certainly unprocurable at the hotel. It seems a great pity that this opportunity for establishing a hill station which might remain a popular Mediterranean resort for all time should be lost for the want of a little enterprising management. Tröodos is, by the way, only thirty-six hours from Cairo, and its position is unique. If a good hotel with a decent *cuisine* could be established there, I, for one, would prefer staying there to wandering about the Levant during short leave, even when the war is over. But I have a certain regard for the inner man; hence this letter.—I am, etc.,

Cairo, January 3. ANGLO-EGYPTIAN.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Archæological Excavation. By J. P. Droop, M.A., late student of the British School at Athens. (Cambridge University Press. 4s. net.)

Map of Southern Slav Territory. By Dr. N. Zupanic. (Christophers. 6d.)

Russian Grammar Simplified, Part I.; *Russian Reading Made Easy*, Part I. Hugo's Simplified System. (Hugo's Language Schools. 1s. 6d. net.)

The Southern Slav Programme, with a Map; The Southern Slavs: Land and People, with Map; A Sketch of Southern Slav History; Southern Slav Culture. (Nisbet and Co. 3d. each.)

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Jan.	1916. Jan.		1334. Rebi I.	5676. Shebat.
14	1	Friday	8	9
15	2	Saturday.....	9	10
16	3	Sunday	10	11
17	4	Monday	11	12
18	5	Tuesday	12	13
19	6	Wednesday	13	14
20	7	Thursday	14	15

To-morrow is the birthday of Princess Margaret, Princess Royal of Sweden.

Tuesday is the birthday of Princess Eudoxia of Bulgaria, who was born in Sofia on January 5, 1898 (O.S.).

Athens messages report that King Peter of Serbia has decided to take the waters at Aidepsos, whither he will proceed very shortly.

Prince Alexander of Serbia has received the French War Cross and the Legion of Honour which have been conferred on the Serbian Army. The Prince has telegraphed his thanks to President Poincaré.

The French Government has appointed Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur Henry Limpus, K.C.M.G., Admiral Superintendent of Malta Dockyard, a Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour.

General Sarrail, Commander-in-Chief of the Expeditionary Force in the East, has been promoted to the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, and General Bailloud has been awarded the Military Medal.

Sir Bryan T. Mahon, commanding the British troops at Salonika, has been appointed Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour.

Earl Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, went to Buckingham Palace on Wednesday evening and was received in audience by his Majesty, with whom he was engaged for about an hour.

M. D. G. Métaxas, formerly Greek Minister to the Court of St. James, left London on Wednesday for Athens.

M. Miyatovitch, formerly Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James, has left London for New York. We understand that he will deliver a course of lectures in the United States on Serbia.

Dr. Clemow and the members of his unit of the British Red Cross, who were lately working in Montenegro, have arrived safely in England.

Lieut.-General Sir Percy Lake, K.C.M.G., K.C.B., who has been appointed to succeed General Sir John Nixon in the command of the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force, has been Chief of the General Staff in India since 1912. From 1905 to 1908 he was Chief of the General Staff, Canadian Militia, and from 1908 to 1910 he acted as Inspector-General of Canadian Militia. In 1911 he received a divisional command in India. His active service was in the Afghan War, 1878-9, when he acted as assistant field engineer with the Southern Afghanistan Field Force, and received the medal, and in the Sudan Expedition, 1885. In the latter campaign he took part in the actions of Hasheen and Toprek and the advance on Tamai, being awarded for his services the medal with two clasps and the bronze star.

Major-General Fenton John Aylmer, V.C., K.C.B., who is leading the advance of the relief to Kut-el-Amara, was appointed Adjutant-General in India in 1912. He has taken part in five frontier campaigns in India, including the Burmese Expedition, 1886-8, the Hunza-Nagar Expedition, 1891-2, and the operations in Chitral in 1895. He was awarded the V.C. for gallantry in the Hunza-Nagar Expedition.

The following appointment was announced in Saturday's *London Gazette*:—Memoranda—Maj.-Gen. Hon. Sir J. H. G. Byng, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.V.O., to be temp. lieut.-gen. May 7.

Mr. Prowde, secretary to Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Under Secretary of State for Public Works, Egyptian Government, has gone to the Sudan, where he intends to join Mr. Buckley and his mission on the Blue Nile.

Reuter's Agency learns that news has reached London through the American Consul at Baghdad and the American Ambassador at Constantinople that the members of the British Colony at Baghdad were removed from that city at the end of November, and left travelling in a north-westerly direction. It has been ascertained that they were deported by the Turkish authorities, probably at the time when it was feared that the British troops might be approaching, and that they were sent in the direction of Mosul. When last heard of, the colony in Baghdad comprised two men—Messrs. Levack and Walker—and nine ladies, with their children. The ladies included Mrs. Levack, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Cree, and Mrs. Whitley.

The marriage arranged between Phillip Bertie Petrides, barrister-at-law, of the Middle Temple, Legal Adviser and Crown Prosecutor to the Seychelles, and Clare, elder daughter of George Cosens, of Woodleigh, Sydenham, will take place very quietly at St. Philip's Church, Sydenham, on Saturday, January 15, at 2.30 p.m.

On Tuesday, the 11th inst., at the Parish Church of Falkirk, the marriage was solemnised of Lieutenant R. Douglas King-Harman, R.N., son of Sir Charles A. King-Harman, K.C.M.G., formerly High Commissioner of Cyprus, and Lilly, daughter of Mr. Alexander Moffat, Advocate and Sheriff Substitute of Stirlingshire, Arnotdale, Falkirk. The Rev. the Hon. Arthur Gordon, D.D., officiated, assisted by the Rev. Professor Lawson, D.D., and the Rev. Alexander Loudon, B.D.

The marriage took place at Evenley Church on Monday of Miss Madeline Ethel Worsley, daughter of Canon Worsley, to Major John Willoughby Scott, son of the late Sir John Scott and Lady Scott. Canon Worsley gave his daughter away, and Mr. Arthur Worsley was best man. The wedding was arranged at two days' notice on the return of the bridegroom on leave from France.

On December 20, at the British Consulate, and afterwards at All Saints' Church, Cairo, the marriage took place of Mr. Charles C. Morris, of the Egyptian Irrigation Service, and Miss Joy Doreen Yule, only daughter of the late Mr. T. G. Yule and Mrs. Fox, of Swindon, Wiltshire.

We regret to announce the death of Colonel Morgan Crofton, C.B., D.S.O., which occurred at his residence, 5, Brunswick Terrace, Brighton, on Sunday last after a long illness. Born in January, 1850, and educated at Cheltenham College, he entered the Second Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment. He served with distinction in the South African War, 1879-80, in the Zulu Campaign (medal with clasp), in the Sudan, 1884-5 (mentioned in Despatches, medal with clasp, Bronze Star, brevet lieutenant-colonel), and again in the Sudan, in 1885-6, when he was present at the action at Giniss (mentioned in Despatches, and received the D.S.O.). He was Chief Staff Officer and A.A.G. South Africa in 1904-3, and A.A.G. Eastern District 1899-1900, and was nominated a C.B. in 1899.

Rear-Admiral John A. Tuke, who died last week at King Manuel of Portugal's Home for Officers at Brighton, had retired in October, 1913, but had been serving during the war as temporary captain in the Royal Naval Reserve. He was lieutenant of H.M.S. Northumberland during the Egyptian War of 1882, and was decorated with the Egyptian Medal and the Khedive's Bronze Star. He was appointed Master of the Fleet for the Naval Review at the Coronation of King Edward VII., 1902, and afterwards held several Admiralty positions, including that of Dockyard and Deputy Superintendent and King's Harbourmaster of the Hamoaze, Devonport (1908-1911), and membership of the Admiralty Committee on Berthing Accommodation of his Majesty's Ships at Home Ports. He was promoted Rear-Admiral in July, 1911.

A Cairo message announces the death of the Coptic Patriarch of Alexandria, Cyrillos VIII.

Much sympathy will be felt with the Rev. C. T. and Mrs. Horan, of Church House, Cairo, in the severe loss which they have sustained by the death of their elder son, Lieutenant Beresford K. Horan, of the 30th Wellington Rifles. Lieutenant Horan, who was twenty-three years old, was training with the Canadian Expeditionary Force when he contracted diphtheria; pneumonia supervened, and terminated fatally, death occurring on Christmas Eve.

Next Thursday evening, in commemoration of the birth of the founder of Islam, the Islamic Society will hold a conversazione at the Hotel Cecil. Mr. A. Yusuf Ali will deliver a short address, and Lord Headley will preside.

At a meeting of the Central Asian Society to take place next Wednesday afternoon (at 4.45), at 22, Albemarle Street, Mr. Perceval Landon will read a paper entitled "Central Mesopotamia." Sir Mortimer Durand, P.C., will take the chair.

According to the Greek calendar last Friday was Christmas Day, and a service was held at the Greek Church in Moscow Road, Bayswater, in the morning. The officiating clergy were the Very Rev. the Great Archimandrite Dr. Pagonis and the Archimandrite Agathangelos Moschovakis. There was a large Hellenic congregation. The service was attended by the Greek Minister, Madame Gennadius, the *personnel* of the Legation, the Greek Consul-General, and the staff of the Consulate.

A large number of Serbian orphans have recently arrived in France. The mail steamer "Alda," of the Cie. Paguet, reached Marseilles on the 30th ult. from Salonika with 111 scholars, their teachers, and a number of Serbian officers and soldiers. Before arriving at Marseilles the "Alda" called at Ajaccio, where she disembarked 500 orphans. The little ones have been reclothed and were the recipients of presents, many of them being sent to Cannes and Villefranche. Several other contingents of orphans and refugees from Serbia are shortly expected to reach Marseilles. Mons. Alfred Fraissinet, Consul-General for Serbia in that city, has opened a relief fund there, the amount collected up to December 30 being frs. 10,690. In addition, many gifts of linen, clothing, etc., have been received at the Consulate.

A correspondent writes:—"The *Hornsey Journal* states that there will be an interesting service at the Holy Trinity Church, Stroud Green, London, N., next Sunday morning, when the very Rev. Father Nicholas Vilimirovitch, D.D., Mark of the Holy Orthodox Church of Serbia, Priest of the Chapel Royal, and Professor of Theology at the Belgrade University, will assist in the choir, and plead the cause of his country from the pulpit. He is a member of the Anglican and Orthodox Church Union Society, but this address will be a simple appeal for his unhappy country. He will be in Eastern vestments.

"Both for the cause and for the opportunity of hearing one of Serbia's most eloquent preachers, there will certainly be a crowded church. The Serbian National Anthem will be sung in English. An overflowing congregation will show the sympathy with the little nation whose gallantry has won all British hearts. Father Nicholas is not only an eloquent preacher, he is a writer of note. He will increase our knowledge of his country, far too little before the outbreak of war, and little enough even now. Serbia claims not only our regard, but our help. It is another Niobe of the nations, crushed, overrun by brutal oppressors, but still neither broken-spirited nor lastingly defeated."

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One of our readers enquires for the present address of M. Alex. Theodorides, formerly of Constantinople. If M. Theodorides, or any other reader, will forward the information to the Editor, the kindness will be much appreciated.

The *Egyptian Gazette* states that Fuad Bey Selim, who was recently appointed Ottoman Diplomatic Agent in Switzerland, is the son of the late Latif Pasha Selim, who was for several years the Honorary President of the Mixed Tribunals in Egypt, and was connected with the Arabic movement in conjunction with the late Sheikh Mohammed Abdou. Fuad Bey is quite young, and left Egypt only a few years ago for Constantinople where he was admitted into the Ottoman Consular Service.

A telegram from Berlin sent through German wireless stations and received by the Marconi Company states that the Military Commander of Vienna, Count Salis-Seeves, has been appointed Governor-General of the Serbian territory occupied by Austro-Hungarian troops.

The president of the Serbian Committee in Corsica, where a number of Serbians have taken refuge, has telegraphed their "warmest and sincerest thanks to the noble English people, whose nobility we feel in the greatest measure to-day that we have lost our Fatherland."

A special night (Monday, the 17th inst.) has been set aside by the National Sporting Club for a boxing entertainment (to which ladies will be admitted) in aid of the funds of the Wounded Allies Relief Committee of Sardinia House, Kingsway, W.C. The entertainment begins at 8 p.m., and the prices are from £3 3s. to 10s. 6d. A collection of 5,000 stamps in two volumes has been presented to the committee, and this will be sold by auction during the evening. The collection has a value (at catalogue prices) of over £500.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

Bimbashi T. B. Vandeleur, of the Camel Corps, Egyptian Army, has been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam and appointed as second-in-command of the Camel Corps.

Captain Viscount Eustace Hawarden, attached to the Egyptian Army, has been promoted to the rank of Major.

Baron Jean Villenfagne de Sorinnes, Secretary of the Belgian Legation in Bucharest, has been appointed to act in the same capacity in Pekin.

Lieutenant A. T. Cull, Seaforth Highlanders (a former member of the Imperial Ottoman Bank's staff in Egypt), has been transferred to the Royal Flying Corps.

Mr. Gerald Delany, Reuter's Chief Agent in Egypt, has been appointed Lloyd's Agent in Cairo, in succession to the late Mr. David Rees.

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"WHITE ELEPHANT" SALE AT LOWNDES HOUSE.

The "White Elephant" sale announced in our last issue to take place on Tuesday at Lowndes House, by the kindness of Mrs. Frank Barker, was a great success. Exactly 1,000 objects were given for the purpose. Most of them were of the kind that one is accustomed to find displayed at fancy bazaars, but some were genuine "white elephants"—i.e., objects of some value, but for which the owners happened to have no use. Most of the thousand tickets were disposed of, each ticket being numbered and entitling the owner to the article to which the corresponding number had been given. The sum thus realised was increased by the sale of articles not claimed, so that over £130 was obtained during the day. Three large rooms, each furnished with ten or a dozen tables, were given up to the display of the goods. Sir Louis Mallet gave some beautiful Oriental objects, mostly antiques. Mr. Cheese, formerly of Beyrout, gave a handsome collection of blue Chinese china, which was purchased by private contract by Mr. Heinemann, the publisher. The Marchesa Imperiali, wife of the former Italian Ambassador at Constantinople, gave several charming objects; Lady Victoria Hobart, an embroidered panel; Sir Gerard Lowther, some Japanese china, Mrs. Vere, a number of useful articles; and, among others, there were handsome gifts from the jewellery and other departments of Messrs. Reville and Rossiter, from Harrod's Stores, and from Messrs. Derry and Toms. Among the objects shown were a pair of handsome brass candelabra, a bronze Buddha, a handsome screen, and a lady's travelling coat. This was among the unclaimed prizes that were subsequently disposed of at auction. Other goods were paintings, china, handwork, fancy work, glassware, toys, music books, handkerchiefs, dusters and other household requisites, work baskets, statuettes, pipes, pincushions, Turkish embroideries, etc., etc., including some hospital garments which had been sent to Lady Neave by friends in Pekin.

Among those present were Lady O'Connor, the Countess of Kintore, Lady Lawrence, Lady Abinger, Lady Rumbold, Sir Adam and Lady Block, Captain and Mrs. Du Vallon, Captain and Mrs. Clifton, Dr. Clemow, Mrs. Surtees (wife of General Surtees), Mrs. Bell (of the American Embassy), Mrs. Tower, Mrs. and Miss Barker, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Vere, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vere, Mrs. Townsend, Mrs. Alfred Farrar, Mrs. Einstein, Mrs. Makins, Mrs. Tristram, Mr. Barnham (formerly Consul-General in Smyrna), Mrs. Arthur Hill, Mrs. Harry Pears, Mrs. Satow, and Mr. P. Martindale.

Among those who helped to make the sale a success should be mentioned Lady Neave, president of the British Refugees from Turkey Fund, on behalf of which the sale was organised. It was with Lady Neave that the idea of the sale originated. Mrs. Frank Barker, besides lending her house, worked hard to carry the sale successfully through. Lady Lowther was another energetic helper. So were Mr. Baker, Mr. Myddelton Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Charnaud, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. David Forbes, Mr. and Mrs. Cumberbatch, and Mr. La Fontaine. Most of these were present, many wearing red rosettes and acting as stewards of the gathering, distributing the prizes, and assisting generally. It was an interesting assembly of people, many of whom had been formerly resident in the Near East, brought together to help friends, acquaintances, and others from that part of the world suffering misfortune through no fault of their own. The articles left unsold will be disposed of for the benefit of the Fund, or given to soldiers' hospitals or other charities connected with the war.

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DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

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BIRTHS.

EDGAR.—On the 22nd ult., at the Victoria Nursing Home, Cairo, the wife of C. C. Edgar, of a son.

WILLIAMSON.—On the 22nd ult., at Ismailia, the wife of Mr. W. H. Williamson, of a daughter.

DEATH.

HUGHES.—On December 28, on s.s. Persia, Etta, daughter of the late Samuel Jenkins Hughes and Mrs. Hughes, Beverley, Wimbledon, and granddaughter of the late Thomas Hughes, Wallfield, Reigate. R.I.P.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1916.

THE SOUTHERN FRONT.

The position of the Allied Powers in the Near East would benefit if this theatre of war were regarded as a single front and if plans and movements were co-ordinated as they are in the West or East. At present the tendency, we fear, of both the military authorities and the man in the street is to look upon each point of contact with the enemy as a separate sphere of operations, as distinct as the fighting in Mesopotamia is from that in East Africa. Thus during the past week the Allies have been concentrating attention on the final withdrawal from Gallipoli Peninsula, but have given little heed to the course of events on the west of the same line, where the Montenegrins are being hard pressed by the enemy. Now, as the Allied Powers have not sent large forces to the Near East in order to reproduce the condition of temporary stalemate prevailing in the West, but rather with the object of turning the enemy's flank, they cannot remain indifferent to a reverse at any point in the line. The success of the operations in the Balkans depends on a general advance which will so seriously threaten the enemy from this direction that he will be obliged to weaken his western and eastern fronts in an effort to stem it. No doubt the situation is complicated by a variety of political and military considerations. Unless, however, the Allies are minded to forgo the advantage which superiority of numbers gives them, they cannot be content with merely defensive action in the Near East, but must be preparing a blow which will convince Germany that her southern thrust was an unfortunate challenge. In these circumstances, the uniform strength of the Allied line is a matter of prime importance, for a setback at any one point may delay the advance when all other preparations have been completed. There can be little doubt that the Allies have allowed their preoccupations at the Dardanelles and Salonika to distract their attention from the enemy's movements in Montenegro and Albania. When the Serbians were driven out of their own territory there was a tendency to believe that there would be no serious pursuit over the difficult country in which they had taken refuge. But the Austrians, finding themselves opposed by comparatively insignificant forces, have tried to follow up their successes in Serbia with the conquest of Montenegro. With the help, which may not be permanently reliable, of some Albanian tribes, they have virtually surrounded the Montenegrins, and are daily drawing their cordon tighter. In the interests of the Allies' position on this southern front, relief ought to be sent as soon as possible to Montenegro. If that country shares the fate of Serbia, the ultimate advance of the Allies will be rendered so much the more difficult, and the war, with its drain on the economic resources of all the belligerents, will be prolonged to a corresponding extent.

The advantages which the enemy's unity of direction in the conduct of the war gives him are clearly seen in the Balkan operations. To turn the Serbian line of defence which had proved too formidable for the Austrians single-handed and for the first efforts of the Austro-Germans, the Bulgarians were used. As soon as the Serbians were overwhelmed the bulk of the German forces were withdrawn, the Allied centre at Salonika is now contained mainly by the Bulgarians, a separate Austrian force is left to deal with the Montenegrins, and the Turks hold the eastern end of the line. From lack of co-ordination of effort the Allies have allowed Serbia to be overwhelmed in detail, and now Montenegro is threatened with the same fate. But there can be little doubt that they dispose of sufficient strength in the Near East to deal with all the forces that the enemy has mustered. In the absence of the necessary unity of direction the Allies are in danger of being dealt with piecemeal. A supreme war council of the Quadruple Entente, taking stock of the situation and of the forces at its disposal would long ago have decided to push forward Italian troops to the relief of the Montenegrins. As things are, the troubles of Montenegro run the risk of being nobody's business but her own, or if some responsibility is felt in Allied circles, much valuable time has been lost in an interchange of views between three or four Governments, which in turn will have had to consult their military advisers. In all the circumstances it is provocative of some wonder that the Italians have remained so long indifferent to the march of events on the other side of the Adriatic. For several days the main efforts of the Austrians have been directed against Mount Lovtchen, and this important position has now fallen into their hands. Mount Lovtchen dominates the Bay of Cattaro, and with both in her possession Austria will be able to render the former an impregnable position for the purposes of this war; while if it were retained after the war, the whole balance of power in the Adriatic would be affected. In view, therefore, of what Italy has marked out as her destiny in those waters, it is as vital to the Italians that Austria should not overrun Montenegro as that she should be ejected from the Trentino. Italy's major purpose in entering upon the war was to achieve the latter, and it may well be wondered that she should have been content to ignore the progress of the Austrian armies on the other side of the Adriatic.

Such resolution as has been shown at Salonika is due to the joint war council of the British and French Governments. If the operations along the southern front are to be carried out successfully, the Italian Government must be represented in the council or special arrangements must be made to secure co-ordination for the military operations in the Near East. The troops of no less than five nations will be co-operating in this movement—British, French, Italian, Serbian, and Montenegrin. Others may join them later. It is inconceivable that a general advance should be ordered before all these forces have been brought under one Generalissimo. The main outlines of the campaign and the strength of the co-operating armies may be decided beforehand in general council, at which all the higher commands are represented; but if the maximum efficiency is to be obtained there must be no opportunity of divided counsels when once the advance has been launched. If the Allied Governments have any belief in their cause, and have undertaken the campaign in the Balkans with any conviction, they must realise the necessity for pushing on with the operations with the least possible delay. It has been suggested that the direction of the war in the Near and Middle East ought to be centralised in the hands of one man, who would make Egypt his headquarters. We are of opinion that the operations on the southern front will prove of sufficient magnitude and importance to occupy the whole attention of any Generalissimo. They will at the same time be bound up with a variety of intricate political questions, which, if the advance progresses, will have to be dealt with on the spot. Thus an Allied war council in the Near East becomes as essential as one in Paris. It cannot aspire to the distinction of the latter; but within certain restrictions it ought to enjoy similar freedom of action, in order that decisions may be reached and acted upon rapidly. The time, for instance, may come when Bulgaria may wish to open up negotiations with the Allies. It would suit the Central Powers to have these negotiations indefinitely protracted, while the Allied advance was delayed for the same period. But when such a stage is reached, it will be essential that there should be no check to the momentum then gained. Bulgaria's case will have to be settled beforehand, and at the first overtures she must know exactly the conditions she has to accept or refuse. It matters not that this stage may seem still a long way off. It can be brought appreciably nearer by a resolute policy which makes provision betimes for all eventualities and does not require military operations to be suspended for weeks or months while Cabinets wrangle or are lost in a maze of indecision.

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RED CROSS WORK IN EGYPT.

We have received for publication the following letter from Egypt. Names are omitted.

—— Hotel,
Ramleh,
Alexandria,
— November, 1915.

My Dearest T——,

In my last letter I told you that when V—— left for the front I should try to get some work at one of the hospitals here, if only for a few hours a day.

Well, the inevitable has happened, for he left me a week ago. Parting from him was simply dreadful, and the fact of the air being heavy with farewells does not soften the blow one whit. The hotel is almost full of people, interesting and otherwise, but they only make me realize my loneliness the more. The eternal sunshine and blue sky seem almost aggressive at times, and I am oppressed by those "Twin Destinies of Fear and Hope."

That morning, after he had gone, I tried to read, but lacked the concentration. I then wandered into the music room. The piano before dusk is almost as bad as bridge in a country house before luncheon. I played, twice over, that delicious little "Elegy" by Mme. Skabo, with the soft pedal down. I had memorized it from a copy that a man lent me on the voyage out. Before I had finished I had decided to call at the Red Cross offices in the town that very afternoon and beg for some employment to keep me from fretting.

Meals are somewhat dull at present, as mother (under the sinister influence of an Anglo-Egyptian medico whom she met at Brighton two years ago) extracted a promise from me that I wouldn't touch hotel salad. Butter, unless from a known source, is also taboo, as well as both milk and water, unless boiled. In Egypt the deadly microbe stalks abroad, and when disinclined for terrestrial exercise, he boards a fly. I have written home for a dispensation as regards butter and water, at any rate, and if mother's conscience is as troublesome as mine, she will cable her reply.

Luncheon over, I walked to the tramway station. The service is good, and the line passes within a hundred yards of the hotel. I sat down in the corner of the tram nearest the door, and was lost in contemplation of a caricature of a horse which is an inartistic feature of a little framed advertisement of the Alexandria Races, when the conductor put his head inside the door. With one hand extended for my fare, his attention was momentarily distracted. Turning his head without corresponding movement of his body, he sounded an ear-piercing blast upon some instrument of torture carried between his clenched teeth. I almost jumped out of my skin! There came an echo from the recesses of a second-class vehicle which we were hauling, and then we rumbled on our way once more. Some time elapsed before I recovered my self-possession. Arrived at the terminus, I took a carriage and told the native to drive me to the Red Cross offices. He understood perfectly. It was more than half-an-hour's drive.

On sending in my card I was immediately ushered into the comfortably furnished office of the Deputy Commissioner. A very tall man, with a kindly face, rose to greet me. I told him of my errand, and he asked what I could do. At this stage I commenced to feel "As though he were a band of music and I a small, shy, garden party." His manner reassured me, however, and he proceeded to explain the scope of the work, which seemed to embrace almost every kind of labour that a woman is capable of. Eventually it was decided that I should undertake writing letters for those who were unable to write for themselves.

I was soon on my way back to Ramleh with a Red Cross brassard clutched tightly in my hand.

On the afternoon of the following day, clad in virginal white, with the brassard round my left arm, I made my way to the hospital and entered one of the largest wards. The sister-in-charge was most agreeable. Evidently voluntary workers are appreciated in that quarter, and also by the patients, who seemed delighted to have someone from the world without to talk to. I have seldom felt myself so popular. The difficulty is to break away from them without hurting their feelings. I am awestruck by the overwhelming evidence of self-sacrifice represented by these suffering yet uncomplaining heroes.

I remember taking leave of a French priest who was proceeding to some far inland mission station in China. "When do you expect to return to France?" I asked. "Never, madame," was the laconic reply. That was an instance of individual self-sacrifice and devotion, but here, in this hospital, is self-sacrifice in a collective form.

Prompted, doubtless, by feelings on the subject similar to my own, almost every Englishwoman in Alexandria, including those whose invariable custom it is to spend the majority of the summer months in Europe or England, has worked, and worked hard, throughout the long hot weather.

Well, on that, my first afternoon, having written an epistle for an Aberdonian to "My youngest brother Alec" ("Somewhere in France"), and another to "Mother who is nigh on sixty year old and gets up at five o'clock every morning of her life" (at Skinner's Lane, Oldham), I spent my last twenty minutes with an Irish boy from Connemara, who was very busily demolishing a jelly which was, he told me, one of the many good things provided by the Red Cross kitchen in the hospital grounds. It wasn't at all a question of writing a letter for him. He talked and I listened. I was reminded of an occasion on which an Irishman read aloud for me Synge's "Playboy of the Western World." I ultimately beat a retreat in the face of another Red Cross worker, who appeared with tea and bread and jam.

Before leaving the hospital enclosure I lingered to listen to a vocal and instrumental concert, given by some Alexandria amateurs, assisted by members of the hospital staff. Three or four hundred patients had foregathered in a semi-circle, and formed an audience that must have gladdened the hearts of the performers. All the local talent has been recruited for these concert parties, which make a round of the convalescent homes and hospitals.

That night I went to bed in a much happier frame of mind.

. . . . . .

I have breakfast served in my room, from which I can catch just a glimpse of the sea. After breakfast I sit in my dressing gown, smoke a cigarette (or two), and read the local paper, in whose columns large blank gaps appear from time to time, revealing how the Censor has baulked the poor editor of another journalistic triumph.

I must tell you that one afternoon before V—— left I was invited by a wounded friend of his to take tea at one of the officers' convalescent homes. It is in a large furnished house, whose German owner never returned from Europe after the outbreak of war. When the Gallipoli campaign commenced the military authorities commandeered the place. The Syrian community, headed by a Pasha who is a well-known and popular sportsman, generously offered to provide all the funds for maintaining the establishment. The internal arrangements are in charge of a Sister, whose choice reflects great credit upon the committee. "Everybody thinks her a perfect dear," so a subaltern informed me.

We had a very cheery tea party, and I saw and heard enough to convince me that a convalescent officer could not be more comfortably looked after anywhere. The secretarial work is undertaken by one of the ladies resident in the neighbourhood. The Red Cross Convalescent Homes are run by a committee of ladies and gentlemen, with one of the high officials, the Egyptian Postmaster-General, I believe, as chairman. Someone at the hotel pointed him out to me the other day in a motor. Just before we arrived in Egypt, when the Red Cross funds were running low, this gentleman, in another capacity—that of chairman of "Our Day" appeal—collected more than £17,000 from Alexandria citizens and visitors within a week. What do you think of that?

The Sultan, whom I am disappointed not to have seen, has helped the cause immensely, not only with financial assistance, but also by the great personal interest he has taken in it. People say that he is as generous as his father, Ismail Pasha, of whom your father so often talked.

Yesterday I had to go into the town, and drove down to the docks to see about the despatch of some stores for V——. I thought it best to interview the Transport Officer myself. Returning along the quays, I saw several little huts, whence, under the auspices of the Red Cross, the Ramleh ladies dispense warm drinks and food to the

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soldiers as they embark on the transports, at all hours of the night and day.

I hear that the "Sunbeam," R.Y.S., with its owner aboard, is in harbour, and has been here most of the summer, taking convalescents for sea trips and landing its guests for work ashore.

You will no doubt have read in the home papers that a large contingent of V.A.D. nurses arrived in Alexandria some time ago for work in the hospitals. Since their arrival, the Alexandria ladies, who were assisting in the wards and kitchens, have been relieved of their duties, which had taxed their powers of endurance to the full.

Well, I had a few lines from Mrs. L—— a fortnight ago, telling me that Lucy had come out with the contingent, and so I called at the hotel in town where they had been housed. The place was as busy as a hive. Whilst waiting in the hall for Lucy I amused myself by observing the only man on the horizon, who was sitting near me, also waiting. The poor fellow looked unaccustomed to so much female society, and reminded me of an episode in one of Byron's poems. Lucy was awfully glad to see me, and we arranged to meet again. She tells me, however, that a cousin whom she has met, and who is in one of the regiments here, monopolizes most of her spare time, so that I cannot hope to enjoy very much of it. She says many of the girls have relatives or friends among the military—which is very jolly for both parties.

Before ending this long letter I must just tell you of a little incident connected with my own particular job. One afternoon I approached the bedside of a gnarled-looking warrior of middle age. My timid inquiry as to whether he had written home lately met with an unequivocal negative. He was a married man with two children, and it was his second visit to hospital, as he had been wounded earlier in the campaign. He had not, however, written home for eight months, and was by no means sure that his wife knew in what part of the world he was. I asked the reason of his silence, drawing a harrowing verbal picture of the misery it must have wrought in the family circle. He replied that he "Didn't hold with flashing letters about!" After much parley, he promised to write there and then, and have the letter ready for me to post before I left the hospital. Returning in half-an-hour's time, I found the meagre result of my eloquence in the shape of a printed field postcard, which the reprobate handed me with a mischievous twinkle in his grey eyes.

My excuse for this long letter is that you, as a war worker in England, are sure to be interested in the Red Cross effort out here.

Write soon to your devoted, ——.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

German Intrigue in Egypt.

Under the above heading a Delta correspondent of the *Morning Post* (January 10) gives some interesting sidelights on the tireless methods of German agents in Egypt. This correspondent points out that when the war began it was regarded by the fellah as merely a "struggle for power between nations of unbelievers," and he really took little interest in the whole thing. The Turkish threat to the Canal brought things home to him a little, but with the defeat of the invasion his interest again lagged:—

Since the Serbian campaign began, however, a new effort seems to have been made to stir up the fellah. It has been represented to him that all Germany has now become Moslem, and that the Kaiser is not only a true Moslem, but has actually been to Mecca on a pilgrimage! He is commonly called, in the villages of Egypt, Hadj William Mohammed, and one sometimes hears him styled the Mahdi. The idea seems to be to incite the fellah with a vision of a new Islam. All this may seem absurd enough to us, but to the fellah, with his limited knowledge of the world, it is readily believed. The pro-German party is thus trying to make capital out of the faith of the fellah.

So far the writer considers that the evil seed has fallen upon barren soil:—

One fellah put the result aptly to the writer recently when he said: "If we could rule this land without the British we would do so, but we accept the facts as they are, and, therefore, we remain loyal to England and will continue to do so as long as they remain in the country."

He thinks that we need have no fear of trouble from the fellah in any circumstances as long as we keep the enemy out of the country.

Serbia's Soldier King.

We take the following extracts from an article on King Peter of Serbia, by Mr. Joseph Reinach, which appeared in a recent number of the *Morning Post*. Mr. Reinach's acquaintanceship with King Peter dates from the year 1880, and he devotes the beginning of his article mainly to a biographical statement. Coming to the time of King Peter's accession to the throne of Serbia, he continues:—

During his reign King Peter has proved that he is possessed of remarkable political qualities. He is primarily a soldier, and that is the impression he left on all his friends in Paris. He took pleasure in talking of his campaigns in 1870 and 1875, of the war in France and the revolt of Herzegovina, and was passionately interested in all military questions. He used to be envied for his Puebla promotion by his comrades, whom he saw rising one after another to the higher ranks of the Army.

We quote below from Mr. Reinach's reference to the assassination of Alexander and Draga and King Peter's attitude towards this much-discussed event:—

But his whole loyalty as a soldier and as an honourable man would have been up in revolt had he been asked to take a share in plots having as their object the assassination of a poor imbecile King and his wife.

From my personal investigations, I, at any rate, am convinced that the conspirators invaded the palace with the single idea of forcing Alexander to abdicate, or, if he refused, of expelling him beyond the Save. They wandered about for more than an hour in the royal palace, which was in absolute darkness owing to the destruction of the electric installation that had been blown up by a dynamite cartridge, when they discovered Alexander and Draga hidden. They heard the shots exchanged in the streets of Belgrade between their partisans and the soldiers who remained loyal to the dynasty. They took fright, and slew the two hapless rulers and threw their corpses, which were still warm, into the palace courtyard.

The abominable murder marred the restoration of the Karageorgovitch dynasty with a great stain of blood. King Peter suffered for a long time from the horror that the crime provoked in the world, and that he himself felt at it, but it is very questionable whether he could have refused the throne and left Serbia a prey to anarchy and shame. For some time he was the prisoner of the political chiefs who had carried out the coup. As soon as he felt strong enough to impose his will he dismissed them from power.

It is not generally known in England that King Peter refused to live in the palace of his predecessors, but caused a new one to be built for him at Belgrade. Mr. Reinach goes on to describe his Majesty's unremitting interest in the military affairs of his nation:—

I can say, too, without indiscretion that since 1909 the King was keenly alive to the gravity of the crisis threatening in the Balkan peninsula. He had drawn closer to Russia, where he had many friends, but he would have liked to establish good relations with Austria. He only asked that Austria should respect the independence of Serbia, and that she should not treat the Serbs in the dualist Monarchy with cruel sternness. But Austria at the time had sworn the destruction of Serbia, which was barring her road to Salonika.

The following striking passages refer to King Peter of the present day:—

Weakened by illness and old age, King Peter, some months before the outbreak of war, had handed over the government of Serbia to his youngest son. But neither sickness nor old age prevented him from again becoming a soldier on the first day of the war. It is as a soldier, going into the trenches and sharing all the trials of his armies, that he has lived through the war in good and evil fortune. . . . . He was one of the last to leave successively all of the towns of Serbia. He wandered seeking death over the twice historic battlefields of Kossovo. He accompanied the retreat of his armies with his indomitable Minister Pashitch in the desolate country and in the forests of Schunadia, having often only a morsel of bread to satisfy his hunger, lying on the naked ground during the freezing nights of pitiless winter.

He is a more tragic King Lear than the Lear of legend. But all his daughters have remained faithful to him, and all the women of Serbia have been to him as Cordelia. He might have gone to recuperate his worn-out strength in the great Caserta Palace that the King of Italy placed at his disposal. But he would have been too far from his armies that were beaten, but not reduced, and that are now being reconstituted. So he came to settle at Salonika by the side of the French and English generals, who did not have the good fortune to arrive in time to help the Serbs and prevent their defeat, but who are preparing the revenge.

All heads bow before him to-day, ours with respect, those of the Greeks with pain, and those of his very enemies with shame.

Famine at Monastir.

The correspondent of the *Morning Post*, telegraphing from Salonika recently, includes the following reference to the position of affairs at Monastir:—

The Austrians at Monastir sent secret agents to Koritza and Florina to try and buy or induce certain refugees, by offers of a sum of 100 fr. (£4) each and free passports, to return and settle down in their homes. A number of men, sharper than the others, accepted the money and the passports and then returned to receive the congratulations of their envious and sorrowful comrades who had missed such a unique opportunity of despoiling the enemy.

The famine at Monastir is becoming intenser from day to day. No data have yet been received as to the mortality from this cause among the civilian population, but the Bulgarian troops,

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about 5,000 of whom are still at Monastir, are famished. Their daily ration of bread has now been reduced to one loaf for five men. Some few of them have deserted during the last fortnight and have surrendered to the Greek authorities for the sake of appeasing their hunger. The Bulgarians at Monastir are sick of the Austro-Germans, whom they hate because of their domineering ways and because the latter are better fed, each of them getting a whole loaf daily.

The correspondent goes on to say that "Even the Bulgarian inhabitants of Monastir Province are now bewailing the arrival of their 'liberators,' who they say have brought them famine instead of plenty, and that they are eating up the food of the starving people."

Victory.

M. Take Jonescu, writing in a recent issue of the *Matin*, makes the following remarkable forecast, which we quote from the *Morning Post* (January 10):—

I regard the future with absolute confidence, though the first years that will follow a peace dictated by the Allies in 1916 or 1917 will be sad and difficult ones. I foresee with certainty the victory of the Allies, and France taking again the first place in Europe, German reaction definitely crushed, a fresh era of true national sovereignty in all countries, and the principle of nationalities, which is the prolongation of the theory of national sovereignty in international relations, triumphing over the ruins of Austria and Turkey, whose existence dishonours humanity.

I see disarmament and a long and fruitful peace becoming a reality instead of a Utopia. I see also my country paying the debt of blood that it owes to itself, to our brothers in Hungary, and to the Allied nations that are struggling for our independence and our liberty.

The End in Gallipoli.

We quote below extracts from leading articles on the evacuation of Gallipoli which appeared in various papers on the 10th inst. *The Times* echoes the tribute paid by Sir Charles Monro to Generals Birdwood and Davies and to Admiral de Robeck, and thinks that General Monro's "countrymen will not be slow to assign much of the credit for this remarkable feat to the General in supreme command."

The article concludes:—

The effect of the evacuation upon the general military position can be only for good. The characteristic Turkish report, which says we were driven out as the result of a "violent battle" and with "heavy losses," makes one statement which is true. "Not a single soldier," it announces, "remained behind." That is just the gratifying feature of the operation. These splendid troops, who have added to the proudest amongst the glories of our Army, and who have reaped for the Dominions their first laurels in a European war, are now all available for service elsewhere. It cannot be service more splendid than that they have done. We confidently expect that it will bring the victories they so richly deserved, but which Gallipoli denied them.

The *Manchester Guardian* concludes its leading article in the following words:—

We cannot record the final withdrawal from Gallipoli without sorrow that so much heroism and sacrifice of noble life should have gone unrewarded by victory, but the sorrow is mingled with pride in all those who fell or suffered there, and now we have the relief of knowing that the withdrawal, if it had to be, has at least been carried through without the heavy loss which had been feared.

The *Daily Chronicle* says:—

The Allies have no reason to despair of the larger issue. Once our attempt to force Constantinople by that entrance had failed, it would have been folly to continue useless sacrifices for the sake of supposed prestige. Governments need to be courageous in withdrawing as well as in advancing; and this withdrawal is to be praised, not cavilled at. We do not believe that it will seriously affect our prestige in the East. It might have done so had it been carried out before the German diversion to Serbia produced our own diversion to Salonica. But the East knows that we have a long arm; and as long as it sees that we can strike, it will not be over-hasty to criticise the direction which we prefer to give to our blows. It has known pretty well for a long time past that in Gallipoli the dice were loaded in the Turks' favour; and it will put a pretty correct value upon a bloodless withdrawal, which enables us to fight at better advantage elsewhere.

The *Standard* expresses profound relief at the successful and bloodless evacuation:—

Future historians will be better able to judge how far the course of events elsewhere was affected by our ability to hold up during a lengthy period so much of the strength of Germany's Turkish ally. But, in any case, regrets would avail nothing. The road to Constantinople, for the time being, does not lie through the Dardanelles. To many others than the Turks the evacuation of Helles will be a surprise. By the contraction of the front after the first operation, Mr. Asquith remarked, operations at other points of the line would be more effectively carried out; and it was doubtless assumed generally that those points were situated in the Gallipoli peninsula. Their real location has yet to be revealed.

All these papers give unqualified praise to the heroism of our soldiers and the quality of our seamen in this sphere of operation.

Submarines in the Mediterranean.

In a leading article on submarines in the Mediterranean, inspired by the recent loss of the Persia, the *Manchester Guardian* points out that it is futile any longer to touch upon the wickedness of German submarine acts—German contempt for humanity having been established since the earliest days of the war. The paper fears that the most likely source of supply to enemy submarines is to be found in one of the Greek islands, and continues:—

It is reasonable to ask that Greece should take all possible precautions against her territory being used as a basis of supply against British shipping, and it is the more necessary that we should make this request because we ourselves propose to use Greek territory as a basis against the Central Powers. Because circumstances have led us to Salonika it must not be supposed that there is a general licence to use Greek territory as a basis of operations. Salonika is a solitary exception to Greek neutrality, due to circumstances which create no sort of presumption with regard to other portions of Greek territory, and certainly do not suspend the duty that is upon the Greek Government to see that its territory is not put to non-neutral uses.

It is, of course, admitted that so far Greek complicity in the supply of stores and fuel to enemy submarines is only conjecture.

The Menace in Egypt.

In our last number we published under the above heading quotations from an article by Mr. Sidney Low in the *Sunday Times* (January 2). The following extracts are from a reply to this article by "A Correspondent," which appeared in the last number of the same paper (January 9). This writer begins by asserting that there is an answer to Mr. Low's article which may be summed up in one word—"Japan." He continues:—

I do not wish to take too seriously the menace to Egypt and to the Suez Canal. It is a "large order," colloquially speaking. Germany and Turkey are handicapped, fortunately for us, by having no merchant shipping available, and no Fleet. The French are already established close to the Gulf of Adalia, ready to thrust at the long line of land communications which would be necessary for the enemy to reach Egypt. We ourselves have large forces in Egypt and ample time for preparation. The enemy's men and money are not inexhaustible.

Above all, there is the possibility of the whole thing being a bluff. It was a bluff when Germany purported to threaten Kieff and Odessa when her real intention was Serbia. Similarly the talk about taking Egypt may be a blind to hide some other purpose.

Assuming Mr. Low's contention that the threat is a real one, however, the writer turns to the argument on which his article is based—Japan.

He points out that if the Suez Canal is our highway to the East, it is also Japan's highway to the West, and although it does not lead that country to any possession of her own it is still of vital importance to her. We take the following extract from the concluding portion of his article:—

Commercially speaking, the interest for Japan is as great as for us. If the Canal were unfortunately to be destroyed by the enemy, or to be seized and held in enemy hands, Japan would be seriously cut off from the West. The Panama Canal is blocked at the moment by a land-slide, and offers many probabilities of being blocked again. The route round the Cape is costly in time and in money. . . . Therefore, Japan has every motive for helping us to save the Canal and to keep Germany from getting astride of the trade route. Moreover, Japan has just had an object lesson in the sinking of two Japanese steamers in the Mediterranean.

I quite agree that it has been better, and is better, for us to carry on a European war without invoking the aid of Japan. But the taking of Egypt would carry the war into Asia, as Germany and her Allies would have to march through a portion of Asia, and Asia is Japan's sphere where Europe is not. . . .

The Japanese fought side by side with us in expelling the Germans from China. There is no reason why they should not protect their own interests by doing the same in Egypt. Their appearance on the spot would be decisive. If they are to come they must mobilise soon, and commence the work of transport as early as possible. Their co-operation would remove any possible danger of German success, and the mere knowledge that they were going to co-operate would probably ensure the complete abandonment by the Germans of their scheme.

Articles to Note.

"What I Saw in Serbia," by Phyllis Shakespear (illustrated), in the *Lady's Pictorial* (January 8).

"Climate and Architecture," in the *Builder* (January 7).

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Allies in Greece.

Jan. 6.

Sir E. GREY, replying to a question put by Sir E. CORNWALL, said that he did not think there was any reason to regard the diplomatic situation of the Allies in Greece as other than satisfactory.

Colonel Napier's Capture.

Mr. S. SAMUEL asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether it was a breach of neutrality for the enemy to seize two British subjects on a Greek steamer on the high seas; and, if so, whether the Greek Government made any protest to the Austrian or German Governments when they seized two British subjects.

Sir E. GREY: I presume the hon. member is referring to the removal of Colonel Napier and Captain Stanley Wilson, M.P., from a Greek ship by an enemy submarine on the high seas. This action was not contrary to the generally accepted view of international law.

Suez Canal Pilots.

Mr. PETO asked the President of the Board of Trade whether persons of Austrian or other alien enemy nationalities were employed as pilots on the Suez Canal; if so, whether he would take steps to see that this employment ceased; and whether he was aware of the number of senior officers of the British merchant service at present without employment who were qualified to undertake these duties now performed by alien enemies.

Captain PRETYMAN said the Board of Trade had no control over the employment of pilots on the Suez Canal.

The Suvla Bay Landing.

Mr. TENNANT informed Mr. LUNDEN that while the circumstances of the landing at Suvla Bay had been carefully considered at the War Office, no formal inquiry had been made.

The Serbian Army.

Mr. RONALD M'NEILL asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether a considerable force of the Serbian Army were at Skutari in a condition of distress after suffering great privations in retreat through the mountains; and whether, in view of the obligations of the Allies, and especially of England, to Serbia, his Majesty's Government would offer to the Serbian Army some suitable locality in the Mediterranean area where they might rest and recuperate, and would, further, offer to transport them to such locality and provide them there with food and other necessaries as the guests of the British nation.

Sir E. GREY: There is a considerable Serbian force at Skutari. There was a period when this force was in acute distress, but I am glad to say that there has been considerable improvement, and that supplies are now reaching them. The Allies have already considered the problem raised in the latter part of the question, but I cannot, for obvious reasons, make any statement as to the result of their deliberations or the destination of Serbian forces for whom special provision can be made. His Majesty's Government have given, and continue to give, all the assistance in their power.

Jan. 10.

Sir E. CORNWALL asked whether the Secretary for Foreign Affairs could state what arrangements, economic and material, had been made by the Entente Powers for the maintenance in the field of the reconstituted Serbian Army; where the Serbian Government had established its headquarters; and whether adequate provision now exists for its organisation and operations.

Lord ROBERT CECIL: I regret I cannot make any statement on military matters of this kind. It is obvious that information of this sort would be very useful to the enemy, and I deprecate it being pressed for in this House in a way that must make it known to him.

Sir I. Hamilton's Report.

Mr. ASQUITH, replying to a question by Sir H. DALZIEL, as to granting an opportunity to discuss Sir Ian Hamilton's report in reference to the Suvla Bay operations, said: No, Sir. I think it would not be desirable to discuss Sir Ian Hamilton's report at the present time.

Albania and Montenegro.

Sir E. CORNWALL having asked for information regarding the present position in Albania and in Montenegro, and the attitude of those countries towards the Allies and the War, Lord ROBERT CECIL replied that it was impossible to speak of Albania as an entity at the present moment. In the central area, over which Essad Pasha's authority extended, the relations between the population and the Serbian troops had been friendly, and Essad Pasha had rendered valuable assistance to them. The northern tribes, among whom the enemy had conducted considerable propaganda, had shown hostility towards the Serbians and Montenegrins, but none towards this country. The Government in Montenegro had changed within the last few days, but he had no reason to suppose that this implied a change in policy or in the sentiments of the Montenegrin people in regard to the operations in the Balkans.

A Turkish Atrocity.

Major CHAPPLE asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Turkish military authorities early in 1915 sent to Gallipoli fifty British and French non-combatants for the purpose of exposing them to the Allies' fire; whether he informed the Turkish Government that, if this were done, Enver Pasha, his Highness Said Halim Pasha, and the Ottoman authorities would be held personally responsible for their lives; whether, as a result of this announcement the prisoners were immediately released; and whether he would, in conjunction with our Allies, make an analogous announcement with regard to all future enemy atrocities.

Lord ROBERT CECIL: The answer to the first two parts of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the third part, any explanation of the subsequent release of these British subjects would be incomplete which did not take into account the efforts made by Mr. Morgenthau, the United States Ambassador at Constantinople, and the members of his staff, for the protection of those whose interests had been committed to his charge. As regards the last part, I am not in a position to make any general statement.

Australia and Gallipoli.

Mr. KING asked the Prime Minister whether a report on the Gallipoli expedition had been specially prepared for the Australian Government; if so, whether it had been communicated to the British Government; and whether, if and when such a report was received, it would be communicated to the House?

Mr. ASQUITH: I do not know to what the hon. member refers. I have made inquiries, and I cannot find that anything is known of any official report.

The Gallipoli Withdrawal.

Referring to the successful withdrawal from Gallipoli, Mr. ASQUITH said:—The House and country will have learnt with extreme gratification of the successful retirement of the forces at Cape Helles, without the loss of a single life. Eleven guns only were left behind, of which ten were worn-out 15-pounders, and before being abandoned all were rendered unfit for further service. Such of the stores and reserve ammunition as could not be removed were set on fire at the last moment; and the whole retirement was conducted with an absolute minimum of loss. This operation, taken in conjunction with the earlier retirement from Suvla and Anzac, is, I believe, without parallel in military or naval history. That it should have been carried through with no appreciable loss, in view of the vast amount of *personnel* and *matériel* involved, is an achievement of which all concerned, commanding officers, officers, and men in both Services, may well be proud. It deserves, and I am sure will receive, the profound gratitude of the King and the country, and will take an imperishable place in our national history. His Majesty will be advised that General Sir Charles Monro, Admirals de Robeck and Wemyss, Lieutenant-Generals Birdwood and Davies, and other officers who worked under them will receive special recognition for their services.

Success in Mesopotamia.

Replying to Sir E. CORNWALL, who asked whether any information was available concerning recent operations in Mesopotamia, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said:—On the 6th inst. General Aylmer left Ali Gherbi with the troops marching to the relief of Kut-el-Amarah. On the same day General Townshend at Kut reported that on the previous night the enemy had opened a heavy fire on his north-west front and on the village opposite Kut, but that they made no attempt to attack him. On the night of the 7th General Aylmer reported contact with the enemy and heavy fighting on both banks of the Tigris two or three miles below Sheikh Saad. On the right bank General Kemball's column had carried the enemy's position, taking two guns and 700 prisoners, and was then entrenching in a position close to Sheikh Saad. Meanwhile the main attack on the left bank had been retarded by outflanking movements of the enemy. General Aylmer adds that he was apparently opposed by three Turkish divisions. On the evening of the 8th General Aylmer reported that owing to the fatigue of the troops he was unable to make any progress. On the 9th General Aylmer reported "the enemy are in retreat and I am pursuing, but heavy rain hinders the pursuit." From a later telegram it appears that the enemy had reached Orah in his retirement. I regret to add that General Nixon has been compelled by ill-health to relinquish his command and return home. Lieutenant-General Sir Percy Lake, at present Chief of the General Staff in India, has been appointed to succeed him.

Troops from the Dardanelles.

In a written reply, Mr. TENNANT informed Mr. GRANT that leave to visit this country could only be given to the soldiers who had been engaged in operations in the Dardanelles by the General Officer Commanding the Forces in the Mediterranean, and must obviously depend upon the exigencies of the military situation. The troops removed from the Gallipoli Peninsula would be given rest, but to bring them to this country on leave would obviously be a large, difficult, and costly undertaking.

The Suvla Bay Arrangements.

Jan. 11.

Sir FRANCIS EDWARDS asked whether the Under-Secretary of State for War could state the number of men who had lost their lives from exposure in the Gallipoli Peninsula in the three weeks preceding the evacuation of the Suvla Bay position, and

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the number who had been admitted to hospital suffering from frostbite and other results of inadequate arrangements and insufficient shelter. He also wished to know whether it was proposed to hold any inquiry into the alleged absence of all preparation to meet the conditions of winter warfare in that region.

Mr. TENNANT: My hon. friend's inquiry begs the question whether the arrangements and shelter provided were or were not insufficient. In reply to his inquiry regarding the three weeks preceding the evacuation of the Suvla Bay position, I would inform him that the information asked for cannot be given without reference to the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, and, in view of the difficult task upon which the military authorities there have been and are still engaged I have not thought it right to ask for a special return. It is not proposed to hold an inquiry as suggested in the question.

Italy and the Ægean Islands.

Sir E. GREY, replying to a question put by Mr. KING, said that the same islands in the Ægean as were in Italian occupation before the outbreak of war were still occupied by Italy. He could not make any statement as to communications that might have passed between any of the Allies respecting future territorial arrangements.

The Relief of Kut-el-Amarah.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, replying to Sir E. CORNWALL, made the following statement regarding the Mesopotamian campaign: Owing to weather conditions and the necessity of evacuating all wounded by river (which presents some difficulty), General Aylmer's force was still halted on the 10th in the neighbourhood of Sheikh Saad. The enemy were located by our cavalry in the Es Sinn position, six miles east of Kut. This is the position from which the Turks were driven in September by General Townshend in the battle of Kut-el-Amarah.

Persian Looters.

Sir E. CORNWALL asked the Secretary for India whether he could give any details of the recent Persian raid into Baluchistan, and whether the country was now quiet.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: Perhaps the hon. member refers to a rather alarming report quoted from a Russian newspaper. In fact, there has been no Persian raid into Baluchistan recently. Towards the end of September last a Persian chief, Bahram Khan, of Baranzai, with 3,000 Persian tribesmen, entered Mekran and attacked the Khan of Kolat's forts at Mand and Tump, which were held by the Nizam of Mekran with local forces and a small detachment of the Mekran levy corps. These places are respectively about 10 miles and 30 miles within the Mekran border, and more than 300 miles outside the frontier of British India. Failing to take either, Bahram Khan withdrew to the south, and then, on the reported approach of reinforcements, into Persian territory, taking much loot with him. The tribesmen were unusually well armed—a fact attributable to the presence of Germans with considerable supplies of arms at Karman. Since September there have been no further inroads.

Gallipoli Reinforcements. Jan. 12.

Mr. TENNANT, replying to Mr. G. TERRELL, who asked when the Government decided to give Sir Ian Hamilton the reinforcements asked for on May 10 and 17, said he had not yet been able to get the date when it was decided to send the reinforcements and when they were despatched to Gallipoli.

Aliens on the Suez Canal.

Lord ROBERT CECIL informed Mr. PETO that the question of employment as pilots on the Suez Canal of persons of Austrian or other enemy nationality was inquired into on the outbreak of war. He did not think any such persons were now employed, but he would make inquiries.

Dardanelles Dispatches.

Mr. ASQUITH informed Sir E. CORNWALL that dispatches covering the operations in Gallipoli up to the time of the withdrawal would be published in due course.

GREECE AND THE ALLIES' DIPLOMACY.

Writing to the *Morning Post* on the subject of "Greece and the Entente," Mr. E. B. Ellice-Clark suggests that the criticism showered upon Greek diplomacy and the Greek Government is not wholly justified, and that it is probably "based upon erroneous conceptions arising out of the almost complete ignorance of the public, whose views are formed on what little information is permitted to appear in the Press both here and in France." The Greek side of the question, he declares, is "that the present state of affairs is due entirely to the inefficient, if not stupid, diplomacy of the Allies and the obstinacy of those in authority in England, who insisted in prosecuting the Gallipoli adventure in spite of the warnings of the Greek Staff. The latter were well aware in the early part of 1915 that a secret arrangement existed between the Turks and the Bulgarians, a fact which was freely discussed amongst the Greek community in London, though how far Germany had committed itself to Bulgaria was not so well known here; but that it was well understood in Athens is clear from the fact that owing to Bulgaria's military preparations, Greece and Serbia, as early as February last, approached the Allies with the definite proposal that they, having agreed between themselves, should each send a force, consisting of 300,000 men in all, to invade Bulgaria. This combined attack was never proceeded with owing to the fact that no reply was ever received from the Allies; the proposal was again made by the two Balkan States in April, and again met with no encouragement.

"The next Greek point is that when the Allied diplomacy became alarmed at the attitude of Bulgaria it coquetted with that country, and finally, after much procrastination, made definite offers of territory at the expense of Greece and Serbia. The cession of territory, the richest part of Greece, so recently won at great cost, would have been hard to bear even had it been 'compensated' for in other directions, but nothing would compensate the Greek nation for barring the road to Constantinople, the possession of which is the dream of every true Hellene.

"The final Greek contention is that the King offered to join the Allied forces for an attack on Constantinople from the north-west, but would not listen for a moment to joining in an expedition to Gallipoli, as the Higher Staff had long formed the opinion that such a venture must end in failure. This view was, to the writer's knowledge, fully shared by leading Greeks in London, some of whom knew the country and had friends who lived there.

"When the history of these offers on the part of the King of the Hellenes comes to be more widely known, it is not unreasonable to suppose that the opinion will be formed that Entente diplomacy was much more to blame than the Greek monarch, and that had the advice of the Greek Staff not been ignored the lamentable expedition to Gallipoli would never have been undertaken."

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DIRECTORY

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PARFITT, Harold, 176, Whitehouse Rd., Croydon.
PATERSON, Mrs. Alexander, Allanshaw, Hamilton, Lanarkshire, N.B.
PATTERSON, Mr. and Mrs. H., Hotel d'Angleterre, Athens.
PEARS, Sir Edwin, 24, Riverview Gardens, Barnes, S.W.; also Reform Club.
PEARS, Henry E., 21, York Street, Portman Square, W.
PEARS, Miss Lorna E., 21, York Street, Portman Square, W.
PEDDIE, F., 109, Avenue de Villiers, Paris.
PISANI, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick, and son, Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22, Athens.
PISANI, Mr. and Mrs. Edward, Boulevard Constantin le Diadoque, No. 53, Piræus.
POYNTER, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh E., 70, Addison Road, W.
RAMSAY, G. McGregor, Hotel Lincoln Hall, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.
RAMSAY, Miss, 18, Alwyne Mansions, Wimbledon, S.W.
RAMSAY, Mrs. Alexander, and family, 18, Alwyne Mansions, Wimbledon, S.W.
RAMSAY, Mrs. G., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
RAWE, Reuben, Old Phaleron, Greece.
REES, T. Bowen and Co., Ltd., 26, Boulevard Constantin du Diadoque, Piræus.
REES, T. Bowen, 26, Boulevard Constantin du Diadoque, Piræus.
REITH, Mrs. G. Douglass, U.F. Manse, Clunie, near Murthly, Perthshire.
RIZZO, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar V., and family, 48, Odoe Hypocratis, Athens.
ROBSON, F., 142, Earlston Road, Liscaird, Cheshire.
ROUTH, R. A. C., 64, Torrington Square, W.C.
ROWELL, Mrs. John, Old Phaleron, Greece.
ROWELL, Mr. and Mrs. Robert, and family, Ridgmont, Russell Gardens, Golders Green, N.W.
RUSSELL, J. MacDowall, British Postmaster, Shanghai, China.
RUSSELL, Mrs. J. MacDowall, c.o. A. H. Brace, Esq., 19, Stafford Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The letter from Alexandria, which we publish on another page, is written in a most optimistic vein. Cotton and cotton-seed prices are all that can be desired, and there is no tendency towards a decline. Imports are much lower than exports, thus leaving a trade balance in favour of Egypt; company results, with the exception of land companies, are showing a marked improvement, and though State revenues show a decline, this is due rather to decreased imports than to the results of direct taxation. The fellah is reaping a golden harvest, and so are local traders, who are thriving on Tommy Atkins as they never did on Cook's shoals of tourists. This is all most welcome, the more so considering that Egypt is no longer a foreign country (though, for some unaccountable reason, the Foreign Office is still arbiter of its destinies, the Capitulations have not been abolished, and the Mixed Courts continue at their leisure), and that it is now an integral part of our Empire. It behoves us in future to remember this. So far, and speaking casually of people whom I chance to meet, the inclination is still to regard Egypt as a "foreign" country. To such an extent is this true that in a recent pamphlet, issued by no mean association, our High Commissioner in Cairo was called the British Ambassador! Decidedly, we must mend our ways, and regard Egypt as something more than a foreign country. Her interests are our interests, and if, after this war, we really intend promoting "Trade within the Empire," let us remember Egypt, the nucleus of our great "Empire of the Nile."

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These remarks lead back to our Alexandria Correspondent's letter. He touches lightly on two subjects which might well be included in the "Trade Within the Empire" movement, namely, the cultivation of Egyptian rice and the Egyptian cigarette industry. Egypt, he writes, grows the best rice in the world, and England—*ergo*, the British Empire—does not know it. Here, then, is a chance for the Empire to buy up Egypt's rice, giving her in exchange commodities which she does not produce Incidentally I draw my readers' attention to the report—given elsewhere—on rice samples issued by the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture.

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Regarding the cigarette industry, I have already written frequently and at some length about it. An industry employing 20,000 workpeople and represented by a capital of £12,000,000 should not be inordinately penalised. Tobacco re-exported should be taken out of bond exactly as it is in this country. To penalise it by reducing the drawback cannot be recommended. Temporarily it may have the effect of bringing in greater revenues, but in the long run it tends to reduce the industry, and with it the quantity of tobacco imported, each pound of which pays an *ad valorem* tax. The loss to the country of a flourishing industry, said loss being promoted by fiscal covetousness—*vide* the fable of the hen and the golden egg—would mean a serious reduction in State revenues, and should be prevented if possible. Doubtless the attention of the authorities has already been drawn to this matter, and better days are in store for the greatest, if not the only appreciable, Egyptian industry. Besides, it is now an Imperial industry, a unit in the great industries of our Empire. Here, again, we can in future increase our purchases of Egyptian cigarettes, in exchange for articles produced or grown elsewhere.

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It will, perhaps, be argued that I need not insist here on "Trade within the Empire"; that it will follow in due course, just as day follows night. Perhaps. But, from a quotation (reproduced elsewhere) from the *Egyptian Gazette*, there is no reason to suppose that, after the war, Germany and Austria will not resume their old trade rôle in the Valley of the Nile. Emphatically, this must not be allowed. Let Germany and Austria supply themselves with each other's cheap wares—Germany exchanging penny tin-trumpets for Austria's cotton socks—but let us do our utmost to keep those trumpets and socks from flooding the Imperial (including, of course, the Egyptian) market. For behind each trumpet there blows a German political agent, and in each pair of socks there walks an Austrian provocateur! I cannot insist on this too frequently, and any peace which does not satisfactorily exclude Germany from trading with our Empire is a peace unworthy of the heroism of Britain's sons who have fought, let us hope not in vain, for the Empire. Better another two years of war now than a repetition of the past.

***

If the Egyptian cigarette industry, which, apparently, it would take little to rehabilitate, is in a bad way, how about the cultivation of tobacco in that peculiarly administered island known by the name of Cyprus? The correspondent whose letter is published elsewhere, and who ought to be in a position to know something about the subject, is another optimist with whom State exigencies have not dealt kindly. He believes in the possibilities of tobacco cultivation in Cyprus because he has tried it and results have been satisfactory. Nevertheless, he seems to have come up against vested interests with unfortunate results. Did the Government of the island help him in any way to assert himself, thus creating a new source of revenue for the State and a new source of wealth for the people? Apparently not. Nevertheless, here we have two members of the Empire, the one, Cyprus, able to grow tobacco of a seemingly good quality but having no cigarette manufacturing industry, and the other, Egypt, growing no "weed," but possessing an important tobacco industry. The deduction is obvious: Let the one help to feed the other, beginning on a small but on an ever-increasing scale. It remains, of course, to be proven that Cyprus tobacco is, or will be, acceptable to the Egyptian manufacturer, but unless it is given a fair trial, and the cultivation supported by Government, I fail to see how the proof can be forthcoming. The fact that the small quantities held in stock in Cyprus were bought at a good price by a Turkish tobacco expert is, I think, a good recommendation.

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The Egyptian Ministry of Justice has introduced certain amendments to the Five Feddan Law by virtue of which the mortgage of any land mortgaged previous to the introduction of the law, and the renewal of the mortgage of which was allowed under the law until January 4, 1918, may now be extended for a further period of five years from the date on which the original mortgage period expired, to enable the proprietors of such land to pay off their debts. This amendment, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, has been sent for the approval of the Mixed Court of Appeal so as to make it applicable to Europeans also.

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The *Chamber of Commerce Journal* for January contains the annual trade review dealing with the future. Everything, it says, naturally depends upon the end of the war and the conditions of peace, but victory must sooner or later rest with the Entente Powers. A well-known American writer recently pointed out that, even assuming Germany everywhere successful on land, she would still be beaten, because no German vessel could sail the seas without the consent of the British and Allied Fleets. England has worked day and night to furnish the Allies with equipment and supplies, while the part she has played in connection with finance will probably surprise many when the full history of the war is written. At present it is, of course, obvious that our manufacturers, with depleted staffs, are so fully occupied with urgent war requirements that they are largely precluded from accepting orders in the ordinary course, but possibly, in this respect, matters may become a little easier in the near future. It is, therefore, necessary that immediate consideration shsould be given to the future of trade and industry when peace conditions once more obtain. Steps are being taken by qualified commercial bodies to arrive at a prompt decision on practical issues which will then be raised, while evidence is not wanting that the British Government is alive to the need for early action in certain directions. Among all sections the feeling appears to be growing in intensity that never again shall our present unscrupulous enemies receive equal treatment with our relatives and friends in future commercial arrangements.

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As previously referred to in these columns, two of the steamship lines which ply between Europe and the East—namely, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and the Dutch Lloyd, are now following the Cape instead of the Suez route. Yesterday Reuter's Agency reported from Rotterdam that it had been arranged that a Dutch steamer should sail to the East Indies round the Cape once in every ten days. No goods, but only passengers and mails, will be taken to South African ports for the present. The passenger rates to South Africa will be identical with those of the Union-Castle Line. Moreover, I have been given to understand that the Japanese line has likewise come to an arrangement with South African lines, whereby there will be no clashing of interests. On the other hand, the impression prevailing in shipping circles is that the present state of unrest in the Mediterranean will not be of long duration, and that the normal running of steamers bound to and from the Near East will be resumed at a relatively early date.

COMMENTATOR.

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Tobacco Culture in Cyprus.

(*To the Editor of* THE NEAR EAST.)

Sir,—In the lecture delivered by Mr. Roland Michell at the Royal Colonial Institute in November last it is rightly mentioned that, owing to fiscal restrictions, tobacco cultivation has been stamped out.

During the year 1912 I carried out elaborate experiments with various renowned tobacco seeds on different soils to test the most favourable conditions under which the plants could thrive. This being satisfactorily solved, I viewed the commercial possibilities with keen interest no less than the advantages the cultivation would bring to the country as a whole if it were revived. I thereupon bought a tract of land (Cherkez Chiflic) near Limassol of alluvial formation and rich in nitrate salts. Cultivation was begun on a fairly moderate scale, and the first stock of leaf gathered in the year 1913 possessed high qualities, judging from the reputation which the cigarettes acquired both in aroma and flavour.

The question turned to the disposal of the crop. Of this outcome I can only speak with bitter regret. Manufacturers in Cyprus, as well as in Egypt, import their leaf from Balkan and Turkish growers, who are mere instruments in the hands of companies and merchants in their respective regions, and who enjoy great advantages in growing. Consequently, my industry was looked upon as that of a dangerous rival. The first task of these people was, therefore, to boycott the purchase of my crop, and consequently to try and put an end to it. This being conducted on a systematic scale, notwithstanding my vigorous efforts, the only resort left open to me was to float a company for the manufacture of the Cyprus-grown leaf.

Here again obstinate troubles confronted me. The manufacture of cigarettes is still governed by the Occupation Law, dating some thirty-nine years ago, demanding from all manufacturers a minimum annual output, so as to assure the income of a certain amount of Excise revenue, and thus to enable the authorities chiefly to maintain Customs officials for that purpose. This specified quantity was beyond my powers of production, at least for the first few years. Unable, however, to comply with this regulation, I tendered to defray the extra expenses entailed by not agreeing to the minimum output, and offered to pay the salaries of the officials appointed. The offer was flatly refused. Confident, nevertheless, of the reforms that will certainly follow the annexation, including the amendment of the archaic law, I hope eventually to attain the desired results.

A large stock of leaf is accumulating from year to year. Quite recently one of the leading authorities on the Turkish tobacco trade who sought refuge in this island on Turkey's entry in the war was remarkably impressed on inspecting the leaf grown here, and admired the natural qualities which distinguish it. So much impressed was he that he finally purchased a large portion of the stock I had on hand at a most favourable price. In consequence of this sale of nearly 12,000 lb. at about 1s. a lb., I have been prompted more than ever to carry out the cultivation on a larger scale. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that tithe dues paid amounted to over £100, and the economic benefit, therefore, to be derived from the cultivation of tobacco on a deserving scale will be marked by a considerable increase in the general revenue.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

NAJIM HOURY.

Cyprus, December 23.

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ALEXANDRIA PRIZE COURT.

SS. Derflinger (ex-Cargo).

Judge Grain has handed down in the Alexandria Prize Court a judgment in a case in connection with cargo ex the Derflinger from which the following are extracts:—

In this case there are various consignments of merchandise consigned either to or from Herren Winckler and Co., of Yokohama (Japan), and some consigned to or from Herren J. Winckler, of Hamburg. The point which is now raised before me in this matter is the status of the firm of Winckler and Co., of Japan.

The Procurator maintains that it is a German firm, a German partnership consisting of six members—namely, F. Dankwerts and H. Winckler, both German subjects and both resident in Germany; J. Westphalen, F. Gensen, F. Fachtmann and G. Seling, also all German subjects, but all resident in Japan. They each hold shares to the value of 10,000 yen in the partnership, but the liability of Dankwerts, Westphalen, Gensen, Fachtmann and Selig is unlimited, while that of H. Winckler is a limited liability.

This partnership is registered at Yokohama in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Empire of Japan as a Goshi Kwaisha, which appears to be an association of individuals of whom the liability of some is limited and others unlimited.

There is also a Herr J. Winckler, who is sometimes in invoices and bills of lading described as Herren J. Winckler, who resides at Hamburg. This individual is described in the affidavits of the claimants as being merely a "buying agent," but from the correspondence placed before me he appears to carry on a very considerable business in Germany, and that he alone or together with other persons is conducting a business house in Hamburg, and carrying on a business in Germany on a somewhat considerable scale, on far too large a scale to be called a "mere buying agency."

The Procurator asks that this firm shall be treated as an ordinary partnership, and that the property which is in the German subjects who reside in Germany may be confiscated, as was done in the Clan Grant case.

Mr. Booth, who appears on behalf of Winckler and Co., maintains that a partnership which is registered as a Goshi Kwaisha in Japan is a corporation with a separate legal entity, and must be treated as a Japanese company carrying on business in Japan, and not as a German partnership firm. Another affidavit is put in sworn by Rokiuchiro Masujima, barrister-at-law of the Middle Temple, and of the Japanese Bar, who states that he is legal adviser to the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Company. This affidavit states that "acording to Japanese law a Goshi Kwaisha has its own legal existence distinct from that of any of the members composing it."

The first point to be decided is whether I am to decide this matter wholly by reference to the law of Great Britain or in part by reference to the law of Japan. Dicey, in his "Conflict of Laws," states:—"The principle is now well established that a corporation duly created in one country is recognised as a corporation in other countries." And I feel sure that if the registration of a partnership as a Goshi Kwaisha does confer on that partnership all the attributes of a British Company in Great Britain I am bound to deal with it accordingly.

A Goshi Kwaisha must have among its members "one or more partners with limited liability, and one or more partners with unlimited liability." Therefore, directly either of these elements is wanting, the Goshi Kwaisha is ipso facto dissolved.

In a Goshi Kwaisha, if certain members fall out of the partnership, the whole construction falls to the ground. Again, certain members of the Goshi Kwaisha are liable for partnership debts to the full extent of their possession while other partners have no responsibility for the obligations of the concern.

Both these elements are absent from that body of individuals which is usually designated a "company." For instance, a transfer of shares in no way affects the company as a whole.

It may be, as the two learned gentlemen in their affidavits state, that a Goshi Kwaisha has a separate entity for some purposes, for instance, for the purpose of holding land, and there seems no doubt that when any of these four different associations of individuals have registered themselves in Japan they are entitled to hold land. But these affidavits are not sufficient to convince me that a Goshi Kwaisha has all the attributes of a British company, and, as I have already said, a Goshi Kwaisha appears to me to be more or less the same as a registered partnership.

I have, therefore, come to the conclusion that I must merely treat this as a partnership and deal with it under the Clan Grant case—viz., release the shares of those members who are resident in Japan, and confiscate the shares of those subjects who reside in Germany.

SALE OF GREEK STEAMER.

H.M. Consul at Pirseus has forwarded a copy of the Greek Government *Gazette*, of December 8, containing a call for tenders by the Ministry of Finances for the sale by public auction of the Greek ocean-going steamship Macedonia, built by Messrs. Laing, of Sunderland, in 1912, and classed 100 A1 at Lloyd's.

This vessel, formerly a unit in the Greek Navy, has been damaged by shell fire and the resultant conflagration. The engines, boilers and auxiliary machinery are stated to be in good order and the vessel recently steamed at 16½ knots. The furnishings and fittings of the ship are entirely destroyed, but the vessel is stated to be capable and worthy of being restored as an ocean-going liner.

The following are the principal dimensions of the vessel, which is at present anchored in the port of the Royal Arsenal at Salamine:—Length, 422 ft.; breadth, 51 ft.; depth of hold, 23.4 ft.; gross tonnage, 6,333; net tonnage, 3,540; engines, 1,108 N.H.P. A minimum sale price of 1,300,000 drachmae (about £52,500 at current exchange) has been fixed and no tender for less than that amount will be accepted. Sealed tenders, addressed to the "Commis d'enrégistrement, Ministère des Finances," Athens, will be received there up to noon on March 27.

Tenders must be accompanied by (1) a guarantee of having deposited with one of the State banks the sum of 130,000 drachmae (about £5,250 at par) in cash or Greek Government bonds; or (2) a cheque for that amount on the National Bank of Greece, payable to the order of the Minister of Finances; or (3) a letter of guarantee for that amount from the National Bank of Greece, or the Ionian Bank, Limited, in London.

[The above-mentioned copy of the *Gazette*, containing further particulars (in French) regarding the vessel, may be consulted by United Kingdom firms interested at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.]

The following note is issued in Paris:—Certain newspapers announced the arrest of the Norwegian Consul at Salonika. The person arrested is Herr Seefelder, an Austrian subject, and a well known merchant in Salonika. He was merely honorary Norwegian Consul. Thus, says Reuter, he is not a Consul "de carrière," and has no political connection with the Christiania Cabinet.

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Egypt in 1914.

An American Opinion.

The U.S. Consul at Alexandria has published his annual report for 1913-14, from which the following are extracts :—

As a one-crop country the basic element of Egypt's economic prosperity lies in its ability to market its cotton. The outbreak of hostilities brought with it an almost complete cessation of demand for cotton in the world's market. This condition confronted Egypt just at the time when the moving of the 1914-15 cotton crop was about to begin. The funds to finance the annual cotton crop are drawn principally from London. This financial support from abroad was entirely withheld and an almost complete deadlock of financial and business activity ensued. Excepting the small-note issue of the National Bank of Egypt and the subsidiary coinage of the Egyptian Government, the money medium in Egypt is the British gold pound and in a small measure the French gold 20-fr. piece. The almost wholly restricted exportation of gold from London together with the hoarding of such coin as was in the country created a shortage of money that was met by expanding the note issue of the National Bank of Egypt. By special decree of August 2, 1914, the notes were made legal tender and their inconvertibility into gold temporarily suspended. The 50 per cent. statutory gold reserve, however, was at all times maintained. The note issue aggregated about four times that of the usual, and approximated £E8,000,000.

Advance in Cotton.

A scheme was evolved to ameliorate the condition of the small grower and facilitate the marketing of the crop. The Egyptian Government, through a loan guaranteed by the British Government, arranged with the National Bank of Egypt for temporary advances on cotton at the rate of 6½ per cent. Later this governmental support was extended to the purchase of cotton at the market price in small lots from such growers as were unable satisfactorily to dispose of their holdings. Toward the end of December exportation of cotton began to assume normal proportions.

The difficulties of the financial situation induced by the outbreak of the war were by no means overcome with the extended note issue mentioned above. Recourse was had to a moratorium.

Precautionary measures were put into force at the beginning of the war seeking to maintain a sufficiency of life necessities in Egypt by prohibiting the export of foodstuffs. Restrictions at first were stringent and wide in their application, but were gradually relaxed as the condition of the country's needs was fully studied.

A factor in the commercial life of Egypt is the trade with Syria and the Levantine Islands. While the value of this business each year is not very great, the volume is considerable. Being almost exclusively in the hands of smaller native traders, it is of vast importance to the general commercial prosperity of the country. Upon the declaration of war with Turkey, this phase of Egyptian commercial activity was brought to an abrupt standstill.

Tourist Season.

The tourist season in Egypt begins in November and continues until the end of April. The 1913-14 season was the most prosperous Egypt has experienced in years. During the last months of 1914 there was absolutely no tourist movement. None of the larger hotels in Cairo were opened, and all of the resorts in Upper Egypt remained practically without visitors. The shopkeepers, cabmen, and others in Cairo and Alexandria, whose business is dependent on the tourist season, were compensated to a considerable degree by the arrival of the large bodies of British and French troops for the Turkish campaign.

The larger portion of the ocean traffic with Egypt and the ports of Mediterranean Europe has been carried on under German and Austrian flags. Italian and Greek ships did a certain amount of carrying to Levantine ports. Freight and passenger traffic ceased almost entirely with the commencement of hostilities.

The compressing of cotton and the warehousing and shipping of cotton and cotton seed together with general port work and cargo handling employs a large amount of native labour. By the sudden stoppage of these activities thousands were thrown out of employment. So vast a number of idle suddenly imposed on an urban population was a great menace to the internal peace of the country. The problem was met by distributing as many as possible of the unemployed in the country districts. Large numbers were returned to their native villages. A plan inaugurated by the municipality of Alexandria, by which large tracts of municipally owned lands were graded and levelled gave daily employmen to about 2,500 men.

While Egypt is primarily an agricultural country with a one-crop product (cotton and cotton seed representing fully 85 per cent. of its exports), its consumption of manufactured products is limited in proportion to its population when compared with such consumption in Western European countries and the United States. The life of the agriculturist is most primitive. Fully 75 per cent. of the cultivated land is worked by individuals owning two acres or less. The wants of this class for a manufactured article goes a little beyond material for wearing apparel, which is limited to a cotton gown. Egypt can produce its cereal food requirements. The agriculturist, as a rule, does provide these for his own needs; the urban population, however, is fed from imported products.

During the past three years there have been no noteworthy changes in the conditions governing Egypt's foreign trade relations, and whether any permanent radical changes will result from the war is a matter which may not be determined until normal peace conditions have again prevailed for at least a year. As with every country at war, Egypt's imports and exports show a large decrease during the period from the commencement of hostilities until the end of the calendar year. This reduction is due to the sudden severance of transportation facilities, the disruption of commercial relations with hostile nations, and embargoes on exports from Egypt and friendly countries.

Banking.

Egypt's banking facilities are fully adequate. With the exception of the National Bank of Egypt, a quasi-governmental institution, the other larger banks are branches of banking corporations with principal offices in London, Paris, Berlin, Rome, and Athens. Advantageous transactions with the United States, however, can only be done through London. American purchases of Egyptian cotton are all paid for by credits in London. Payments for American coal and lumber are likewise made in London. Payments for purchases from America that make up the articles of lesser values in the imports, for the most part, are made by drafts collected through the European houses of local banking institutions. In some instances collections are remitted direct from New York banks to local ones.

The absence of the jobber or wholesaler in the make-up of Egyptian commercial conditions requires that the ordinary manufactured goods be sold direct to larger retailers. This fact necessitates the employment of the commission house and smaller sales agent. In dealing with an import commission house the responsibility of local credit is often assumed by the latter. When goods are placed through smaller selling agents the credit responsibility must always rest with the exporter. While the agent will attend to delivery and collections, he assumes no responsibility outside of the diligence in placing orders only for apparently sound purchasers.

TRADE NOTES.

Egypt.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-1918). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Date, March 1.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, for the supply of coal and coke necessary for the branches of the Department from April 1 to September 30. Date, January 22.

Tenders are invited by the Secrétaire Générale des Domaines de l'Etat (Service Technique), Cairo, for the supply (1) of 13,315 okes of "huile pour mouvements"; (2) 7,670 okes of "huile pour cylindres"; (3) 16,200 okes of "huile pour moteurs Diesel." Date, February 2.

Tenders are invited by the Controller, Cairo Tangier Department, for the supply of 320 tons of "extra hard pitch" required during the financial year 1916-1917. Samples shall be submitted at the Roads Service Depô, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, before noon, on March 1, 1916. Date, March 1.

Sudan.

The general manager, Sudan Government Railways, is prepared to receive tenders for the supply of the following timber :—

100,000 ft. run of Swedish pine in sizes varying from ¾-inch by 9 in. to 2 in. by 9 in.
2,500 ft. run of 3 in. by 3 in. by 13 ft.
1,500 ft. run of 4 in. by 4 in. by 13 ft.
25,000 ft. run of pitch pine in sizes varying from 1 in. by 9 in. to 4 in. by 12 in.
6 pitch pine baulks, 9 in. by 9 in. by 36 in.
6 pitch pine baulks, 9 in. by 12 in. by 20 ft.
12 pitch pine baulks, 12 in. by 12 in. by 20 ft.

Tenders, which should state prices and possible date of delivery of timber, may be sent to any of the following :—

Sir A. L. Webb, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W., quoting price f.o.b. London.

Agent, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria, quoting price for delivery in Alexandria.

General Manager, Sudan Government Railways, Atbara, quoting price c.i.f. Port Sudan or for local delivery.

From all of whom also tender forms and fuller information as to the sizes of timber required may be obtained. Tenders, which should be enclosed in sealed envelopes, plainly marked on the outside "Tender for Timber," much reach any of the above addresses by not later than noon of February 1, 1916.

Malta.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies notify that tenders for the supply of about 4,000 tons of steam coal, to be delivered at Malta not later than March 1, will be received at the offices of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W., up to January 17. Copies of the conditions of contract may be obtained on application to the Crown Agents, as above.

Cyprus.

A notice has appeared in the *Cyprus Gazette* (Extraordinary) notifying that the High Commissioner has approved of special licences being granted by the Provost Marshal for a limited quantity of potatoes being exported to Egypt, subject to certain regulations which are designed to facilitate exportation after local requirements at reasonable prices have been satisfied.

The Government of Cyprus has for sale about 266 Cyprus okes of harpoon-fished sponges, good quality, and 29 okes skarta from Cyprus waters this year; also 748 okes of machine-finished sponges, good quality, and 89 okes skarta. Tenders for the purchase of same will be received by the Inspector of Fisheries up to 12 noon on January 29, 1916. The sponges may be seen on application to the Collector of Customs, Limassal, and full information obtained by application at the office of the Inspector of Fisheries, Nicosia.

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Foreign Trade Conditions.

The following general remarks on trade in Spain, from a recent Consular report, apply so adequately to conditions in the Near East that we reproduce them, at the same time advising British manufacturing exporters interested in the Levant market to apply the suggestions and deductions to their own business sphere, because conditions obtaining in Spain are identical to those obtaining in the Near East.

"In visiting the various shops in Vigo one cannot but help being impressed by the amount of German goods with which they are all stocked. Most of the articles are of good appearance, but will not bear close inspection. However, they appear to suit the market. The German manufacturers seem to have gone in for supplying the poorer class of customer all over the world, and undoubtedly this is the class which, collectively, consumes most. Most people of slender means in these southern countries have not the patience to save up their money in order to buy articles of good quality, and in general both the poorer class and people of moderate means are more attracted by a showy appearance and get-up—quality being a subordinate consideration. There is also the desire for novelty and change, which could not be so easily gratified if the better-class article were bought.

"Catering for the masses is without doubt the best business, and the German manufacturers and merchants know this. They also seem to have studied the tastes of the people, and pack their goods in such a manner that the covering boxes or wrappers alone create an incentive to purchase.

"There is also the question of credit, which is never less than ninety days with the Germans, and more often than not is six months. Of course, these long credits have to be paid for in the price put on the articles, but the shopkeeper does not mind that; what he objects to is having to pay for goods before any of them are sold.

"In spite of the recommendations by various Consular officers that catalogues should be printed in the language of the country to which they are sent, many British firms still continue to send catalogues to Spain printed in English. The amount spent in this manner is money absolutely thrown away. Catalogues for Spain should not only be printed in Spanish, but the measurements and weights should also be given in the metric system; likewise the prices in pesetas should be given alongside the sterling prices based on the local currency at par (the price can then be worked out according to the rate of exchange of the day). Whenever possible c.i.f. prices should be quoted, as the retail merchant is then able to work out what each article will cost to put in his shop after paying Customs duties, etc. These suggestions mean a more or less elaborate catalogue which may be expensive to draw up, but it is the only way to convey an intelligent idea of the cost of goods to foreign buyers.

"In regard to commercial travellers, H.M. Consul states that during the nine months he has been at Vigo only two travellers for British firms have passed there to his knowledge. One would think that the present is an opportune time for British merchants to step in and capture trade in Spain. Even if the business done at the outset proved to be of little importance, the fact should not be lost sight of that a certain amount of experience of the market would be gained, not to mention the advantages which would be derived from a personal acquaintance with the merchants and business men of the place. Of course, it is essential that a traveller should speak Spanish."

TURCO-BULGARIAN AGREEMENT.

According to a Sofia telegram, says a Reuter message from Amsterdam, the agreement relating to the adjustment of the Turco-Bulgarian frontier provides that the ceded Adrianople-Luleburgas Railway may be used by the Turks in a most liberal manner for a further five years, so that Turkey, both in peace and war times, will be able to transport arms, troops, ammunition and provisions over the railway without restriction or control on the part of the Bulgarian Government.

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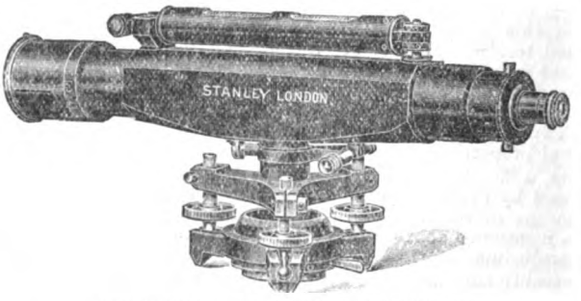

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ENEMY FIRMS IN EGYPT.

The following paragraphs appeared in recent issues of the *Egyptian Gazette*, and supplement our Cairo correspondent's remarks on the same subject, on page 284 :—

Trade After the War.

There is little likelihood that the war will have any permanent and serious effects on German and Austrian trade with Egypt. There is, in fact, very good ground for believing that after the war those two nations will recover all the hold that they had over Egyptian trade prior to the war. It is by no means surprising that such may be the case. There is no public opinion here, and the Press is to all intents and purposes powerless, so nothing can be done.

It is generally held, no doubt, that the enemy firms cannot do business here, but this is not the case, because of the system of licences. Under the Proclamation of August 16 last, persons of enemy nationality are forbidden during the continuance of the war to carry on business in Egypt except under a licence, and this is also applicable to all agents for persons of enemy nationality.

The Proclamation is practically null if licences are being granted wholesale, as there is good reason to believe they are. Yesterday, for instance, we received a letter from a German firm, the Cairo branch of Siemens' Schuckert and the representatives in Egypt of Siemens and Halske, of Berlin, to inform us that they were in possession of licence number 239, whereby they were enabled to encash the amounts due to them by virtue of the Proclamation of August 16 last. If this licence is the 239th that has been granted since the Proclamation—and there is no reason to suppose that that number is anywhere near the limit—it is clear that the distribution of licences must be proceeding on a liberal scale.

There is no need to criticise the authorities here, for things are just as bad in England, where the Proclamations of the Government, as well as the judgments of the Courts, might have been calculated expressly to help the German traders to live through the war. As the *Morning Post* remarks, these Proclamations and regulations were promulgated with the object of making the public think that a great deal was being done, while in reality the intention was to do nothing at all.

German Analine Dye Agents.

In October, 1914, the firm of Agourl and Fils, Alexandria, bought 6,000 okes of synthetic indigo, from the German firm of Kortenhaus and Hammerstein, of Cairo, for a sum of £1,500. Owing to the sudden rise in price of this commodity, supplies of which in Egypt are nearly exhausted as they came exclusively from Germany, the sellers refused to deliver the goods. Messrs. Agourl, therefore, sued them for £2,880 damages for breach of contract.

The case was heard before the Mixed Court of Appeal. Messrs. Kortenhous and Hammerstein contended that they acted merely in their capacity of agents of the Bedische Analine and Sodafabrik, so that the case brought against them as such could not be justified. The Court decided that this argument could not stand under the present circumstances, trade with enemy countries having been prohibited. The Court, however, approved the decision of the Cairo Commercial Court which had admitted the responsibility of Messrs. Kortenhaus and Hammerstein, and ordered the parties to appear again personally in order that the amount of damages to be awarded should be discussed.

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Engineering Notes.

A Plantation Plough.

Fruit growers and gardeners in the East, and in almost all districts of the Mediterranean coast, are often faced with a serious difficulty when digging and trenching operations are needed in fruit plantations and in gardens, or in fields bordered by fruit trees. The work has to be done seasonably and quickly, and be done mostly by hand, as for such work the ordinary plough cannot be used under trees because of branches being in the way. Hence the wages at such seasons are often doubled and trebled; and, according to recent reports, owing to the present great scarcity of labour, and especially of diggers, many fruit plantations and vineyards will be left unattended this year. We thought of this the other day when viewing the operating of a new plantation plough in an orchard. It has been designed to meet the great needs of fruit growers at home and abroad. A special feature of this new plough is that it is fitted with swivelling handles, so that it can be used underneath the branches of fruit trees and bushes, turning the soil over against the butts of the trees, or away from them if desired; whilst the pony and man walk clear of the branches. The line of draught may be instantly altered by slackening a couple of hand-screws; whilst the depth of ploughing can be adjusted as desired. The weight of the plough is 1½ cwt. (about 76 kilogr., or 60 okes). It is an invention of a light and practically useful agricultural implement which will appeal to all fruit growers, and especially those in the East.

One-Man Timber Carrier.

Lack of labour and the severe rules of trade unionism are, undoubtedly, the inspiring guides to many modern inventors in their efforts to find ways and means for the replacement of man by machinery. Profits are nowadays so curtailed in all industrial enterprises that means for saving costs and working expenses are imperative in order to secure success. Thus, a labour-saving appliance which, operated by one man, can do the work of two, three, or four men is highly appreciated by employers of labour. Realising the difficulties experienced in removing logs or timber from forests or saw mills in the East, and the slow progress made owing to the want of suitable appliances for this purpose, we were much interested to see recently a new timber trolley which enables one youth to pick up and walk away with heavy logs of timber. It is designed for use in timber yards, or where timber is being cleared in the woods or forests, or on sidings connected with stations belonging to different railway companies. It is a two-wheeled carrier, light, yet very substantial; two pairs of grippers, which form an important feature of the vehicle, are actuated from the front part of the trolley, or carrier, so that whilst the labourer, or youth, is at the handle adjusting the wheels over the log, he is enabled to manipulate the grippers by means of two separate levers or rods, which are situated above and underneath the central bar or carrier, and close to the handle. Thus the gripper at the back is first made to engage with the log, and afterwards, the handle being lowered, the front gripper becomes engaged, and it is quite easy to judge and balance the log on this carrier, which is also very useful for lifting and carrying square timbers, boxes, stones, iron pipes, girders, and other heavy goods.

Dyeing by Machinery.

Apart from the native dyers (the ever-busy Oriental boyatjis), with their archaic vat equipments and methods for dyeing textile materials, but who, nevertheless, do considerable business all the year round, there are several steam and other power cotton and wool factories in the East, which, in spite of their modern plant of textile machinery, still adhere to the old and cumbersome boyatjis' methods of dyeing. Nevertheless, there are modern machines of the vat system which could be obtained at a very reasonable outlay, and which give far better results at a much lower scale of working expenses. We may allude to one of these machines, which is especially adapted for vat colours. It is so constructed that the operation of dyeing, washing, diazotising, developing, oxidising, and hydro-extracting can be performed without disturbing the material in any way, once it has been placed in the machine. In this machine the hydro-extractor is self-contained in the dyeing chamber, so that as soon as dyeing is complete, hydro-extracting commences. Dyeing takes place in a partial vacuum, which ensures perfect and even penetration. Air may also be blown through the material for oxidising purposes when necessary. A great saving of labour and dye-stuff, a larger output, improved conditions of the manufactured goods, and economy of power and space are claimed as characteristics of this machine.

Improvements in the Helouan Line.

Since taking over the Helouan railway line from the Delta Light Railways Company, on December 1, the Egyptian State Railways have started the promised improvements, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. The number of trains has been increased from fifteen a day to twenty, and it will continue to be increased until the end of the month, when forty trains, or even more, are expected to be running daily. The reduction of the time required for the journey appears, however, to be entirely impracticable at present owing to the bad condition of the permanent way, which requires relaying; and to the ruined condition of the houses adjacent to the line between Bab el Lonk until past Old Cairo. The relaying of the line will be carried out when the doubling of the line between Ismailia and Zagazig is completed. As regards the locomotives and carriages these will also be gradually changed until the old ones disappear altogether.

Damietta as a Port.

El Ahram, a native Cairo paper, writes :—The opening of new Egyptian seaports besides Alexandria has been demanded on many occasions by those who see that Port Said, Rosetta, and Damietta deserve to be cared for. The distribution of commerce and industry among different towns and seaports is a fundamental rule in political economy. Had they opened Damietta as a seaport the whole of the Dakahlieh province would have made greater progress than it actually has done. Damietta is situated opposite Anatolia, and near Syria and Cyprus. On the other side, the town is connected with the interior by means of both the Nile and the railway, and vessels from Damietta can be seen sailing through the Nile up to Cairo. The late French delegate in the railway administration once wrote that "Cairo is a seaport." Damietta was created to be the seaport of Cairo, and it is unfair economically to place it in an inferior position.

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Near East Markets.

EGYPTIAN RICE CULTIVATION.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, December 28.

The rice crop this year was a record, as a result of the plentiful Nile flood. However, prices are very low owing to lack of exports. Egypt produces the best rice in the world, and it is a pity that it is not appreciated in England at its proper value. Turkey is Egypt's best purchaser of rice, but since the war there are, of course, no sales to that country. Consequently, other markets will have to be sought.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture publishes a report from London on some samples of Egyptian-Japani rice, which had been sent to England for examination. The samples, says the report, sent were of unhusked paddy, and of cleaned and polished rice, both grown in Gharbia, and the latter prepared in the mills at Damietta. The report continues:—

(a) A firm of rice merchants stated that there was no sale in London for rice of the quality represented by the samples. A second firm of merchants, however, reported that the value of the rice in the husk would be approximately 8s. 6d. per cwt. c.i.f. London, if shipped in bulk, or 9s. per cwt. if shipped in bags, whilst the decorticated rice would be worth about 12s. per cwt. c.i.f. London (November, 1915).

(b) A firm of starch manufacturers reported that as a general rule they use only "broken rice," and they feared that the present sample of decorticated rice would be too good for their purpose. They stated that at present the prices for rice are very high owing to the increased cost of freight from the East, and mentioned that "c.i. Siam broken rice" is now valued at about 10s. per cwt. c.i.f. London (November, 1915), although the normal price is only about 7s. per cwt.

The firm expressed their willingness to test this Egyptian rice for their manufactures, and asked to be informed when consignments came on the market. They would also be particularly interested in consignments of broken husked rice.

These reports show that there will probably be a market for this Egyptian rice in England, but, as the rice market is limited owing to the war, care will have to be taken in placing the Egyptian rice on the market.

In order to facilitate further inquiries, the following particulars are required:—

(1) The names and addresses of firms who are prepared to ship rice from Egypt, with the names and addresses, if any, of their agents in London.

(2) The quantity of rice likely to be available for export (a) husked, (b) unhusked.

This information, if sent to the Bureau of Commercial Intelligence, Ministry of Agriculture, would be communicated to the buyers in England, with a view to leading to direct negotiations between them and the growers.

It is mentioned that in previous years it has been difficult to sell unhusked rice in the United Kingdom, the chief market for this product being Holland, where there are important rice-husking and claying mills. It may be necessary, therefore, to husk all the rice in Egypt before export.

The s.s. Mossoul, of the Messageries Maritimes, has arrived at Marseilles from Salonika and Malta, having on board Captain Webster and twenty men of the crew of the British steamer Glengyle, which was torpedoed without warning, when ten men of the crew—three Englishmen and seven Chinese—lost their lives. A steamer rescued the survivors and conveyed them to Malta.—Reuter.

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ROUMANIAN CROPS IN 1915

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, December 14.

The crops this year were superior to those of the preceding season. The following are the official figures for the two seasons :—

	1915. Hectolitres.		1915. Hectolitres.
Wheat	31,448,292	..	17,362,613
Rye	1 025,970	..	690,198
Barley	10,109,752	..	8,987,873
Oats	10,283,548	..	8,815,075
Rape	285,459	..	584,451
Linseed	47,187	..	58,297

Especially noteworthy is the great differenc in the wheat crops, especially as the area cultivated in 1915 (1,904,249 hectares) was less than that of the preceding year. The quality of the new wheat is also superior to that of 1914, bring 77.1 kg. average weight per hectare, as compared with 72.6 kg. in 1914. Apart from this the production in metric quintals in 1915 is nearly double that of 1914, being 24,436,309, as against 12,599,745 quintals.

As regards the autumn crop of maize, the statistics are not yet completed, but it is known that the yield is superior to ordinary years, so that the crop of 1915 may be reckoned as greater than that of the previous ten years.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, January 13.

Currants.

There has been a good demand this past week, with a noticeable hardening of prices for all grades. Provincials are quoted 38s. to 41s., Patras 44s. to 46s., Gulf 44s. to 47s., Vostizzas 43s. to 50s., Zante 40s. to 44s., and Smalls 40s. to 47s. The market in Greece is reported strong, and above the parity of London. The stocks of currants in London on December 31 were 6,275 tons, against 7,102 tons last year, the same period.

Sultanas.

The market is comparatively very quiet, small business only passing, mostly in Afghan fruit, which continues to arrive in small quantities. Prices for Afghan and other Eastern kinds are from 85s. to 100s., and Greeks from 92s. to 120s. The stocks of Sultanas, of all kinds, in London on December 31 were 1,240 tons, against 2,175 last year, and 5,152 tons in 1913, the same period.

Figs and Dates.

Only small business passing in the former; whilst the latter are very quiet.

Seeds.

Linseed is very firm, and rather dearer. Calcutta to London, in any position, has buyers at 84s., while sellers are asking 85s. La Plata, Feb.-March, sold to Hull at 76s. 9d. Bombay to Hull, Jan.-Feb., 84s. 6d. Cotton Seed is firm. London-Egyptian, spot, £14 15s.; loading and afloat, £15; to Hull, spot, £15; loading, £15 10s. was paid, with further buyers. Bombay to Hull, spot, and Jan.-Feb., £14 15s. is asked. Rapeseed is firm, with few offers.

Oils.

Linseed oil is firm. Spot pipes £44 2s. 6d., barrels £45 2s. 6d., month £45 was paid; Jan.-April, £46 paid; May-Aug., £47 paid. Cotton oil is dearer. Crude spot, pipes, £45 15s.; refined pale, pipes, £50; and sweet barrels, spot, £51 to £52. Rape oil is dearer. Refined English, in barrels on spot, £56. Olive oil is very firm. Spot Levant or Spanish, £57 to £58 per tun, ex store.

Oilcakes.

Shortness of supplies continue, resulting in a hardening of prices for all kinds.

Various.

Greek Cream of Tartar, quoted £185 to £190 ton. Beeswax, 125s. to 180s. cwt. Almonds, Jordan, 155s. to 240s. cwt.; Sicily, etc., 125s. to 140s.; Barbary, sweet, 80s. to 90s.; bitter, 60s. to 65s.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, December 28.

The market is surprisingly firm, and in view of our reduced crop (4½ million cantars) it is likely that it will remain so; even higher prices are expected. Next season's acreage will show an increase, cultivators devoting all available space to cotton in the expectancy of maintained prices next winter, coinciding with the remnant sales of old stocks and the conclusion of the war.

Land is being actively prepared throughout Egypt for next season's crop. Sakellarides is being almost exclusively planted.

The demand for Egyptian cotton is very important, and if exports continue to be active, we shall soon be without any cotton.

Cottonseed prices are likewise higher than they ever were before the war. The principal reasons are the great demand from abroad, increased local consumption, and the reduced crop. The tendency of the market continues firm.

SUDAN COTTON.

At the January meeting of the British Cotton Growing Association it was stated that the reports generally from the Sudan for the new crop are very satisfactory, notwithstanding attacks by locusts, and picking will soon commence. The Association was able to render very valuable assistance to the Government in financing and purchasing last year's crop.

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

Lancashire business men engaged in overseas trade are of the opinion that the textile industry will be one of the first in the country to be benefited when the war is over. Stocks will be at a low figure, and with German competition largely discounted the great outlets in the Far and particularly the Near East will of necessity require immediate attention. Many matters, however, will need adjusting. There are the questions of new and sounder credit in the Levant and South America; United States competition in neutral countries; a better system of Consular adaptability to the requirements of each particular nation; the extension of British cotton-growing in Africa and Egypt; and, above all, the labour problem, with its special Lancashire difficulty of securing the craftsmanship necessary to keep the concerns running. Trade potentialities are already disclosing themselves (says the *Times*), but everything gives way to the immediate necessities of the war. One factor is already being dealt with, and the experiment is being tried of bringing women labour from other counties for the purpose of training them in the different classes of manufacture.

ALEXANDRIA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Alexandria, December 28.

The Economic Situation.

When war broke out Egypt passed through a serious crisis, owing to the depreciation of cotton prices and the absence of credit. Banks to a great extent stopped their payments and suspended their activity. Business was thus practically paralysed, and mistrust prevailed everywhere.

However, during 1915 a miracle was performed in Egypt. The unexpected rise in cotton prices, and in those of onions, eggs, and cereals, rapidly increased Egypt's exports, which are to-day superior to her imports. The result is a balance considerably in favour of this country. On the other hand, the presence in the country of considerable bodies of British troops turned out to be a boon for local trade. The result is that Egypt, instead of suffering from the war, is really benefiting therefrom.

It is true that State revenues have diminished, but this is mainly due to a fall in imports, and to decreased receipts from ports, lighthouses, railway traffic, and postal services. On the contrary, revenue from land has given better results.

Results of the improved economic situation are to be discovered in the receipts of certain companies, such as the Delta Light Railways, the Société des Sucreries et de la Raffinerie d'Egypte, the Cairo Tramways, Alexandria Tramways, Alexandria and Ramleh Company, Alexandria Water Company, Crown Brewery, Société des Brasseries d'Egypte, Salt and Soda Co., Kafr-Zayat Cotton Co., etc., etc. —all of which can show an improved balance-sheet. Moreover, banks have never done business so advantageous and healthy as now. The "recouvrements" of the Agricultural Bank increased three-fold during the months of October and November, as compared with the same period in 1914.

It is true that the improvement has not extended to our land companies. These still suffer from the results of the Five Feddan Law. But the fellah is gradually paying off his debts, and happier days are in store for the land companies which have successfully weathered the storm.

The Cigarette Industry.

The Near East has frequently pointed out the precarious situation of the cigarette industry. It was the first to raise the cry of alarm when the industry, which employs 20,000 working men and women and is represented by a capital of £12,000,000, was all but ruined. The recent increase in tobacco import dues aggravates the situation. Whereas the majority of countries, such as Great Britain, the United States, Switzerland, Holland, etc., pay back the import duties on re-exportation (drawback), and Canada even grants an additional bonus, Egypt only pays back one-half the import duties. It thus happens that Egyptian cigarettes, which are exported, pay a local tax here, plus the import tax exacted by the importing market.

The voluntary liquidation of the Eastern Petroleum Company and of the Suez Oil Company is officially announced. Their reconstruction and amalgamation is now proceeding, to be followed by the registration of a new company. Mr. A. H. Bonnard has been appointed liquidator.

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BANKRUPTCIES IN EGYPT.

The Association of Commercial Importers (Alexandria) has published a report of the question of failures and concordats preventifs. The report also deals fully with the publication of patents, the excessive slowness of the Courts with regard to summonses for simple payments, the £E12 deposits, filing of petitions, etc. It has been presented by a special commission to the President of the Court of Appeal and the Procureur Général, who have promised to support and to bring the matter before the Commission which is now sitting in Cairo for the purpose of studying future changes in the Mixed Courts.

Among the suggestions in this report worthy of the attention of the authorities is one for the extension of the power of placing in bankruptcy debtors who are not technically merchants, but who none the less enter into commercial transactions, such as land proprietors, houseowners, those who purchase manure, seeds, coal, building material, those who borrow money or who guarantee a concordat, etc. Another good suggestion is to establish for the failure syndics a series of ten questions, in answering which it would be very difficult for a reprehensible act committed by a debtor to pass unobserved. The suggestion for a change in the method of choosing syndics and in the period of their work is also worthy of notice, says the *Egyptian Gazette*.

The report explains how the inconvenience, at first sight inexplicable, of concordats which are brought in voted with ridiculous dividends arises, and the Association demands that, as is enacted by the Italian Law of March 24, 1903, all persons to whom debts have been ceded, the cession to whom is posterior to the decree convoking the creditors, shall have no right to vote at the concordat.

It may be hoped that the grievances of the Commercial Importers' Association will be taken into serious consideration.

ALEXANDRIA AND RAMLEH RAILWAY.

The report for the year 1914-15 presented to the shareholders at the general meeting held on the 14th ult., shows that the total traffic receipts earned by the company during the twelve months were £E169,281, of which £E83,332 was derived from the Ramleh service and £E85,949 from the service in the city. With the addition of various sums coming in from other sources, the total receipts figure at £E170,596. Expenditure, including the running expenses, municipal dues, and the payment of the debt service totalled £E118,881, leaving a credit balance of £E51,715. This, with the sum of £E2,076 brought forward from the preceding year, makes a total of £E53,791. Of this sum, £E6,000 has been placed to the Ramleh special reserve, £E8,000 to the City special reserve, £E36,562 has been absorbed by the dividend of 4s. per share, while £E1,500 has been distributed as a bonus to the employees and £E881 allocated to the Administrators and Director-General, leaving a balance of £E847 to be carried forward. It is pointed out, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, that the traffic receipts were fairly satisfactory during the first half of the year, but that they fell off considerably in the second six months. In the total, the traffic receipts exceeded those of 1913-14 by only £E308, though receipts from other sources showed an increase of £E7,038. For the same reason that dictated a similar policy last year the directors asked that the payment of the 4s. dividend should be deferred until the distribution could be made without inconvenience to the Treasury.

Reuter reported from Athens on the 6th inst. that with reference to the Commission composed of representatives of the Allies appointed to examine the needs in regard to foodstuffs of neutral countries having a common frontier adjoining enemy States, the Greek Government contends that Greece's only frontier is Bulgaria, which is willing to supply her with the full quantity of flour needed if the railway communications are free. Uneasiness prevails here on the question of the supply of flour, the Minister of the Interior having publicly announced that there were only stocks for four days.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ORIENTAL CARPET MANUFACTURERS.—Notice is given that the general meeting which was to have been held on Monday, January 17, 1916, is cancelled.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Production for week ending December 18, 1,137 tons.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for week, 196 tons; Gemsah production for last week, 347 tons (including 130 tons recovered from sediment). Hurgada production for the week, 1,212 tons; Hurgada production for last week, 2,626 tons. Telegram received, dated noon Monday, states that Hurgada No. 7 produced since 4 p.m. Saturday at an estimated rate of 1,500 tons during twenty-four hours through three 3-in. outlets.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended December 20 amount to £E6,990, as against £E6,012 for the corresponding period of 1914.

OIL INTERESTS IN GALICIA.

An application was made on Wednesday to Mr. Registrar Hope at the London Bankruptcy Court on behalf of Mr. Edward Thomas Boxall, merchant, Cornhill. The debtor, who carried on business under the style of E. T. Boxall and Co., failed in August, 1914, and now asked for an order of discharge.

Mr. E. Leadam Hough, Senior Official Receiver, reported that for several years prior to the failure the debtor had been concerned in the formation of some twenty-six companies and syndicates, mainly oil concerns, in connection with which he was frequently away in Galicia—particularly in Lemberg, where he had a flat. He attributed his insolvency to depreciation in the value of his shares and interests in oil and other properties; to money advanced by him to companies not being presently recoverable; and to bad debts. The total liabilities were returned at £225,000, but certain of the creditors had withdrawn their proofs of debt, and in other cases voluntary abatements had been made, with the result that the ranking debts were reduced to £59,107. The assets were valued by the debtor at £71,704, but, in the view of the Official Receiver, were not likely to produce more than £5,000.

The discharge was suspended for three years.

IN THE CITY.

The rubber share market is firm and prices should continue to rise; probably more and more quickly as the public awakes to its potentialities. A cheap share promising excellent profits to the present buyer is the Way Halim (Sumatra) of the Lyall Anderson group. This company with an issued capital of £21,393 in 2s. shares, 1s. 8d. paid, owns 5,619 acres in Lampong district of Sumatra, of which 572 are planted with Hevea, 287 with Ficus rubber, 260 acres being interplanted with Liberia, and 225 acres with Robusta coffee. Of the Hevea only the 322 planted in 1909 are at present in bearing. Cash assets at March, 1915, exceeded liabilities by £7,250. With the shares at 1s. 6d. the market capitalisation works out at £19,253, or deducting cash assets at £12,926. For the current year ending next March there should be a net profit from rubber of £2,100, taking an average price of only 2s. 6d. per lb., and an additional £1,000 from coffee. Official crop estimates indicate on the same basis profits of £4,500 for 1916 and 1917, and £7,500 for 1917 and 1918, from rubber alone, and since the price of rubber is so much above the 2s. 6d. basis these estimates ought to be considerably exceeded. An improved price in the value of the shares is anticipated, and perhaps the state of the market and the merits of the Company justifies this. The net earnings in the past year were sufficient to have paid 5 per cent., but the directors followed a conservative policy with a view to strengthening the financial position of the Company. The revenue for 1916 (taking rubber at only 2s. 6d. per lb., now about 4s.) should be sufficient to pay at least 5 per cent. for the year ending March 31, 1916, while the profits for 1917 and 1918 should enable the Company to pay much larger dividends. The shares are a good purchase round about 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93¼	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	74⅛
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	67
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	65
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	54
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	41
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	53
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	51
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	57½xd
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	81xd
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	73xd
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½xd
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	¾	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	—	3⅜
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6¼	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	90
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirsus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅞	—	⅝
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¾	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¾	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¾	—	6
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅜	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	¾
" " Founders	¾	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	75
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	5/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅜	—	⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99⅜	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	15/-xd
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	11/3xd
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	—	3⅛
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Jan. 12.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅝	8/9
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	18/-
European Oilfields	4/9	2/6
Roumanian	20/-	13/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Jan. 11.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	425
Canal de Suez	4050	3979
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	578
Turkish Unified 4%	59.95	59.95
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	89
Serbian, 1895	—	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 246.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The capitulation of Montenegro has let loose a number of reports, the purpose of which is to show that King Nicholas and his Government have betrayed the Allies' cause. For reasons which are stated elsewhere in this issue, we shall do well to await further evidence before believing the veteran King to be as black as he is painted. In any case, there can be no harm in trying to arrive at the Montenegrin point of view. But before this can be done we must know whether the action of the Government in surrendering to the Austrians is repudiated or acquiesced in by the people. On this point there is at present no trustworthy information. All that can be established at present is that the collapse of the Montenegrins has been unexpectedly rapid. There was good ground for supposing that Mount Lovtchen could have withstood Austrian attacks, however fierce, for more than a few days; but when it passed into the enemy's possession the alternative before the Montenegrins was to capitulate or to follow the Serbians into the wilds of Albania.

The situation calls for a frank avowal on the part of the Allied Governments as to whether they were cognisant of Montenegro's intention to surrender, and whether they tacitly acquiesced in it. If they were not expecting it, had they contemplated the hopelessness of the Montenegrin position as a result of the defeat of the Serbians, and made any attempt to discuss things with the Government with a view to arriving at the wisest course for the Montenegrins to pursue? Clearly, if the Allies took no steps to correlate the operations of the Montenegrin army with their general military policy, there can be no question of breach of faith on Montenegro's part, unless it be in regard to Serbia. In that case it will be necessary to know the nature of the understanding between the two countries, and the course of the negotiations between them since the elimination of the Serbian army.

Montenegro's action requires to be put in its true light not only in justice to all concerned, but also in preparation for the settlement after the war. If the Allies were merely settling a personal quarrel with Germany, the defection of one of their number to the opposite camp—not that such an expression is applicable to the step taken by Montenegro—would present no difficulty when terms of peace came to be arranged. But the war is being fought with higher aims, and when it is over the object of the Allies must be to see that, as far as possible, no injustices creep into the final settlement. The fate of Montenegro is bound up with the future of the Slavonic State which it is in the interests of the Allies to see established on the eastern shore of the Adriatic. It is, therefore, essential to have the inwardness of Montenegro's capitulation clearly revealed—whether it was prompted, in the face of the hopelessness of the military position, by a patriotic desire to save the country from ruin, or whether it represents a betrayal of the Slavonic cause to the Central Powers. If it was the former, then, however much Montenegro's methods may be deprecated, the nation will have done nothing to forfeit the advantages to which the Allies' victory will entitle it. On the other hand, if there has been a betrayal of the Allies' cause, and with it of the cause of the Southern Slavs, then it becomes necessary to determine on whose shoulders the responsibility rests, with a view to purging the nation of the elements that have tried to subordinate its interests to their own personal advantages.

That the Allies cannot escape some responsibility for the course of events in Montenegro will hardly be controverted. No doubt, as a result of the manner in which the war has been conducted, the military difficulties in the way of giving support to the Montenegrins were insuperable. The fact, however, remains that the Serbo-Montenegrin front was part of the Allied line, and the ideal handling of the war would have made provision for this front with almost the same thoroughness as has been applied to either of the extreme ends of the Western front. It will be argued that uncertainty regarding the attitude of the Montenegrin Government prevented the Italians from sending the necessary assistance. If that reason is advanced, it should be substantiated by dates and facts showing that suspicions of Montengro's conduct had been aroused before the time was ripe for coming to her help.

Sir Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, suggests that the lot of the Montenegrins under Austrian domination will be a tragic one. According to the alleged terms of surrender, the whole male population is to be interned in "a certain district," while the

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women will be left "in some of the villages." But unless the Austrians give themselves up to vengeance for the general discomfiture they are suffering in the war, we cannot help thinking that their treatment of the Montenegrins will be much better than the treatment of the population left in Serbia. The Montenegrins' crime in Austrian eyes can never equal that of the Serbians. Moreover, if visions of a Triple Monarchy, extending from the Adriatic to the Ægean, are still entertained, the Austrians will be at pains to win the good graces of potential subjects. Military precautions, however, may bring about a set of circumstances in which it will be extremely difficult to secure adequate food supplies for the Montenegrins. Arrangements to ration them would then have to be made on a much bigger scale than the measures taken to relieve certain distress in the country, and it may be necessary to institute an early investigation by a neutral of the actual conditions prevailing in Montenegro.

Salonika still awaits the threatened attack. If the gun-firing at Doiran a week ago was in any way connected with plans for an advance, the enemy has changed his mind. Since then the Allies have blown up the railway bridge over the Struma at Demir-Hissar, and have thus seriously impaired the value of the line, which would have played an important part in any Turco-Bulgarian advance. This step and the landing at Corfu are logical developments of the situation which Greece prepared for herself by the interpretation she placed on her treaty obligations to Serbia. They will not be the more palatable to the Greek nation as a whole for that fact; but the point must be borne in mind, in view of the protests that greet each fresh step taken by the Allies in safeguarding in the Near East the interests which are Serbia's, their own, and Greece's as well, if she could but recognize it.

General Sarrail is in supreme command of the Anglo-French forces at Salonika. This appointment is welcomed for two reasons, primarily because unity of command is infinitely to be preferred to dual control, and also because the French General has already proved himself a man of action, capable of rapid decision and equally rapid execution. Indeed, "Salonika methods" are a new feature in the war, and it is hoped that they indicate the passing for all time of the indecision that has been so largely responsible for the Allies' failures in the Near East. It is in this hope that we can wait patiently for the advance along the southern front, knowing how elaborate in regard to the smallest detail must be the preparations for any advance on a large scale in the present war.

The attitude of Roumania continues to be a subject for speculation to the man in the street. A "prominent" member of the Roumanian Government is reported to have expressed the following views to a correspondent of the *Matin*:—"Our aspirations are Transylvania; our forces are on the Hungarian frontier, and in no case will they fight against other enemies than those of the Allies. Two conditions are requisite for us to start our action—a favourable economic situation, and above all a strategic position on our frontier which shall place us in a position of security against possible disaster. When a great country goes to war it risks one or two provinces and can hold out for a long time. A little country risks its existence, and can only fight for several (*sic*) weeks. We have 950,000 men, of whom 600,000 are armed and provided with ammunition. It is an appreciable help, but can only produce its full effect if it is thrown into the scales at an opportune moment." In this connection it is of interest to note that last month, in contradistinction to the usual references to Roumania in the German Press, the *Cologne Gazette* published a letter from Bucharest under the title of "Premature Hopes Regarding Roumania." The writer set out to prove the following contentions: that the Roumanians hate the Hungarians, despise the Austrians, dislike the Germans, are jealous of the Bulgarians, are frightened of the Russians, and love the Latin races. He also maintained that the majority of Roumanian politicians do not want Bessarabia even as a gift. His message must have brought cold comfort to his German readers.

The situation in Mesopotamia has not altered materially during the past week. Further messages have been received both from General Townshend and from General Aylmer, but the latter's relief expedition has not yet reached the former. The position of General Townshend's force at Kut must be far from enviable. It has now been besieged for six weeks—how closely may be inferred from the fact that it was apparently unable to interfere with the Turks when they fell back before the relief expedition to a point only six miles away from Kut. This fact would point to a shortage of artillery ammunition. General Townshend, it must be remembered, took up his position at Kut only after an arduous retreat from Ctesiphon, during which he had been subjected to at least one heavy attack by the Turks. His possession of wireless telegraphy, which enables him to communicate with the relief column and the outside world, must be of considerable assistance, if only in keeping up the spirits of his force, but it is not an adequate substitute for munitions and food supplies.

General Aylmer, in command of the relief expedition, is making some headway, but very slowly. The reason alleged is the "bad weather," a generic term, perhaps, which is meant to include the floods that can be a serious obstacle at this season in Mesopotamia. After retiring to Es Sinn on January 11, the Turks rallied again, and advanced to meet the vanguard of the British force where the Wadi joins the Tigris. There was an engagement on January 13, as a result of which the enemy again retired, and General Aylmer was able to bring his headquarters up to the scene of the fighting. The Turks fell back on Es Sinn, six miles from Kut, once more, but the pursuit was hampered by the bad weather. Provided further reinforcements do not reach the Turks first, General Aylmer ought to be in a position to effect a junction with General Townshend in a very short time. Their subsequent movements will be awaited with great interest.

Persia is rapidly qualifying to be regarded as one of the many theatres of war. The Turks now claim that their regular troops have entered Kermanshah. If this statement be true, this force will have been detached from the Baghdad command, and must bear some relation to the Turco-German scheme for spreading the war to the Indian frontier. Kermanshah has been the headquarters of German influence in Persia, and the arrival of Turkish reinforcements will doubtless galvanise into fresh activity a movement that was within a short distance of being completely overwhelmed by the rapidity of Russia's blows. From Hamadan a Russian force advanced towards Kermanshah, and has come into conflict with the enemy at Kangavar, half-way between the two towns. The Turco-German force was routed. If the Russians are able to follow up this success by the occupation of Kermanshah, they will have gone a long way towards crushing Turco-German intrigue in Persia.

In view of the general situation in the Middle East, it is satisfactory to learn of a considerable Russian success in the Caucasus. For nearly a year the fighting in this region has been confined to small encounters, which, relatively unimportant in themselves, have resulted in the clearing from Russian territory of the small bands of Turks scattered along the frontier. Now, however, the Russians have found themselves in a position to assume the offensive on an extended front of nearly seventy miles, which has brought them within thirty-three miles of Erzeroum. The Turks appear to have been taken entirely by surprise, and to have broken and fled without putting up any serious fight. The Russian report speaks of the retreat being in the nature of a panic-stricken flight, and adds that several Turkish units were almost entirely annihilated. Koprikeui is in the hands of the Russians, and the Turkish headquarters at Erzeroum is once more threatened. If the Russians are able to follow up this victory within a reasonable time the Turks may have to introduce no small modifications into their plans for strengthening their force in Meso-

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potamia. With a Russian column operating south-west of Urumiah and another force advancing on Kermanshah, the danger of a strong Turco-German offensive in Persia becomes more remote.

The investigation of the documents found in the enemy Consulates at Salonika continues. The correspondent of *The Times* mentions the discovery at the Austro-Hungarian Consulate of fifteen hundred copies of a proclamation in Arabic to the Chiefs of the Senussis inciting them to a holy war on non-German Christendom. The fact that these were in a sealed parcel, addressed to the Austrian Military Attaché at Athens, illustrates the extent to which the diplomacy of the Central Powers is organized for the war, and may possibly provide a clue as to the medium used for stirring up the tribes of North Africa. Whether the origin of these particular proclamations was German or Austro-Hungarian will probably not be determined, but that Austro-Hungarian diplomacy was lending itself to inflaming Moslem fanaticism against Christendom is established. The point may be commended to the notice of the Vatican, which has hitherto decided that it lacks sufficient evidence to take sides in the quarrel between the Belgian and Austro-German sections of the Catholic Church.

A further encounter with Arabs within the western border of Egypt took place on January 13, when a small force was dispersed at a point some forty miles from Mersa Matruh. The Arabs, however, offered no resistance, but fled, leaving their animals and tents. Elsewhere in this issue the attitude of the Arabs to the great war is discussed in an article from a correspondent in Cairo. The writer is of opinion that the British and Egyptian Governments have failed to enlighten the Arabs on the subject of the war, and quotes a somewhat negative declaration of the Bedouin sheikhs in connection with the frontier raids on the west. In view of the fact that the Germans and Turks have combined to intrigue and to create unrest among the Arabs, it cannot be sound policy to leave the latter entirely to their own devices, trusting to the example of British administration and its advantages that they have in Egypt. Something more definite is required to counteract the enemy's machinations, and only the personal touch can supply it. The Arabs on the frontier must be reached through their own people.

From a brief report that appears in another column it will be seen that Colonel Sir Thomas Holdich has been drawing attention to the subject of early surveys in Mesopotamia. Everything that concerns that part of the world is of interest to Britons, and just now, when there may be a tendency to feel that the region is causing us more anxiety that it is worth, it is well to be reminded of the great potentialities of the land between the rivers. Questions of strategy have taken us there, and will keep us there; but it is comforting to reflect that no sacrifice we are likely to be called upon to make will be disproportionate to the worth of the province. Colonel Yate put his finger on the salient point when he said that he looked forward to Mesopotamia being the prize of British soldiers and to the establishment of irrigation colonies along the Tigris and Euphrates similar to those in the Punjab.

MORE ARMENIANS MASSACRED.

The following telegram was last week received by Lord Bryce from an Armenian, known to him, who left England to help his countrymen. It was sent from Erivan on January 10:—

"Refugees just arriving from Mush state that, in answer to the Government amnesty, 1,500 Sassun Armenians, forced by famine and cold, surrendered to the authorities at the end of November. By order of the Governor of Mush the men were massacred, women and children drowned in the Euphrates."

CAIRO NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 4.

Government Holidays.

It is announced that henceforward the King's Birthday and Accession Day are to be kept as public holidays by the Government administrations. This brings the total of Government holidays up to twenty. It has often been complained that these holidays are too unevenly spread over the year—most of them fall between the months of August (end of Ramadan Fast) and October (end of the Kourban Bairam Feast)—and the new holidays, since they come in May and June, will no doubt be welcome to those officials who feel the strain of working for four months on end without any *dies non* excepting holidays.

The S.S. Persia.

The sinking of the P. and O. s.s. Persia has come as a terrible shock to all communities out here. There seems no doubt whatever that the submarine gave no warning, and that the passengers had little chance of getting away in the boats. The ship was struck amidships at the lunch hour, when most people were below, and the fact that she sank within five minutes explains why so few were saved. There is a good deal of feeling out here on the subject of the submarine activities, and not without reason either. The sinking of the Persia coming so soon after that of the Ville de Ciotat and other steamers seems to indicate that the arrangements for protecting the Entente mercantile marine and for dealing with the submarine menace are neither well organised nor effective.

IN MEMORY OF GORDON.

Thirty-one years have passed away since Charles Edward Gordon—on January 26, 1885—gave up his life at Khartoum, at once a martyr to the faith and duty that were in him and to the incapacity of the Government which, by purposeless delays and procrastination of policy, had sacrificed him. It is to be feared that in the existing state of affairs, when men's minds are inclined to dwell upon current rather than upon past national trials, the memory of the heroic Gordon may be permitted to fade, if only temporarily, from recollection. And yet surely no better opportunity than the present could exist for impressing upon the minds of the young generation the lesson that Gordon taught during the all-too short life that he passed in the service of his country.

It is perhaps not inopportune, therefore, to call attention to the excellent institution that bears the name of the hero of Khartoum—the Gordon Boys' Home—which was founded as a national memorial under the favour of the late Queen Victoria, and has been consistently supported by her successors on the throne. It is difficult to over-estimate the value of the good effects by this institution, which claims to have sent out into the world many lads of the class whom Gordon designated "his kings." In practically all branches of the public services they have distinguished themselves—in the army, the navy, the police, and in less adventurous walks of life. Of the 1,000 boys who had by the end of last year joined the British Army since the foundation of the Home, the authorities knew of at least 132 who were on active duty at the front. Since then the number has been appreciably added to, and among them have been several who have earned commissions, some who have been mentioned in despatches, and, alas! not a few who have yielded up their young lives to the service of their country.

Under the excellent supervision of General George W. Higginson, chairman of the committee of management, the institution is continuing its beneficent and useful work. It is not improbable that there may shortly be issued an appeal for further assistance towards carrying out the aims of the founders; should this be so, it is greatly to be hoped that subscribers to The Near East may find it possible to do something substantial in aiding one of the most admirably conceived as well as one of the most excellently conducted benevolent institutions in this country.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, December 25.

Espionage.

The public is quite in the dark with regard to the police measures that are being taken to keep in observation the German and Austro-Hungarian elements in the country—in Bucharest alone they number some 60,000—of which no doubt a large proportion is occupied with spying. We are all struck by the number of young men speaking German that can be observed in the cafés, in the trains, and on the streets, who appear eminently fitted for military service. All the small States are, of course, hotbeds of espionage, but Roumania, partly on account of her geographical position, partly from the circumstance that her present attitude is looked upon as temporary, seems to be specially favoured in this direction. No doubt the measures taken by the police are rather tepid, but espionage is a dangerous trade in any country, and liable to accidents. We read even here from time to time of some member of the unwholesome profession being disturbed in the pursuit of his occupation. The other day the police thought good to examine a Hungarian who passed himself off as a trader in grain. On his person were found a note-book, the contents of which appeared to be the source of some interest to the authorities, and a match-box, the inside of which was inscribed with quite illuminating details concerning the Roumanian troops concentrated on the frontier. Details are rarely forthcoming, and, as a rule, the public has to be content with a bald statement that so-and-so has been expelled from the country. So-and-so's name is generally foreign and unfamiliar, and we always wonder when the time will come for better known names, likewise with a foreign sound, to be mentioned in this connection. . . . The task would be difficult even for a better organised police force, and the question will crop up persistently of what is to be done with the large numbers of Teutons and Magyars in the much-hoped-for event of Roumania taking up arms against her hereditary enemy.

The Plot.

The public still continues to read with interest any details connected with the recently discovered plot against a number of public men. I refrained from mentioning the affair in my last letter, expecting to hear at any moment that it was the product of some vivid imagination, but I have since acquired the conviction that the affair is genuine, and, further, from the silence which is kept by the police, I deduce that it is serious. Suffice it to say that the papers appeared about a fortnight ago with sensational details regarding a plot to blow up the houses of MM. Filipescu, Costinescu, Take Jonescu, and, some said, of M. Bratiano, the Prime Minister. Much has been written since upon the subject, of which a good part is contradictory, but the following facts seem established:—

Disclosures reported to have been received by M. Filipescu in person led to the arrest of two individuals at a certain hotel. They were subsequently identified as Hungarian police agents, who had entered the country under false passports, their real names being respectively Babosh and Todt. At the same time, in the room which they occupied, two handbags were found, one containing several bombs with a quantity of explosive matter at first thought to be ecrasite, but which subsequent analysis has discovered to be picric acid and melanite, and the other containing no less than 180,000 frs. in gold. Other arrests are also reported, and full confessions are said to have been made.

Negotiations with Bulgaria.

For over a month both Roumanians and Bulgarians have been subject to vexation on account of the interrupted transit of goods through their respective countries. Military movements in Serbia had, of course, made the use of the line from Salonika via Nish impossible, and it was understood that the Bulgarian authorities were making difficulties with regard to the transit via Adrianople-Tirnova. Counter-measures were consequently taken by holding up in Giurgiu and other ports some 1,000 truckloads of Bulgarian goods. A Bulgarian delegate arrived in Bucharest a few days ago with the object of coming to an understanding on the matter. It would appear that the delay experienced by Roumania in receiving her merchandise is due not to ill-will or negligence on the part of Bulgarians, but to the fact that the goods have remained at Salonika, communications between this port and Bulgaria having been interrupted by recent events. Representations are being made on the part of Bulgaria with a view to obtaining the goods detained in Roumanian ports. The reported arrival of sixty truckloads at the station of Oborishte suggests that the difficulties are being settled to the satisfaction of the Bulgarians.

Queen Marie and the Cinema.

The *Pester Lloyd*, referring to Queen Marie's literary activity, states that her Majesty has joined the ranks of that very modern class of *littérateurs* who supply texts for cinematograph films. The subject of the drama in question is said to be drawn from the life of the people. "The chief character is a young man who loves a maiden, and in a moment of jealous rage slays his rich rival. While expiating his crime the girl dies in a convent. The action of the drama is illustrated by a series of pictures representing popular holiday scenes, the daily life of the Roumanian peasantry, and incidents connected with prison life."

The "Nationalul."

It is a pleasure to record the appearance in Bucharest of a new daily which really seems to fill a gap. It bears the name of *Nationalul*, with the explicative subtitle of "National Liberal Organ," its founder being M. Toma Stelian, a dissident Liberal. The new journal represents the current of opinion entirely favourable to the Quadruple Entente and inimical to the Central Powers, advocating at the same time an energetic national policy alongside the former. The articles that have appeared so far are clear, forcible, and succinct; the general tone is dignified. There is no reason to wonder at the enormous sale which the paper commands. Its success has been instantaneous, and is due not only to the form in which its contents are presented, but to the circumstance that it has been founded with a purpose which the public is quick to grasp and to appreciate.

M. Stelian.

M. Toma Stelian, besides being the founder of the new daily, is also a deputy, and as such has been delivering some remarkable speeches recently, which have won over a number of his Parliamentary colleagues. It may, therefore, interest some of our readers to know who he is.

M. Stelian was formerly Professor of Commercial Law at the University of Jassy, being subsequently transferred in a similar capacity to Bucharest. He is known to be a great worker, very conscientious, and clear-headed. He is not expansive, not popular in the ordinary sense, and is said to be authoritative. He has repeatedly been returned to Parliament. M. Sturdza having consented to assume the heavy responsibilities of Government at the time of the peasant movement of 1907, M. Stelian accepted the portfolio of Minister of Justice. As such he completely reorganised the legal machinery, among other matters making the law more accessible to the peasant classes. He was the author of legal measures directed against a certain class of capitalists, who, having leased most of the land property in a district, formed a kind of Trust enabling them to control the prices of agricultural produce.

The fact of M. Stelian not forming part of the present Government caused no little astonishment. It is rumoured that he has of late attempted to convince M. Bratiano of the advisability of altering his foreign policy, also that he refused a portfolio about the time of the Bulgarian mobilization.

M. Stelian practises as a barrister, and as such he is reputed to possess great talent, being precise and very clear in speech. As a man he enjoys a spotless reputation. During the five years that followed his term of office he refused to take up any legal case, in order not to plead before the judges whom he had appointed.

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The "Gazette des Ardennes."

The French Legation at Bucharest is responsible for the following communication:—

For some time the Legation has been aware that the *Gazette des Ardennes*, a journal published in that part of France occupied by the enemy, is being distributed in Bucharest, more especially among the officers of the Roumanian Army. Though issued in French, this periodical is inspired and composed by the Germans, and is but an addition to their propagandist organs already so numerous in Bucharest. The French Legation considers it a duty to warn the public against this fresh manœuvre.

In answer to this warning the German Legation has sent to the Press a statement to the effect that the *Gazette* in question never had the pretension of being a French publication, and has never denied its character as a German organ "serving the requirements of the French population in the parts of France occupied by German troops." Fortunate indeed are the Frenchmen whose intellectual needs are the special solicitude of the invader! We hear that the Bulgarians, inspired by similar altruistic motives, and unwilling to be deemed remiss as transmitters of the high form of Kultur which they have made their own, are publishing at Nish a paper which appears in the Serbian language.

Absence of Fuel.

Apart from a short spell of cold weather, the season has so far been exceptionally mild. This is fortunate, for there has been a great lack of coal in the country, the small quantity imported being mostly requisitioned by the gas companies, a minimum being distributed to the public, and that only to a few favoured individuals. Roumania produces in considerable amount a quality of coal of low caloric value known as lignite, but the supply even of this is insufficient, its exploitation not having been organized to meet the increased demand. We hear that the cargo boat Carpatzi, of the Roumanian Maritime Service, has at last arrived at Constantza from Odessa with 6,000 tons of coal. The vessel's progress has been followed with interest—nay, anxiety—by all householders whose stoves are not adapted to the combustion of wood.

ROUMANIAN HISTORY.

Last Monday at the London School of Economics Mr. Mitrany delivered an address on the history of Roumania. He said that historically, but not geographically, Roumania was a Balkan State. The country had originally been inhabited by the Dacians, but these had been conquered by Trajan and its population had been thoroughly Romanised under him and his successors. In A.D. 274 the Roman Empire was withdrawn behind the Danube. No record showed what became of that part of the population which did not retire with the legions, but it was supposed to have gone into the mountain forests of Transylvania. Successive waves of barbarians swept over the country; but eventually the Roumans returned to the plains and founded the two provinces of Wallachia and Moldavia. After Kossovo these became vassal States of the Turks, but Roumania was never a Turkish province; the Sultan had no right to interfere with its internal affairs, and would have no opportunity to do so, except for continual dynastic quarrels. The country reached its lowest ebb in the 18th century, when the thrones of the two provinces were sold to Greek Phanariots, no one of whom ever ruled more than three years. Having bought the right to govern at a high price, the Phanariot prince recouped himself by what was little better than organised brigandage. This régime came to an end, but in the early part of the 19th century Greeks were still exploiting the country. Greek was the language of school and church, and the Roumanian language itself was written in the Cyrillic character. The revival of the Latin spirit came with a Russian occupation of the country. French was then the language of the Russian *salon*, and French was used as the medium of intercourse between Russians and Roumanians. In 1817 was founded the first Latin school, and a series of historical works was published which emphasised the Latin origin of the people. Thus commenced the movement which has resulted in the independence of the Roumanian kingdom.

Next week Mr. Mitrany will deliver a second lecture dealing further with his subject. The lectures are free by ticket.

FOR THE WOUNDED AT LEMNOS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow Mrs. Anderson and myself, through your columns, to express our most grateful thanks to those of your readers who have so generously responded to my recent appeal on behalf of our gallant wounded at Lemnos? Many handsome contributions, both in money and in kind, have been sent to both of us, so that several cases of comforts have already been despatched from Southampton Docks.—I am, etc.,

MARION LEE.

22, Pulteney Street, Bath, January 17, 1916.

MESOPOTAMIA.

Speaking last Wednesday before the Central Asian Society, Mr. Perceval Landon said that, except dates, Mesopotamia exported practically nothing that was of any use to the civilised world. The answer to the question, "What could Mesopotamia export?" was to be found in the work done by Sir William Willcocks, of which a small part had already been carried into effect. It was not merely England, nor even the British Empire, but the whole civilised world that owed an enormous debt to him. The plan by which he suggested turning Mesopotamia into a second and greater Egypt was to revive with newer and better methods the old system of irrigation, which provided the country with its ancient teeming population and wealth. The scheme was divided into five main portions, of which one was completed—the Hindieh Barrage. This barrage took the place of a broken dam constructed, by a French engineer, of bricks each of which was stamped with the image of Nebuchadnezzar. It would raise the water in the old Hillah Canal, and eventually revivify the old Babylonian area of cultivation. There was also a scheme whereby Lake Habbania would be used both as an outlet for the flood waters of the Euphrates and as an enormous reservoir, which would some day be employed in what might be called the Kerbellah circle of cultivation, on the western bank of the Euphrates. Then there was the great project by which the territories between the Euphrates and the Tigris would be re-canalled by a project roughly following the old lines of cultivation, extending from above Ramadieh to Baghdad on the Tigris, and thence in a southerly direction till the Euphrates received the superfluous water again. The restitution of the old irrigation works in what might be called the Diala district was rather a magnificent scheme of drainage than of irrigation; by it hundreds of square miles of swampy land below Kut-el-Amarah would be rendered fertile. Thus would be completed a scheme which for sheer benefit to humanity deserved to rank with the work of De Lesseps. No soil in the world could produce greater or more frequent crops than that of the long fallow levels of Mesopotamia.

Of Mesopotamia viewed in another aspect Mr. Landon said it is a country of contrasts. The old jostles the new; the Yezidis, who worship the devil and cannot abide the colour blue, are not unkindly hosts to the Christian missionaries who seek their rare encampments. The Arabs maintain their prejudices and their magnificent tradition of hospitality as fully as when the leaves of the Koran were first turned. But the engines of the Baghdad Railway snort amid the ruins of Carchemish, and there is nothing the Arabs love so much as a short ride on the railway—sixteen to a compartment.

SERBIA'S NEED.

To avoid any possibility of confusion in the administration of contributions intended for the benefit of the distressed Serbian population, the Serbian Legation requests that subscriptions intended for the Serbian Relief Fund, of which H.M. the Queen is patroness, should be sent to the Earl of Desart, K.C.B., at the offices of the fund, 5, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, S.W.

The Serbian Legation will continue to receive subscriptions for the following Serbian funds:—

1. The Archbishop of Belgrade's Fund for the families of the killed and wounded soldiers.
2. The Society of the Serbian Red Cross.
3. The Parliamentary Commission for the Refugees.
4. The Society of St. Helena for the orphans whose parents have been killed in the war.

All contributions addressed to the Serbian Legation (195, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.) for these funds will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

CYPRUS AND JEWISH REFUGEES.

A Cyprus Correspondent writes:—Amongst the refugees who are still expected it is stated that there will be some hundreds of Jews from Palestine and Syria. The deep-rooted feeling of hostility against the Hebrew race which has so long existed in Cyprus and had its origin in far distant historic events, has tended to diminish in late years although it will probably be long before the antipathy entirely disappears.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)
Athens, December 29.

The Situation in Constantinople.

It is difficult to obtain any reliable news from Constantinople nowadays, as postal communications are very irregular and very few travellers come through. The Greek papers from time to time have some sensational incident to relate, but no reliance can be placed on them. There does not appear to be any material change in the situation apart from the steady increase in the prices of the necessaries of life.

On the 13th inst. the Chamber of Deputies passed the law authorising the issue of paper money to the extent of £T6,583,094, but no details have so far transpired respecting this financial transaction.

A rather serious explosion occurred on the 20th inst. in a building near the workshop of the Bosphorus Steam Navigation Company on the Golden Horn, which was evidently being used for the manufacture of explosives. There appear to have been several killed and many wounded, and much damage to property in the neighbourhood.

Turks and Germans.

Count Wolff Metternich, the German Ambassador, who arrived in Constantinople some time ago, was only received by the Sultan to present his credentials on the 11th inst. It is said that the reason of the delay was because the Germans were insisting upon being represented in the Cabinet, to which the Turks demurred. A compromise is reported to have been arrived at by German under-secretaries being placed in each of the departments with the exception of the Sheikh-ul-Islamat, but no announcement on the subject has yet been made in the Press.

The Germans are insisting upon the military authorities calling up for military service all those who have paid the exoneration tax; but the Turks, be it said to their credit, are apparently loth to do this. It is said that those who have paid the tax number about 85,000, and with these the Germans propose to form two new army corps. All military students above the age of seventeen are being taken for active service.

Our Interned Countrymen.

The news from the Englishmen who are interned at Chorum is satisfactory, and their treatment by the Turkish authorities is in striking contrast with the treatment received by English prisoners in Germany. Mr. James La Fontaine writes that they are able to circulate freely, and that the authorities are kind and considerate. Food is plentiful and cheap, especially game, which is abundant. On more than one occasion in this war the Turks have shown that they possess many qualities superior to the much-vaunted German Kultur, and it is impossible to avoid feeling great regret that the nation should, through a few unscrupulous traitors, have been dragged to its ruin by the Germans, to suit their own purposes.

Berlin-Constantinople Communications.

An announcement appeared some time ago in the *Hilal* to the effect that a through train from Berlin to Constantinople and *vice versâ* would soon be running. The train was timed to leave Berlin at 8.16 in the morning and to arrive at Constantinople the following day at 7 p.m. The train from Constantinople would leave at 1.15 p.m. and arrive in Berlin at 9.53 p.m. the following day. Recently, however, another announcement has appeared, that from January 1 a through train will run from Berlin and Vienna to Constantinople and *vice versâ* twice a week only, leaving Berlin on Wednesdays and Saturdays and arriving at Constantinople on Fridays and Mondays. The journey will take sixty hours. The departures from Constantinople will be on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

The Anzac Withdrawal.

The withdrawal of the British troops from Suvla and Anzac evidently came as a great surprise to the military authorities, and they appear to be smarting under their disappointment at having been unable to inflict a heavy loss during this operation. The official *communiqué* of December 20 announcing the departure of the British troops has been drawn up with that total disregard of the truth which has characterised all the German *communiqués*. It is worded with the view of conveying the impression that the British were actually "driven into the sea" after a heavy battle, leaving munitions and stores behind, whereas as a matter of fact the Turks were taken completely by surprise, and awoke one morning to find that the enemy had disappeared! The *Hilal* of the 21st is a curious study in contradictory statements. Although the official telegram purporting to come from the Dardanelles announces that the British, thanks to a fog, were able to get away without leaving many prisoners in the hands of the Turks, the leading article in the *Hilal*, which is printed on the same page, states that they captured thousands of prisoners!

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Salonika, January 1, 1916.

The Aeroplane Attack.

During the early part of the past week the situation at Salonika has been one of calm and confidence, as transport after transport arrived with troops and munitions. The tangle of British, French, and Greek troops and motor vehicles in the streets had become so familiar that it came to be regarded as the normal condition of things at the present time, and the unfortunate pedestrians had become quite expert in dodging the constant wheeled traffic and the copious showers of mud which were projected in all directions. Whilst the feeling of confidence remains and increases daily, the calmness of the city and its very mixed population was most dramatically disturbed two days ago by an aerial attack on the part of four enemy aeroplanes

Details of this attack have already been telegraphed to London by the host of correspondents who are waiting here for something to turn up, and it must have come to them as a perfect godsend after the dulness of the previous week. However, I may add a few particulars which have come to my own knowledge. Early in the morning the aeroplanes were observed to cross the Greek frontier and make for Salonika. The first warning which the majority of the population received was when the Allied warships commenced firing at the visitors. Then, of course, everyone rushed out and gazed heavenward. The morning was clear and cloudless, and the "taubes" could be distinctly seen at an altitude estimated at about 3,000 metres. They dared not come lower on account of the danger from the Allied guns, and I am assured by a British aviator here that at such a height the enemy could only get a very hazy and imperfect view of what was going on upon the earth. I was standing near an immense pile of British stores, the exact position of which I must not indicate, and could not help thinking what a tempting target these offered to the daring *boche*, as they are in a very prominent position and seem to be in no way disguised. This was my first taste of real warfare, and the interest of the spectacle seemed to banish all feeling of fear. In this connection I may mention that I had a long conversation last night with a soldier belonging to one of our Highland regiments, who declared that he and his comrades in the trenches on the French front were so interested in watching the aerial combats that they often remained in the firing line long after they were at liberty to retire for their well-earned rest

For a time the bombardment of the "taubes" by the Fleet was quite lively, and many of the 3-in shells were seen to burst near the enemy, but the distance was too

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great, and the targets too small, to hope for a hit. After hovering over the western outskirts of the town for a short time they evidently realized that it would be too risky to fly over the Fleet, and accordingly they turned tail and made for their base on the frontier. Their flight, however, was intercepted by Allied aircraft, and an aerial battle, which was not visible from the town, took place. As a result I am assured on good authority that one aeroplane, manned by Bulgarians, fell within the Allied lines.

The aeroplanes dropped at least a dozen bombs, and it now remains to sum up the total damage. From the most trustworthy source I learn that the list of killed and wounded is made up as follows:—Killed, 5 sheep; wounded, the Greek shepherd of the aforesaid sheep. What a glorious result! Of course, the notorious Wolff Agency will suitably vary the real facts to suit the German palate. The curious thing about this attack is that the only persons who suffered or were exposed to serious danger were Greeks. One bomb fell within fifty yards of the Greek General Zymbrakakis, in command of the 11th Division, a second fell not far from Prince Andrew of Greece, who was then with his regiment, while still another fell near an encampment of Greek troops and stampeded their horses.

Arrest of the Consuls.

The most dramatic event of the past week has undoubtedly been the arrest of the enemy consuls and their entire staffs, which was carried out with the utmost promptness and success within a few hours of the opening of hostilities by the German aircraft. This bold and admirable act of General Sarrail must have been quite unexpected by the consuls, as all of them, with the exception of the Bulgarian representative, were found at their posts. The Bulgarian consul was also soon discovered and arrested, so that the "bag" is now quite complete. Of course, they one and all protested that this was a violation of Greek neutrality, ignoring the fact that that very morning their own countries were the first to begin such a violation and convert Salonika into a fighting area. The Austrian Consul in particular was very violent, but the ring of British and French bayonets in and around his consulate soon convinced him that resistance would be useless. The Turkish representative, on the other hand, seemed to have been suddenly stricken by his guilty conscience, seeing that he grew quite faint and called for a glass of water before he could move. Besides the consuls, the whole of their staffs and servants, as well as all visitors present, were taken into custody. The prisoners numbered altogether about sixty persons, of whom four were women. Among the visitors at the Austrian consulate was the editor of the leading pro-German newspaper her, the *Nouveau Siècle*, who protested that he was a Greek subject. He was led away along with the others, and it is curious to observe that the next issue of his paper made no reference whatever to his arrest. All these people were taken on board a warship to be interrogated, and were afterwards transferred to a French steamer, which at once weighed anchor and left for an unknown destination.

Documents Seized—Expected Revelations.

The archives and other documents found at the various consulates were seized and conveyed on board one of the warships, where they are now being carefully examined. I am told by a French officer that these papers are of great and even startling importance. They are said to reveal a far-reaching plot on the part of the consuls and their friends to create a powerful band of *komitajis* and others, who should be well armed, and should at the proper moment foment disturbances in the city, assassinate certain persons, and set fire to certain buildings. It is also said that lists of spies and others who are aiding the enemy have been discovered. Some colour is given to this rumour by the fact that the headmaster of a German school here and several other enemy subjects have been arrested by the Allies in the course of yesterday and to-day.

A City of Spies.

Salonika is full of spies. Hitherto they have enjoyed complete immunity and have been able to take note of every movement of the Allies. In the cafés and places of amusement they sit near British and French officers, and sometimes enter into conversation with the latter. Then they move freely about our stores of ammunition and other depots. It has been a matter of extreme surprise to us civilians that no steps have yet been taken to check this dangerous espionage, which acquaints the enemy with all our doings; and it is devoutly to be hoped that the drastic steps taken by General Sarrail will be followed up by really effective measures against this army of spies.

Of course, the Greeks have formally protested against the arrest of the foreign Consuls; but everyone knows that this will have no more effect than the very formal protest made when the Allies landed here. Since the Allies have been attacked, they have every right to defend themselves in whatever manner they think proper.

The Patrols—A Strange Spectacle.

What strikes the visitor as one of the most absurd results of the presence of the Allies is the system of night patrols. The Greeks have their own patrols, and the British and French have theirs. It is a common sight to see all three patrols marching along, sometimes in succession and sometimes abreast. Last night I saw a Greek and French patrol marching together shoulder to shoulder, two deep, with the two officers walking and chatting together in front. It is noticeable that there seems to be a much stronger feeling of *cameraderie* between the Greek and French soldiers than between the Greek and British; but, on the whole, both the police and the Greek troops seem quite friendly to both, and refrain from interfering in any way with the Allies.

Serbian Refugees.

Thousands of Serbian refugees have reached here, and their plight excites the utmost pity. I travelled recently from Athens with Sir Edward Boyle and Lady Boyle (his mother), who are administering the Serbian Relief Fund, and I afterwards visited Sir Edward at the Serbian camp just outside the city. I found him working there like a Trojan among these unfortunate people, providing them with absolute necessaries and arranging for the shipment of many of them to Corsica and other places. His work, as well as that of Lady Boyle, in connection with this arduous duty, is deserving of the highest praise, and cannot be too warmly appreciated by those who provided the fund and secured his services in making the best use of it.

ALLIED PRISONERS IN SOFIA.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes:—With reference to a convoy of English and French prisoners recently arrived at Sofia, the correspondent of the *Journal des Balkans* reports:—

The French were in front, all admirably equipped. They walked with a firm step, holding their heads high as though at a parade. . . . Among the English were several who, during an engagement, had lost their caps and coats—but not one had forgotten his pipe.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, January 7.

The Problem of Salonika.

The threat of an imminent invasion of Salonika by the Central Powers, and especially the probable participation therein of the Bulgarians, has kept the Greek public in a state of excitement and anxiety. In political circles everyone is asking whether the Bulgarians will enter Greek territory, and what action the Greek Government will take in that event. A Ministerial journal to-day says that should the co-operation of Bulgarian troops become inevitable, they will be distributed amongst the German regiments, under the command of German officers. This, however, seems improbable. In responsible quarters and in military circles it is still thought that the Bulgarians will not bring themselves to take part in such an attack. The Central Powers' inability to promise or to guarantee Bulgaria the territorial compensations for which she asks at the expense of Greece may effectively deprive them of the co-operation of their ally. Venizelists are of opinion that the Germans cannot employ troops in the Balkans at a time when the Russian attack in the Bukovina region claims all their attention, and believe that the object of the preparations made is to assure the defence of the German lines rather than to carry out an attack.

Nevertheless, the possibility of a Bulgarian invasion is causing deep anxiety owing to the attitude of the Greek Government, and the consequences that might result. There are rumours of an organized opposition to the passive policy of the Government, and certain high officers are said to be concerned in the movement. Should the Bulgars be allowed free entry into Salonika, and the Greek troops be ordered to retire, it might well cause a reaction in the country. It is said that the members of the Cabinet are not in perfect agreement on this subject, and that if the Bulgarian invasion should take place M. Rallis and Admiral Condouriotis will hand in their resignations, not being disposed to tolerate the entrance into Greek territory of Bulgarian troops. Their resignation might bring about the resignation of the entire Cabinet. Indeed, M. Skouloudis stated the day after the elections that should any member of the Cabinet resign, thus avoiding the responsibility, he too would resign. In such an event, the situation created would indeed be a difficult one. The present Cabinet consists of ex-Premiers, and, including among its members the famous Admiral Condouriotis, who is extremely popular, it is invested with a certain authority, covering in some measure the responsibility of the Crown. Should this Cabinet resign the King would be faced with a very difficult problem. It is doubtful if he would call on M. Gounaris to form a Government after the result of the last elections, when the majority of the people, by abstaining from voting, marked their disapproval of the present Cabinet very plainly. Moreover, as M. Gounaris is looked upon as a pro-German, it would hardly tend to smooth away the difficulties of the situation if he were to be in power at a time when part of Greek territory is occupied by French and British troops, when the warships of the Allies are in Greek harbours and Greek territorial waters, and when Greece's imports depend upon these two Powers. In the event referred to the King might call upon M. Zaimis once more, though in some circles it is thought that he might even summon M. Venizelos.

Regarding the proclamation of martial law, it is stated that the Cabinet is unable to agree, some members being of opinion that there is no reason to have recourse to such stringent measures, which would deprive the Press of its freedom. Should the step be decided upon, the Chamber would probably be convoked before the 24th inst., in order to sanction it.

Athens in Darkness.

The shortage of coal has necessitated such economy in the matter of public lighting that, save in the main thoroughfares, one can hardly see well enough to walk in the central part of Athens. The reduction of the lighting in the outlying portions of the city having laid their inhabitants open to the depredations of pickpockets and petty thieves, it has been necessary to abandon it, and therefore the central part is plunged in darkness.

A Compromising Letter.

Amongst the documents found in the German Consulate at Salonika after the arrest of the four Consuls the Allies found a letter from the Consul-General's wife, written from Monastir, and addressed to her husband. In this epistle the good lady wrote: "Fortunately the Germans will very soon occupy Salonika, in order to drive out the French and British, and with them the rascally Greeks."

A REMARKABLE SERVICE.

Father Nicholas Velimirovitch, priest to the Serbian Chapel Royal, pleaded the cause of his heroic fellow countrymen before an overflowing congregation at Holy Trinity Church, Stroud Green, London, N., on Sunday last. The Serbian flag was placed in front of the high altar. The Mayor and Corporation of Hornsey attended officially, and were supported by the members of the public bodies in the borough. Solemn Eucharist was sung at 11 o'clock, the celebrant being the Rev. W. D. Dixon, the deacon, the Rev. E. D. Arundell (vicar), the sub-deacon, the Rev. F. P. Harton. Father Nicholas took his place in the sanctuary during the service and participated in the beautiful and ancient ceremonies of the Holy Eucharist, which are common alike to the Churches of the East and the West. At the close of the address, which was a brilliant and eloquent exposition of Serbian history, the Serbian National Anthem was sung.

Father Nicholas and the Vicar of Stroud Green are brother members of the Anglican and Eastern Orthodox Church Union, a society which exists for the purpose of drawing into closer union the Church of England and the Eastern Churches. It is a hopeful sign to Churchmen generally that the war is bringing the desired union of the separated parts of the Church within nearer view. Churchmen see in external unity of the Church the great promise of world peace. They are therefore anxious to do all in their power to foster the spirit of friendly intercourse, of which Father Nicholas's visit is a striking instance.

A sum of £44 has been handed to the Serbian Relief Fund as a result of the service.

LORD MONTAGU OF BEAULIEU

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THE ARABS AND THE WAR.

By "An Observer."

CAIRO, December 29.

More than passing interest attaches to the declarations that an enterprising Syrian paper in this city has been able to elicit from the leading Bedouin sheikhs and omdas of Egypt in connection with recent incidents on the Western frontier. After disavowing, and, indeed, condemning in no unequivocal terms, the hostile action of the few misled Arabs, these chiefs declared that—

> the first thing which occurs to a Bedawi's mind in speaking of Egypt, its independence, peace, and the protection of its frontiers, is that we Bedouins were the first to protect it; for we obtained our prerogatives by rendering such a service in the past; and what more peace, justice, prosperity, and progress do we need? Is it possible for us, therefore, to risk our fortunes, tranquillity, peace, and prosperity in Egypt? Such being the case, what interest have we to help the assailants? To these assailants the doors of the prosperity of Egypt were open, but they have now closed them by their own acts, and placed themselves between the fire of the Italians on the coast and that of the forces of Egypt. They are ignorant people who sold themselves; but we are too right-thinking and far-seeing to help them in their evil act. What interests us is that our Government should have confidence in us and be sure that we are well-intentioned, and we hate with all our hearts what our neighbours have done.

Satisfactory as they are, these declarations seem to be of rather too negative a character; something more was expected of the sheikhs than a mere disavowal of any sympathy with the foolish and reprehensible action of their brethren across the border and the attempt to prove it so by an argument based on the comfortable doctrine of material self-interest. Old Arab traditions were inspired by loftier aims; and one would wish to believe that it is only because they have not been sufficiently enlightened on the higher moral and political issues of the present war that, in their declarations of loyalty, the Bedouin of Egypt did not sound the note of old racial pride and solidarity. Now that after centuries of stifled vitality Arab nationalism has come to life again, and the awakening of the national conscience has been accompanied by an assertion of the national will which, favoured by political developments, is translating itself into organized movement, it becomes the duty of the Arabs to show a deeper interest in the great movement, and to lend it more active support.

The underlying principle of the Young Turks' policy is known to have been the crushing of every effort on the part of the Arabs towards national development, even under Turkish overlordship; and now, by handing over the Empire to the Germans, they have helped to snap the last flimsy shreds of the bond of religion by which they had till then held the only too trustful and patient Arabs. In Arabia, Irak, and Syria, bitter disillusion, growing slowly into suspicion and hatred, has filled the Arab heart; and the smouldering fire has glowed responsive to each fresh gust and current of the political storm. In Irak, with the exception of a few bands of irresponsible nomads led by venal chiefs, the people, thanks to British action, are beginning to have real hope of the realization of their long-cherished dreams, and of reconstructing eventually, under British guidance and protection, the fallen edifice of their land's old glories. In Arabia itself, aided by the nature of their country and other factors of inherent strength, and thanks also to British sea power, which has closed all access to the coast to the Turk, the people, who had never been brought to complete submission, but who, through hereditary feuds and inter-tribal wars, allowed the Turk to carry on his policy of intrigue and corruption, have at last awakened to the seriousness of the times; and now, taking advantage of the exceptionally favourable situation, are waging more seriously and successfully the war of emancipation.

In Syria fate has been less kind to the Arabs, who, besides their material ruin, are being subjected to the worst forms of persecution. Like all peoples of countries possessing strategic value and forming a link between great empires, they have paid in war the penalty of a position so valuable in time of peace. But the Arabs of Syria know that the hour of salvation is bound to come, and hope sustains them in their dark hour of trial. They know that salvation will come at the hands of the Allies, who are fighting for the noblest principles, and first and foremost for the liberty of nations. When the time comes they will, like their brethren of Irak and Arabia, lend loyal co-operation to the liberators.

Happily for themselves, the Bedouin Arabs of Egypt were freed from the Turkish yoke long ago, and they have given their share of loyal support to the liberators. Now, however, that the destiny of the Arab race is at stake, that the freeing of Arab-speaking countries is being accomplished at such a sacrifice on the part of the Allies, and of Great Britain in particular, and that a revival of Arab civilisation on modern lines looms ahead, the Bedouin Arabs of Egypt are expected to take a deeper interest in this momentous struggle and to display a more intelligent sympathy with the noble cause. Perhaps, living, as most of them do, far from the centres of intellectual activity and engrossed in their own peaceful agricultural and pastoral occupations, they have been out of touch with the great political developments which this world war is bringing about. It would be both to their own and to the Government's interests if they were to be better enlightened regarding the vital issues of the war and its aims from the Allies' standpoint.

In the East the peoples, having, through long centuries of crushing despotism, lost the spirit of initiative in thought as well as in action, require to be led even in their personal convictions and national aims. The success of Germany's Near and Middle Eastern diplomacy is largely due to her recognition of this fact. The Germans did not confine their activities to preaching, but actually led—or rather dragged—those people whom they could along the road they wished them to travel. Far be it for us to recommend the general adoption of German methods and means; but much might be gained by a judicious imitation of their thoroughness and organised activity—of course, along more legitimate and honest lines, and for worthier ends. If with a wrong cause, such as theirs, the Germans have achieved signal success, what would be the measure of the Allies' success if, with the inspiring character of their cause, they were to display the same thoroughness of method and efficiency of means? If the Bedouin Arabs of Egypt had been properly enlightened on the subject of the war, not only by general propaganda and Press publications, which lose much of their effect with an illiterate people, but also by personal instruction of their leading members, they would have realised that the Arab cause is identified with that of the Allies, and especially Great Britain, the great protector of Islam; and the salient feature of the recent declarations of their chiefs would have been a spontaneous offer of help for the overthrow of the enemy who is insidiously working for the complete destruction of Arab development on nationalistic lines. The Bedouin Arabs, although mostly uneducated, possess nevertheless the keen intelligence and the proud spirit that distinguish their race, and such a manifestation of sympathy on their part would have been consonant with their noblest traditions.

Although the Government disposes of sufficient resources in men and money, and can dispense with outside help, yet it would certainly welcome co-operation on the part of the Bedouin Arabs in a cause that is, in a way, also their own, not only for the moral advantage of example in a land that has been corrupted by the dissemination of false political principles, but also for the sake of making of the Bedouin a more useful community. It is only by affording a people the occasion of exercising a certain measure of self-reliance and initiative that it is possible to create in it self-respect, the essence of true citizenship.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Apropos of my note of last week concerning enemy traders in Egypt, events have since transpired which bring one to the melancholy conclusion that the Government do not look at the matter in my light. An official list of enemy firms which have been licensed by the Egyptian Government to continue in trade number no less than 253. I am not a business man and candidly I do not understand this business. I was under the impression that having been forced into this war we were out to crush the enemy root and branch. But no; naked fists are indecent; we must keep the gloves on; we may bruise the enemy but not much. We are apparently conducting our sea blockade of Germany in the same spirit. The whole thing is incredible, and the only bright face to it is that a great and overwhelming majority of the British public is becoming heartily sick of it. I don't like war, but now that we are in it let it be bloody and real. We must fight our way quickly to the doors of effective peace, or they may remain for ever closed.

***

What would have happened at Omdurman if, side by side with our armed forces, had marched an unassailable army of politicians ready to counter each move of our fighting men by the gift of guns and material to the enemy? That, it seems to me, is exactly what is happening in this war. Our men in khaki are fighting magnificently wherever they meet the enemy. Traders and politicians, however, are supplying our enemies with the essentials of further fight. They are supplying them with a lancet wherewith to draw fresh blood from our soldiers. I will call them thoughtless, although there is another word beginning with a "T" which is, to my mind, a far more suitable appellation for these gentlemen.

***

The surrender of Montenegro has not surprised me so much as it would have done had it taken place two or three months ago; for about that time I was shown a letter, written by an Englishman of much experience in Balkan affairs, which led me to wonder whether all was well with the little kingdom. What the writer said I cannot, unfortunately, repeat now, but when Peace comes it may be possible to return to the subject. In the meantime I can only regret that the gallant people of the Black Mountain have suffered for faults that are not their own. The story is a distressing one, and the only bright spot I can see in it is contained in the announcement: "Generals Mistovitch and Valutovitch, refusing to surrender, escaped and joined the Serbians." That shows that the Montenegrin spirit is not yet dead or broken.

***

The following story of the King's solicitude for the wounded is told by one who vouches for its truth. Not long since His Majesty, being unable to visit a certain hospital himself, sent a member of the Household as his representative to visit each patient, and to convey a message of sympathy and good wishes from the King. As the King's representative was making his round his guide pointed out a soldier returned from the Dardanelles who, he said, was too ill to be disturbed, and who he thought was even then past understanding anything, and had but a few hours to live; but the nurse came forward and said she thought the man could understand what was said, though he was too weak to answer. The King's representative delivered His Majesty's message very slowly and distinctly, and passed on. Strange to say, the patient took a decided turn for the better almost from that moment, and is now making a steady recovery. Some days later, when he was able to talk a little, the nurse asked him if he had taken in the King's message. "Oh, yes," he answered, "and I thought if the King cares enough to send someone from his own house just to ask about us, and to say *he* hopes we shall get better, it's worth trying to get well again!" There can hardly be a better or more delightful instance of "the King's touch."

***

Jemal Pasha is surely to be pitied, for that he feels himself more and more on the wrong side as the war progresses is very evident. His liking for his enemies the French is well known, and his dislike for the Germans—which blazed out in his famous saying, "Ce cochon de Souchon"—is notorious. Now I see he has flatly "refused to have any German officers on the staff of his army, with the exception of one German general, whose name is not disclosed, and who was nominated by Enver Pasha as adviser without any command." Having arranged this to his satisfaction, and having also settled "all political and strategic questions in connection with the Egyptian campaign," during a short visit to Constantinople, he has now returned to Syria to prepare for his much-discussed advance. I am free to admit that I still have a sneaking regard for Jemal, who has "played the game" and shown himself a chivalrous opponent; and I am, therefore, glad for his sake that he is not to have a staff of arrogant Prussian-made officers and officerlings. But, on the other hand, it would have afforded me a good deal of pleasure to picture these gentry *en route* for the Canal, enjoying (?) the desert journey, and finally being "bagged" by our patiently-waiting forces. The fact that his opposition was not swept aside by Enver and the Germans is, of course, a healthy sign from our point of view.

***

An unhappy infant has been christened "Gallipoli," and a contemporary suggests that we may yet have a "Kut-el-Amarah Jones." I hope not, for the child's sake. "Amarah Jones" does not sound quite so bad. "Busreh Brown" would be pleasantly reminiscent of "Buster Brown," and "Suvla Smith" sounds soft and soothing. But "Kut-el-Amarah Jones" will not do at any price.

***

My attention has been called to a paragraph that appeared in the "Morning's Gossip" columns of one of the ha'penny papers on Thursday of last week. It will, I am sure, be of interest to all my readers from Turkey; and in case any of them may have missed it, I take the liberty of reproducing it here. Headed "A Diplomat's Burden," the paragraph runs thus:—

> In Pont Street, in the rain, I met Sir Louis Mallet staggering under the most miscellaneous load of bazaar trifles imaginable. He had, it appeared, just come from a "white elephant sale" at Lowndes House, where, for a consideration of some half-crowns, he had acquired this load. The bazaar was got up by Lady Neave, I understand, in aid of the Albanians. As Sir Louis was Ambassador to Turkey and much connected with the Near East, his burden was a very honourable one.

Obviously this refers to the successful "white elephant party" reported in THE NEAR EAST last week, and organised for the benefit of British refugees from Turkey. How anybody can at the present moment conceive of a bazaar being "got up," in this country, "in aid of the Albanians" passes my comprehension; for the Albanians' conduct is hardly likely to endear them to Englishmen. But perhaps the writer of the paragraph, unlike Sir Louis, is not "much connected with the Near East." In the same paper, by the way, I note a photograph of Lady Boyle at Salonika, and under it the legend: "Lady Boyle, who is helping her husband to administer the Serbian Relief Fund at Salonika, talking to two tiny refugees," etc. Lady Boyle, it may be worth while to point out, is the mother of Sir Edward, not his wife. Indeed, unless my memory plays me false, Sir Edward is still unmarried. The subject of refugees appears to be a somewhat unfortunate one for the journal referred to.

***

I wonder how far the shoulder-rubbing business of this war will affect the various nationalities concerned. It is quite possible, for instance, that we shall find words and phrases of the French language interlarding the conversation of our soldier men for a generation or more to come. And when the circle narrows and our own men come into contact with the Russian forces, there will be a new possibility to face. Sometimes, when I feel very strong, I try to imagine what a conversation will sound like when it is conducted in pigeon Russian on one side and pigeon Welsh on the other. We appear to have already adopted two enemy words, "kultur" for murder and refined cruelty, and "strafe" for "punish." The Germans, however, are dropping, or have dropped, any words of English which were formerly common in their vocabulary. I read in some paper the other day that they had resolved never to use the word "gentleman" again. I am not surprised. In the same way, it is probable that the word "virtue" is not popular with His Satanic Majesty. But I suppose the old characteristics will remain; it takes even more than Armageddon to alter these, or at least our reputation for their possession.

***

"Give a dog a bad name and hang him." John Bull will probably be represented as a portly, bewhiskered individual until the end of time, the Frenchman as a smiling gentleman in a flowing cape and an imperial; and in writing of the manner in which a people once effectually dubbed with a reputation of some peculiarity retains it in the face of all change, I am reminded that in Bucharest there are two hotels, one frequented by Roumanians, the other by Jews. When last in the town I questioned someone as to which place offered the best lunch. "Go to ———," he advised; "there you can watch the Roumanians eat and hear them talk." "And the other?" I questioned. "At the other, you can hear the Jews eat and watch them talk."

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

BULGARIAN ATROCITIES.*

"Balkanicus" has cast a flood of light on the tangled politics of the Balkans by giving the world a resumé of official documents bearing on King Ferdinand's attitude. His editing leaves much to be desired, and does not assist Western readers to follow the course of events in Bulgaria since 1812. Being a Serbian, he is constitutionally unable to appreciate the fine qualities of the Bulgarian people, as distinguished from their foreign ruler, his camarilla and clique of politicians. But, making allowance for a very natural bias, it may fairly be said that "Balkanicus" has made a valuable addition to the literature of the Eastern Question.

History shows that despotic sovereigns are apt to crystallize their peoples' characteristics. Just as our Henry VIII. and George III. stood forth as personifications of their country's genius, so the German princelet who fought and intrigued his way to a throne twenty-eight years ago is an epitome of his subjects' defects. The Bulgarians are now known to descend from a Turkish tribe which crossed the Danube in the sixth century of our era, and rapidly assimilated the culture of their Slav predecessors. But patriotism and dauntless courage are the only qualities which they share with Russians, Serbians, Czechs, and Croats. For Bulgarians idealism and chivalry are empty sounds. Their ambitions have a purely material aim in view—to attain a predominant position in the Balkan peninsula at the expense of other races inhabiting that much-vexed region. The Bulgarian programme is summarised in a letter concocted by M. Ghenadieff and two other conspirators a few days after the felonious attack had been made on Serbia and Greece:—

1. Break entirely with Russia, and with the policy of gratitude towards her. It is by ingratitude towards Russia that Bulgaria has obtained the best results (1877, 1886, 1903, and 1908).

2. Give up all idea of solidarity with Slavdom; there is no Slavdom for us where there are no Bulgarian interests. Over all, and, above all, place the national egoism of Bulgaria.

3. Plot against Serbia and Greece; with Austria and Albania against Serbia; with Turkey against Greece. But keep on friendly terms with Bucharest, and through Bucharest undo the treaty signed there.

Passing from the Bulgarians to their sovereign, we recognise in him an ultra-modern German of the Bismarckian school; while on the distaff side he descends from Louis Philippe, whose vulpine craftiness brought France to the verge of war with England, and eventually cost him his throne. Ferdinand's eyes have ever been fixed on the Greater Bulgaria of San Stefano, embracing Macedonia, and bounded by three seas, over which he hopes to reign as a vassal of Austria. His assumption of the title "Tsar" in 1908 synchronised with Franz Josef's annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Both were deadly blows aimed at Serbia's legitimate aspirations; and they ought to have sounded a note of warning to our Foreign Office.

Ferdinand's domestic policy has always been that of a crafty and unscrupulous despot. Bulgaria's imperfect political development has saddled her with no fewer than ten parliamentary parties, whose perpetual squabbling increases the influence of the Crown. It is used solely for dynastic ends. Ferdinand juggles with his Cabinets, intrigues against them, and confronts them with the accomplished fact before which they are compelled to bend. He has laboured with some success to inspire his troops with hatred for Russia, to whom they owe deliverance from the Turkish yoke. Under his malign example their worst qualities have grown apace, until it may almost be said that they rival Germans in brutality and lack of scruple.

Ferdinand loves to fish in troubled waters, and the disorganization of Turkey after the Tripolitan campaign gave him an opportunity of indulging his passion. In 1912 he engineered a league against her, comprising Serbia and Greece. With their effectual assistance he scored an easy victory over the war-worn Turks. But the ink on the treaty of peace executed in London (May, 1913) was scarcely dry ere he began to intrigue against his allies. Russia's advice to demobilise was ignored; her offer to arbitrate under the Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty of 1912 was accepted only that time might be gained for the concentration of his armies on the Serbian and Greek frontiers. Like the wolf in "Little Red Riding Hood," he laid the blame for a gratuitous quarrel of his own making on Serbia, whose attitude had been thoroughly loyal to the alliance. When all was ready, Ferdinand ordered a night attack on Serbia and Greece (June 28, 1913). Its result must be fresh in the memory of readers of THE NEAR EAST. For once in a way political and strategic felonies did not succeed. Bulgaria lost much territory south of the Balkan Range, which she had secured by the Treaty of London, and another large slice bordering on the Danube was appropriated by Roumania.

Ferdinand sulked like Achilles in his tents until the inevitable European conflagration gave him an opportunity of restoring his fallen fortunes. From its very outset he worked hand in glove with Austria. He permitted German munitions to pass through his kingdom *en route* for Constantinople, and supplied that city with coal shipped from its Black Sea ports. But for our Dardanelles adventure he would have openly ranged his armies against us in the spring of last year. Its failure was the signal for an act of ingratitude which has no parallel in history.

Three salient facts emerge from the mass of documentary evidence adduced by "Balkanicus." The first is Russia's earnest desire to maintain the Balkan League of 1912 intact in the interests of European peace. The second, alas! is the impotence of our Foreign Office and its late representative at Sofia. Great Britain, to whom Bulgaria owes her very existence, is only once alluded to in the course of this volume. The third is the ultra-Machiavellianism of General Savoff, whose telegrams and despatches to Ferdinand reveal a degree of moral obliquity worthy of his German wire-pullers. *Arcades ambo;* they are the evil geniuses of their country. But we may well take heart of grace. By this time the scales have fallen from Bulgarian eyes, revealing the abyss towards which Ferdinand is driving his subjects. They will learn by bitter experience that honesty is the best policy.

F. H. S.

* "The Aspirations of Bulgaria." Translated from the Serbian of "Balkanicus." (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Kent and Co., Limited, 1915. 2s. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

The "Quarterly Statement" of the Palestine Exploration Fund for January contains another instalment of the interesting "Occasional Papers on the Modern Inhabitants of Palestine," by Dr. E. W. G. Masterman and Professor R. A. S. Macalister; a paper entitled "The Jews as Builders," by Professor A. C. Dickie, reprinted from the Journal of the Manchester Egyptian and Oriental Society; a continuation of Mr. Philip Baldensperger's "The Immovable East"; "Notes on Damascus," by Mr. F. G. Newton, who deals at some length with ruins near the so-called "House of Ananias"; and "Archæological Notes," by Mr. Joseph Offord. It well supports the opinion expressed in the "Notes and News" that "there are still many subjects of interest for discussion," although the war has necessarily put an end to excavations for the time being.

We have received a copy of the *Empress Mail*, a small, illustrated daily publication distributed on board the Canadian Pacific Railway steamers plying between Canada and this country. The issue corresponding to Thursday of each week is devoted exclusively to Egypt, and contains useful and attractive descriptions of some of the best known scenes and monuments in the valley of the Nile. It will do much to popularise Egypt among Canadians, and though to speak of a tourist season now is to speak of snow in midsummer, the C.P.R. is to be congratulated on preparing now for future harvests.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Readings from Indian History for Boys and Girls. By Ethel R. Sykes. Part I. From Vedic Times to the Coming of the English. With illustrations and maps. (The Christian Literature Society. 2s. net.)

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916.	1916.		1334.	5676.
Jan.	Jan.		Rebi I.	Shebat.
21	8	Friday	15	16
22	9	Saturday.....	16	17
23	10	Sunday	17	18
24	11	Monday	18	19
25	12	Tuesday	19	2[illegible]
26	13	Wednesday	20	21
27	14	Thursday	21	22

To-day is the birthday of H.I.M. Sultan Ahmed Mirza, Shah of Persia, who was born at Tabriz, January 20/21, 1898 (Shaban 27, 1314, according to the Moslem calendar).

To-morrow is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Nicholas of Greece, second brother of King Constantine, who was born at Athens on January 9, 1872 (O.S.).

Sunday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Militza, Princess Royal of Montenegro, who was born in 1880, and married Prince Danilo at Cettinje in 1899.

Reports received in London last Saturday state that the health of King Peter of Serbia is appreciably improving.

A Reuter's message from Athens, dated the 16th inst., says:—The King of Serbia arrived at Edipsos at six o'clock last evening on board a French torpedo-boat in which he embarked at Salonika. Apparently his Majesty found the longer sea route less fatiguing than the short sea and land journey which had been arranged.

Reuter's Rome correspondent reports that King Nicholas of Montenegro has expressed his intention of returning to Italy with the Royal Family.

Crown Prince Danilo of Montenegro and the Crown Princess have returned to Rome from Naples.

M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister, left the Legation on Tuesday afternoon for Paris to visit some relatives. During his absence M. Boresco, the First Secretary, will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

On Thursday of last week Sir Ralph Paget had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace, on his return from Serbia, where he has been acting as Commissioner for the supervision of British hospital units.

Rear-Admiral Mark Kerr had the honour of being received by the King at York Cottage, Sandringham, on Wednesday.

Lord Kitchener, accompanied by Surgeon-General Sir Alfred Keogh, last Friday afternoon, visited the blind soldiers at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park. He conversed with the officers he met, and expressed his appreciation of the good work being done at the institution, and the cheerfulness of its inmates.

On Monday, M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier, was received in audience at Brindisi by King Victor Emmanuel.

We are officially informed that Mme. Slavko Grouitch, the American wife of the Serbian Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who arrived in Paris recently from Salonika, after a long and perilous journey from Nish during the Serbian Army's retreat, will arrive in London this week.

Under date of January 19, the *Morning Post's* Rome correspondent reports:—Mr. des Graz, the British Minister to Serbia, has arrived here after an arduous journey across Albania. It is pleasant to record the gratitude expressed by all Serbians with whom I have spoken for his services and sympathy with the Serbian cause in its darkest hour, especially as some British agents sent to Serbia are more adapted to deal with Albanians than with the Serbs.

Apropos of our report of the White Elephant Party, held last week in aid of the British Refugees from Turkey Fund, we are indebted to a correspondent for the following list of ladies and gentlemen who took, and helped to sell, tickets: The Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, the Hon. Lady Herbert, Lady O'Conor, Lady Nicolson, the Marchioness of Tweeddale, Lady Lawrence, Lady Collins, Mrs. Surtees, Mrs. Eyres, Sir Vincent Caillard, Sir Henry Howard, Mr. La Fontaine and Mr. Martindale.

Mr. J. MacD. Russell, formerly British Postmaster at Smyrna, and now Postmastter at Shanghai, is at present on a short visit to England. Many of our readers will much regret to learn that this visit is due to the sudden death of Mr. and Mrs. Russell's younger son, Ronald, which was caused by an accident, an iron gate collapsing and, falling upon him, killing him instantaneously. The death, as announced in these columns on December 17, took place on December 5, and Mr. Russell hurried home immediately upon receipt of the news.

Among the survivors of the Yasaka Maru, which was recently torpedoed off Port Said, was Lewa Butler Pasha, late Governor of the White Nile Province.

Miss Winifred Wells, younger daughter of the Director-General of the Department of Technical Education, Egypt, who was injured in a motor accident on the Meadi Road some weeks ago, has now been able to be moved from the Anglo-American Hospital to her home at Gezireh. Miss Wells is making good progress, but will not be able to walk for some time.

As a mark of appreciation of the heroism displayed by the Australian troops in Gallipoli Mr. Austin Taylor has presented to the Commonwealth Mr. Charles Dixon's picture, "The Landing at Anzac," recently exhibited at the Fine Art Society's Gallery. The Australian Prime Minister has cabled cordially thanking the donor.

On Thursday of last week, at 240, Amesbury Avenue, Streatham Hill, S.W., the wife of Second Lieutenant T. D. Scott, R.E., Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, and of Cairo, Egypt, gave birth to a daughter.

An engagement is announced between Captain Basil Hamilton Hebden Spence, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps, attached Egyptian Army, eldest son of Mr. T. W. L. Spence, C.B., of Uyea, Shetland, and Margaret Alice, only daughter of the late George Hunter Mackenzie, 44, Inverleigh Row, Edinburgh.

The marriage arranged to take place on January 18 between Mr. Norman Macnaghten and Miss Ida Gunning has been unavoidably postponed.

Major Horace H. Wilson, 4th Battalion King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment), who was drowned in the sinking of the Persia, had served for ten years with the Egyptian Army (1899-1909); and at the time he met his death he was on his way to Egypt to take up duties on the Headquarters Staff, having been gazetted Staff Officer (2nd Grade) on December 24. A son of the late Lieut-Colonel W. H. Wilson, he obtained his commission as second lieutenant in the Lancashire Fusiliers in June, 1894, and served with the regiment in India and Egypt, being present at the battle of Kerreri, in September, 1898. He was mentioned in dispatches and received the Queen's medal for Egypt and the Khedive's medal with three clasps. He was promoted captain in January, 1900. In March, 1899, he was seconded for service with the Egyptian Army, and acted as Bimbashi, 3rd Battalion, from 1899 to 1902. He was appointed Inspector, Upper Nile Province, in 1902, and held that office until 1905, during which time he made two journeys into Abyssinia with the object of establishing trade between the Abyssinian and Sudanese tribes. He also made other expeditions into hitherto almost unknown districts of the Southern Sudan. From 1905 to 1907 he was Assistant Civil Secretary in Khartoum, and from 1907 to 1909 Assistant Adjutant-General, Khartoum. The decoration of the Imperial Order of the Mejidieh, 4th Class, was conferred on him in 1903 and the Order of the Osmanieh, 4th Class, in 1909. He was specially promoted to the rank of major in July, 1912, and transferred to the King's Own Regiment, going with his battalion to India, from whence they returned in December, 1914, and proceeded on active service in France, where he was in temporary command of the battalion for a time, and was again mentioned in dispatches.

We much regret to have to record the death of Captain Arthur John Byng Wavell, 1st Battalion the Welsh Regiment, the explorer, who is reported to have been killed in British East Africa on January 8, when in command of the Arab Rifles. He was the eldest son of Colonel R. H. Wavell, the Welsh Regiment, and of Mrs. Wavell, of 7, Egerton Gardens, and was born in 1882. Educated at Winchester and Sandhurst, he joined the Welsh Regiment in 1900, and fought in the South African War. In 1904 he was specially employed by the War Office to travel and make maps and report on practically the whole of Swaziland, Togoland, and North Zululand; and the following year he was again employed by the War Office to cross the Kalihari Desert and report on the Bechuanaland Protectorate. He resigned his commission in the Welsh Regiment in 1906 and bought land in British East Africa, starting a sisal plantation near Mombasa. In 1908 he went on a pilgrimage to Mecca, and, for further exploration in Arabia, he went to Hodeida, and from there to Sanaa, but was there arrested by the Turks and prevented from going farther. He joined the special reserve of his old regiment in 1913. He was in British East Africa visiting his plantation when war was declared, and not being permitted to leave the country to join his own regiment at the front he devoted his energies to raising a force. This consisted mainly of Arab water-carriers, and with them he was able to protect Mombasa till troops arrived from India. On September 24 the Germans attacked in large numbers at Majorini, near Vanga. He managed to drive them back, but was seriously wounded in the left arm, and was for some time in hospital at Mombasa.

Major Hugh E. R. Boxer, D.S.O., Lincolnshire Regiment, who was previously reported wounded and missing, is now reported (unofficially) to have been killed in action last June, at Hooge. Born in January, 1871, he obtained a commission in the Lincolnshire Regiment in 1892, and reached the rank of major in 1911. For five years from September, 1903, he was adjutant of Militia and the Special Reserve of the Lincolns. Before the present war his active service was seen with the Nile Expedition of 1898. He was severely wounded in the battle of Atbara, and for his services was mentioned in despatches, and had the Egyptian medal with clasp and the Atbara medal. He won his D.S.O. in the present war. He was the only surviving son of Mrs. Le Grice, of Thorpe Lodge, Sandown, Isle of Wight.

Colonel F. W. Mackenzie Spring, late of the Royal (Bombay) Artillery, who died at Midhurst, Sussex, on Wednesday of last week, aged seventy-four years, had served in the Abyssinian expedition in 1867. He retired with the rank of colonel in 1894.

Our Bucharest Correspondent reports, under date of December 25: I record with regret the suicide of the well-known professor, Em. Grigorovitza. He had recently become involved in financial difficulties, the result of speculations which in the existing crisis proved disastrous. The prospect of financial ruin had told on his mind to such an extent that he finally took his own life by shooting.

M. Shebeko, formerly Russian Minister at Bucharest and later Ambassador at the Austrian Court, arrived in Bucharest on De-

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cember 19, coming from Russia. In local diplomatic circles considerable importance is given to the visit of the well-known diplomat.

In spite of the circulation of trains on the line Odessa-Ungheni being interrupted in consequence of military transports, two truck-loads of drugs have arrived at Jassy, from Russia, for the Roumanian Red Cross Society. Fourteen truckloads have been received up to date from this source.

The announcement made last week that Captain Arthur Warden Baker, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers, has been awarded the Military Cross will be received with much pleasure by his many friends in this country. Captain Baker, who was mentioned in despatches, was wounded at Loos, but has since recovered sufficiently to resume his duties. He is, we understand, the first of the former British residents at Constantinople to receive the Military Cross.

Last Friday's *Gazette* contained the announcement that the King has been pleased to approve of the Albert medal of the second class being conferred upon Michael Sullivan Keogh, Chief Petty Officer, his Majesty's ship Ark Royal, in recognition of his gallantry in endeavouring to save life. On August 19, 1915, an aeroplane piloted by the late Captain C. H. Collet, D.S.O., R.M.A., was ascending from Imbros Aerodrome, and had reached a height of 150 ft. when the engine stopped. The machine was upset by the powerful air currents from the cliffs, and fell vertically to the ground, while the petrol carried burst into flames, which immediately enveloped the aeroplane and pilot. Chief Petty Officer Keogh, upon arriving at the scene of the accident, at once made an attempt to save Captain Collet by dashing into the midst of the wreckage, which was a mass of flames. He had succeeded in dragging the fatally injured officer nearly clear of the flames when he was himself overcome by the burns which he had received from the blazing petrol.

Last Friday, being New Year's Day according to the Greek calendar, a service was held at the Greek Church in Moscow Road, Bayswater, in the morning. The Very Rev. the Great Archimandrite, Dr. Pagonis, and the Archimandrite, Agathangelos Moschovakis, were the officiating clergymen, and there was a large Hellenic congregation.

Sir Francis Gore has been elected treasurer of the Serbian Relief Fund, in succession to the Earl of Desart, who has resigned in consequence of the pressure of Government work.

The Serbian Relief Fund has received a cheque for £1,000 from Lieutenant-Colonel Davies, M.P., of Llandinan, Montgomeryshire, towards the relief of starving and homeless Serbian refugees.

The Marchioness of Londonderry will open a bazaar, organized by the Women's Volunteer Reserve, in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund, to be held at the Portman Rooms, Baker Street, on Thursday, the 27th inst. Entertainments will be given during the afternoon by several well-known artists.

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— EDUCATIONAL AGENTS, —

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The British Farmers' Red Cross Fund, which has done such good work in the Near East—in Serbia, in Egypt, and at the Dardanelles—as well as in France and Belgium, had collected close upon £180,000 up to the end of last week. Further subscriptions are urgently required, and should be sent to the Secretary, Room 5, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Shad Thames, Bermondsey, S.E.

A message received from Switzerland early in the week stated that Prince Eitel Friederich, the Kaiser's second son, had visited King Constantine of Greece on a special mission from the German Government.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria and the German Emperor met at Nish on the 18th inst. King Ferdinand was accompanied by Prince Boris and Prince Cyril of Bulgaria, and by M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister.

In response to our appeal on behalf of the Y.M.C.A. work in Egypt, we have received subscriptions amounting to £12 2s., which have been forwarded to the Acting Honorary Treasurer. We trust that our readers will continue to lend their support to this very deserving cause, and should further subscriptions be sent to these offices we shall be happy to forward them to the Y.M.C.A. headquarters.

Four public lectures by Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson, arranged in co-operation with the Council for the Study of International Relations, will be given on the evenings of Monday, at 5.30 p.m., at University College, on the following subjects and dates:—January 24, Austria-Hungary: Racial Problems; January 31, the Southern Slav Question; February 7, Serbia's Place in the War; February 14, Bohemia.

THE LATE KYRILLUS V.

A correspondent writes:—

Kyrillus, or Cyril V., the Coptic Patriarch, who died last week at the age of ninety-five, was the 112th successor of St. Mark the Evangelist, by whom the ancient Egyptian Church was founded. Cyril V. was elected Patriarch in 1875, and since the early days of his tenure of office a certain section of the Coptic community have been asking for reform in the Church and striving against his authority. About twenty years ago, a party formed of young Copts succeeded in getting the Government to exile the Patriarch to Nitria. But, later, when Riaz Pasha became Prime Minister, he recalled the Patriarch, who was given a most enthusiastic welcome on his return to Cairo.

The private life of Cyril V. was always admired by his enemies as well as his friends. The mere fact that he did not spend on himself more than £50 a year, while he was free to deal with his income of £35,000 a year, speaks volumes. The vast sums he received were spent on churches, schools, and the poor.

His death will renew the strife between the young Copts, who are known as the Reformers, on the one hand, and the clergy and the Conservative Copts on the other. The first party would seek to have a modern Copt as Patriarch; the second party would wish to elect one of the type of the late Cyril V. But the people in Egypt are occupying their thoughts at the present time with the critical position in which their country is placed with regard to the war, so it is not at all likely that Coptic differences will manifest themselves to any considerable extent.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 2s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTHS.

RYAN.—On January 13, at 9, Downshire Hill, Hampstead, N.W., the wife of Andrew Ryan, of twin sons.

SCOTT.—On January 13, at 240, Amesbury Avenue, Streatham Hill, S.W., the wife of Second Lieut. T. D. Scott, R.E., Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, and of Cairo, Egypt, of a daughter. (Cairo papers, please copy.)

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

A Reuter's message from Salonika announces that on Sunday last General Sarrail assumed supreme command of the Franco-British forces concentrated at Salonika.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (December 25):—

M. Al. Guranesco, Second Secretary of the Roumanian Legation at Sofia, is about to be transferred to the Roumanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He will be replaced by a councillor of legation.

The rumour of M. Derussi's transfer from Sofia, and his replacement by M. Pissoski, proves to be a mere fiction, emanating, of course, from a German source.

Colonel Rudeano, Director of Armaments at the Ministry of War, has gone abroad on a special mission.

Mr. A. L. Butler, Superintendent of the Game Preservation Department, Sudan Government, has been retired on pension from January 1, 1916.

Jemal Pasha, who recently went to Constantinople, has been promoted General of Division.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1916.

MONTENEGRO.

Events have marched with even more dramatic suddenness in Montenegro than they did in the case of Serbia. Almost before it was realized that the Austrians were attacking Mount Lovtchen in earnest news came that this important position, which had held out against the same enemy for eighteen months, had been captured within a few days. The fall of Cettinje was then a foregone conclusion, and it was followed by the Austrian announcement of the capitulation of the Montenegrin Government. It is inevitable that the circumstances attending the surrender of Montenegro should have given rise to fresh doubts regarding the wholeheartedness of the opposition offered to the Austrian advance. Four or five months ago it was reported from Montenegro that the attitude of the military authorities was open to suspicion, that some of the official statements regarding engagements with the enemy bore no relation to facts, and that the object of these reports must be to throw dust in the eyes of Montenegro's Allies. At the time we dismissed all such rumours as due to some misunderstanding, in view of the impossibility of any foreign observer being in a position to follow the plans of Montenegrin strategy. Moreover, there was no occasion for the Montenegrins to undertake any considerable operations against the Austrians; their Allies were content to see both them and the Serbians husband their resources and employ the respite to improve their military positions. When finally the Austro-German forces moved south against the Serbians the Montenegrins at once engaged the enemy, and their actions seemed to prove the unreliability of previous reports concerning their attitude. It will be well, in any case, to withhold judgment until more conclusive evidence is forthcoming. There is some indication that the Montenegrins themselves have not accepted the capitulation unanimously, and the possibility exists that fighting will be continued. Prince Mirko, who is second to his father alone, if to anyone, as a popular idol, has left the country in apparent disagreement with the conduct of the war. The official statement made by Count Tisza in the Hungarian Parliament was to the effect that King Nicholas and his Government had agreed to an unconditional surrender before peace negotiations were begun. The white flag was said to have been hoisted at Grahovo, the scene of one of Montenegro's famous victories over the Turks, and King Nicholas had handed over his sword to an Austrian general. That the terms imposed upon the Montenegrins provided that all men fit for military service should be assembled in a large body for the purpose of laying down their arms and should then be interned may well have led to a general repudiation of the surrender.

If it should be established that the Montenegrin Government has been in negotiation with the Austrian for some time past we shall hope to learn that the step has been taken in full agreement with, or with the tacit consent of, the Allies. Two points have to be borne in mind. In the first place, Montenegro's participation in the war was brought about by her alliance with Serbia, and was not the outcome of any direct concern in a struggle between the Great Powers. It is true that Mount Lovtchen has always been coveted by the Austrians; but Italy's veto could be relied upon in all ordinary circumstances to keep Austria's hands off the mountain. Secondly, while the Montenegrins entered the war with all the necessary enthusiasm, the Allies were never in a position to give them any practical support, so that they should feel themselves definitely incorporated in the Allies' military schemes. To some extent the Montenegrins co-operated with the Serbians, but their campaign against Austria was in the main carried out on their own initiative. For a long time, while they were dealing the enemy just as hard blows as they received, the situation was, no doubt, to the liking of a hardy fighting stock; but as the war dragged on indefinitely there may well have arisen some misgivings in the mind of King Nicholas. If the Allied Powers had been able to reassure him and to make good the drain on the country's resources, all might have been well. But when the Quadruple Entente failed to support Serbia, the Montenegrin Government was confronted with a serious situation. For the Serbians there could be no alternative to resistance to the death, for no terms which the enemy would give them would save their country. The Montenegrins, on the other hand, had no such fate to fear. They might be called upon to surrender Mount Lovtchen, but no one coveted the rest of their mountainous country. In such circumstances it was almost an obligation on the part of the Allied Powers, as soon as they found themselves unable to assist either Serbia or Montenegro, to make it easy for the latter to be spared the fate of the Serbians. If this course was not adopted, and it be proved that the Montenegrins entered into negotiations with the enemy without consulting their Allies, we shall still do well to suspend judgment until the whole of the Montenegrin case is known. An advanced picket which has satisfied itself that it has been abandoned by the main force, and is surrounded by the enemy, may have to make its own terms. Not many years have passed since Tennyson wrote:—

> O smallest among peoples! Rough rock-throne
> Of Freedom! . . .
> Great Tsernagora! never since thine own
> Black ridges drew the cloud and broke the storm
> Has breathed a race of mightier mountaineers!

It is not asking too much, therefore, that the inner history of the movement for surrender should be learned before a brave people is condemned. The one desire of the Allies, with their knowledge of the deadly potency of Austro-German intrigue, can only be that Montenegro's loss of independence should be brief, and that she may still be found on their side when the settlement at the end of the war takes place.

From a military point of view, the surrender of Montenegro could be regarded with equanimity. With the Montenegrin army still in being and falling back into Albania before a pursuing Austrian force, the Allies would have been obliged to devote some attention to this western flank before a general advance along the southern front could be made. If, on the other hand, the inducement to the Austrians to press on southwards were removed, Montenegro and Albania would be eliminated from the theatre of war, and the southern line shortened on the west. This should facilitate the operations directed from Salonika; for, in view of the necessity of garrisoning Montenegro and guarding against an Italian surprise, the Austrians will not find that the capitulation liberates any large portion of the invading army for service on the Greek frontier. On the other hand, if there is to be an advance from the Ægean, by the time the Allied line is abreast of Montenegro the Austrians will have had to evacuate the country. The more vigorous the offensive in the Balkans, and the sooner it can be launched, the shorter will be the day of Montenegro's undoing. For the moment she is being forced into the orbit of the Central Powers, but it cannot be her final position, for it suits neither the traditions nor the instincts of this Slav people.

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THREE FAMOUS SIEGES.

THE DARDANELLES, PORT ARTHUR, TSINGTAU.

(From a Correspondent.)

The news on my arrival in England from the Far East of the complete evacuation of the Gallipoli Peninsula brought home to me very forcibly the wonderful military capacity and reckless bravery of our Japanese Allies, whose triumph over the German stronghold in China freed us from a heavy drain on our Fleet and our men, and ended the German dreams of a prominent, and even foremost, place in the Rising Sun.

In ordinary times an article dealing partly with the Far East would be out of place in the pages of The Near East; but these are no ordinary times, and a short study of the Japanese methods which were successful at Tsingtau against the Germans and at Port Arthur against our present Allies, the Russians, may prove of some interest.

At the commencement of each of the operations respectively against Port Arthur, 1904, Tsingtau, 1914, and the Dardanelles, 1915, the same opinion was held by many people, viz., that the place was impregnable, and could not be taken by assault. The Russians had converted a naturally strong port into what was actually one of the strongest fortified places in the world; the Germans had spent twenty millions sterling on Tsingtau, and numerous military barracks, forming a considerable part of the town, showed that there were plenty of defenders for the hidden guns on the crests of the heights; whilst the Turks had, with the aid of their German allies, added considerably to the many strong positions guarding the entrance to the Sea of Marmora. To-day the first thought that occurs to one who knows all three places is that, whilst the small Japanese nation had to contend with the mighty Russian Empire at Port Arthur and the up-to-date scientific Germans at Tsingtau, and the British and French had as their opponents "only" the Turks, backed up by a few thousand Germans, the Japanese alone were successful in both of their sieges, whilst we not only failed to take the Dardanelles, but even had to beat a retreat after colossal losses. I write "only," for, unfortunately, since the Turkish wars of 1912 and 1913 it became common to speak of the Turkish army with contempt, whereas the last few months have proved that the Turks have not lost the fighting qualities that once carried them as far as the gates of the capital of one of their present allies.

Where does the secret of the successes of the Japanese and of our failure lie? We know that our men performed deeds of valour unsurpassed even by the "forlorn hopes" of the Japanese, but we also know from Sir Ian Hamilton's despatches that some officers were relieved of their command, whilst discussions in a certain place showed that all were not unanimous as to the methods of attack. The world did not hear of such incidents at Port Arthur and Tsingtau, where the Japanese left nothing to chance, but, on the contrary, had studied everything carefully and closely for years beforehand. Having, then, equally brave soldiers on our side, it would appear to me that if the same foresight and measures of preparedness had been employed by our Staff, the Dardanelles would have gone the same way as Port Arthur and Tsingtau.

Looking at the mighty forts of Tungchikuanshan, Erlungshan, 203-Metre Hill, and Bodai at Port Arthur, and Forts Bismarck and Iltis at Tsingtau, one might well wonder how they ever fell to the armies of a little nation like Japan; but a knowledge of the incredible recklessness of the Japanese soldiers, added to the scientific attainments possessed by the officers, makes one understand how, after unheard-of losses, Russian fort after fort fell and gave Port Arthur to the men who had already conquered it by force of arms from the Chinese. A few weeks of brilliant operations, carefully planned previously, sufficed to make the Germans haul down their flag at Tsingtau to give way to the Rising Sun.

To one whose military service is confined to turning out against Chinese revolutionists the difficulties of the operations at the Dardanelles are, of course, unknown, but, after seeing the very formidable positions at both Port Arthur and Tsingtau, and especially at the former place, garrisoned by as brave soldiers as the Japanese themselves, the natural question arises: "How would the Japanese have fared at the Dardanelles?"

Well, the best reply is perhaps that at Port Arthur the gallant Russian soldiers, armed with the latest weapons of the time and taking full advantage of the so-called impregnable iron-stone forts, further strengthened with all possible defence works, such as tunnels, trenches, mines, and electrified entanglements, had to surrender in less than five months from the beginning of the general attack. That the attacks were fierce and costly is proved by the fact that one shrine contains the cremated remains of 22,183 Japanese soldiers. The stuff of which their officers were made is shown in one of the orders issued by Major-General Nakamura during the attack against one of the forts: "Our object is to sever the fortress in two parts. No man must hope to return alive. If I fall, Colonel Watanabe will take over the command: if he also falls, Lieutenant-Colonel Okabo will take his place. Every officer must consider himself his senior's successor. The attack will be delivered mainly with the bayonet. However fierce the Russian fire may be, our men are not to reply with a single shot until we have established ourselves."

The Russians were equally brave, but, as we unfortunately know, bravery alone will not prevail, and nothing was able to hold out against the Japanese methods. Of the Russian defenders of one of the hills alone, viz., 203-Metre Hill, 5,380 corpses were collected after its fall.

This war has proved the necessity of artillery, and our French Allies have done excellent work with their guns, but I doubt whether they surpass the Japanese. It is only a few days since I had a proof of the remarkable accuracy and effect of their big guns, and, as the test was visible to anyone on the hills which are now open to the public, the results were no doubt seen by many others. After the capture of Tsingtau the Japanese military authorities took over the entire administration of the German territory, shipping most of the Germans as prisoners to Japan. A short time ago a new gun was brought over and mounted on Fort Iltis, from which it was desired to test its power on one of the lower forts formerly commanding part of the entrance to the harbour. Standing on Fort Bismarck, I was able to see clearly the results. The first shot fell a few yards from the fort; the second struck it fair in the centre. There was no third! The little fort had ceased to exist. At Fort Bismarck there are many evidences of this fine shooting. One of the German big guns, a 28 cm., I think, received a shot in its nozzle, whilst its twin, a few yards away, got a smack from a shell on the barrel. There they are still just as the two shots left them, an eloquent testimony to Japanese marksmanship. Four of the other big guns were blown up by the Germans when they surrendered, but all round there are holes made by Japanese shots.

To return to the question, "How would the Japanese have fared at the Dardanelles?" most people who know the race would probably reply that the Japanese

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H.M KING OF SPAIN

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would have been successful, for they have shown that they do not begin any military operations without previously having everything fully prepared for success. Our men at the Dardanelles were as brave as our Far East Allies, but the most enthusiastic supporter of British military plans must admit that everything was not thought out so fully as to let our men gain the full advantage of their bravery. It is not saying too much to assert that the Japanese Staff would have adopted different methods, with probably very different results. In one of his despatches Sir Ian Hamilton stated: "The divisional commanders believed themselves, it seems, unable to move. Then had come hesitation. The advantage had not been pressed. The one fatal error was inertia. And inertia prevailed." One can scarcely ever imagine a Japanese generalissimo having to make such a statement about his divisional commanders! I don't think the word "inertia," or its equivalent, is known in Japan.

In conclusion, the operations at the Dardanelles were being very closely watched by the Japanese, and it would be interesting to our leaders to learn the conclusions of the Far East military experts, which, I may say, they are not likely to do, as discreet silence is one of the virtues of the clever little nation; but one thing may be taken for granted, and that is that any errors made by our side at the Dardanelles will be taken to heart, analysed, and not repeated by the Japanese during any of their future military operations.

THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

It will be remembered that a fortnight ago Mount Lovtchen fell into enemy hands. The fate of Cetinje, the unsullied capital of the brave Montenegrin people, was thereby sealed, and last Friday the following Austrian communiqué was issued in Vienna:—

After surrendering Cetinje, the Montenegrins are retreating on all points of their south and west front, pursued by our troops, who have crossed the line Budua-Cetinje-Grab-Grahovo, and are now advancing east of Bileca and near Avtovas into Montenegrin territory. Near Grahovo we captured three guns, with their gunners, 500 rifles, one machine gun and much ammunition, and other war material. Nothing new has taken place near Berane and west of Ipek.

This communiqué was followed on Sunday by a second, as under:—

In pursuit of the defeated enemy, our forces with their southern wing yesterday occupied Spizza. At Cetinje 154 guns of different calibres, 10,000 rifles, ten machine guns, and much munition and war material was captured. The number of guns captured during the battles in the region of Mount Lovtchen has increased to forty-five. The number of prisoners brought in yesterday was 300. South of Berane, where the enemy is still stubbornly resisting, our battalions stormed the trenches on the height of Gradina.

It was at the time thought that a portion of the Serbian Army was fighting side by side with the Montenegrins, and it was believed that the despatch of a relatively small Allied force with guns would enable the Montenegrins to maintain their position, prevent the country being overrun by the enemy, and enable the remainder of the army, if it came to the worst, to escape through northern to central Albania where, it is presumed, they would have found safety in the shelter of the Italo-Serbian army. However, matters seem to have moved swiftly, Monday's Vienna communication stating that

North of Grahovo the pursuit and fighting is proceeding. In this region we captured 250 Montenegrins and a storehouse filled with ammunition also fell into the hands of our troops. The number of prisoners captured during the last few days near Berane exceeds five hundred.

On the same day a Buda-Pest telegram, received in Amsterdam, reported (says Reuter) that Count Tiza addressed the Hungarian Parliament as follows:—

"I beg leave to interrupt the discussion in order to announce that the King and Government of Montenegro have asked to be allowed to open peace negotiations. In reply to this request we demanded, as a preliminary to the initiation of peace negotiations, unconditional capitulation. I have now received the news that Montenegro has agreed to unconditional surrender. Therefore, after the capitulation has been accomplished, peace negotiations can begin. Without over-estimating the significance of this event, I think that I can in any case describe it as an important and gratifying event, which shows that the Hungarian Monarchy and nation are reaping the first-fruits of their perseverance and heroism."

Up to the moment of writing there has been no confirmation of the report of the unconditional surrender of the Montenegrin Army, and, frankly, we doubt its accuracy. The only document, official or semi-official, which is of interest is a note issued in Paris on Tuesday by the Montenegrin Consul-General. It says:—

The newspapers announce that unhappy Montenegro has had to submit to the inevitable after having struggled heroically in particularly disadvantageous conditions against an enemy much sueprior in numbers and formidably armed. It may be considered as certain that if the King and Government have yielded it is because the army had exhausted its last munitions.

Even flight was impossible. The enemies were on the frontiers; there was no escape by the sea; inveterate hostility was to be encountered in Albania. If the Serbian Army was able to escape from Serbia the weak contingents of Montenegrins, exhausted by the superhuman efforts of their long and desperate but effective resistance and by privations of all kinds, were not able to seek refuge on friendly territory. It is possible to discuss *ad infinitum* the conditions of the suspension of hostilities, the details of which, it is to be observed, come from enemy sources; it is even possible to heap insults on the unfortunate conquered, but that will in no way detract from the reputation of valiant little Montenegro nor from the sublime rôle of heroism which she is proud of having played in the great war.

***On going to press we are informed that Reuter's Agency has received the following from Rome:—"Thursday.—The Montenegrin Consulate-General this morning informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by order of M. Muskovitch, the Montenegrin Premier, who arrived yesterday at Brindisi, that the King of Montenegro and his Government had refused all the terms offered by Austria-Hungary, and that fighting had been resumed on all the fronts. The King and his sons are still in Montenegro, in the midst of their troops, organising the last stand." A later message from Brindisi last night states that it is understood that King Nicholas is staying at Scutari to organise the resistance. On the other hand, Sir J. Roper Parkington, the Consul-General for Montenegro in London, received yesterday a telegram bearing out the above news, and stating that the Queen and the two Princesses were on the way to France. The message added that the King, with his sons, are at the head of the troops, determined to fight to the last. It is only what we should have expected from heroic Montenegro.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Mesopotamian Expedition. Jan. 13.

Sir J. D. REES asked whether recent developments in Turkey, Mesopotamia, Persia, and the Middle East would occasion any change in the military administration of affairs in these countries, and whether the Mesopotamia expedition was still controlled entirely by the Government of India?

Mr. TENNANT said he could not answer for changes that might be occasioned by future developments, but at present the Mesopotamia Expedition was controlled by the Government of India.

Sir J. D. REES asked whether Mesopotamia was not rather remote from India, and whether its connection with Egypt did not make a change desirable.

Mr. TENNANT said he was not aware of any geographical changes.

Sir J. D. REES: The right hon. gentleman may not be responsible for the geography, but is he not responsible for answering as regards military proximity?

Mr. TENNANT: It is true that measured by miles Mesopotamia is nearer to Egypt, but for military convenience it has been arranged—and I do not think it is likely to be altered—that the Mesopotamia Expedition shall remain under the control of India.

Administration of Egypt.

Sir J. D. REES asked Sir E. Grey whether recent developments in Turkey, Mesopotamia, Persia, and the Middle East would occasion any changes in the administration of Egypt or in the political direction of affairs in these countries.

Sir E. GREY said no changes of the nature referred to by the hon. member were in contemplation.

Sir J. D. REES: Does not the direction of affairs in Egypt at present possess a paramount importance compared with that of previous conditions, and is not any change contemplated there in consequence?

Sir E. GREY: There are no changes contemplated in the political direction of affairs, but of course there may be military changes according to the progress of the war.

Our Representative at Teheran.

Sir E. GREY informed Sir J. D. REES that the post of His Majesty's Minister at Teheran had been held since April 17 by Mr. Charles Marling.

Sir J. D. REES: Is it not the case that our representative acted with great tact and diplomatic skill during a most crucial period?

Sir E. GREY: Oh, yes, that is quite true. Mr. Marling has conducted affairs with great judgment and skill.

British Interests in Bulgaria.

Sir E. CORNWALL asked who was now representing British interests in Bulgaria, and what information had reached the Foreign Office with regard to the status and property of British subjects in that country.

Sir E. GREY said British interests in Bulgaria were now in the hands of the United States Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia, and British subjects in Bulgaria were free to leave the country if they wished to do so. As far as he knew none was interned and no complaints had reached him of damage to British property.

The Case of Lieut.-Col. Barrett.

Captain AMERY asked whether Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Barrett, Australian Medical Corps, occupied the Imperial appointments of Assistant Director of Medical Services on the staff of the Director of Medical Services, Egypt, and consulting oculist to H.M. Forces in Egypt; whether he was removed from these offices without inquiry by the Australian Government on a recommendation of the Army Council, which the General Officer Commanding in Egypt subsequently pointed out was due to a misunderstanding; whether a Court of Inquiry has been held and what was the finding of that Court; and whether, if that report is favourable, the Army Council is prepared to reinstate Lieutenant-Colonel Barrett, and whether he is prepared to make any statement with regard to the value of the work done by Lieutenant-Colonel Barrett?

Mr. TENNANT: I believe the facts as stated in the first two parts of the question are substantially accurate. A Court of Inquiry was held in Egypt in October of last year, and in its finding the Court exonerated Lieutenant-Colonel Barrett and spoke in the highest terms of his work. The High Commissioner of the Commonwealth was informed that there was no objection to Lieutenant-Colonel Barrett being employed in Egypt or elsewhere provided the Government of the Commonwealth concurred.

Turks and Germans. Jan. 17

Sir E. CORNWALL asked whether the Secretary for Foreign Affairs had received any information indicating German aims with regard to the future of Constantinople and as to the growing apprehension of the Turkish people at the real objects of Germany.

Lord R. CECIL: We have no authentic information as to the feeling in Constantinople, but inasmuch as the result of the war so far has been to place Germany's allies in a state of administrative dependence on her, it would not be surprising if Turkey, as one of those allies, felt apprehensive as indicated in the question.

The British in Baghdad.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to a question put by Sir E. CORNWALL, said the latest information in his possession was that nine British women and children were deported from Baghdad on November 24 in the direction of Mosul. If that was the case, there were no British women and children left in Baghdad. On the 7th inst., he requested the United States Ambassador at Constantinople to be so good as to obtain any news procurable as to the fate of the party, and how many British subjects remained at Baghdad.

The Mediterranean E.F. Command.

Mr. TENNANT, in reply to Mr. R. GWYNNE, said that Sir Archibald Murray had been appointed to succeed Sir Charles Munro in charge of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. General Maxwell was part of the organisation commanded by Sir Archibald Murray.

The Mesopotamian Campaign.

Replying to questions regarding the operations in Mesopotamia, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said that recent operations in that region, including the advance on Ctesiphon, were considered and approved by the War Council. It would not be in the public interest to make any statement as to the scope of the military operations now in progress; information of that kind in present circumstances would be much more valuable to the enemy than to the members of the House. He might, however, take the opportunity to bring up to date the information which he had given to the House as to the operations which had already taken place. On the 11th inst. he announced that the enemy had retired six miles east of Kut. He apparently advanced again on the 12th from what was called the Wadi position. Since then the Government had received telegrams from General Townshend up to the morning of the 15th, and from General Aylmer, commanding the relieving force, up to the 16th. From these telegrams, it appeared that on the 13th General Kemball, on the right bank, was holding a Turkish Division, and General Aylmer was pressing back other forces on the left bank. There was continuous fighting on the 13th, and on the 14th General Aylmer reported that the enemy had again retired, and that he himself had moved his headquarters and water transport to the mouth of the Wadi. On the 15th he reported that the whole of the Wadi position had been captured and that the enemy rearguard had taken up a position at Es Sinn. General Aylmer's operations had been hampered by weather throughout, and the weather was still reported to be bad. All the wounded had been sent down the river.

In answer to further questions, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said that, so far as he was aware, General Sir John Nixon was in command of the British Forces in Mesopotamia pending the arrival of Sir Percy Lake, which would take place shortly.

Serbia and the Allies. Jan. 19.

Mr. BOOTH asked whether the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs was aware of a statement by the Serbian Prime Minister that they had expected from the Allies help which did not come, and that otherwise the Serbians would have engaged their three adversaries in a big battle.

Lord R. CECIL: I have seen the statement in the Press, but I have no information on the subject.

War Prisoners in Turkey.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to a question by Mr. R. M'NEILL as to prisoners of war in Turkey, said that since the reply given to the hon. member for Argyll on the 13th ult., information had been received as to ten other prisoners, which had been communicated to the War Office and Admiralty.

Mr. M'NEILL asked whether there was any hope that any large number of those reported missing in the Gallipoli Peninsula would be traced.

Lord R. CECIL: My hon. friend will realise the great difficulties we are under, owing to the character of the Turkish Administration, but we are constantly in communication with the American Ambassador at Constantinople, and do everything we can; but if my hon. friend will suggest anything further we can do I will consider it.

Stores Left at Gallipoli.

Sir W. BYLES asked whether the Under-Secretary of State for War had any official information showing that booty was found in Gallipoli of the value of £2,000,000, and included 50,000 woollen blankets and millions of kilogrammes of oats and barley.

Mr. TENNANT: On the evacuation of Gallipoli the object, of course, primarily, was to bring away safe and sound the troops, and, secondly, to bring away intact as much material as possible. It has already been stated that a considerable amount of stores was abandoned after being destroyed, but it was not possible to prepare an accurate estimate of their precise value. It is possible that at the expense of valuable lives a greater amount of stores might have been saved, but I think this House and public opinion generally will endorse the action of those responsible in directing their primary efforts to bringing away safely the personnel.

Mr. R. M'NEILL: Were any stores left behind that were undestroyed?

Mr. TENNANT: So far as the bulk of the stores the answer would be in the negative. Whether there was a small part undestroyed I cannot say

Colonel LOCKWOOD: Would it approach £2,000,000?

Mr. TENNANT: No, nor anything like it. I think about a quarter or an eighth of that.

Operations in Mesopotamia.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, replying to Sir J. REES, stated that the latest information with regard to the military operations in Mesopotamia was to the effect that the weather conditions had been atrocious, and had stopped all progress. So far as he knew, the region between General Aylmer's Force and the Persian Gulf was tranquil.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Lower Mesopotamia.

Writing under the above heading in the *United Empire* (January) Mr. H. Valentine Geere has given us a most comprehensive picture of the field of our Mesopotamia operations. Our first quotation is from the opening portion of his article, in which he pays a deserved tribute to our forces in this expedition:—

The reduction of Fao, the capture of Busreh, the brilliant success at Shaiba, the steady advance up the Euphrates and the Tigris, together with the effective handling of what threatened to become a dangerous situation on the Karun, go to the making of a page in the history of our Empire-building of which every member of the Indian Expeditionary Force D, from highest to lowest, may well feel proud. The reports of the force's doings that were vouchsafed to the public at home were few and far between, and sometimes much belated; but they were uniformly favourable, and accustomed us to think that whatever news we might receive from other theatres of the war, that from Mesopotamia was almost sure to be good.

In spite of these facts—or, perhaps, because of them—the achievements of General Nixon's gallant little force had hardly been appreciated at their true value. It is characteristic of us as a nation that we have heard more of them since the set-back than ever we did before. Fortunately for the interests of the Empire, it is equally characteristic that upon the whole the determination to "see the thing through" appears to have hardened as a result of the check.

Mr. Geere considers that the last doubt concerning the advisability of pushing through to Baghdad has disappeared. "Sooner or later . . . we may reasonably hope, the Union Jack will fly over the city of the Khalifs. And once planted there—let us hope—it will remain." He looks forward to the day when, under British guidance, the Arabs of Irak may be trained to self-government, and the city of Baghdad again become a centre of Arabic learning and culture. We quote below from the writer's description of the gradual formation of the tract of land with which his article deals:—

In remote times a great part of this area was under water, being, in fact, part of what we now call the Persian Gulf, known to the Babylonians as the Nar Muratti; and the Twin Rivers emptied into it through two distinct embouchures. Gradually, however, the silt brought down by them filled the shallow head of the Gulf, as it is actually still doing; what was sea became salty marsh; the salty marsh in turn became more or less solid ground; and the rivers, working their way towards one another, finally united to form the fine waterway that we call the Shat-el-Arab, into which the Karun also now pours its stream.

The whole of the plain thus built up on the old bed of the sea is formed of silt brought down by the rivers, to the chemical composition of which it owes its extremely fertile character. From the Armenian mountains come washings of gneiss and granite, limestone and sandstone; farther south are added gypsum and mica, feldspar and chalk; the whole combining to form an extraordinarily rich alluvium. To-day, however, owing to the neglect of irrigation and cultivation, much of this valuable plain is rendered unfit for use by the presence of salts in excessive quantities.

From a description of the country the writer turns his attention to the various towns and villages which have figured in recent despatches. They are not imposing:—

In a word, the entire plain, which disputes with the Nile Valley the right to the title of "The Cradle of Civilization," is to-day little better than a vast wilderness. But we know that formerly, in the days of the Babylonian kings, and again in the times of the Abbasside Khalifs, it was almost incredibly fertile and prosperous; and should Great Britain, as one result of the present war, make herself responsible for its future, there can be no doubt that it would once more return to its former state, to the great gain of its inhabitants, of ourselves, and of the world at large.

All through the article we find frequent reference to the persistent attempts of Germany to capture our trade in this region, happily without any great success: "But in future, if German traders are to be backed by their Government, as they have been in the past, British firms will certainly be justified in looking for more support from our own Government than it has heretofore accorded them."

The article concludes:—

To Britons to-day the chief interest of the region lies in its present and its future. Given the advantages of British rule, that future should be a brilliant one. And though at the time of writing the outlook is not as promising as it was a month ago, it is unthinkable that, after all the sacrifices that have been made in this region, it will be permitted to remain in the hands of the incompetent Turk, or to pass into the hands of the competent but most truly "unspeakable" Hun. In its own interests no less than in ours, it should be brought under the British flag, when it would certainly return to its former prosperity and become one of the most valuable portions of the Empire.

Greece and Her Policy.

The following quotation is taken from a new Greek journal, the *Hysperia*, which, printed in Greek, is published in London, working with the object of contributing towards a better study of Greek national questions and a closer union between Greeks living abroad and those in the Hellenic kingdom, and also of acquainting the Greek public with the political and social principles which form the basis of the greatness of the Western nations:—

It is with a real agony that the Greeks living abroad follow the policy of the Hellenic Government, which, ignoring undisputable political principles and sacred national traditions, has created a situation full of external perils and internal dangers, and is threatening with disruption the most vital force of the nation, viz., its unity. . . . The policy of the Greek Government has put the Hellenic nation in the discreditable position of depending for its existence and its future on the goodwill of its hereditary enemies.

The Military Situation.

The Military Correspondent of the *Morning Post* (January 17), in a review of the situation consequent upon the overrunning of Montenegro, says:—

The fundamental error, for which all must share the responsibility, is to be found in the want of foresight and of a combined military policy, which it may be hoped is now, though somewhat late, a thing of the past. The advantages derived by the Teutonic Powers from their central position and from the unity of direction which was ensured by the assumption of the supreme control of operations by the German General Staff could not be successfully overcome by the parochial system of warfare which resulted from the independent pursuit of individual interests. As to the more precise allocation of blame for this state of things, it is necessary to preserve an open mind till the circumstances are fully known. The *Messaggero*, indeed, hints that things would have happened differently in the Balkans if the Allies had listened to the advice of Italy "at the opportune time." This and many other matters which are now obscure cannot, obviously, be cleared up till after the war.

General Cherfils, in an article contributed to the *People* (January 16) on the same subject, thinks that:—

If the Serbian Army, unable to maintain itself in Albania, has to be removed in its entirety to some safe spot, leaving the roads to the Adriatic open to the Austrians and Bulgarians, we shall have committed a desertion comparable to the disaster of leaving Salonika. To my mind the Serbian Army ought not to leave the Albanian coast unless Italy can send 200,000 or 300,000 men to replace the Serbians in Albania. There are in Albania, according to the Rome newspapers, 30,000 Italian labourers and 30,000 Albanian labourers employed in building roads. This is a proof of the importance which Italy attaches to her domination of Albania. Albania, indeed, is the only sphere in which Italy can carry on a war of movement, the only form of warfare which can produce decisive results, whereas siege warfare means months and years of impotence. The ground in Albania is very difficult, but this is really an advantage for us, for the topographical difficulties prevent the Austro-Germans from employing their heavy artillery and favour the individual qualities of the Serbian and Italian soldiers.

This writer considers that it would be a double strategical error not to remain in Albania. In writing of Gallipoli the General writes:—

The total abandonment of Gallipoli after the success of our installation at Salonika in no way injures our prestige in the Near East. This prestige was definitely acquired by our determination to land in force at Salonika. The evacuation even added to our military, if not our political, prestige, inasmuch as the delicate withdrawal reflects the greatest credit on those responsible for its organisation—namely, Sir Charles Monro, Generals Birdwood and Davies, and General Brulard. Personally, I in no way regret the abandonment of Seddul-Bahr, which is dominated by the heights beyond Krithia, which constitute a veritable Gibraltar at the entrance to the Straits, for I never have been enamoured of the attack at that particular point. Success there never appeared to be within the bounds of realization.

Carmen Sylva.

Writing in the *Asiatic Review* (January), Mr. Oliver Bainbridge gives us an interesting character sketch of Queen Elisabeth of Roumania. The following anecdote shows how powerful is the humane side of the Queen-Poetess's character:—

The Roumanian has in every walk in life a strange pride which causes him to abhor the idea of medicine and surgery, and to consider the loss of a limb as terrible as that of life itself. He has become accustomed to the idea that only beggars

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are so disfigured, and believes that no necessity should constrain him to such a loss.

It occurred to the Queen that if one yielded, others would follow, and one day, when the surgeon was turning away sorrowfully from an obstinate patient who could be saved only by an operation, she approached, and added her own entreaties. Still the soldier reiterated that, if his leg were amputated, he should be taken for a mendicant, like the wretched outcasts of the Carpathians. "I am not a beggar," said he, proudly. "I will lose my life, but not my honour." "It is true," said the Queen, "you are not a beggar, but I am"; and she threw herself on her knees at the bedside. "I have never prayed but to God, but now I supplicate you to listen to His wish and mine. Let your leg be taken off, and spare your life to your country, and me, and——" "And if I consent, my lady, what then?" "Why, then," she said, joyfully, rising and seizing his hand again, "I will give you the most beautiful cork leg in Europe; it shall work with springs, and, when the war is over, you shall come and dance at the Palace with your sons." "I consent," he said, softly; "but you must hold my hand during the operation." After that there was no more opposition to the surgeon's wishes.

Her Majesty has always shown keen interest in and sympathy with the blind, and thousands of pounds earned by her writings have been devoted to their help.

It is the object of the Queen to make Esperanto the medium of uniting the blind of all nationalities through an interchange of library-books in Braille Esperanto. Mr. Adams says that "Brailling a book is not only a long, expensive, and trying work, but it becomes very bulky. If done in any national language—English, for example—it can only be read by English-speaking people; but if, on the contrary, the book is done in Braille Esperanto, it is at once readable by blind people of all nationalities, so that, instead of selling one copy, they can sell a hundred at least. The Queen appreciates this fact, and has instructed the Professor of Esperanto to do everything in his power to advance the study of the language.

Queen Elisabeth is not in sympathy with the militant suffragettes in England. The opinion of this brilliant and gifted woman on this subject is of considerable interest.

She said: "We have the right to suffer, to be patient, to work hard, to help, to nurse, to be virtuous, and make men so. What more do we want?

Her Majesty's own accomplishments are many and varied, literature and music taking the first place in her interest.

The Queen, who is a brilliant pianist and organist, spends three hours a day in her music-room. Some years ago she was told by many of her admirers that her voice was equal to Patti's, but she did not believe them, and decided to have it tested. She went to a great French master, who, after hearing her sing, said: "Madame, you have musical feeling, but no voice. You might make a success in operetta, but, to be frank, your face isn't worth anything." This honest opinion amused the Queen, who rather confused the poor master by revealing her identity as she left his studio.

Tried in the Fire.

The *Morning Post* (January 19), in a leading article, entitled "Montenegro and the War," says:—

Montenegro has made an heroic stand against overwhelming force, unaided, and she has fallen. It is the fortune of war, and Montenegro has at least earned the admiration of her friends and, we hope, the respect of her enemies. The little kingdom was no party to the treaty binding her Allies not to conclude peace except by common consent among themselves. The fact that Montenegro has yielded does not possess the political significance which the Central Powers attribute to it; nor, indeed, does it involve any grave military consequences as regards the main course of the war.

The paper points out that the boasts of the enemy, reduced to plain terms, consist in triumphing over the least of their antagonists after a year and a-half of war. The article continues:—

The military gain acquired by Austria consists in her occupation of the heights commanding the valuable harbour of Cattaro, the possession of which may enable Austria, if time permit, to make a formidable naval base there. But even this advantage is largely neutralised by the occupation of Valona and of Corfu by the Allies, who thus command the entrance to the Adriatic. That command enables the Allied Fleets effectually to blockade at a distance the Austrian Navy. A navy which is shut up in an arm of the sea to which passage from the main trade routes is denied is useless. The Austrian seaboard, with its fortified ports and its men-of-war, is a perpetual menace to the Italian seaboard on the Adriatic shore, but so is the Italian naval force a menace, and a more powerful menace, to Austria, whose sea traffic, in so far as information is available, has long been stopped. Therefore the mere occupation by Austria of a range of hills dominating a part of her seaboard is of no material importance for the time being.

Turning the Tables.

The *Standard* (January 14), in a leading article on the Allies' landing at Corfu, says:—

It has been suspected, we know not with what truth, that the island of Corfu has been used as a base for enemy submarines operating in the Mediterranean. The Kaiser has seldom done anything without an ulterior political motive, and, although at the time he bought the Achilleion, the submarine campaign could not have been foreseen, it is likely enough that the facilities afforded by the German *pied à terre* in the island have been utilised. Anyhow, the advantages afforded by Corfu will henceforth be available for the Kaiser's enemies, and not for the Kaiser. There is a hint in this for his Imperial Majesty of the workings of sea-power which he can hardly fail to take note of. No doubt there will be the usual crop of German tirades against the perfidy of Albion in committing this further outrage on Greek neutrality; but the point seems answered in advance by the observation of the Foreign Office that the Greeks can surely not object to a Greek island being used to succour the starving troops of the Ally whom Greece deserted.

Impression of a French Optimist.

We take the following quotation from an interesting article by Mr. Henry D. Davray in the *Nineteenth Century* (January). The author thinks that historians of the future, when they come to consider the situation, with due regard to men and munitions, as it was when Germany violated the neutrality of Belgium, will be surprised that she accomplished so little. He shows that ever since his first big set-back in France the enemy has been making frantic efforts to "free himself from the grip that is strangling him," and has failed at all points:—

Will he succeed in his thrust towards the East? It is improbable. The only side-results which he will obtain will be a prolongation of the war—hardly to his advantage—and an extension of the area of hostilities. This, indeed, is a misfortune for the Allies, who suffer there the punishment of their want of foresight and the blindness of their diplomatists. But even were the road free as far as Bagdad, the Germans would remain in the same positions on their Western and Eastern fronts. It is scarcely in Turkey that they will find gold; on the contrary, they will have to furnish financial support to that ally accustomed to live on loans. It is doubtful whether they will find a sufficient number of Turks to fill the gaps in their effectives, since they will have to find men in sufficient force to complete the new Eastern front and guard against a probable offensive on the side of the Russians. No doubt the Allies were lamentably late in reaching the Balkan Peninsula, and in that quarter we must expect bad news for some time to come; for all that, a time will come when the news will be good.

Nothing but a lack of perseverance on our part could save the Central Powers, and we shall see that to attain their end the Allies will be lacking neither in necessary energy nor in resources.

Articles to Note.

"British Diplomacy in the Near East," in the *Quarterly Review* (January 20).

"Looking Ahead," by H. G. Wells, in the *Daily Chronicle* (January 17 and 18).

"What I Saw in Serbia, II.," by Phyllis Shakespear, in the *Lady's Pictorial* (January 15).

PROFESSOR BURROWS ON THE WAR.

Dr. R. M. Burrows, Principal of King's College, delivered a lecture on "The Near East" at the college on Wednesday in the presence of a distinguished audience, which included Sir Maurice de Bunsen, late Ambassador at Vienna; M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister; and the First Secretary of the Serbian Legation. The Earl of Plymouth presided. Referring to the statement made by the Spartans to the Athenians that war is largely a matter of luck, Dr. Burrows said that while the Allies had certainly had bad luck, they had also suffered from the other drawback alluded to by Thucydides—bad judgment. The lecturer was unsparing in his criticism of the Allies for the lack of any provision for Serbia and Montenegro. The success of our diplomacy which prevented munitions going through Roumania to Turkey had made the invasion of Serbia a matter of necessity to the Germans, yet we took no means to prevent it. He considered that the failure of Greece to keep her promise to Serbia had obscured the fact that we seemed in a fair way of breaking our promise to Greece, and it was that very argument which did a great deal to turn Venizelos from office. On the other hand, this did not excuse Greece for not acting up to her treaty with Serbia. Had the Greek army taken the field, it was quite possible that Germany would have deferred the invasion, and Bulgaria—the hereditary enemy of Greece—would by now have been crippled for a generation. Dr. Burrows had worked hard as an amateur for the Salonika expedition. He thanked God for the expedition, and he thanked God that General Joffre had forced our Government to carry out the wishes of the British people in this matter. It was essential that all over the Balkans our friends should feel that we were strong and true. He did not disregard the possibility of a Bulgarian intrigue, and it was not unlikely that Ferdinand would encourage his Opposition to argue with the Entente, in order to make better terms with Germany.

The Earl of Plymouth, in thanking Dr. Burrows, said that criticisms of past events were perfectly useless, and he was not going to criticise the Government. At the same time we could not blind ourselves to the fact that mistakes had been committed. He was, however, convinced that the present conditions only made the people of this country more earnestly determined to see the wrongs that had been done righted.

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EARLY SURVEYS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

In the course of a paper read last week before the Indian section of the Royal Society of Arts, Colonel Sir Thomas Holdich spoke of the earliest surveys made in modern times in the Persian Gulf and Euphrates region. The first surveys of the Persian Gulf were made, he said, by the Indian Navy between 1820 and 1830, and the surveying was carried on in the intervals of slave-trade suppression, pirate hunting, commerce extension, visiting chiefs with the object of maintaining the political *status quo*, and generally establishing British supremacy in the Gulf. Stories of wild adventure of that time had survived until the present day. Not less remarkable was the venturesome survey of Mesopotamia. It would not be too much to say that never since those first expeditions to the land of the Tigris and Euphrates had continuous map-making been possible there. Considering the importance of the geographical position of Mesopotamia, its wealth of historical association, its extraordinary capabilities, and the difficulties and dangers encountered during the twenty-six years of surveying that were carried on almost without interruption by officers of the Indian Service, this extraordinary work of map-making might well be regarded as an imperishable record for the old Indian Navy. In 1837 Captain Lynch traversed the whole course of the Tigris from its source in Armenia to Baghdad; he then connected Nineveh, Baghdad, Babylon, and Ctesiphon by triangulation; and when he had done with the Tigris, he set to work on the Euphrates, and connected the head of that river with the Mediterranean by chronometric measurements. In 1843 Lynch was succeeded by Felix Jones, who boldly made his headquarters at Baghdad in command of the Nitocris, and, although nearly single-handed and full of other duties, carried his explorations into the country of the wild and dangerous tribes of Arabs. He explored the ancient Nahrwan Canal system, surveyed the ancient bed of the Tigris, discovered the site of Opis, and exploited the Median wall. In 1852 he made a trigonometrical survey between the Tigris and the Upper Zab, fixing the position of Nineveh; and he completed an extraordinary survey career by making a plan of the city of Baghdad on a large scale. He was the authority for the original mapping of Mesopotamia.

CORFU.

Referring to the protest of the Hellenic Government on the action of the Allies in Corfu, the *Scotsman*, in the course of a leading article, says:—

In so far as this signifies a formal reservation of Greece's sovereign rights, originally obtained by favour of the Entente Allies, this caveat need not give rise either to surprise or resentment. These rights are in no real danger; and we may take it that many of her people will rejoice that the brave troops who, in the last two Balkan wars, were the comrades and sworn brothers of her own sons, have found temporary shelter on her soil. To those who remember their Homer and the old story of the Peloponesian Wars it will seem appropriate that Corcyra, the most northerly pendicle of ancient Hellas, the scene of the shipwreck and rescue of Ulysses after weary and perilous wanderings, the site of the Gardens of Alcinous, and in historic times the naval base and rallying-place of Hellenic freedom and civilization in the struggle with northern barbarism, should become the haven of rest and safety for the heroes of Serbia before resuming the interrupted struggle for freedom and right.

ROLL OF HONOUR.
British Subjects from Turkey in H.M.'s Forces.

The Editor of THE NEAR EAST *would be obliged if relatives of former British residents in the Near East who have joined H.M.'s forces would communicate additional names or other particulars for insertion in our Roll of Honour. Biographical details concerning those who have fallen in their country's service would also be appreciated.*

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co., Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Captain A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
BARKER, 2nd Lieut. C., Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
BARRON, Captain J. B., Worcester Regiment, France.
BATH, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
BELL, Sister M. J., Edinburgh War Hospital, Bangour.
BINNS, Lieut. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
BINNS, Lieut. Harold H., Royal Naval Division Headquarters, British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
BINNS, Lieut. W. Hylton, care of The British Consul, Brindisi.
BLYTH, Captain R. C. P., 1st Gloucestershire Regiment, attd. Egyptian Army. (*Killed in Action.*)
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
BOND, Gladwyn J. T., Inns of Court O.T.C.
BOND, Trooper Sidney (1,779), Royal Horse Guards. (*Wounded.*)
BOND, Corporal R. (41,357), Headquarters Staff, "D" Battery, 79th Brigade, R.F.A., 17th Division, B.E.F., France.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Private Henry J., R.A.M.C., Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.
BROOK, Corporal George, 41356, D. Batt., 78th Brig. R.F.A., 17th Div., B.E.F., France.
BURN, E. R., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BURNS, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Accidentally Killed.*)
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C. Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CHARNAUD, Lieut. A., R.N.V.R., Acting Interpreter.
CLEMOW, F. G., M.D., C.M.G., British Red Cross Mission, Plevlié, Montenegro.
CLIFTON, Capt. H., Interpreter, 11th Batt. Durham Light Infantry, 54th Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital, Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CORBETT, Lieut. H. C., M.D., R.A.M.C.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, York.
CUMBERBATCH, 2nd Lieut. H. D., 6th Battn., The Buffs, 12th Division, B.E.F., France.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. R. C., 7th Battn., The Rifle Brigade, 14th Division, B.E.F., France.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., No. 38983, R.F.A., B. Battery, 84th Brigade, 16th Division, British Expeditionary Force, France.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Battalion.
ELLIOTT, Flight Sub-Lieut. Clifford W., R.N.A.S.
EPPERIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GOUT, Captain Charles L. Gout, 2/4th K.O.Y.L.I., Lark Hill Camp, Camp No. 10, Salisbury Plain.
GOUT, Rifleman Evelyn, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GRAVES, Captain Philip, Intelligence Department, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian H., "A" Co., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade, Queen's E1 Ward, Bed 40, Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester. (*Wounded.*)
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HOLMES, 2nd Lieut. Gerald H., 2/5th Batt. Leicestershire Regiment.
HOLTON, Corporal Alfred, Royal Naval Division, Divisional Engineers.
HOLTON, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.
IRELAND, Private D. J. (3346), 15th County of London Regiment.
JACKSON, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
KERR, Miss E., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., H.M. Hospital Ship Brighton, British Expeditionary Force, France.
KEYSER, Lieut. A. G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Rifleman Fred., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. Hugh, 2 7th City of London Regiment, Acting Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
LA FONTAINE, Sub-Lieut. J. S., R.N.V.R., Hawke Battalion. (*Wounded.*)
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LE BAILLY, Lieutenant R. F., R.N.V.R., Recruiting Officer for Royal Naval Air Service, Brook Green Road, Hammersmith.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
MACKENZIE, 1st Lieut. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
MACKINNON, 2nd Lieut. Eric, 13th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
MACKINNON, Captain Dr. Frank I., R.A.M.C., San Antonio Palace, Malta.
MACKINNON, Captain Dr. John M., R.A.M.C., 3rd King's African Rifles, Mombasa, British East Africa.
MACKINNON, 2nd Lieut. Patrick, 12th Field Company, Royal Engineers, 6th Division, B.E.F.
MACKRAY, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.
MCLOCHLAN, Private B., 1st Canadian L.I.
MCLOCHLAN, Private G., 1st Canadian L.I.
METCALFE, Sister E. J., Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
MOORE, Miss K. M., Royal Red Cross, Serbia.
MORRISON, 2nd Lieut. J., 4th Seaforth Highlanders, B.E.F., France.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MUMFORD, P. F., Army Service Corps, R.E., Baldock.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NOWILL, 2nd Lieut. Sidney, 2/17th City of London Regiment, Acting Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., Haddington.
PEACOCK, 2nd Lieut. Frank, 4/4th Batt. London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers.
PEARS, Captain G. B., Military Cross, R.E. (*Wounded.*)
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
POYNTER, Lieut. Hugh E., No. 2 Base Supply Depot, Portishead, Somerset.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
REES, Sub-Lieutenant J. Langdon, R.N.V.R.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
REES, Sub-Lieutenant T. B. F., R.N.V.R.
RICHARDS, Miss, Dispenser, Edinburgh War Hospital, Bangour.
ROBINSON, Lance-Corporal J. R., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem. (*Killed in action.*)
RICE, Rifleman Cecil, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Died from Wounds.*)
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SAMSON, Seaman George McKenzie, V.C., R.N.R. (*Seriously Wounded.*)
SEAGER, Lieut. J. A., 16th Middlesex Regiment, France.
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regt., Woldingham.
SELLAR, Lieut. Fred. B., Interpreter, Central European Expeditionary Force.
SEMPLE, Rev. S. H., C.F., 7th Royal Scots, 156th Brigade, 52nd Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
SIMMONS, Gunner H. C., 123rd Heavy Battery, R.G.A. (*Died from Wounds.*)
STEPLING, Rev. Canon, R.A.M.C.
STOCK, Lieut. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
SUMMERS, Lieut. H. C., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Europa."
SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).
THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
THOMPSON, John, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
THWAITES, Captain H., R.A.M.C., France.
TORRANCE, Dr. D., R.A.M.C.
TRENTER, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.
VAN LENNEP, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
VAN MILLINGEN, 2nd Lieut. Charles A. M., 14th Rifle Brigade.
VAN MILLINGEN, Private R. G. C., 3rd Batt. London Scottish.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Egbbert, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
WEALE, 2nd Lieut. W. W. C., 11th Batt. Devonshire Regiment. (*Wounded.*)
WELLS, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
WHEATLEY, Miss, Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. No. 21, Ambulance Train, British Expeditionary Force.
WHEELER, Captain P. F. C. d'Erf, 3rd Dorset Regiment, Medit. Exp. Force. (*Wounded.*)
WHEELER, 2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Nowell Popham d'Erf, 7th Dorset Regiment, Portsmouth.
WHITEHOUSE, Mid. L. E., R.N.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Lieut.-Commander F. E., R.N.
WHITTALL, Lieut.-Commander H. E. C., R.N.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. H. V., Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Kenneth, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut Roland, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. (*Died from Wounds.*)
WHITTALL, Rifleman Walter, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Wounded.*)
WILSON, Dr. Marian E., Scottish Women's Hospital, Abbaye Royaumont, France.
WOODS, Harold, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
WRATISLAW, Captain J. C., 8th Leicestershire Regiment, 110 Brigade, 37th Division, B.E.F., France.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The London Press has been publishing during the past few days some startling statistics concerning the abnormal increase of American exports to such neutral countries as have a common frontier with Germany. Unfortunately, America is not the only delinquent, and we have not to go beyond the boundaries of our own Empire to find a similar state of affairs progressing under the very nose of our Government. I quote from the *Egyptian Gazette*. Referring to the extraordinary increase in Holland's imports of Egyptian cigarettes, it says:—"From a total of 14,365 kilos of Egyptian cigarettes sent into Holland during the first eleven months of 1914, the figure has swelled this year (1915) to not less than 35,155 kilos, being an increase of 20,790 kilos."

***

The fact of the matter is—and I refer here merely to the Egyptian aspect of the great problem—that we do not, will not realise that Egypt is to-day (and let us hope permanently) part of our Empire. We look upon it as a semi-foreign country over which an unkindly fate has entrusted to our somewhat negligent care. Neither in London nor in Cairo have those who rule over the country grasped the fact that Egypt is British, that her interests are ours, that our enemies are hers. She is governed from Downing Street, which, according to the popular version, is feeding the Boches, and which has given trading licences to no fewer than two hundred and fifty enemy firms established in Egypt! It were time that a clean sweep were made of these two hundred and fifty obnoxious institutions, that Egypt's exports were controlled, and that we no longer played ducks and drakes with a situation that demands energetic action.

***

While on this subject, I cannot refrain from referring again to the Egyptian cigarette industry. News which reaches me privately from Cairo points to the threatened destruction of the industry. It is penalised so heavily and so indiscriminately that unless the fiscal screw is loosened, it will disappear. Admittedly, the sale of Egyptian cigarettes to the enemy ought to be stopped without a second's delay, but I hardly think that the right way to go about it is to strangle the industry. I shall, however, refer to this vexed question at some length in next week's notes. In the meantime, let us not forget for one moment that come weal or woe, Egypt is part of our Empire, and that if, as is to be hoped, stringent measures are introduced in this country to do away with enemy concerns, the same measures will apply, without any exception whatsoever, to the two hundred and fifty enemy concerns in Egypt which have received trading licenses.

***

I received a letter a few days ago from some one who had just left Constantinople. The news he gave me is rather meagre, but I give it for what it is worth. He says that at the time (January 1) coffee cost 20 francs per oke, and that bread was practically unobtainable five days in the week, and that then the smallest loaves fetched the exorbitant sum of 30 piastres. Enver, Talaat and Company, he added, were not affected, being privileged persons in more ways than one.

I read in the *Cyprus Gazette* that two agreements have been signed between the Government, on the one hand, and three American gentlemen—Messrs. C. G. Gunther, S. W. Mudd, and P. Wiseman—on the other, whereby the latter obtain, for a period of fifty years, the exclusive right to exploit the mineral ore contained in Foucassa Hill, a State property situate near the village of Katydhata, district of Nicosia, and, further, that they do construct, within two years and a half, an extension of the Government railway to a point near Karavostasi, with a railway pier at the latter point, and a second extension to the mine at Skouriotissa. Further particulars of these concessions will be found elsewhere.

***

The *Deutsche Export Revue*, to which I have frequently referred in these columns, states that, in order to replace as soon as ever possible the ships lost as a result of the war, the Deutsche Levante-Linie has ordered the building of three new cargo steamers of 5,700 tons each. Commenting on it, the German paper praises the D.L.L. on its foresight, and predicts a great future for German shipping in the Near East. It says:—"It is still too early to give definite information concerning the future of German trade and shipping in the Levant, but the following may be divulged—namely, that the prospects are exceptionally brilliant. The Bulgarian Minister of Finance, who has been in Berlin, stated that in Bulgaria there was a strong movement on foot for the development of national shipping, and that the Government have already received offers of assistance from some of the leading shipping companies."

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It would not be a difficult task to point to the so generously inclined shipping companies, that when the recent scandals in connection with the Austrian Lloyd's working agreement with the German shipping companies is remembered, the fate of a Bulgarian Lloyd, financed and enslaved by the Ballin group, is a foregone conclusion. The selfless generosity of the group in question is, in these circumstances, comprehensible, but it likewise shows that the German pre-war policy of strangling rival interests by controlling them financially is to be pursued unabated in the future. Until we have rendered such a policy impossible we can sign no peace.

***

Road and railway construction in the Near East is going on as rapidly as circumstances will permit. It is said that under German direction thousands of soldiers and peasants are constructing roads in Macedonia for the transport of heavy artillery from Serbia, as well as a railway along the Prilep road to connect the Veles and Monastir lines. Strange to say, this latter line was, according to the Serbian 1914 railway progress (see THE NEAR EAST, May 22, 1914), to have been built by a British company, and was, as a matter of fact, to be the only British-built line in Serbia. It was to leave the Uskub-Salonika line at Gradska, south of Veles, proceed along the Prilep road to the town of the same name, and then work up to Monastir. The line was being surveyed when war broke out, but I have no information to the effect that constructional work had been begun.

***

Another railway news item of interest is that the Semlin-Pirot section of the Berlin-Constantinople line has now been reopened, and that the first through car from Berlin to Stamboul travelled over the line on January 5. May it do the Boches a bit of good! I hardly think, however, that either Bulgaria or Turkey will live to bless the day when that car became a symbol of their thraldom to the insensate ambition of the Hohenzollerns.

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According to the *Jewish Chronicle*, the line to Bersheba has been opened. It crosses the Jaffa-Jerusalem line at Lida and passes the Jewish colonies Kastinie and Rechamah, situated in South Judæa. The line also passes the Jewish National Fund's farm Benschemen, and is likely to promote in a considerable degree the sale of their products in Jaffa, Jerusalem, Haifa, and Damascus. The Merchawjah colony, which is already connected with Jerusalem by rail, thus becomes an important railway centre.

***

Mr. Hilaire Belloc, referring to this line in *Land and Water*, gives it an entirely different trace. According to this writer, the new line starts at a point west of Deraa (on the Damascus-Haifa line), and proceeds south through Jerusalem and Hebron. Whichever trace is followed is, of course, immaterial from a military point of view, but I am inclined to think that the Lida-Bersheba route is the one likely to have been chosen. The essential fact is that the line has now been completed as far as the last-named base. Mr. Belloc states, moreover, that from Bersheba to El Audja—forty miles nearer the Egyptian frontier—it would seem that the line is not only surveyed, but its embankments, culverts, etc., are prepared; only the rails are not yet laid down.

***

The prices of various commodities, especially foodstuffs, have increased enormously in Bulgaria, says the *Times* correspondent. The Germans are eagerly buying up cereals, meat, fowls, eggs, etc. A considerable amount of gold comes into the country, but a food crisis is feared, especially as Turkey is also buying provisions. The Turks, who anticipated large supplies from Bulgaria, are indignant at the extent to which the Bulgarian market has been drained by Germany.

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A leading Alexandria house, writing to Liverpool firms, says that the prospect of the growing of a large Egyptian cotton crop next year is not considered as very favourable. The very high prices for wheat and other foodstuffs are likely to be an inducement of a voluntary decrease of the cotton acreage. Beyond this, there exists a good deal of apprehension on account of the state of irrigation canals, which have not been cleared at all this year, and the very high prices for coal and chemical fertilisers. Coal is now to be got at a price four to five times higher than its normal cost, and quite prohibitive for a sufficient irrigation, aggravated as it will be by the bad state of the canals. Government having enforced this year for the first time the destruction of the cotton sticks which usually substituted coal to some extent for the working of the water-lifting machines, this fact perplexes further the irrigation problem. There exists also, says the *Liverpool Daily Courier*, a good deal of apprehension owing to the rotten state of seed, and the climatic conditions having so far been particularly mild a late winter might prevent the earlier planting of cotton.

COMMENTATOR.

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Cyprus Government Agreements.

The *Cyprus Gazette* contains two agreements, which were signed on November 20, between the Government of the island and an American group, comprised of Messrs. C. G. Gunther, S. W. Mudd, and P. Wiseman. The first agreement grants the "lessees" a mining licence, and the second authorises the "contractors" to construct two railway lines as an extension of the Government's system. The following are extracts from the two agreements:—

Mining Licence.

The Government (lessor), in consideration of the premises and of the sole fee of £100 now paid by the lessees, and of the covenants and conditions hereinafter appearing, hereby grants unto the lessees the exclusive licence to mine, win, and remove in, under, and from that area of State land situate at Foucassa Hill, near the village of Katydhata, district of Nicosia, and contained within the following boundaries—namely, from the top of Foucassa Hill, one-fifth of a mile south, two-fifths of a mile east, four-fifths of a mile north, and three-fifths of a mile west, a square bounded by east-west and north-south lines, and containing by measurement one square mile or thereabouts—all the following minerals—namely, cupriferous pyrite (iron pyrites containing copper), together with copper, gold, silver, iron, lead, manganese, tin, nickel, cobalt, and sulphur, metallic or in combination.

To hold and exercise the said licence unto the lessees for the term of fifty years from the date hereof, subject to the provisions of the Mining Regulations, 2 Shaban, 1285, and the Mines Regulations Amendment Law, 1882, and any other law in force and to the covenants and conditions herein appearing.

The lessees shall within two years from the date of these presents excavate not less than 50,000 tons of ore containing the abovementioned minerals or some of them from the said area, and thereafter annually a similar quantity at the least.

The lessees shall, in lieu of rent or other royalty in each year, at such times as the lessor may require, hand over to the lessor at the pit's mouth 3 per cent. of the first 50,000 tons of ore so excavated in such year, 2 per cent. of the second 50,000 tons of ore so excavated in such year, and 1 per cent. of any ore in excess of the said 100,000 tons so excavated in such year, or at the option of the lessor pay in lieu thereof to the lessor the full amount in money of the current market value at the pit's mouth of the said percentages of the said ore, such amount to be paid in the following year in two equal payments, to be made on June 30 and December 31 in each year.

Railway Concession.

The contractors, at the request of the High Commissioner, shall, at their own charges and expenses, within thirty months, construct of the gauge and materials approved by and generally in accordance with the directions and to the satisfaction of the High Commissioner or of the general manager of the Cyprus Government Railway (hereinafter called the general manager), on behalf of the High Commissioner, the following extensions and alterations of the Government Railway:—

(*a*) From a point, "A," on the present Government Railway the contractors shall construct an extension of the Government Railway to a point near Karavostasi, with a railway pier at the latter point. At or about the point "A" the line so constructed shall cross the present line at an elevation above the present line, and they shall there make all suitable connections and sidings.

(*b*) From the said point to the point "B" the contractors shall make the Government Railway into a double track railway.

(*c*) From "B" the contractors shall construct an extension of the Government Railway to the mine at Skouriotissa. At "B" they shall make all suitable connections and sidings.

The contractors shall repay to the High Commissioner all the costs and expenses which the High Commissioner may incur in connection with the purchase of the land necessary for the said extensions and alterations.

The charges to be paid by the contractors for services rendered to them during construction of the said extensions and alterations by the parent line or the staff thereof shall be worked out as nearly as may be on the lines of the charges debited against the Evrykhóu branch construction in favour of the parent line.

All machinery, engines, rolling stock, fuel, and other materials used or required in connection with the construction or maintenance of the said extensions and alterations shall be imported duty free into the island.

Upon the said extensions and alterations of the Government Railway being completed to the satisfaction of the High Commissioner or the general manager on his behalf, the contractors may, subject to the conditions herein mentioned, during the continuance of the mining lease of the Skouriotissa mine, run such trains over the said extensions and alterations as they may desire for the purpose of conveying minerals from Skouriotissa to Karavostasi, or for the purpose of conveying machinery or other supplies intended solely for the working of the mine or the said extensions or alterations from Karavostasi to Skouriotissa.

Provided always:—

(*a*) That the contractors shall, at their expense, keep the said extensions and alterations and all the connections and sidings thereof in good order and condition.

(*b*) That the contractors shall, at their expense, provide all the necessary engines and materials, as well as all rolling stock, for the conveyance of minerals and machinery and supplies, as aforesaid, and shall keep the same in good order and condition, and also all the necessary duly qualified engine-drivers, servants, and workmen, fuel and other materials, for the purposes aforesaid, and that the contractors shall not employ or offer employment to any person as an engine-driver, servant, or workman, as aforesaid, who is or has been an employee of the Cyprus Government Railway without the consent, in writing, of the High Commissioner or of the general manager on his behalf.

(*c*) That the contractors shall pay to the High Commissioner the sum of 20 paras for each ton of minerals or machinery or supplies, as aforesaid, carried over the said extensions and alterations or any part thereof.

In the event of the transfer of the mining lease at Skouriotissa, now vested in the contractors to some other person or company, then the rights herein vested in the contractors shall, at their request, be transferred to such person or company.

Upon the determination by effluxion of time or otherwise of the mining lease at Skouriotissa, now vested in the contractors, then the rights herein vested in the contractors shall forthwith cease and determine, and the contractors shall cease to have any right whatsoever in connection with the said railway extensions and alterations which shall remain vested in the Government free from any claim on the part of the contractors or any person claiming under or through them, and all engines, rolling stock, and other materials furnished by the contractors shall be the property of the Government, free from any claim on the part of the contractors.

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GREEK COAL IMPORTS.

Referring to the coal famine in Greece, a correspondent writes to the *Morning Post* as under:—

In ordinary peace times, Greece depends almost entirely for her coal supplies on the United Kingdom. She has no coal resources of her own, and in 1913 her imports from this country amounted to about 727,000 tons. It is probable that that quantity was supplemented by a number of cargoes from other countries, but the volume of trade represented by these other foreign cargoes would be negligible in relation to that transacted by Greece with this country.

In 1915 the total exports of British coal to Greece amounted to only 309,000 tons, as compared with 579,000 tons in 1914 and with 727,000 tons in 1913. This country has thus sent her less than half her normal consumption, and unless she has been able to obtain supplies from the United States her situation must indeed be serious. But our first duty is obviously to ourselves and to those countries which are our Allies. If we had a superabundance of coal to export, nothing would be easier for us than to supply Greece to the full extent of her needs. But we have not. It is probable that the production of coal in the United Kingdom in 1915 will be about ten million tons less than it was in 1914, or between twenty-five million and thirty million tons below the record output of 1913; but last year we were compelled by the exigencies of war to curtail our exports to the extent of close on forty million tons, and in some at least of the neutral markets, which we have been obliged to neglect, our competitors have made great progress, probably to our permanent detriment. Of this forty million decrease compared with 1913, thirty million represents diminished cargo export trade; but it has had to be sacrificed because there has been a more imperious need for the coal for the use of ourselves and of our Allies.

But Greece has also suffered in consequence of her devious diplomacy and also in consequence of the thriving mercantile use which has been made of her shipping. It is doubtful whether any of the other neutral maritime States of Europe has reaped such large profits in the carrying trade of the world as that of Greece. I do not pretend to know what proportion of Greek tonnage is now under requisition by the Greek Government; but till lately, if not at the present moment, the great bulk of the Greek mercantile marine was employed in the remunerative work of transport between the British Isles and the Mediterranean and between Europe and America. Had private interests been subordinated to national interests Greece, in the earlier months of last year, would have had little difficulty in obtaining from this country and in storing at her own depots as much coal as she would have needed for ordinary requirements. Her diplomacy in the early autumn made it necessary for the War Trade Department to exercise increased vigilance over our exports. Greece cannot very well blame us for taking precautions against the export of the produce of our own mines when there was a danger of that produce being applied to uses which might be inconsistent with our own interests at Salonika; and if it has been more difficult for shippers to obtain licences for Greece during the past few months than it was in the first half of last year, the people of Greece must recognise that the interests of ourselves and those of our Allies come before those of neutral countries.

Yet Greece owns sufficient tonnage to bring her all the coal and food-stuffs which she needs for the support of her own population, and in the United States there is abundant coal available for export. Why, then, is it that Greek tonnage is not requisitioned by the Government and employed for this purpose?

GREEK SHIPPING.

The *Times* Athens correspondent (January 16) stated that several Greek grain steamers which had been detained in Allied ports have been released, and their arrival is anxiously awaited, especially in the provinces where wheat is scarce.

The Athens Gas Company has issued a fresh recommendation to consumers to economize their lighting.

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Progress in Tripoli.

Libya Under Italian Rule.

The following are extracts from the U.S. Consul's report for 1914-1915 :—

Commercially and industrially the year 1914 in Libya, the Italian colony in North Africa, was unsatisfactory. It opened with depression and almost every factor tended to aggravate that condition.

Withdrawal of Troops.

Several circumstances contributed to this state of affairs. The withdrawal of troops continued until by the end of June only a few thousand remained and a large percentage of their purchasing power was taken away by the decree placing all forces in Tripolitania on a peace footing. But the greatest disappointment came when the Government decided to postpone further contracts for carrying out public works planned for the benefit of the colony. Coupled with inactivity in private enterprise, this decision seriously affected the building trade, probably the most important industry in the city of Tripoli, embarrassing some forty odd concerns liberally stocked with manufacturing or construction materials. As the journal of the local chamber of commerce said, in part, the life of the colony, in which there is no developed productive industry, rests entirely on construction work, and its curtailment means not only stagnation for a number of commercial lines, but lack of employment for many labourers.

The outbreak of war in Europe added to the difficulties and eliminated all prospects of having the Government undertake public works to relieve conditions. The diminution of export demand, inability to obtain goods from usual sources, the impossibility of effecting exchange on countries other than Italy, the withdrawal of French, Austrian, and German ships from an already inactive port all added to the general stagnation. Financial accommodation was carefully accorded, much protested paper passed through the banks, and there were several failures. Then came the native disturbances in the Fezzan and other regions outside of Tripoli; caravan routes again became insecure, thus arresting the movement of cargoes to the interior, a movement that had only revived in the spring of last year and whose renewal had been the one brightening ray of the year.

Official statistics showing the value of the imports and exports of the colony are not yet available. Those at hand relate only to shipping.

Shipping Returns.

The shipping returns comprise figures for all of Libya; in the past only those for Tripoli were recorded. Vessels entered and cleared at seven ports of Tripolitania show a loss of 504 bottoms but a gain of 187,929 tons. At Tripoli, where 49 per cent. of all shipping in the province was noted, the loss in vessels was 708, while the carrying capacity was augmented by 51,776 tons. In Cirenaica, the sister province, 2,929 ships of 3,023,891 tons entered and cleared six harbours, Bengasi accounting for 1,473 of 1,406,930 tons burden, against 1,427 of 1,551,757 tons in 1913. Owing to the war, German, Austrian, French and other European vessels ceased operating to this coast after July with the result that the Italian flag flew over 91 per cent. of the tonnage at Tripoli as compared with 82.5 per cent. in the preceding year. Of Italian steamers at the same port 71 per cent. were subsidized mail ships contrasted with 65 per cent. in 1913.

The Sicilia Company maintained its bi-weekly fast-mail service to Syracuse throughout the year, and the service from Genoa viâ Italian ports and Malta was also kept up without interruption, as was the service along the Libyan coast. After the outbreak of the European War the weekly service from Naples, viâ Trapani and Palermo, was suspended as well as that via Messina and Syracuse. Toward the end of the year the latter was revived, but, after a few voyages, was again suspended for lack of business. The steamers of the Società Italiana di Servizi Marittimi operating from Venice were also withdrawn in August, but resumed operations at the end of October, and afford communication with the Adriatic, and an outlet, by way of Venice, for Austrian cargoes of sugar and other articles. The services of the Deutsche-Levante Line (German), the Touache Line (French), and the Adria Line (Austrian) also ceased and have not been resumed.

Foreign Trade.

The statistics available showing the foreign trade of the district for 1914 in relation to the preceding year are of more than usual interest. Merchandise landed at twelve Libyan ports during 1914 is placed at 352,492 metric tons, as compared with 374,433 tons at eight ports in 1913, the five ports not then included accounting for 94,108 tons of the total for 1914. These figures show conclusively that the tendency of trade to recede to normal levels has not been confined to Tripoli, but has prevailed along the entire coast. Sirte, the only port giving even a slight increase, is at the head of the caravan route by which communication was maintained with the garrisons in the Fezzan, and was also the starting-point for supplies to troops engaged later in adjacent territory. Cargoes embarked totalled 73,003 tons; of this, 41,392 tons left the Tripolitanian ports, as contrasted with 44,949 tons in 1913. No figures are given for Cirenaica for 1913, but the total for 1914 was 31,611 tons.

In every port of Tripolitania, except Sirte, there was a decrease in imports. At Tripoli, the metropolis, the loss was more than 29 per cent.; the average cargo per steamer was 170 tons, and less than 39 tons per sailing craft. In Cirenaica the only port for which comparison is possible is Bengasi, and here the decrease was more than 20 per cent. The principal cause for the widespread decline is to be found in the gradual return of trading to its natural economic level. The European war was a contributing factor, but not to the same extent as local conditions.

At Tripoli merchandise exported decreased by 36 per cent., and the average outward lading was 25 tons for steam vessels and 10 tons for sailing vessels. At other Tripolitanian ports good increases are noted in most instances, but it is possible that shipments were largely exchange of products between coast ports and not for foreign commerce. No values or details as to character of wares are available. Although at Tripoli nearly 90 per cent. of all merchandise arrived under the Italian flag, it embraced British, American, and other products throughout the twelve months, as well as those from France, Austria, and Germany after the withdrawal of their ships in July.

U.S. Trade Decreases.

Notwithstanding the general decrease in imports from the United States, satisfactory increases were recorded in several lines, the most important being in canned goods, which doubled; this is probably due to locating more distributors than to greater consumption. California fruits and asparagus, Pacific coast salmon, lunch tongues and roast beef from Chicago, and pickles from Pittsburgh are to be found on the shelves of all leading purveyors of foodstuffs and are acquired in Italy. Recently a few dealers have sought to trade direct, but have in every instance been referred to the Italian agent.

The advance in the imports of American agricultural implements is not without importance in a country where improved husbandry points the only way to local prosperity. The Government experiment station acquired ploughs and harrows of spike-tooth and disc type. One merchant imported a reaper, which he hoped to hire for cutting barley on the plains outside Tripoli. Native disturbances, however, prevented harvesting by owners in that area, and the implement remained idle.

In the export trade the effect of war on Tripoli's foreign commerce has been most strongly felt. Shortly after its commencement a decree was issued forbidding the exportation of all foodstuffs, and the lessened demand for other articles in several countries has made a deep impression on other lines. With uninterested buyers in Great Britain, France, and Austria, nearly 40 per cent. of the large sponge catch remained unsold on December 31. Exports of henna, amounting to about 1,122,000 lb., were 83 per cent. of the harvest, and compare with 1,140,590 lb. in 1913. Although the quality was much improved, owing to certain regulations imposed by the Government, prices were considerably below those of the previous season. The export trade in skins was also adversely affected, but it is believed that increased purchases by Italy will prevent a great decline in the ordinary article; shipments of Sudan tanned goatskins fell off by 20 per cent. Esparto grass or alfa, that formerly held an important place in the export list, again failed to approach its old level. Dealers assert that there were practically no exports of ostrich feathers. Arrivals were few during the first half of the year, and the closing of the Paris market, where practically all were absorbed in the past, has resulted in a congestion of stocks.

Agriculture.

Agriculturally, the year as a whole was less depressing than in other directions, and was an improvement over 1913. The three great crops are barley, dates, and olives, and upon these depend the prosperity and well-being of the natives. The barley harvest in Tripolitania was only about 70 per cent. of a normal year, but was in excess of the previous season, and export was not allowed. Dates yielded about three-fourths of a full crop, sufficient for local needs, and olives were abundant, probably 25 per cent. in excess of the preceding year.

Other important field crops are esparto grass and henna. The former developed well, but the harvest was small. The gathering of this crop was retarded by the fact that the natives found better employment for their camels in carrying supplies for the Italian forces, and this fact had a corresponding effect upon those charged with its gathering. The henna harvest was below that of 1913, and is estimated at 12,000 cantars. The quality, however, was improved owing to certain regulations, and only leaves were sold, the removal of stalks and stems being required. In spite of the quality, prices, on account of poor demand, were considerably below those of the previous season. It is stated that the tobacco crop was also greater owing to the increased acreage, and, as it is all grown for the Government monopoly, was not affected by conditions in the outside world.

Notwithstanding the economy practised in all civil departments in this colony, Italy lent some assistance and encouragement to agriculture. An agrarian office was established, with headquarters at Tripoli, and under its direction an experiment station has begun operations, while general supervision of plans for agricultural betterment was entrusted to it.

Colonization Schemes.

Colonization schemes began to take shape, and the Government, having, by the decree of July 13, 1914, settled questions concerning titles to land, authorised the granting of concessions of Crown property for agricultural purposes under regulations to be devised by the agrarian office and approved by the governor of this province. These regulations provide for concessions for fifty years with reversion to the Crown, impose the planting of three-fourths of the area in trees in seven years, and exact rentals according to location. The grants so far have been generally for small tracts, but a few are important, and one contains about 1,500 acres. It is believed that legislation will be urged to permit holdings in perpetuity, for the present limitation tends to retard the colonization so essential to this colony.

Additional evidence of the Government's solicitude for husbandry is found in the decree placing certain articles necessary to the industry on the customs free list.

To foster arboriculture the Government offered money premiums for olive and fruit trees successfully planted by March 30, 1915, and in addition authorized the free distribution of nursery stock for such trees. A law also came into effect under which the cutting of old olive and fruit trees without permission was prohibited.

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Sponge Industry.

Sponge catching was the only section of the fishing industry that assumed importance. Operations were again confined to the Tripolitanian coast, and a record haul was made amounting to 123,750 pounds of sponges, as compared with 77,000 pounds in 1913. Demand and price were greatly affected by the European war, and nearly 40 per cent. of the sponges remained unsold.

There were no extensions in the manufacturing industries. Some formerly established found conditions unfavourable to expansion, and suspended operations. The large oil mill of the Banca di Roma did not open for the olive season, in spite of the abundant yield of olives; the largest brick factory closed down before the end of the year, and the cement works have had little to occupy them. The most important machine shop has curtailed operations, awaiting better conditions, and other establishments are feeling the effects of the present conditions.

No new contracts for public works were given out except one for harbour improvements at Tripoli, involving an expenditure of £260,000. This included an extension of the breakwater 692 metres long, dredging, and construction of wharves. Good progress was made on the first and security given to a greater harbour area. Considerable dredging was completed at various points to a depth of 24.6 ft. and one new wharf was opened. This contract was awarded early in 1914, and after the order for retrenchment, a Government commission decided that the dock schemes were not urgent and the sum to be disbursed under the original agreement was reduced by almost one-half.

Public Works.

Further road improvements were completed, notably on the highway to Gargaresch, which was macadamized for a distance of about three miles; a fine driveway was completed along the sea front for nearly a mile.

A new cavalry and an infantry barracks were completed. Two reinforced concrete school buildings for Italian children and a small fish market were completed by the civil administration.

About forty miles of track were added to the railways of Tripolitania and about fifteen to those of Cirenaica. Work proceeds on the line from Tripoli to Zuara, which has now reached Zavia, and on the line to Garian, a new section of which was recently opened as far as Henscir el Abeat, at the foot of the mountains. Toward the end of last year a contract was awarded for a new central railway station at Tripoli to cost £20,000. Work was to have begun on January 1, 1915, but operations have been delayed.

The Eastern Telegraph Co., of England, withdrew during last year, and its functions were taken up by the Italian State telegraphs. Figures published during the year place the restored telegraph land lines at 670 miles. Agitation has continued for a telephone system for civilian needs, but no concession has yet been granted.

Trade Opportunities.

The beginning made in the scheme for colonization by Italian farmers should be watched, for upon its success depends not only a new market for American agricultural implements, but the future prosperity that may cause a demand to grow up here along the same lines, if not to the same extent, as in Tunis and Algeria.

Certain wares purchased in other countries in the past will be sought in the United States. The electric light company, which until recently used only Roumanian oil for fuel, now burns 80 per cent. American product, acquired from Italy; there has also been some inquiry for American flour and business may result if prices are satisfactory. Small orders for manufactures of iron may result, especially if American stocks can be found in Italy.

Demand will continue in greater or less degree for most of the articles listed among imports from the United States in 1913, but the opportunities for special American endeavour that are now presented in other quarters will not accrue here. The presence of increased numbers of troops will add some purchasing power to the country and create a demand for refreshments, postcards, and the sundry other small articles on which the soldiers like to spend their money. Army supplies, such as uniforms, arms, saddlery, forage, etc., will be bought through the headquarters in Italy.

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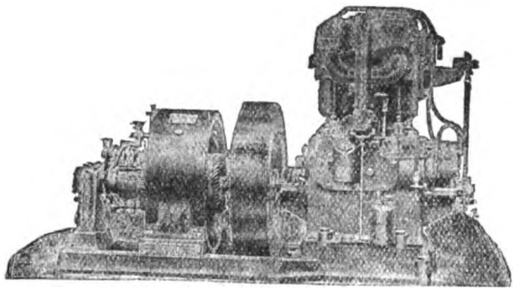

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Engineering Notes.

The Trade War.

The speech of Mr. Runciman, the President of the Board of Trade, in the House of Commons last week, had a reviving effect on the much discussed question of "capturing the enemy's trade," while further plans are being suggested for securing a victory in the forthcoming great commerical struggle which eventually will succeed the present war. It is evident that the Government, as well as manufacturers, trade associations and Chambers of Commerce, are alive to the importance of the question, and the urgent necessity of taking immediate measures for the achievement of the desired results. It is well known that Germany and Austria, with their characteristic sagacity, are preparing for the same struggle, and, as was mentioned previously in these columns, both States are making their plans for the recapture of foreign markets after the war, and are already laying up great stocks of goods with which they propose to flood the markets of other countries as soon as the war is over. In this connection, Mr. Runciman's speech ought to be read and well studied by all business men, because it points out clearly and in a convincing way what is wanted and what must be done for the industrial regeneration of Great Britain and the restoration of her commercial supremacy in foreign markets. Most of the proposed measures suggested therein require time and prolonged organization before they can be effective. Failing their realization, the special opportunities that are now available for action before peace is concluded and while the enemy is incapable to act under the present war conditions will be lost.

Engineers' Plans.

In spite of the apparent disorganisation of the ordinary engineering business owing to the urgent and great demand for munition work, engineer-manufacturers are particularly alive to the importance of the inevitable trade war, and jointly with other allied manufacturers are preparing for it. But, unfortunately, the plans and resolutions put forward as necessary and adequate for the occasion are so numerous and multiform that, though excellent for the future organisation of the engineering industry, they are not what is now urgently needed to fight the approaching crisis. They suggest, for instance, the organisation of various departments, one to deal with railway, canal and shipping companies for the improvement of conditions and reduction of freights; another to analyse Consular reports, technical and commercial papers, etc., and circulate the results; another, a production department, to raise the standard of manufacturing methods and organisation, and with that object to direct the attention of manufacturers to engineering developments and improvements in workshop practice, to stimulate manufacturers to adopt a progressive and enterprising policy in commercial, technical, and manufacturing matters; to encourage a keener study of customers' requirements, and greater readiness to satisfy them by supplying appropriate goods and comprehensive catalogues, and by sending abroad qualified representatives. Again, others suggest a Department of Publicity to organise the preparation for distribution at home and abroad of printed information relating to the British engineering industry for the purpose of increasing the demand for British products, etc., and yet another Department of Finance is suggested for the better financing of the industry, both in manufacture and in relation to home and foreign countries. Several other departments are also proposed which, with the above-mentioned, provide for everything that is necessary for the complete organisation of the engineering industry to a degree never before attempted. But, as mentioned above, excellent as undoubtedly the scheme is, it requires a considerable time to be carried out, while the present existing urgency requires the individual as well as joint efforts of all British engineer manufacturers for an immediate organised action adequately to meet the approaching crisis, and secure a trade supremacy before the enemy is able to put into effect his commercial tactics.

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ALEXANDRIA PRIZE COURT.

S.S. "Lutzow" (ex Cargo).

In H.M. Supreme Court, Alexandria, sitting in Prize, Judge Grain rendered a judgment in the case of the cargo of s.s. Lutzow, from which the following are extracts :—

The goods in this case were shipped on board the s.s. Lutzow at Hamburg on or about July 8, 1914, consigned by various German firms to a Japanese firm at Kyoto named Yokota and Co. There is no evidence as to whether the contract was documents against acceptance or documents against payment. The bills of exchange were never accepted, but they were paid, some on August 26, 1914, and some on September 2, 1914.

Mr. Booth, who appears to support the claim of the Japanese firm, Yokota and Co., pleads that on August 26 the s.s. Lutzow had not been captured as prize, and that she was still free to deliver and deal with her cargo; and further, that it is not contrary to the law of Japan to carry on trade with the enemy, and quotes as his authority for this proposition Takahashi, the Japanese writer on International Law.

But it appears to me that Takahashi is very doubtful about this point, as in discussing the question of trading with the enemy he says : "While engaged in hostilities with China, the export of coal to the enemy's land was winked at by the Japanese Government, and if winking at may be considered synonymous with implied recognition the principle of the Japanese Government adhered to at that time must have been the opposite of the prohibition of trading with the enemy. However, the absence of any settled principle whatever most probably induced the Japanese Government to take such an indulgent step," and later on he states "even during the Russo-Japanese War no definite declaration was made on this subject."

An affidavit made by a Mr. G. O. Heath, a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, who has been practising at Yokohama for some years, is put in, in which he says : "There is no law in force in Japan prohibiting trading with the enemy." That may be, and, as Takahashi says, "no definite declaration was made," and, as Takahashi also suggests, it may have been "winked at."

These are somewhat undecisive statements as regards the Japanese law of trading with the enemy. But all the decisions in the British Prize Courts are perfectly clear that trading with the enemy by Allies is contrary to the law.

Sir W. Scott in the Neptune (No. 5) I.E.P.C. 596 states : "Between Allies it must be taken as implied if not an expressed contract that one State should not do anything to defeat the common object and interest."

Sir Samuel Evans in the case of s.s. Panariellos (cargo ex), Trebern's British and Colonial Prize Cases (Part 2), page 203, follows this judgment in the Neptune and states : "It remains to note a rule of a correlative nature, that whatever intercourse commercial trading or otherwise is prohibited, the same obligations are laid upon the citizen of an Ally as upon the subjects of a single belligerent State and the same penalties of confiscation fall upon the allied citizen as upon such subjects on non-observance of such obligations."

And in Wheaton's International Law it is laid down as a rule of law that "during a conjoint war, no subject of an Ally can trade with the common enemy without being liable to forfeiture in the Prize Court of the Ally of his property engaged in such trade."

On this point, therefore, I cannot accept Mr. Booth's argument that trading with the enemy is allowed by Japanese law.

The next question I have to determine is, what was the date of the capture of the s.s. Lutzow?

On August 1 she arrived at Suez, having passed through the Canal on July 31, 1914, and steamed as far as Ras Gharib, where she received a wireless message from her agents that on account of the danger of the outbreak of hostilities she was to return to Suez, where she arrived on August 1. Her captain, in his affidavit, states that "on August 6, by the order of the captain of the port, the antennæ of the wireless apparatus was taken down and her boilers were dismantled and pieces taken away from them." And on August 12 the captain of the ship received a formal notice of detention. The ship remained at Suez till about October, when she was taken through the Canal and formally captured at sea by H.M.S. Foxhound on October 15 and brought to Alexandria.

It is laid down in the "Twee Gebroeder" (No. 1) E.P C. vol 1. p. 286, that the Court is entitled to consider all the circumstances that lead up to the final capture. And it has been held on many occasions that the date of the capture of a prize ship is not of necessity the final and official seizure.

Sir Samuel Evans, in s.s. Feliciana (cargo ex) states : "I have pointed out before and I think it is the right view . . . that the first act of detention, as it has been called, is really the act of seizure."

In this case I am of opinion that the hand of the captor was first put upon the ship when the captain of the port on August 6, 1914, as representing the authorities, sent his men on board to remove the parts of her engines, thereby preventing her departure, which he followed up on August 12 by a formal order of detention. Therefore, although her final and formal seizure was not till October, nevertheless her capture dates from August 6. These goods were shipped at Hamburg in July by German firms, and there is no doubt that at that time the property was in the German firm.

None of the drafts had been paid or accepted up to August 6, 1914. "In a state of war existing or imminent, it is held that the property shall be deemed to continue as it was at the time of the shipment till the actual delivery." (Lord Stowell in "Vrow Margarita," I. Ch. Rob. 338.)

And "it is a general rule that, during hostilities, or imminent and impending danger of hostilities the property of belligerents cannot change its national character during the voyage, or, as it is commonly expressed, in transitu." (Mr. Justice Storey's "Principles and Practice of Prize Court.")

Nothing therefore happened between the shipping of this cargo in Hamburg by the German firm in July and the capture of the s.s. Lutzow on August 6 to change the property in the goods from the enemy firms to the present claimants, the Japanese firm.

I find therefore that these goods are the property of enemy subjects, and as such must be condemned to confiscation and sale.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Wakfs for the supply and installation of a compound steam engine. For further particulars apply to the offices of THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, E.C. Date, January 31.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-1918). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Date, March 1.

Tenders are invited by the Secrétaire Générale des Domaines de l'Etat (Service Technique), Cairo, for the supply (1) of 13,315 okes of "huile pour mouvements"; (2) 7,670 okes of "huile pour cylindres"; (3) 16,200 okes of "huile pour moteurs Diesel." Date, February 2.

Tenders are invited by the Controller, Cairo Tangier Department, for the supply of 320 tons of "extra hard pitch" required during the financial year 1916-1917. Samples shall be submitted at the Roads Service Depot, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, before noon, on March 1, 1916. Date, March 1.

Messrs. John Day and Company, of Cairo, were the successful tenderers recently to the Egyptian State Railways for the supply of sacks.

The Vacuum Oil Company were the successful tenderers recently to the Egyptian State Railways for the supply of petroleum.

The following were among the successful tenderers recently to the Egyptian State Railways for the supply of stores to the Ministry of Interior:—J. Compton and Sons, Limited; the Limerick Clothing Factory, Limited; the Commercial and Agency Co. of Egypt, Limited; Walter W. Davies; Thos. Hinshelwood and Co., Limited; Model Workshops, Cairo; Th. W. Petersen and Co., Limited; McGregor and Co.; and Brushware, Limited, of Cawnpore.

Tripoli.

The U.S. Consul in Tripoli publishes a partial synopsis of a Royal decree of August 22, which approves provisional rules to control certain administrative functions and to regulate governmental accounting in Tripolitania and Cirenaica, the two Provinces composing the Italian colony of Libya, in North Africa. These rules will remain in force until permanent regulations have been drawn up and promulgated. The report sets forth at length the essential features of Chapter 2 of the decree, which defines the procedure to be followed in awarding contracts for public works, supplies, transport, purchases, sales, rentals, or labour.

Roumania.

The U.S. Consul-General at Stockholm states that it is reported in that city that a Roumanian business commission will shortly arrive from Petrograd with the object of making a study of the trade routes from England to Russia, in order that goods from England may reach Roumania by the way of Sweden. This, it is stated, is owing to the fact that it is absolutely necessary for Roumania to have some course of business communication with the outside world, and under present conditions the only way appears to be over the Swedish route.

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Cyprus.

Tenders are invited by the Cyprus Government for the conveyance of letter and parcel mails within the island from April 1, 1916, to March 31, 1917. Date February 9.

A notice has appeared in the *Cyprus Gazette* (Extraordinary) notifying that the High Commissioner has approval of special licences being granted by the Provost Marshal for a limited quantity of potatoes being exported to Egypt, subject to certain regulations which are designed to facilitate exportation after local requirements at reasonable prices have been satisfied.

The Government of Cyprus has for sale about 266 Cyprus okes of harpoon-fished sponges, good quality, and 29 okes skarta from Cyprus waters this year; also 748 okes of machine-finished sponges, good quality, and 89 okes skarta. Tenders for the purchase of same will be received by the Inspector of Fisheries up to 12 noon on January 29, 1916.

Sudan.

The general manager, Sudan Government Railways, is prepared to receive tenders for the supply of the following timber:—

100,000 ft. run of Swedish pine in sizes varying from ¾-inch by 9 in. to 2 in. by 9 in.

2,500 ft. run of 3 in. by 3 in. by 13 ft.

1,500 ft. run of 4 in. by 4 in. by 13 ft.

25,000 ft. run of pitch pine in sizes varying from 1 in. by 9 in to 4 in. by 12 in.

6 pitch pine baulks, 9 in. by 9 in. by 36 in.

6 pitch pine baulks, 9 in. by 12 in. by 20 ft.

12 pitch pine baulks, 12 in. by 12 in. by 20 ft.

Tenders, which should state prices and possible date of delivery of timber, may be sent to any of the following:—

Sir A. L. Webb, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W., quoting price f.o.b. London.

Agent, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria, quoting price for delivery in Alexandria.

General Manager, Sudan Government Railways, Atbara, quoting price c.i.f. Port Sudan or for local delivery.

From all of whom also tenders forms and fuller information as to the sizes of timber required may be obtained. Tenders, which should be enclosed in sealed envelopes, plainly marked on the outside "Tender for Timber," must reach any of the above addresses by not later than noon of February 1, 1916.

URGENT TELEGRAMS FOR ROUMANIA.

The Secretary to the General Post Office has issued the following announcement:—

The Postmaster-General has made arrangements with the Russian and Roumanian Telegraph Administrations for the introduction on January 20 of a service at triple rates for urgent telegrams sent between this country and Roumania via Russia, similar to the service recently established between this country and Russia. The charge will be 1s. 3d. a word.

The telegrams will be subject to censorship in the same way as other private telegrams, and, like them, can only be accepted at the senders' risk.

In view of the heavy pressure on the Russian land lines it must be understood that, though the "urgent" telegrams will receive priority of treatment on these lines, a rapid service cannot be guaranteed.

Near East Markets.

PEACH-GROWING ON THE BOSPHORUS.

Peach growing in the region about Constantinople, says the United States Consul-General at Constantinople, is confined to the Bosphorus orchards and certain districts on the Marmora Sea, especially Brusa, with its abundantly watered, low hinterland. The requisite mild climate prevails throughout the year in these sections.

The Brusa peach is an early fruit, very juicy, and rich in flavour. Its weight averages 7 ounces. It is called here "etli," which means fleshy, and possesses the distinctive feature that the meat of the fruit firmly adheres to the kernel, so that the peach can not be parted in two with a little pressure of the fingers, as is the case with other varieties. It is the best peach produced in this district.

The Bosphorus peaches may be divided into kinds—the "yazsheftelissi," or summer peach, and the "sari-papa," or yellow peach. The summer peach, as its name implies, is an early-season variety which, if properly cultivated, weighs up to 6 ounces. The predominant colour is dark red, shading into pale yellow-green. The most succulent peaches are obtained during the first three years. Older trees yield more fruit, but it is harder, drier, and less tasty. In the peach itself the central part in contact with the kernel is blood red in the case of old fruit, and yellow-pink, light red speckled in the case of younger fruit.

According to the local growers' observations, a healthy tree will yield beween 140 and 290 pounds of summer peaches. These are not attacked by worms and other parasites as readily as the sari-papa, a winter variety, the kernels of which are very often split open and worm-eaten. This variety is usually softer than the summer peach, less juicy, and more mealy. The predominant colour is yellow, with red. It is exceptionally aromatic, and has a flavour similar to apricots. The full-grown peach weighs from 3 to 5 ounces.

According to native growers, peaches dry if the weather is too cold. They grow best on black earth, and in order to become full-grown require abundant water and frequent care. Local cultivators plant, early in November, a number of full-grown selected peaches or their kernels in a small space of about 4 square feet. The offshoots appear in March. They are left for a year, during which the surrounding earth is frequently dug and watered. Then the young nurslings are transplanted and scattered over the field, where, for another year, they require constant attention. The following year the first fruit is yielded.

The trunk of the tree, as a rule, reaches between the second and third year a diameter equal to that of the full-grown fruit it bears. Generally the trees are cut when between six and eight years old, a stage at which the fruit they bear is no longer palatable. Grafted peaches can not be used for seed purposes.

COTTON MARKET.

Liverpool. Thursday Night.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph:—

Egyptian Spot.—There has been an active market this week, large business having been done at advancing prices. The demand for export continues on fair scale. After several fluctuations, quotations show an advance of 30 points for all descriptions except for good and above in Joannovitch, Sakellarides, and Abassi, which are advanced 40 points. The sales, which include 860 bales Sudan cotton, are estimated at 7,600 bales.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, January 20.

Currants.

The demand has been good this past week, with fair amount of business done at full prices. The Greek market is strong, and a further advance is probable.

Sultanas.

There has been a good demand during the week, with business passing at about the same prices reported last week. There is a noticeable preference for Afghan and Indian fruit, while owing, evidently, to the high prices, Greek is neglected.

Figs and Dates.

There is only a small demand for the former, while fairly good business is being done at 36s. to 40s. for Egyptian and 15s. to 22s. for Persian.

Seeds.

Linseed is steady, but very inactive. London-Calcutta is quoted at 84s. 3d., La Plata, Feb.-Mar., Hull, 76s. 9d., and 76s. 6d. buyers. Bombay to Hull, Jan.-Feb., 85s. 6d. is asked. Rapeseed is nominal. Cottonseed is quiet all round. Egyptian to London, spot, £14 5s.; Hull, spot, loading, and Jan., £15 11s. 3d. is asked.

Oils.

Linseed oil is dull, and easier; spot pipes, £43 12s. 6d.; spot barrels, £44 10s.; Jan., £44 10s.; Jan.-Apr., £44 15s.; and May-Aug., £45 15s. Rape oil is firm. English refined, £56. Cotton oil is steady; crude pipes, £45 15s.; refined pale pipes, £51; and sweet barrels, £52 to £53. Olive oil is very firm, but inactive; spot, Levant or Spanish, £57 to £58 per tun ex store.

Oilcakes.

Linseed cakes are only in moderate demand, owing to the high prices asked. Best London sold at £13 7s. 6d. to £13 10s. East India seed pures selling at £13 to £13 7s. 6d. per ton. Cotton cakes offered only in small supplies; Egyptian, at £10 5s. to £10 7s. 6d.; English, £10 10s. to £10 12s. 6d.; and Bombay, at £10 per ton.

Gums.

The market is inactive, but prices are well maintained. Arabic, Turkey sorts, £3 5s. to £4 15s.; East Indian, common to fine, £2 5s. to £2 17s. 6d.; Ghezira, 15s. to £2 7s. 6d. Myrrh, good to fine, £2 15s. to £3 10s. Tragacanth, first, £29 to £46; low to good sorts, £5 to £6 15s.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Great annoyance is felt at the ports of Famagusta, Larnaca, Limassol, and Papho owing to the frequent failure of the weekly mail steamer of the Khedivial Company to take on board all the merchandise lying ready for shipment. One of the last occasions 1,000 cases of oranges and lemons, besides many of potatoes and other produce were left on the quay at Famagusta. So far, complaints made to the Government and the company have had but little effect. A deputation from Famagusta, including the Mayor, a member of council, and some leading merchants has, therefore, proceeded to Nicosia, and have had an interview with the Chief Secretary, representing the serious loss and interference of trade which are being caused. It is considered by the merchants that a second steamer should be furnished under the circumstances, especially considering that the Khedivial Company practically enjoys at present a monopoly of the carrying trade between Cyprus and Egypt. The Chief Secretary replied that the terms of the contract do not permit the Government to compel the company to despatch a second steamer, but that every effort will be made to bring about some satisfactory arrangement. The serious losses sustained by shippers are fully admitted, especially as in many cases the goods have to be delivered under contract within specified periods. The exportation of fresh fruit and of potatoes to the Egyptian market is of great importance to the island at the present season.

Weather Conditions.

There has been a continued absence of rain, which causes serious anxiety in most parts of the island. In some places the sowing of wheat has been suspended. All-night services have been held in some of the principal churches of Nicosia, and throughout the island prayers have been offered for rain.

In the poorer parts of the island considerable hardship is being experienced, high prices and want of employment being much felt. The price of wheat is, of course, for many prohibitive. At Nicosia it has reached 9s. 6d. the bushel; the cost of barley being 4s. 8d. Fortunately the price of potatoes remains low, and these are largely consumed.

Asbestos Mines.

Under a new agreement between the Cyprus Government and the Asbestos Company of December, 1915, it is provided that the company shall pay to the Government 1 per cent. in money on the value of all asbestos exported, or under certain circumstances in kind, for a period of five years; and 2 per cent. for a further period of five years. These mines are the only ones in which this mineral is being worked. They lie high up in the Troödos range.

RUBBER SHARES IN DEMAND.

Amidst the recent activity in rubber shares there has been a good demand for the Java specialities, and in this particular group attention should be given to Waverley Plantations. The company offers prospects of good dividends and a big rise in quotations, as the 5s. fully-paid shares at present stand at only about 2s. 6d. each. The company's estates cover 2,593 acres, but only 1,705 acres are now under cultivation with rubber and coffee, and there is, therefore, the prospect of a large increase in production as the estates are fully opened up. According to the estimates of an expert of long local experience, the production for the next three years will increase as follows:—For 1916, 30,000 lbs. of rubber and 1,800 piculs of coffee; for 1917, 60,000 lbs. of rubber and 4,500 piculs of coffee; for 1918, 100,000 lbs. of rubber and 4,500 piculs of coffee. Taking both rubber and coffee at much below the present prices, it is calculated that this production will give increasing dividends, averaging 12½ per cent. to 15 per cent., for the next three years. With the prices standing at such a low price as 2s. 6d. for the fully-paid share this would give a splendid yield, and in the meantime prices should rise appreciably; in fact, they are expected to go over par.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Telegram received from Suez dated January 12:—Hurgada.—Well No. 7, 4 p.m. yesterday till 4 a.m. production 200 tons; recommenced 8 a.m., stopped at 9.40 a.m.

Anglo-Egyptian Spinning and Weaving Company.—Notice is given by the liquidator that 2,569 ordinary shares of £1 each and 819 deferred shares of 5s each, have not been presented for exchange against shares in the Filature Nationale d'Egypte S.A.E., and further notice is given that the liquidator will conclude the winding up of the company and lodge the final statement of accounts on June 30. All shares of the Filature Nationale d'Egypte unclaimed at that date will be sold and the net proceeds of the sale thereof paid into the companies liquidation accounts in the Bank of England in compliance with the requirements of section 224 of the Companies Consolidation Act, 1908.

Egyptian Markets.—The directors have declared an interim dividend of 4 per cent. for the year 1915, less income-tax at 2s. 8d., payable 31st instant.

Societe Anonyme de Behera.—Payment is being made at the National Bank of Egypt on Coupon No. 43 of the debentures which fell due on January 1, 1916.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The necessary quorum for the Extraordinary General Meeting called for the 11th January, 1916, not having been secured, notice is hereby given that an ADJOURNED EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of The Agricultural Bank of Egypt will be held on Thursday, the 27th day of January, 1916, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo, for the purpose of modifying the Statutes in the following way:—

(1) To substitute the word "Avril" for the word "Mars" in the first paragraph of Article 31.

(2) To eliminate the words "au profit de fonds social" in the third paragraph of Article 42, and to substitute therefore the words "Le paiement pourra en être refusé et le montant passé au profit du fonds social."

A print of the Statutes can be inspected at the Offices of Messrs. Norton, Rose, Barrington, and Co., 57½, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., between the hours of eleven and three (except Saturdays).

Every Shareholder holding a minimum of five Shares has the right to attend the above Meeting, provided the Shares are deposited at least five days before the day of the Meeting (the last day for depositing the Shares in Egypt is the 22nd January, 1916, and the last day fo rdepositing the Shares in London is the 20th January, 1916), when Cards of Admission and Forms of Proxy will be handed to them at one of the following places:—

IN EGYPT:
At the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo.
At the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria.
IN LONDON:
At the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.

F. T. ROWLATT, President.

Cairo, 12th January, 1916.

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STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	-
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909..	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90⅝
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93⅜	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	74½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	67
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	65
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	76	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	54
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	41½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	52⅝
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1895	54	—	51
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	67½xd
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	73½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855..	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94⅛	—	80½
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82⅛	—	-
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4½	—	3½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	70
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red...	83	—	71½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9⅝
Bank of Abyssinia	¾	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	83/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅝	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	-
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	10
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5⅜
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	90
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb...	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pireus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds..	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1⅞	—	1⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	¾	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¾	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	6
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	¾	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅞
,, Founders	¾	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	75
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	5/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	—	½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	1
United Egyptian Lands	1/3	—	-/3
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅝
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	109
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1/6
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	96
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅝	—	14/6
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	—	11/9
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3⅛
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mts.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Jan. 18.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅝	8/9
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	18/-
European Oilfields	4/9	2/6
Roumanian	20/-	13/3

PARIS BOURSE.	Jan. 4.	Jan. 18.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	425
Canal de Suez	4050	3379
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	578
Turkish Unified 4%	59.95	59.95
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	78.50
Serbian, 1895	—	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 247.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The mystery of the alleged Montenegrin capitulation has yielded to the logic of facts without being definitely solved. All that is established is that there has been no capitulation. For the rest, the most plausible explanation is that the Austrians had based their hopes on the power of the *Krone*, and had overlooked its depreciated value. Their intrigues in Montenegro had met with some measure of success, but stopped short of the surrender of the Montenegrins, body, soul, and rifles, to an Austrian overlord. That some overtures were made, ostensibly in the name of King Nicholas and his Government, is admitted. Whether they aimed at securing more than an armistice is obscure. That negotiations had progressed as far or as rapidly as Count Tisza stated in the Hungarian Parliament is proved to be false. It is more than probable that the Austrian authorities were too hasty in announcing the terms on which they were prepared to accept Montenegro's capitulation, and had overlooked the difference of attitude between a venal clique and the bulk of a sturdy and independent nation.

Much of the credit for saving Montenegro from a great betrayal appears to belong to General Martinovitch. He is understood to have voiced the determination of the army to continue the struggle rather than submit, and his resolute action swept away any attempts that were being made to convert a possible desire for an armistice into an abject surrender. The position of the Montenegrins was none the less precarious. The enemy was in possession of the main strategic points, and there was little prospect of their being able to check his advance. In the circumstances the only course to adopt was for the Government to withdraw and to leave the army to prolong its resistance as best it might. King Nicholas, the Royal Family, and the Government have accordingly quitted the country, and have found a refuge at Lyons. Prince Mirko, the second son, remains with the army, which is now reported to be under the command of General Vukotitch.

There can be no doubt that a fight to the bitter end is more in keeping with the spirit of the people than a capitulation. It came as a shock to those who know the Montenegrins to have to picture them rounded up in bands and throwing down their arms at the feet of Austrian soldiers, to be marched off subsequently for internment, leaving their women and children to the tender mercies of the spoliators of Serbia. It was not thus that many knew Montenegro. Above all, it was hard to think of King Nicholas playing his Allies false. At the worst, it could only be supposed that all efforts on his part to get into touch with the Entente Powers, to obtain a definite answer from them which would enable him to adopt a strong line, had failed, and that in the end, confronted with the semblance of treachery at Mount Lovtchen, he had found himself compelled to inquire what terms the invaders were prepared to offer. The Austrians filled in the rest of the news bill.

When all the facts are known it may be that even the extent of the headway made by Austrian intrigue will be found to have been exaggerated. The condition of the Montenegrin army must have been parlous in the extreme, and a surrender might have been contemplated without the agency of actual treachery. That the Austrophil party, which had already secured seats in the Government, would seek to take advantage of such a state of affairs need cause no surprise. Austrian anxiety to detach Montenegro from the Allies and to magnify the importance of her surrender would at once come into play. Misled by the claims of Vienna and Hungary, the Italians appear to have been over-eager to throw all the blame on the Montenegrins. Hence the stories of intrigue and treachery, circulated, it is to be feared, as much from a desire to disarm criticism against the Italians themselves for their failure to send aid to Montenegro as in the interest of historical accuracy. In any other circumstances it would seem strange that the Montenegrin Royal Family, which is so closely related to the Italian reigning House, should pass through Italy and seek a refuge in France.

The march of events across the Adriatic may yet cause Italy to abandon the policy of *laissez-faire*, which has led to the undoing of the Montenegrins. Enemy reports of the progress of the Austrians have to be discounted, but Scutari has been occupied, and there would seem to be some ground for supposing that Durazzo, and possibly Valona, may eventually be threatened. The chagrin of the Austrians at having been robbed of the capitulation of Montenegro will prompt them to follow up the retreating army, and to secure some success as an offset

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to the frustration of their earlier hopes. For the present the attitude adopted is that peace negotiations with Montenegro have been broken off pending the surrender of the people. The process of rounding up and disarming the latter is represented as being in progress, and will, no doubt, be made to apply to operations against the Italians at Valona if a reasonable chance of success offers itself. Some attempt should certainly be made to help the remnant of the Montenegrin army, but Italian operations in Albania should be co-ordinated with the general military policy of the Allies.

While the enemy's attack on Salonika stands postponed, the work of strengthening the defences of the town and district is being completed with a thoroughness that seems to have made a great impression in many quarters, including Athens. The most notable incident of the past week, however, was an air raid over Monastir and Ghevgeli, carried out by French squadrons from Salonika. Statements of the number of machines engaged vary, but the official *communiqué* issued in Paris gives the strength of the squadron at thirty-two aeroplanes, but does not distinguish between the section which visited Monastir and the other that went to Ghevgeli. The former town is a hundred miles from Salonika. In spite of the unfavourable weather conditions and the altitude at which the airmen had to fly in order to cross the intervening mountains, all the machines taking part in the raid returned safely, with the exception of one biplane, which was compelled to come down in Greek territory owing to a broken wheel. The objectives of the raids were the enemy's camps, the buildings occupied by the Headquarters Staffs and other military establishments. As over two hundred bombs were dropped on Monastir alone, there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of the report that considerable damage was done. Particular interest attaches to the raid, not only from its success and the fact that it was the largest of its kind up to the present time, but also because it established the superiority of the Allies in aircraft in the Balkans. Not a single enemy aeroplane rose to challenge the attack.

King Constantine has once more unburdened himself in the public Press. This time an American correspondent has been requested to record his Majesty's profound indignation at "the unheard-of high-handedness of recent Allied action towards Greece." The burden of the complaint is the growing extent of Greek territory occupied by the Allied troops and the absence of any military reason for the destruction of the bridge at Demir Hissar. King Constantine discloses the fact that the Allies have promised to pay for the damage done when the war is over, but declares that they cannot pay for the suffering of the people driven out of their homes, and that the destruction of the railway line exposes the Greek troops around Serres and Drama to the risk of starvation. He cannot accept the plea of military necessity, as that is the excuse which Germany urges for the invasion of Belgium and the occupation of Luxemburg, and, indeed, the King implies that the Allied Powers have now placed themselves on the same level as Germany in regard to the violation of neutral territory. "The history of the Balkan politics of the Allies," he exclaimed, "is the record of one crass mistake after another, and now, through pique over the failure of their every Balkan calculation, they try to unload on Greece the results of their own stupidity." The outcome of this action on the Allies' part was to reduce the proportion of Greeks favourable to the Entente from 80 per cent. to less than 20.

It would be churlish not to lend a patient ear to King Constantine's laments. There is something pathetic in the spectacle of a Sovereign, who has deliberately rejected the constitutional safeguard of a Government representing the majority of the people, being reduced to proclaim his grievances from the palace roof. "The only forum of public opinion open to me," the King of the Hellenes is reported to have said, "is the United States. The situation is far too vital for me to care a snap about Royal dignity in the matter of interviews, when the very life of Greece as an independent country is at stake. I shall appeal to America again and again, if necessary, for that fair hearing which is denied me by the Allies." As the appeal does not appear to have been very successful in the United States, it is of interest to analyse it dispassionately. No one will deny that it must be disagreeable to the Greek King to see the Allies making themselves at home in Greece, "and not so much as 'by your leave'"—to use his own words—when he had worked hard to keep the country out of the war. Whether it is equally disagreeable to those of his subjects who are benefiting by the presence of the Allied troops is another matter. As far as the outside world is concerned, the people of Salonika have raised no very loud complaint. The question of military necessity is not one for argument, as there would be no common ground for King Constantine and the military authorities of the Allies. It may be pointed out to the former, however, that extensive operations in a foreign country are not possible without a base entirely given up to the jurisdiction of the Power operating. This point is exemplified in the experience of the Allies in France; it has been admitted by the Greek General Staff when they proposed to attack Constantinople from Dedeagatch, and decided that the operations could only be carried out with Bulgaria hostile or friendly. In other words, Dedeagatch, the base, had either to be captured and held or to be surrendered for temporary occupation by a friendly Bulgaria.

All that has happened in Greece bears out this contention, the truth of which King Constantine and his General Staff would be the first to admit as a general principle. With the Allies landed at Salonika, it could only be a question of time, if military operations on a large scale were contemplated, before the port, the peninsula, and Greek Macedonia had to pass temporarily under the sole jurisdiction of the Allies. Indeed, the geographical relation of Greece to the European war made it impossible that military operations should be extended to the Near East and that Greece should remain neutral. Just as Constantinople, according to the Greek view, was to be reached through Dedeagatch, and Bulgaria forced to declare herself either foe or ally, so the Allies and the Central Powers had to come to grips across Greek territory, and it was for Greece to make her choice between the rôle of ally or enemy of those who arrived first. At the instance of King Constantine Greece refused the issue, and the Allies, to spare her feelings, have made the best of a compromise. It has not worked—the Greek General Staff knew that it could never work—but it is hardly for King Constantine, who is responsible for the repudiation of the Greek treaty with Serbia, which lies at the root of the whole trouble, to complain. At the same time we have never sought to disguise the fact that the Greek problem could have been handled in a far more satisfactory manner by the Allies.

It is to be hoped that no one has been playing practical jokes at King Ferdinand's expense in "editing" his toast to the German Emperor at Nish. As reported in a telegram purporting to come from Nish to Amsterdam, it was a masterpiece of Oriental pleasantry. Its fulsomeness was prodigious, but by lapsing into Latin King Ferdinand gently probed a weakness of the Emperor William's for saying a sentence learnt by heart in a language that he does not speak, while the picture of Bulgarian peasants "co-operating in future in the work of Kultur" must have caused the Imperial guest physical suffering. Undoubtedly the honours were with the Bulgarian monarch. The German Emperor, in his reply, was not equal to the occasion. He thanked his host for the honour of an appointment as Colonel of the 12th Balkan Infantry Regiment, "than which he could expect no better," and brought in a reference to Turkey, reminding the Bulgarians that she, too, had "secured her world position." But there was no attempt to remind King Ferdinand of his place as a dutiful vassal, as in happier circumstances the Emperor William could not fail to have done. An eye-witness of the ceremony reports that Germany's ruler wore the look of a tired and broken man. This evidence finds some confirmation in the perfunctory answer which the Emperor gave to the challenge in the speech of his crafty ally.

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The expedition which, under General Aylmer, is endeavouring to relieve the British force in Kut is still more than twenty miles from its objective. The official statement that the Turks had been thrown back to a point seven miles from Kut has been found to have been based on a "misunderstanding." In the battle that took place on January 21 General Aylmer's forces made a determined effort to win through, but without avail. The heaviness of their losses necessitated an armistice of a few hours on January 22 for the removal of the wounded and the burial of the dead. According to Turkish reports, the number of the killed amounted to 3,000. There is no need to credit this statement; but it is admitted that the British casualties were serious. Since January 21 there would seem to have been no fresh move on General Aylmer's part. The margin of strength with which he was sent to effect the relief of the troops at Kut is proving, it is to be feared, too small in the face of large Turkish reinforcements. A *communiqué* from Constantinople speaks of a surprise attack made on January 18 on a British camp west of Kurna. This may refer merely to an Arab raid on an advanced post guarding the approaches to Busreh, or may imply that a further attempt is to be made by a different route to reach General Townshend. In spite of the latter's reassuring statement that he still has sufficient supplies, his position necessarily causes the liveliest anxiety. The unexpected strength of the enemy would seem to constitute a grave reflection on our intelligence system, and the references now being made in the official statements to floods suggest the inquiry whether the possibility of their periodical recurrence had been foreseen and steps taken to turn them to the advantage of the forces with unlimited shipping at their disposal.

The Russian success in the Caucasus proves to have been more complete than was at first to be inferred from the Russian despatches. For the present we must accept with reserve the estimates of the Turkish losses, but there can be no doubt that the blow carefully prepared by the Grand Duke Nicholas has fallen with unexpected intensity on the enemy. In addition to the stores and equipment abandoned, the retreat of a considerable number of Turks has been cut off, and we may hear of their capture in the course of the next few days. Russian artillery is bombarding the forts of Erzeroum. The town is strongly defended, but we shall hope to find that the preparations of the Russian Commander-in-Chief are adequate for the reduction even of this fortress.

After occupying Kangavar, between Kermanshah and Hamadan, the Russians, according to enemy reports, have had to withdraw from that town in the face of strong Turkish forces operating from Kermanshah. For the rest, the situation in Persia remains obscure, but it is satisfactory to learn that the outlook in the south has improved. Reuter's Agency learns that some of the more powerful tribes have expressed their readiness to assist Great Britain against German agents and their Persian dupes.

A further engagement in Western Egypt on January 23, when the Senussi were found to be 4,500 strong, with three guns and three or four machine-guns, indicates that the movement among the tribesmen is not yet on the wane. Indeed, each successive encounter reveals the enemy in greater strength, and it is to be feared that the effect of such defeats as the Anglo-Egyptian forces are able to administer is only local. In this last engagement British casualties amounted to 28 killed and 274 all ranks wounded. The enemy's casualties were much heavier, but the nature of the ground enables him to make good the escape of the bulk of his forces on each occasion.

MESOPOTAMIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

MRS. MARLING'S FUND FOR THE SUPPLY OF COMFORTS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I shall be obliged if you will allow me to draw attention to the advertisement appearing in your issue of to-day, from which it will be seen that in view of the large augmentation in the number of troops now operating in Mesopotamia it has been decided to extend the scope of this fund, which has hitherto been of a private nature, by making an appeal for subscriptions to the general public.

Subscriptions will henceforward be received by the Imperial Bank of Persia, and in view of the great discomforts which our troops operating in that theatre of war have to suffer, and of the extremely arduous task which is before them, I trust that there will be a generous response from the public to Mrs. Marling's appeal.

I would point out that the money collected is, at the request of the General Officer in Command of the Expeditionary Force, and of Sir Percy Cox, the Chief Political Officer, being remitted to Bombay, where it is employed by Sir Percy Cox in the purchase of such comforts as are most suitable for the requirements of the troops (both British and Indian) in the variable conditions of climate and life which they are called upon to endure. To anyone acquainted with these conditions the advantages of this course, as compared with the indiscriminate supply from this country of articles, many of which are unsuited to the climate and others so deteriorated before arrival that they are useless, are obvious.

In closing the private list of subscriptions which I have hitherto been administering I should like, on behalf of Mrs. Marling, to take this opportunity of again thanking the various subscribers, a list of whom is given below, for their generous response to Mrs. Marling's appeal.—I am, etc.,

C. GREENWAY.

January 26, 1916.

	£	s.	d.
Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd.	105	0	0
Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.	105	0	0
Strick Line, Ltd.	105	0	0
Ellerman Lines, Ltd.	105	0	0
Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co., Ltd.	105	0	0
Strick, Scott and Co., Ltd.	105	0	0
Sir John Jackson, C.V.O.	105	0	0
Royal Insurance Co., Ltd.	105	0	0
British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.	100	0	0
Imperial Bank of Persia, Ltd.	52	10	0
Lynch Bros.	52	10	0
F. Huth and Co.	52	10	0
Burmah Oil Co., Ltd.	50	0	0
Andrew Weir and Co.	50	0	0
Indo-European Telegraph Co.	50	0	0
C. W. Wallace	50	0	0
Anonymous	50	0	0
E. D. Sassoon and Co.	20	0	0
David Sassoon and Co.	20	0	0
Oil Well Engineering Co.	10	10	0
Anonymous	10	0	0
R. W. Adamson	10	0	0
H. S. Ashton	10	0	0
W. A. Buchanan	10	0	0
J. T. Cargill	10	0	0
D. W. Cargill	10	0	0
E. A. Chettle	10	0	0
Sir C. K. Finlay	10	0	0
J. Hamilton	10	0	0
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Milne and Co.	10	0	0
Sir Marcus Samuel, Bart.	10	0	0
F. D. Sassoon	10	0	0
P. W. Campbell	10	0	0
David McCowan	10	0	0
Sir Hugh S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., etc.	5	0	0
V. C. Hawkins	5	0	0
G. Newell	5	0	0
T. F. Rogers	5	0	0
A. C. R. Maitland	5	0	0
Lord Lamington, G.C.M.G., etc.	5	0	0
Lady East	3	3	0
Commercial Union Assurance Co.'s Staff Fund	3	3	0
The Rev. J. de la Bere	2	2	0
A. C. R. Maitland	2	0	0
Miss Cook	0	2	0
	£1,588	10	0

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Cairo, January 11.

The Cairo City Police.

Two important decisions have just been taken by the military and civil authorities respectively. The first is the appointment of Colonel Harvey Pasha, Commandant of the Cairo City Police, as Provost-Marshal in the capital; the second is that henceforward the nomination or the promotion of non-Egyptians in the police force can be carried out by the Ministry of the Interior without, as in the past, having to obtain the previous consent of the Finance Committee of the Ministry of Finance. The appointment of Harvey Pasha as P.M. will certainly facilitate his task and remove all chances of friction between the military and civic police; whilst the other decision, albeit for obvious reasons it will not be possible for the Interior fully to avail itself of this liberty of action until the war is over, is an exceedingly welcome one, and may be regarded as a recognition of the difficulties under which the police force has laboured in the past.

I should like to take this opportunity to say a few words about the Cairo City Police. In certain circles it has become the fashion to complain about the administration and organization of that force. Residents who remember the condition of things that existed some eight years ago freely admit that a great change for the better has taken place, and those who utter the complaints referred to do so quite irresponsibly; for I feel sure they would refrain from such criticism did they possess any real knowledge of the gigantic task that has to be handled day in day out by those whose shortcomings they are so keen to proclaim abroad. In normal times the Cairo City Police, in addition to the other duties ordinarily attaching to such a force, lends assistance to the foreign Consuls whenever they want to arrest any of their nationals, and controls the secret police, the fire brigade, and the licensing of motor vehicles, etc. Since the outbreak of war its work has been considerably increased by the various proclamations issued under martial law to deal with the control of licensed establishments, etc., and of the activities of the political agitators and spies, of whom the secret police has had to keep close track. When I mention that Cairo is a city of over 600,000 inhabitants, and that the only Englishmen in the city police are the commandant, the assistant-commandant, two sub-commandants, three inspectors, and some head constables, the number of whom can be counted on the fingers of one hand, I think it will be admitted that the task of the "higher command," if one may so term it, is a gigantic one, and that, even if the criticisms referred to were well founded—and in most instances they are not—they cannot detract one whit from the admirable manner in which that task has been carried out.

I cannot close these remarks without reference to the work done during the early days of the war. At the time when, politically, things were so uncertain, and even the Foreign Office did not quite know what its policy was going to be, Harvey Pasha and his assistant, Russell Bey, handled the difficult and delicate situation with a courageous initiative and a firmness that stood for a lot in the ultimate peaceful settlement of the crisis. I pay them this well-merited tribute with the firm conviction that those in authority over them will fully endorse my words.

The Empire Nurses' Red Cross Club.

A very interesting ceremony took place on Wednesday when the Empire Nurses' Red Cross Club was inaugurated by Lieut.-General Sir John Maxwell, G.O.C. the British Forces in Egypt. Ever since the beginning of last year nursing sisters and other workers have been steadily drafted into Cairo to cope with the enormous number of wounded and sick from Gallipoli and elsewhere. As time went on the need for some central place where these workers could foregather and meet friends working in other parts of the city began to make itself more and more felt; and at last a committee, headed by Lady McMahon, decided to establish a club to meet the emergency. The club has been installed in the historic house belonging to the famous Nubar Pasha, one-time Prime Minister of Egypt, which has been lent, together with its magnificent rooms, by that statesman's grandson, Arakel Bey Nubar; and H.H. the Sultan, ever ready to open his purse when good works require assistance, has made a donation of £E100 to the funds. The opening ceremony was attended by a very representative gathering of British residents, officers, and Army nurses. For the sake of the latter, whose devoted work out here is deserving of the highest recognition, one sincerely hopes that this club will be entirely successful. Miss N. Baird is the hon. secretary, Mr. F. de Halpert the hon. treasurer, and Lady Victoria Hicks-Beach the lady resident in charge.

In his inaugural speech Sir John Maxwell made the sad announcement that Miss Hughes, who was to have undertaken the secretaryship, had lost her life in the s.s. Persia. Miss Etta Hughes was a well-known figure in Cairo and Constantinople society. She was for many years English lady-in-waiting to H.H. the Khediva Mother, and in that capacity had gained the esteem of the European and Egyptian circles in which she moved. Her loss will be very much felt, and deep sympathy is everywhere expressed with her brother, Mr. George Hughes, Senior English Inspector attached to the Parquet of the Native Court of Appeal.

The Hellenes of Egypt.

About a month ago the Hellenic community of Paris summoned a congress, which was to consider how best the interests of Pan-Hellenism could be safeguarded during the crisis which the Balkans are traversing. An invitation was addressed to the communities of Alexandria and Cairo asking them to send delegates. Neither community felt itself in a position to accept this invitation. Meetings were, however, summoned in both cities; but whilst the Cairo community unanimously decided to send a telegram expressing its cordial approval of the sentiments expressed by its Paris compatriots, a certain amount of opposition was organised in Alexandria, and a telegram which was sent on the same lines as that from Cairo gave rise to much controversial discussion. A further request having been received from Paris for fuller expression by the community of its adhesion to the congress in the French capital, a meeting has been held in Alexandria, with Mr. Michel Sinadino, the president of the community, in the chair. An even stronger resolution than that passed at the previous meeting was voted by the audience, which included all the most prominent Greeks. It characterised the Greek Government's policy as being to the advantage of Pan-Germanism and to the detriment of Pan-Hellenism, and called for the immediate co-operation of Greece with the Allies. Copies of this resolution were telegraphed to the Greek Premier, the Athenian Press, and the Paris Congress. A feature which somewhat embittered the proceedings was the intervention of M. Sachtouris, the Greek Consul-General, who prior to the meeting published a letter disapproving of the proposal of the Alexandria community and referring in somewhat offensive terms to the Paris Congress. There is little doubt that the Consul-General's action was as unnecessary as it was tactless, and the net result seems to have been to increase the determination of the Pan-Hellenists and to have driven towards them many who held aloof before, but who object to be dictated to in this manner by their consular representative.

A Suspicious Fire.

A serious fire broke out on Wednesday night at Boulak in the shipyard of Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son (Egypt), Limited. The fire brigade was soon on the spot, but, owing to the strong wind blowing, the fire was not got under until next morning. The fire broke out on one of the Nile steamers, Rameses I., which got away from its moorings and set alight three other steamers, Rameses III., Tewfik, and Rameses the Great. All those who have made the journey to Upper Egypt by river will remember these fine steamers, and will be sorry to hear that only the last-named was saved. The Rameses I. broke its back and sank, and the other two

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are gutted. The damage done is estimated at £60,000, which is covered by insurance. The origin of the fire is as yet uncertain.

CAIRO, January 18.

The Mouled-en-Nabi.

Yesterday Government offices were again closed, this time in celebration of the birthday of the Prophet. The festivities in connection with this event had been held during the best part of the past week, but the evening preceding the public holiday witnessed, as usual, the most important ceremony of all, the reception of the religious heads and the attendance of H.H. the Sultan in the special tent at Abbassia during the reading of the story of the Prophet's life. By special order of the Ministry of the Interior the Mouled-en-Nabi was allowed to be celebrated in the provinces as well as in the capital, on condition that the inhabitants did not attend any celebration other than the one held in their particular locality. It is reported that the festival has passed off satisfactorily, wherever it took place. H.H. the Sultan once again caused generous distributions of alms to be made from his privy purse to the poor, and in certain cases himself defrayed all the expenses of the celebration.

Irrigation Schemes in the Sudan.

The departure of Mr. Buckley, the irrigation inspector in charge of the Blue Nile irrigation scheme for Abyssinia a month or so ago, gave rise to no little comment locally, especially when it was announced that he would be followed by Sir Murdoch Macdonald, the Under-Secretary of State for Public Works, on his return from England. In semi-official circles it was freely hinted that this expedition had a political as well as a technical object, and that a great "pow-pow" was to take place between the Anglo-Sudanese authorities and the representatives of the Negus. Sir Murdoch has been back several weeks now, and shows no signs of proceeding south; far from that, as already announced, he has received a local commission as colonel, and is very much taken up with the execution of the work that his Ministry is engaged on in connection with the defences on the eastern bank of the Suez Canal. By the time that undertaking is finished it will be far too late for any expedition to the Abyssinian frontier, such as that announced As a matter of fact, I understand that the publicity given and the importance assigned to Mr. Buckley's mission are altogether misplaced. Although no work on any extensive scale is being carried out in connection with the Sudan irrigation schemes for which a loan was obtained three years ago, that embarked on before the war broke out is being continued within certain limits in order to ensure that the money already expended shall not be lost through the complete suspension of new works—just as is being done with the Delta Drainage Scheme. In addition a certain amount of research work is being carried out by the permanent staff, such as the taking of levels, the measuring of currents, etc.; and the object of Mr. Buckley's journey to Abyssinia comes under this heading. It is being made for the purpose of studying and taking the levels of Lake Tsana—nothing more, nothing less. Lake Tsana, whence the Blue Nile takes its rise, is destined in the near future to play an important part in the irrigation projects of the Sudan, and the Anglo-Egyptian authorities, in whose hands the execution of those projects will lie, quite naturally insist on having the fullest data before definitely embarking on the "heavy" part of the enterprise, which will have to be proceeded with as soon as peace is restored.

The Ex-Khedive's Commercial Enterprises.

By proclamation this week receivers have been appointed to the Société Belge-Egyptienne de l'Esbekieh and the Société des Biens Fonds Urbains et Ruraux. These two companies were really only constituted as a cloak for the commercial enterprises in which the ex-Khedive from time to time engaged himself. In both of them the Daira Khassa of Abbas Hilmi Pasha is the chief shareholder; but whilst the Daira guaranteed the financial engagements of the Société des Biens Fonds, in the case of the Société Belge-Egyptienne its property is mortgaged to a group of debenture-holders, most of whom are Belgian. Both companies own property in the Emad-ed-Din quarter in Cairo—enormous buildings let out in flats, the imposing nature of which strikes the new arrival in the city. It is interesting to note that it was in the construction and administration of these buildings that the ex-Khedive was so imposed upon. His suspicions were finally aroused by a chance incident, and he found to his disgust, after a special inquiry had been held, that he had had to pay double the price that the construction had actually cost, and that in addition he was receiving but a fraction of the rent-roll that the tenants were paying. That was about a year or so ago prior to the war, and Abbas Hilmi Pasha, who for reasons best known to himself could not discredit those principally concerned, took speedy steps to remove them to other positions.

SUDAN NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, January 7.

Sports of the British Troops.

On January 6 the British troops held their annual sports. The programme was long and varied—from a mile race for the enthusiasts to a lemonade and bun race for those more sedentarily inclined. There was a tug-of-war in which the different companies of the battalion (1st Royal Warwickshire Garrison Battalion) and the other units competed, and the Garrison Artillery finally was successful. A donkey race for native boys employed in the barracks and a half-mile handicap for the same supplied comic relief, which was maintained throughout the afternoon by two humorists in disguise.

At the close of proceedings Lady Wingate presented the prizes, to which she had herself kindly added a watch and a case of pipes for the first and second in the mile race. It was remarkable to observe how many of the recipients of the prizes were men who still showed signs of their hardships in France a year or more ago, but were able still to compete successfully.

Transfers.

Some of the transfers which take place at the end of the year have already been made. Mr. R. Munro, the well-known Rugby footballer, left for Kosti with Mrs. Munro on December 31, and Mr. Bardsley has gone from Khartoum North to take up duty in the Blue Nile Province, whence his relief, Mr. T. A. Leach, of athletic fame at Oxford, will come to take his place.

Mr. O. Bentley left for El Obeid on his way to Talodi, to take up his new duties on promotion to Senior Inspector in the Nuba Mountains Province. He has been several years at Tokar, the chief centre of cotton growing in the Sudan until the Gezira scheme materialises. He had been previously in Dongola, White Nile, Khartoum, and Berber Provinces.

Captain R. S. Wilson, Governor of the Nuba Mountains Province, returned from leave, taken on medical grounds, but was delayed some days in Khartoum to cope with an incipient abscess in the jaw. He left on January 6 for El Obeid.

Mr. A. G. Pawson, the cricket Blue, passed through Khartoum on his way to the Upper Nile Province, to which he is transferred from the Legal Department. It is understood he will be posted to Renk.

Dr. J. B. Christopherson, who has been for some years in charge of the hospitals in Khartoum and Omdurman, volunteered in the summer for work in Serbia. It is said that the hospital in which he was working was captured fairly early in the Austrian advance on Nish, but it is hoped that he has been allowed to continue in his work. Dr. G. W. Footner is acting for him temporarily at Khartoum.

Captain H. E. Dumbell, Slavery Repression Department, has proceeded to Roseires to inspect his department post there. He will afterwards go on tour through the tribes in that part.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

There has been a slight recrudescence of this epidemic in Omdurman. Effective isolation and quarantine, however, confined the spread of the disease, whilst prompt inoculation in actual cases was reassuringly successful in saving the patient. It is hoped that the colder weather which has been experienced in the last week will put an end to the outbreak.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, January 5.

The Grip of the Teuton.

Recent arrivals from Constantinople all give prominence to two factors in the situation in the capital: the appalling increase in the cost of living, and the increasing discord between the Turks and their taskmasters.

It seems quite evident that there was considerable dissension respecting the efforts made by the Germans to assume complete control over Turkey, and at a meeting of the Union and Progress Committee some strong remarks were made about Turkey becoming a second Egypt. Pending the acceptance of the German demands the German Ambassador would not present his credentials to the Sultan; and, though no public announcement has been made, the Turks apparently agreed at last to the appointment of "*Mustechars*" at each of the Ministries, with the exception of the Sheikh-ul-Islamat, to "advise" and to "help" the Ministers, who will, however, retain their responsibilities! The effect of this will be to give the Germans a still greater hold of the administration of the country, and *Boches* are being placed in every possible office. The city, it is stated, is full of Germans, military and civilians; but no soldiers in any number appear to have arrived, though it is rumoured that German troops are to replace the Turks who are being withdrawn from the Dardanelles to take part in the Egyptian and Mesopotamian campaigns.

Jemal Pasha, the commander of the expedition against Egypt, has been in Constantinople. He still appears to possess sufficient power to have his own way, and has been promoted to the rank of General. He has refused to allow the expedition to be under the command of a German, and would not have any German troops. He has now returned to Syria, to undertake his expedition at the head of an army of 200,000 men.

Reinforcements for Mesopotamia.

Large reinforcements of Turkish troops and German officers also appear to have been sent to Mesopotamia, and the soldiers on passing through Constantinople are provided with new uniforms, evidently received from Germany. Every Ottoman capable of bearing arms between the ages of eighteen and fifty-one is being called up. Supplies of ammunition and some heavy guns are also reported to have arrived; but there has been some difficulty in getting the guns to the Dardanelles along the bad roads from Uzun Keupru.

Allies' Submarines Active.

The Allies' submarines have during the past month been very active in the Sea of Marmora, and they evidently do considerably more damage than one hears of in the destruction of sailing craft carrying munitions and stores to the Dardanelles. A Turkish destroyer was sunk a few weeks ago, and the next day the German steamer Leros, loading at the quay at Haidar Pasha, was torpedoed, and sank in shallow water. Two lighters were destroyed at the same time, and considerable damage was done to the railway quay. Other steamers are reported to have been sunk since then in the Marmora, but it has not been possible so far to ascertain their names.

Outrage on Persian Subjects.

There appears to have been a great hubbub amongst the Persians a short time ago, when, on the strength of the "Jehad," all Persian Moslems were called up to serve in the Turkish army! In the course of a few days hundreds were collected, and many paid their "bedels" (exoneration tax) to get off; but the Persian Ambassador intervened, declining to accept this interpretation of the "Jehad," and on his protesting, the measure was rescinded and the money returned to those who had paid.

A law on requisitioning was recently passed by Parliament. Churches and seminaries of enemy subjects have, however, been excluded from its operation, so those which have been occupied by the Turks since the outbreak of the war are expected to be evacuated. Some 200 German Catholic priests are expected in Constantinople; in fact, a few have already arrived, so some of the churches and seminaries will doubtless be taken over by these new arrivals. In spite of the efforts of the Germans to introduce their language in Turkey, it is said that Robert College last term had more Turkish students than it ever had before.

Anti-German Feeling.

The enormous increase in the cost of living in Constantinople and the exhaustion of many things are naturally producing a very disquietening effect on the population in general, and it is not surprising, therefore, that the feeling among the Turks against the Germans is becoming more marked. The misery among the poor is very great. Bread and meat are the only two articles which remain at their normal prices; but it is feared that sheep will now find their way to the troops in Macedonia, and that meat will then become expensive. Bread is maintained at its usual price, but it is still black and unpalatable. Bread of a better quality is being sold at an exorbitant price.

Talaat was evidently not reassured about supplies of wheat on his tour of inspection in the Interior, for after his return a commission was formed to attend to the provisioning of the capital, and a law was rushed through Parliament exempting import duty on cereals. From what foreign country the Turks expect to import grain is not mentioned. There is evidently not an abundance of wheat in Asia Minor.

The explosion at Hasskeui, referred to last week, was much more serious than the notice in the papers indicated, and there was considerable alarm until it became known what had happened. The origin was apparently accidental, but enormous damage was done, and the number of killed and wounded is estimated to be between two and three thousand. Many windows of houses in Pera and plate-glass windows of shops were broken by the concussion, and the number of buildings wrecked in Hasskeui is said to be considerable. The loss of life was caused principally by the collapse of houses in the poor Jewish quarter.

Life in the Capital.

Wounded continue to arrive in the capital, and the hospitals seem as full as ever. Coal continues to be imported, and stocks seem to be sufficient for present requirements on a limited scale. There is still no gas in the town, and all the side streets are in total darkness at night.

After the cold snap at the end of November the weather was very fine and springlike in December, and fires were not necessary, much to the relief of those who find the price of fuel beyond their means.

Thanks, it is said, to the Papal Representative, the enemy subjects, who are obliged to be in their homes before nine o'clock, were all allowed to be out on Christmas Eve.

The Turks propose adopting the Gregorian Calendar for general use, and a law is being prepared to be laid before Parliament. The Calendar of the Hegira will be retained for religious purposes.

The Ottoman Post Office is using a variety of old stamps with the imprint of a star and crescent and the year 1331.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, January 8.

Salonika Continues Calm.

In spite of further visits from the German "Taubes," Salonika still continues calm. The hostile aircraft are kept at a respectful distance by the guns of the Allies, and their bombs, all of which have fallen outside the town proper, have caused little or no damage. These unwelcome visitors turned up again on the Greek Christmas Day (January 7), and also on the following morning. The Salonicians seem rather to enjoy the spectacle than otherwise, and turn out in great numbers to watch the shells of the Allies bursting all around the aeroplanes. They pass humorous remarks in about ten different languages, and freely applaud a particularly good shot. If there is any feeling of uneasiness, it is only on the part of the army of spies and others in our midst who have been working against the Allies, and among whom many arrests have already been made. These are not all enemy subjects. There is a good sprinkling of Greeks among them, who are prepared to undertake any dirty work against any persons, be they friends or foes, so long as they are paid for it. From documents seized at the enemy Consulates and the private residences of the Consuls the military authorities have been able to discover the names of many persons in league with the *Boches*, and these are being promptly arrested. But, as I have said, the remainder of the population continue wonderfully calm, for they have every confidence in the strength of the Allied forces and their ability to protect the town.

Contents of Seized Documents.

The examination of the archives and other documents seized at the Consulates has not yet been completed. As these are very numerous, it will take a long time to make a thorough examination. It is unlikely that their contents will be fully disclosed for the present, but some idea of their interesting nature may be obtained from the samples which have already been made known. These include numerous reports by the German Consul to his Government on the numbers and movements of the Allied troops, lists of spies and others in German pay, and some very private correspondence of Mme. Anna Walter, this Consul's wife, which throws a lurid light on the pretended friendly relations with Greece. I should like to give several "elegant extracts" from these documents, but considerations of space oblige me to confine myself to one of these titbits. *Ab uno disce omnes.*

Mme. Walter, while professing the deepest friendship for her Greek neighbours, whom to all appearance she delighted to entertain at her residence, confided her real sentiments in a series of letters to her intimate friend, Herr Pfister, a compatriot of her own. To him she freely opened her heart on political questions without the shadow of a suspicion that her letters would ever be made known to her dear Greek friends and to the world at large by the unfeeling enemies of her Vaterland. One of these very private and confidential epistles to Pfister is dated Salonika, December 10, and is well worth giving *in toto;* but, like many other women with a full heart and a pen in her hand, Anna Walter writes at inordinate length. I cannot, however, refrain from translating the following interesting extract: —

We are living in the greatest anxiety from day to day, very much surprised that we are still here. All the races of the earth are gathered together in this city creating an extraordinary amount of movement and noise. Salonika has become unrecognisable. A journey by tramway side by side with English, French, and Serbian soldiers in a crowded car forms one of our daily pleasures. One has to fight for a place, as we had to fight a few weeks ago to get bread. . . . Our people are now at Monastir, and they will no doubt soon enter Ghevgeli. . . . And what will then happen here? The Entente has no idea yet of packing up their belongings. Alas! here we are near Christmas, but who thinks of that? There will be no Christmas tree this year, but what does it matter? Perhaps as some compensation we shall have German soldiers in Salonika. But we have not the least idea what our people propose to do. And I ask you, if the Greeks will not move their little finger to chase away the Entente, ought our brave soldiers to get themselves killed for these Greek *canailles?* . . .

If we could only kick out the Greeks at the same time as the troops of the Entente, then our sacrifices would not be in vain. . . . Owing to a thick fog we can see little or nothing of the sea or the huge ships in the harbour—a bad time for a bombardment.

It may be said that the declarations of a consul's wife are not official, and therefore do not deserve serious notice; but the fact that she reflects her husband's ideas is clearly shown by the official reports which he regularly transmitted to his Government. He is constantly urging that Salonika be attacked without delay and occupied by Germany and Austria—adding the following significant remark: "Salonika would form a naval base of the greatest value to Germany and Austria-Hungary."

Austrian Consulate as an Arsenal.

An immense quantity of arms and ammunition, as well as other warlike material, has been found in the cellars of the Austrian Consulate. This includes Mauser and Mannlicher rifles, revolvers, and a large number of armlets or badges to be worn by the hired ruffians when the proposed disturbances should break out. It is significant that a large portion of the arm-bands bear the Turkish Crescent. Since the above material was discovered a search at the Consul's house has brought to light bombs and dynamite, with fuses, detonators, electric batteries, and similar peaceful furnishings of a quiet consular residence. In short, the Austrian Consulate was a veritable arsenal, and even the Greeks, on realizing the reign of terror which their *Boches* friends had in store for them, are very thankful to find the villainous plot nipped in the bud.

Women as Spies.

Among the persons arrested by the Allies as spies are a number of women. One of these, the gay *amie* of one of the consular officials already arrested, had the courage to make inquiries about her beloved at the British Headquarters. The Huns, of course, hesitate at nothing, however dishonourable, to obtain information about the doings and intentions of the Allies, and in this work they frequently employ women of easy virtue. Very many of these undesirables have recently been imported into Salonika. Their duty is to make the acquaintance of British and French officers at cafés and elsewhere, and in the course of a developed intimacy to get out of these officers all the information they can which may be useful to their employers.

The Population of Salonika.

Salonika is in Greece, but there are very few Greeks in Salonika—I do not reckon the present military element. About a year ago the proportion of Greeks was less than 20 per cent. The great bulk of the people are Jews, and these form about 56 per cent. of the inhabitants. No wonder Salonika is regarded as a city of Jews; most of the business is in their hands, and when the visitor remarks to a Greek what a rich harvest the presence of the troops has brought, the latter shrugs his shoulders and says: "It is not the Greeks who are making so much money at present, it is the Jews." On coming here from Athens I was surprised to hear so little Greek spoken in the streets and shops. The language of the place is really Spanish, which everyone seems to know. Turkish holds second place, and when I found my Greek inadequate to express my requirements in making purchases I fell back on Turkish, and usually found that it was at once understood. French, of course, is also understood in all the principal shops and cafés.

Since the arrival of the British troops Salonika has brushed up its knowledge of English, and our language is fast gaining popularity. Even the bootblacks in the streets can now say "Shine boots, sir," and the itinerant vendors of oranges, chocolate, and articles of all sorts have acquired quite a large vocabulary of such words as "good," "cheap," "one penny," and other commercial terms. At the cinematograph theatres also they cater for the English by an attempt to translate part of the programme into English, with results which are certainly remarkable. For example, a film described in the French section of the programme as "*Pas de roses sans épines*" (No roses without thorns) is translated as "Not roses without pins!" and what the French text indicates to be a screaming farce is described as "A gentle, joyful comedy!"

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, January 15.

The Salonika Revelations.

The revelations contained in the documents seized at the German and Austrian Consulates at Salonika have caused a lively sensation in Athens. The publication of particulars of the amounts paid regularly by the German Consulate to certain journalists has greatly disconcerted the pro-German Press at Athens, which was continually protesting against the "calumnies" of the Venizelist journals that accused them of corrupt practices. Especially strong has been the impression created by certain passages in official reports of the consulates referred to, which show quite clearly that the Germans and Austrians have always cherished the hope of gaining possession of Salonika in order to convert it into a naval base. This discovery has knocked the bottom out of the official assurances given to Greece by Austria to the effect that she had no designs upon Salonika. The arms discovered in the Austrian Consulate and the arrangements made at the Bulgarian Consulate for organizing and arming bands of *Komitajis* were undoubtedly in preparation for a rising as soon as the expected invasion took place. Thus the British have had a full revenge for the Germans' capture of Colonel Napier's dispatch case, which contained nothing official.

The Occupation of Corfu.

The occupation of Corfu is said by the Allies to be due to the necessity of transporting thither part of the Serbian Army now in Albania; but in official circles it is generally held that the Entente Powers have availed themselves of an excellent opportunity to make a thorough investigation of the Achilleion and other parts of the island in the hope of discovering enemy submarine bases. This point of view, involving the belief that the Allies place no confidence in the present Government and its control of the authorities under its orders, has produced a state of nerves in official circles, which have been especially upset by that passage in the *communiqué* of the Entente Legations which states that their Governments are sure that Greece will not raise objections to the transfer to Corfu of Serbians who are *her allies*. Thus the Ministerial *Nea Himéra* writes that "the Allies wished by this allusion to throw fresh blame upon Greece for not having fulfilled her engagements, by insisting again upon the validity of this treaty, in spite of the explanations given by the Government."

The Government and the Entente.

The same Ministerial organ, having now desisted—temporarily, no doubt—from attacking Great Britain, has turned its attention towards France, and notably to the French Minister, M. Guillemin, whom it accuses in very unparliamentary language of showing mistrust of the Government. On the other hand, one of the representatives of the four Powers openly complained the other day of the attitude of M. Skouloudis towards them.

The Demir-Hissar Bridge.

The destruction by the Allies of the Demir-Hissar bridge across the Struma has further exasperated official and military circles, since it has made it very difficult to victual and supply the Greek forces now in the east of Macedonia. General Moscopoulos made representations in this sense to General Sarrail, and pointed out that the Allied forces had nothing to fear from the enemy in this direction, since the Greek troops were there. The French commander replied by reminding General Moscopoulos of the declaration made before to him (General Sarrail), that as soon as their enemies should invade Greek territory the Hellenic Army would be withdrawn in order to take no part in the conflict.

A Royal Interview.

In the course of an audience which he granted to the correspondent of the *Lokal Anzeiger* the King declared that by remaining neutral until the end of the war Greece would keep her army intact, and that when peace was concluded it would constitute an important factor for the solution of Balkanic questions in favour of Greece. These declarations have been strongly commented on by the Venizelist *Nea Hellas*, which asks against whom this factor will then be used, and in whose favour. "This army will not be able to be used," observes the *Nea Hellas*, "against anybody at all without the consent of England, who holds the mastery of the sea. Still less will it be able to be used against Bulgaria, if the latter should later co-operate with England—which is not at all improbable, since we do not wish to be the allies of the Entente!"

BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, January 7.

Socialists and the War.

The Socialist Party has laid on the table of the Chamber an interpellation which asks:—1. What were the conditions on which the war was commenced? 2. Is there an agreement with the Central Powers and Turkey, and, if so, what is its character? 3. What are the chances of making peace after the occupation of Macedonia? The same party announces its intention of abstaining from voting the extraordinary credit of 500 million levas, and the leader of the party, M. Blagoff, has declared his intention of voting against the credit.

The Sobranje.

The Sobranje has despatched a great number of telegrams to all points, among others, to the Commander-in-Chief of the Bulgarian army, to Generals Boyadjieff and Todoroff (commanding the armies on the frontier), to the Presidents of the Reichstag, the Austrian Parliament, the Hungarian Parliament, and to the President of the Chamber of Magnates and the President of the Ottoman Chamber. All these telegrams were "edited" in Berlin, then sent to Sofia with orders for their despatch. "Kultur" is working in Bulgaria!

The places vacant in the Sobranje have been filled as follows:—The place of M. Alexandre Stambulovski, Deputy for Shumla and leader of the Agrarian Party, who lost his seat on account of his condemnation to twenty years' hard labour, will be occupied, according to the electoral law, by M. Martcho Athanassoff, who obtained the most votes among the candidates rejected at the elections; the place of Mehmed Pasha, the assassinated Mohammedan deputy, by M. Altimiroff, who gives up his seat for Widin to M. Vasile Karapandjoff. In the place of M. R. V. Radeff, elected Mayor of Sofia, M. Staman Mircoff, of Widin, has been appointed. The place of Kristo Tchernopeceff, the Macedonian chief killed in the combats at Tcherna, will be occupied by M. Alex. Stancheff, who renounces his seat for Tirnovo in favour of M. Athanas Slavcheff.

Bulgaro-German Relations.

A reliable journal here publishes the following:—

We hear from a very good source that a sharp conflict is on the point of breaking out between Bulgaria and Germany. The motive is Salonika. On December 21 the Council of Ministers sat all night. The President of the Council, M. Radoslavoff, was absent under pretext of illness. But the indisposition was "diplomatic," as he wished to avoid meeting Mackensen. The Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs, M. Ratcho Kossef, visited M. Radoslavoff twice during the night, and the Chief of the Secret Cabinet of the King, M. Dobrovitch, visited the Prime Minister also; but no one could persuade him to take part in the Council. It is also declared that M. Radoslavoff is on the point of resigning.

"Do Vizndanie Faf Saloun"!

What do these words signify? Is it Chinese or some dialect of Hindustan? No, simply Bulgarian, the language of the last addition to our enemies. The phrase is now the regular greeting among the Bulgarians—at least among those favourable to the Central Powers. It originated on the taking of Monastir, when the officers commenced using it one to another on parting in the streets. "Do vizndanié faf Saloun!" "Au revoir at Salonika!" The dream is still a somewhat nebulous one, and we venture to think will never be fulfilled, unless perhaps the misled Bulgarian officers meet there as prisoners of the Allies.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, January 3.

Spies' Activities.

The authorities are said to have discovered in Moldavia a widespread organization, the object of which is espionage. The greatest secrecy is maintained by the police on the subject. The headquarters of the organization are reported to be at Yassy, with branches in different North Moldavian towns and frontier points. Its connections have been traced over the Austrian frontier, and a number of arrests have been made, valuable documents of a compromising character being confiscated. The vague details that have leaked out regarding this matter have given rise to widespread indignation against Austrian and Hungarian subjects, who perfidiously take advantage of the hospitality accorded them. The public is at the same time seized with a vague anxiety, for the increasing number of affairs of this kind that leak out give rise to the assumption that the number with which the police alone are familiar must be far greater, and the question becomes positively alarming when one thinks of all the cases of espionage that must escape the vigilance of the police. And these are the dangerous ones.

German Propaganda.

The *Nationalul* raises a warning voice against the German newspaper propaganda which is being made in the New Dobruja, as the territory acquired in 1913 is named. The greater part of its population consists of Turks and Bulgarians, so one cannot view the matter with entire indifference, and preventive measures are called for. In the rest of the country German newspaper propaganda no longer gives rise to a shadow of anxiety, for the extent of its influence has long since been gauged.

A complete list of the spies who have chosen Bucharest as the field of their activity is reported to have been compiled. The list is said to be enormously long, and to be composed, as one would expect, almost exclusively of German and Hungarian names, some of which are familiar to every inhabitant of the capital.

Two Aviation Incidents.

Roumanian aviators have another accident to deplore. Lieutenant Craiu was piloting a Taube at a height of 200 ft. when his machine suddenly fell. The lieutenant received severe injuries, from which it is hoped that he will recover. His mechanic was killed on the spot. The accident is ascribed to the difficulty of manipulating the heavy German machine. It took place before the eyes of Prince Carol, who was much affected, the lieutenant being a personal friend of his.

A peasant belonging to the district of Dorohoi has recently been awarded the medal for "valour and faith" for an exploit which is unusual, consisting as it does in the capture of a German aeroplane. The pilot having been obliged to descend on Roumanian territory, he and his passenger, an officer, set about the repair of the machine in all haste. The motor having started, they were about to take flight when the peasant Moraru, running up with several villagers, seized the pilot by the leg. This led to the capture of the machine and of its two occupants, who, though armed, hesitated to fire on the peasants.

Army Promotions.

To the numerous advancements that have taken place in the Roumanian Army during the last two years there have been added 300 promotions to the rank of sub-lieutenant of reserve. This brings the total number of officers up to 16,000, which allows of 800,000 men being enrolled in case of war.

The State of Bulgaria.

A correspondent of the *Nationalul* gives interesting details regarding a recent journey in Bulgaria. On landing at Rustchuk the traveller is struck by the empty appearance of the streets and the number of shops that are closed. Public buildings and private residences are filled with the wounded and sick. In the cafés and other public places are notices warning the public against persons practising espionage. The Bulgarian papers bear in large type the words "Beware of Spies." According to the author of the article, one is impressed with the obvious terror of a Russian invasion. Feverish activity is being displayed in the construction of fortifications facing the Roumanian frontier, and the hill dominating Giurgevo is scattered with observation posts provided with searchlights, which in the night explore the Danube and the Roumanian bank unceasingly. A quantity of heavy artillery has been brought to Rustchuk in anticipation of a Russian attack. The garrison is composed entirely of Germans. Even the Administration is subordinated to the authority of the German commander, who disposes of it as he wills. These measures have given rise to open dissatisfaction, more especially as the Germans are said to treat the Bulgarian population with scant consideration.

Hungarian Pin-Pricks.

Roumanians, especially of the gentler sex, will hardly feel inclined to cross the Hungarian frontier unless forced by circumstances when they hear of the vexations to which some of their compatriots have been subjected. Whereas the Hungarians are allowed to enter Roumanian territory without annoyance or difficulty of any kind, and to pursue their occupations, often illegal, without hindrance, the Roumanians who leave their own country have to submit to a rigorous examination which is not limited to the inspection of luggage and clothing, but has been, in cases which have come to my knowledge, of a particularly intimate and humiliating character.

M. Shebeko's Departure.

M. Shebeko left Roumania for Petrograd on December 29 by way of Yassy. Great political importance is ascribed to his visit to the Roumanian capital, which seems to have caused no little alarm in Austro-German circles. An apparently unfounded report had been circulated to the effect that M. Shebeko had been charged with the mission of negotiating the passage of the Russian army through the Dobruja.

The English Mails.

On December 31 the English and French post arrived once more in Bucharest via Ungheni. For over a month the public had been deprived of French and English papers.

SHAKESPEAREAN STORY IN SERBIAN FOLKLORE.

At King's College on the 21st inst., at a meeting of the Shakespeare Association, Professor Pavle Popovitch, of the Belgrade University, gave a lecture on "Shakespearean Story in Serbian Folklore." In the first place, he gave an account of Shakespeare's work in Serbia, and stated that Serbian literature possesses translations of twenty-two of Shakespeare's works and many studies on "Hamlet," "Romeo and Juliet," the Shakespeare-Bacon controversy, etc. He then proceeded to his main subject—the points of contact between Shakespeare and Serbian folklore, with special reference to "The Merchant of Venice," "Cymbeline," and "Macbeth." No less than five Serbian folk-tales contain all the principal features in the story of Shylock. One of them, which is a delightful one, recalls in a striking manner not only the bargain between Antonio and Shylock, Portia's disguise, and the celebrated judgment, but also the minor details, as, for instance, the manner in which Portia teases her husband Bassanio. The same resemblance is met with in the Cymbeline subject. It is highly interesting to remark that Serbian Tachimo proceeds in the same way as the Shakespearean hero in exposing the proofs of the supposed seduction, and mentions as the last proof that the wife in question has a mole on her leg. As far as the story of "Macbeth," two main elements of it are to be found in Serbian tales, especially that of the moving forest, of which the Serbian tale on King Solomon is a charming example. How did these Shakespeare plots come to be subjects of Serbian folktales? Professor Popovitch indicated some possible solutions of this difficult problem, and suggested that these Serbian tales proceeded probably from "Pocorone," "Gesta Romanorum," "Syntippas," "Decamerone," "Legends of Solomon," and other Byzantine or Italian popular mediæval works.

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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

The Montenegrin situation remains obscure, and, as hitherto, we have to rely for our information almost exclusively on Austrian reports.

Montenegro's Capitulation.

It will be remembered that last week, when the most absurd rumours of Montenegro's unconditional surrender to General Koevess were rife, we declined to place any faith in the report. The few facts which have since leaked out go to strengthen our opinion, though at the same time it must be admitted that peace negotiations did take place between the Austrian authorities and certain Montenegrin authorities for the conclusion of peace. For reasons as yet unknown—probably they are to be found in excessive enemy demands—these pourparlers were still-born. King Nicholas, and the ladies of his family, left his unfortunate kingdom, and has since proceeded to France (it is strange that he should not have remained in Italy as the guest of King Victor Emmanuel), while the command of the remnants of the Montenegrin army was taken over by Prince Mirko.

The Retreat.

Owing to the tremendous superiority of the enemy in men and munitions, and owing, moreover, to the fact that he was able to bear down on the small Montenegrin army from the west, north, and east, the latter was obliged to retreat in a southerly direction into Albania. This was, it will be remembered, foreseen by us weeks ago, but whether the commanders will be able to save as many men as would have been the case if the retreat had taken place at an earlier date remains to be seen. According to all accounts, a great many Montenegrins have remained behind in their country to conduct a guerilla warfare against the Austrians, and their numbers will, naturally, greatly impoverish the effective value of the retreating army. The latter, accompanied by the remnants of the Serbian contingent which was fighting in Montenegro, have now retreated beyond Scutari (reported by the Austrians to have been captured), and are moving in the direction of Alessio and Durazzo. From a military point of view, therefore, the kingdom of Montenegro, like that of Serbia, is non-existent, and the enemy line in the Balkans has been lengthened until it comprises the whole peninsula, with the exception of Albania and Greece.

Albania.

We have so frequently insisted on the great strategic value of Albania that it is utterly useless to do so again, the more so if, as seems almost certain, the country is already doomed. Should this be so, then the Entente Powers have only themselves to blame for having waited too long before realizing that the present aim of the German General Staff is to straighten its line in the Balkans until it is contiguous with the northern frontier of Greece, from the Adriatic to Salonika—and beyond. By achieving this end the enemy succeeds in (1) threatening Greece with a gigantic land attack from the north, and (2) in turning our position in Salonika. The only way in which to prevent the enemy from succeeding in this attempt is for the Allies to acquire, and hold, in Albania an important and invulnerable enclave corresponding to that held by us now in Salonika. The one would thus complement the other, and together they would form the extreme western and extreme eastern bastion of the northern Greek frontier.

It stands to reason that those responsible for our military acts in the Balkans are not going to reveal our plans or the measures taken to counteract the enemy's plans, and we, therefore, hope—it is our last hope—that silently and unobtrusively the Italians have, since their landing in Albania, taken up an impregnable position and fortified themselves so that no enemy can oust them. Essad Pasha's Albanians and the remnants of the Serbian Army—to be strengthened by the retreating Montenegrin army—will, we feel sure, stand by the Italians, and together they will, if well supplied with munitions, etc., make the Albanian enclave as invulnerable as that at Salonika. Should, however, the Italians have failed to take these most important measures, the fate of Albania is sealed. The fact, moreover, that the enemy is at the present time devoting its attention in the Balkans exclusively to Albania—which it is threatening from the north and east with all available troops—shows that the German General Staff is unwilling to attack our Salonika position until Albania to the Adriatic and Epirus has fallen into their power. From the foregoing it will be seen that, in our opinion, Albania will continue to be the chief point of military interest in the Balkans. How long she will occupy this rôle will depend almost exclusively on the preparations made (or not made) by the Italians during the past six weeks.

The Actual Situation.

At the time of writing, messages from Rome state that the Austrians have occupied San Giovanni di Medua; an enemy column is advancing from the east and north on Alessio; a Bulgarian attack is proceeding from Ochrida in the direction of Elbasan, but is still being held up by Essad Pasha's Albanian troops. The enemy has, moreover, been reported at Berat, the "White Capital" of Southern Albania, in his attempt to push from Macedonia to Avlona, where the Italians are known to have landed troops. The situation, therefore, is intensely dramatic, our hold on Albania being limited to the littoral from Alessio to Santi Quaranta, and inland to Elbasan in Central, and to the region west of Berat in Southern Albania.

ARAB WEATHER WISDOM.

The *Egyptian Gazette* recently published some interesting comments on a pamphlet, "Some Arabic Weather Sayings," written by Mohammed Bey Kasim, F.R.Met.Soc. "These," says the *Gazette*, "make a remarkably interesting collection. The author explains that, as in every country, there is in Egypt a great variety of these sayings, which have grown up through centuries, and it is interesting to note how some of them accord with scientifically observed facts, and without investigating the question of their reliability, it is hoped that the collection and publication of them will be of interest to those engaged in meteorological research, and also to those interested in folk lore. Some well-known weather sayings are given, and some that are seldom heard. Here are a few examples:

"'If the door of your house faces north, enlarge it; if it faces east, leave it alone; if it faces west, block it up; if it faces south, pull it down.' And in the same connection: 'The north is a Sultan, the east his Vizir; the south is a devil, the west his compeer.' Upon which the author rightly remarks that the unpleasantest weather conditions in Egypt are brought on the south winds that are so popular in England and the north. In Egypt, owing to the fact that the prevailing wind is from the north, a northerly aspect is much to be desired. There is no doubt, too, that an easterly aspect has advantage over a westerly one. In the former case the house receives the morning sun, whereas in the latter case it gets the hottest of its rays."

MESOPOTAMIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

MRS. MARLING'S FUND

For Providing Comforts for Troops Serving in Mesopotamia.

Hitherto the subscriptions in this country to the above Fund, which subscriptions now amount to £1,583 10s., have been collected privately among those more particularly associated with the Persian Gulf.

In view, however, of the large augmentation of troops now operating in that theatre of war, and of the greatly increased difficulties of the task which they are called upon to perform, Mrs. Marling desires to extend the scope of the Fund by making an appeal to the general public, whose assistance in such a worthy cause will, it is hoped, be readily given.

Mrs. Marling, when making her appeal, wrote as follows:—

"There are many people who have personal experience who will realize how terribly trying to troops the carrying out of military operations in Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf must be at this season. The following paragraph, taken from the 'Near East,' quoting a letter from a soldier serving with our forces in those parts, brings home to us that the brave men fighting under such exhausting climatic conditions are not benefiting by the many organizations formed at home for the purpose of giving small comforts to our Armies abroad:—

"'The People of England seem to have forgotten us' is the pathetic cry of a soldier serving with the British Expeditionary Force at the head of the Persian Gulf; we have not had so much as a box of matches from England."

All money collected is being remitted to the credit of Colonel Sir Percy Z. Cox, K.C.S.I., Senior Political Officer to the Expeditionary Force, who is employing it in the purchase of comforts for the troops suitable to the local conditions.

All donations should be sent to:—

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA,
25, ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.,

and cheques should be crossed and made payable to "Mrs. Marling's Fund."

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Jan.	1916. Jan.		1334. Rebi I.	5676. Shebat.
28	15	Friday	22	23
29	16	Saturday.....	23	24
30	17	Sunday	24	25
31	18	Monday	25	26
Feb. 1	19	Tuesday	26	27
2	20	Wednesday	27	28
3	21	Thursday	28	29

We much regret that in these columns last week it was stated that January 21 was the birthday of the Shah of Persia. His Imperial Majesty's birthday actually falls in July.

Sunday is the birthday of Princess Helen of Greece, wife of Prince Nicholas, who was born in 1882.

Monday is the birthday of Boris, Crown Prince of Bulgaria, who was born at Sofia in 1894.

Monday is also the birthday of Prince Boris's sister, Princess Nadejda, the younger daughter of King Ferdinand, who was born in 1899.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Prince Andrew of Greece, who was born in Athens in 1882, and who is married to Princess Alice of Battenberg.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (January 3):—Queen Elisabeth of Roumania, the venerated widow of the late King Charles, celebrated her seventy-second birthday last week. Her Majesty is at present interesting herself in a scheme for the erection at Curtea de Argesh of a convalescent hospital for officers. At the Queen's instigation a large sum of money has already been raised by subscription, to which she contributed in generous measure. Her Majesty has devoted her entire civil list for this year, which amounts to £12,000, to the realisation of this project. A similar sum was dedicated last year for the purpose of bringing drinking-water to Curtea de Argesh, and it is well known that her Majesty, whose kindness and generosity are unlimited, proposes devoting her civil list each year to some charitable undertaking. I hear with pleasure that Queen Elisabeth's eyesight, which has been failing for some years in consequence of cataract, has, as a result of recent operations, been completely restored, which allows of her following with renewed ardour her well-known literary and artistic pursuits.

Under date of the 24th inst., Reuter's Lyons correspondent reports:—The King of Montenegro, Princes Danilo and Peter, and Princess Lilitza, with their suite, arrived here at five o'clock this afternoon. As soon as the train entered the station the Prefect of the Department, accompanied by General d'Amade, M. Merriot, Mayor of Lyons, the Military Governor of Lyons, the Consul-General for Italy, and the Montenegrin Chargé d'Affaires, entered the Royal coach and greeted his Majesty in the name of the Republic and welcomed him on behalf of the Government. The King, accompanied by the Prefect and the Mayor, proceeded to his hotel amid the acclamations of a large crowd. His Majesty, who was dressed in the Montenegrin national costume, appeared on the balcony twice to salute the crowd. About seven o'clock M. Denis Cochin, Minister without portfolio, visited the hotel to greet the King in the name of the Government. He conversed with him for about twenty minutes.

We understand that the Duke of Sutherland has left England for Egypt.

The Roumanian Minister returned to London on Monday from Paris.

M. Boeresco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, who was acting as Chargé d'Affaires during the absence of H.E. the Minister, has recovered from his recent illness.

Rear-Admiral Mark Kerr was received by Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House on Thursday of last week.

Dr. E. J. Dillon has returned to London from Rome.

The King of Serbia has bestowed upon Lieutenant Hilton Young, R.N.V.R., who is Member of Parliament for Norwich, the special Medal for Valour, in recognition of his services with the British Naval Mission at the Battle of Semendria.

Mr. Roland L. Michell, C.M.G., who recently underwent an operation in a nursing home in London, is, we are glad to learn, making very satisfactory progress towards complete recovery.

Mr. Chas. E. Hamson, formerly H.M. Vice-Consul at Constantinople, who was acting at Dunkirk, France, has returned to London and is working again at the Foreign Office.

Captain Nicolas Arion, Roumanian Delegate, arrived in London last Friday from Paris.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Streater have left Athens.

Mr. W. S. Edmonds has left Athens.

A Vienna telegram announces that M. Carp, the Roumanian ex-Premier, has arrived in that city.

Our Special Correspondent at Athens, in forwarding us news of Constantinople, writes, under date of January 5:—

It is reported that Mr. James La Fontaine had been liberated and was expected back in Constantinople, but since the arrests of the Consuls at Salonika the authorities may become aggressive again, and the newspapers have been advocating reprisals on the enemy subjects in Turkey. Before this event, however, Mr. Reginald Scudamore, the Registrar of the British Consular Court, who was the only member of the British Government staff remaining in Constantinople, was arrested, after having had his house at Candilli searched. He was being detained in the Stamboul prison for political offenders of the first class, but efforts were being made to obtain either his release or his expulsion. So far no further news of him has come through. Mr. Ferguson, of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, was being transferred from Chorum to Marsowan or Konia. None of the batch of Englishmen who were interned at Karahissar have returned with the exception of the two mentioned a few weeks ago.

Sir Edward Boyle, British Commissioner in Serbia and hon. treasurer of the Serbian Relief Fund, has arrived in Corsica.

Under date of January 23, the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports: Sir Edward Boyle informs me that all the Serbian refugees have left for San Giovanni di Medua. Seventy Serbian Deputies have arrived here, and will remain about a week.

The thirty-first anniversary of the death of General Gordon was commemorated on Wednesday, and, in accordance with the practice of former years, wreaths were placed upon the statue in Trafalgar Square.

At a meeting of the Photographic Society, held at 35, Russell Square, last Tuesday, Dr. C. A. Swan showed some lantern slides prepared from photographs taken on the occasion of a voyage around the Mediterranean and in the Near East. Among others were views of the Acropolis and Parthenon, of the Bosphorus, Gallipoli, the Golden Horn, of Constantinople in various aspects, and of interesting scenes in the town, including some of the principal streets, the mosque of Santa Sofia, and the famous "pigeon mosque," where at one time the photographer who took his camera did so at some risk to his life.

Last Friday afternoon, at the Æolian Hall, Miss Pattie Mayor gave a dance recital in aid of the Lord Mayor's Fund for Armenian refugees. The entertainment was under the patronage of Viscountess Bryce.

An Anglo-French fête in aid of the Red Cross Hospital at Salonika was held at the Gaumont Palace, Paris, on the 20th inst. Six thousand people were present, and Lord Bertie, the British Ambassador, was given a splendid reception on his arrival.

An entertainment in celebration of the Armenian Christmas was given last Sunday afternoon at the Elysee Rooms, Queen's Road, Bayswater. Songs, vocal and instrumental music, recitations, etc., were given by Miss Ida Sagar and Zareth Tiratzian, tenor of the Petrograd Opera, Mr. Ardash, and others. The chair was taken by Archbishop Utudjian.

The death of M. Theotókis, Greek Minister of National Economy, is reported from Athens. The deceased statesman, who was seventy-nine years of age at the time of his death, was certainly the most prominent statesman whom Greece had produced from the time of the assassination of his only dangerous rival, M. Déliyannis in 1905, until the advent of M. Venizelos in 1910. Born in Corfu, M. Theotókis entered public life as one of the deputies of the island at Athens after the union of the seven islands to Greece. He became Minister of Marine in 1886 and remained in office for the four and a-half years that the Tricoúpis Ministry (to which he was attached) remained in office. He served again on two occasions under M. Tricoúpis, and became Prime Minister three years after the death of that statesman in 1896. Thenceforward, until the year 1909 M. Theotókis held the Premiership on several occasions, and he fell in that year, after four years of office. His last cabinet appointment was in October last, when he accepted office in the Zaimis Cabinet, which was formed on the resignation of M. Venizelos. He was a pronounced pro-German. As a statesman M. Theotókis would probably have gone further had he not lacked energy and strength. His capabilities were undoubted, but his preference for society overruled his political instincts, and his lack of strength just prevented him from reaching the highest rung of the ladder. His knowledge of Near Eastern politics was exceptional and his foreign policy was always marked by perspicacity and reserve.

The death is announced from France of Brigadier-General Hugh G. Fitton, C.B., D.S.O., who was for five years (1894-1899) employed with the Egyptian Army. He had seen much fighting in Egypt and the Sudan. He took part in the Sudan Expedition from Suakim (1885), receiving the medal with clasp and the bronze star; and in the Sudan in 1885-6 he saw more fighting at Giniss and in the attack on the Ambigole Wells. In the Dongola Expedition (1896) he was wounded, and in that campaign he won his D.S.O., and was mentioned in despatches, securing also the Egyptian medal with two clasps. He took part in both the Nile Expeditions. For that in 1897, when he received the Fourth-class Medjidieh and clasp, and was mentioned in despatches, he was Staff Officer to the G.O.C. of the flying columns that occupied Berber and reached the Atbara River. In 1898 he fought in the battles of the Atbara and at Kerreri, and received two clasps to the Egyptian medal and also the Nile medal. He also served on the Staff throughout the South African War. He was appointed A.D.C. to King Edward in 1907, and to King George in 1910. In 1914 he was given command of a brigade, and at the time of his death he was on service in France.

Major Herbert Augustine Carter, V.C., 101st Grenadiers, who is reported killed in East Africa on January 13, won his V.C. in the Somaliland Campaign in 1904, for conspicuous bravery in saving the life of one of his men. He also served in the Tirah campaign (1897-98).

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The death of Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholas Leader, of Craven House, Brentwood, and of Keale, County Cork, occurred on Saturday, at his Essex residence. He entered the R.A.M.C. in 1878, and saw much active service. He was with the Egyptian expedition in 1882, the Sudan expedition in 1885, took part in the operations in Chitral in 1895, and was with the Nile expedition in 1898. He retired from the Service in the latter year, but rejoined upon the outbreak of the present war. His health, however, failed, and he was unable to go on active service.

Major Frank Douglas Browne, 56th Punjabi Rifles, who has died in Mesopotamia from wounds received on January 13-14, saw service in Somaliland in 1903-4, being present at the action at Jidballi. He also took part in the Waziristan Expedition, 1894-5; and he held the medals for both campaigns.

A supplement to the *London Gazette* announces that the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the grant of the Victoria Cross to Lieutenant-Commander Edgar Christopher Cookson, D.S.O., R.N., in recognition of the following act of most conspicuous gallantry during the advance on Kut-el-Amarah: "On September 28, 1915, the river gunboat Comet had been ordered with other gunboats to examine and, if possible, destroy an obstruction placed across the river by the Turks. When the gunboats were approaching the obstruction a very heavy rifle and machine-gun fire was opened on them from both banks. An attempt to sink the centre dhow of the obstruction by gunfire having failed, Lieutenant-Commander Cookson ordered the Comet to be placed alongside, and himself jumped on to the dhow with an axe and tried to cut the wire hawsers connecting it with the two other craft forming the obstruction. He was immediately shot in several places and died within a very few minutes.

The King has been graciously pleased to give orders for the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to the undermentioned officers in recognition of their services during the advance on Kut-el-Amarah on September 27 and 28, 1915:—

Flight-Lieutenant Vivian Gaskell Blackburn, R.N., who did excellent air reconnaissance work, and came under heavy fire on the afternoon of September 28 whilst carrying dispatches between the General Officer Commanding and the Comet.

Surgeon Dermot Loughlin, M.B., R.N., who attended the wounded on board the Comet under a heavy fire at close quarters on the night of September 28.

Engineer Thomas Kerr, R.I.M., who not only kept the Lascar engine-room complement of the Comet in excellent order during action, but assisted in carrying down the wounded under fire.

Sub Lieutenant Lionel Charles Paul Tudway, R.N., who was in command of the armed launch Sumana, and showed remarkable ability and coolness in manœuvring his vessel under heavy fire on the night of September 28, and on several other occasions under fire.

The following officers are mentioned for their services during the advance on Kut-el-Amarah: Lieutenant Mark Singleton, D.S.O., R.N.; Lieutenant William Vesey Hamilton Harris, D.S.C., R.N.; Sub-Lieutenant James Hardy Brown, R.N.V.R.; and Gunner John Mackay, R.N.

A supplement to the *London Gazette* announces that the following officers are mentioned for their services with the British Naval Mission in Serbia:—

Captain (temporary Major) Bertram Nowell Elliott, D.S.O., R.M.L.I.

Lieutenant-Commander Charles Lester Kerr, D.S.O., R.N.

Temporary Lieutenant George Bullock, R.M.

Temporary Surgeon Edward Rowland Alworth Merewether, R.N.

A correspondent writes:—"The conversazione given by the Islamic Society at the Hotel Cecil last week (January 20), in honour of the birth of Mohammed, the founder of Islam, was a very successful and enjoyable function. Among those present were Prince and Princess Ourasoff, Lord Headley (president of the British Moslem Society), Moulvi Sadr-ud-Din, Sir Muncherji Bhowanagree, Dr. Pollen, the Rt. Hon. Syed Ameer Ali, Sir Ali Imam, Mr. Mirza Abbas Ali Baig, H. E. Barada Bey, Mr. Jaakoff Prelooker, Dr. Arnold, Mr. Humayoon Mirza, and Mr. O'Donnell. Lord Headley and M. Yusuf Ali gave interesting addresses. There were recitations in Arabic, in Persian, and in English, and music both of the East and of the West. The Islamic Society and its able and energetic hon. secretary (Mr. M. H. Kidwai) are to be congratulated on the success of the gathering.

American newspapers report that Mr. Morgan Shuster, former Treasurer-General in Persia, will shortly visit the Orient.

Next Sunday morning, at St. Catherine's Church, Hatcham, Father Nicholas Velmirovitch, D.D., Professor of Pastoral Theology at Belgrade University, will preach on behalf of the Serbian Relief Fund.

In connection with the Department of Archæology, London University, a public lecture will be given on Thursday, February 10, at half-past five o'clock, by the Principal of King's College, Dr. R. M. Burrows, the subject being "The Most Recent Discoveries in Crete," illustrated by lantern slides. Persons desirous of attending this lecture should make application to the Secretary, University College (Gower Street), enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

The ceremony of the "Blessing of the Waters" took place at Piræus on Wednesday of last week, the festival being attended for the first time on record by King Constantine, the Crown Prince, the Cabinet Ministers, and the officers of the General Staff. The Metropolitan of Athens threw a cross into the sea, and simultaneously a white dove with the Greek colours attached to its neck was let loose.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 2s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTHS.

LLOYD.—On January 20, at Cairo, the wife of Ernest Herbert Lloyd, M.I.C.E., of a son.

WILSON.—On January 9, at Cairo, Egypt, the wife of L. W. O. Wilson, Egyptian Civil Service, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

BAIRD—ELSWORTH.—On the 8th instant, at the British Consulate General, Alexandria, Arbuthnot George Muir Baird, elder son of William Baird and Mrs. Baird, of Kelvinside Gardens, Glasgow, to Dorothy Vera, second daughter of John F. Elsworth and Mrs. Elsworth, of Ramleh, Alexandria.

DEATH.

PASPATI.—On January 19, in Rome, George N. Paspati, of Athens, and 3, Devonshire Road, Liverpool.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

Captain R. K. B. Walker, South Wales Borderers, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer, with effect from December 3, 1915. This officer is granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi and posted to the 13th Sudanese for duty.

Miralai A. Cameron Bey, Governor, Sennar Province, Miralai R. C. R. Owen Bey, C.M.G., Governor, Mongalla Province, and Miralai J. F. Carrole Bey, M.B., Medical Corps, have been granted the temporary rank of Lewa. This rank carries with it the title of Pasha.

Our Bucharest Correspondent reports (January 3):—

M. Filality, Roumanian Minister at Nish, and M. Luvashco, Secretary of the Legation, who had been obliged to retire to Salonika in consequence of the invasion of Serbian territory, have now moved to Athens, communications with Salonika presenting increasing difficulty.

Madame Alexandre Lahovary, the wife of the Roumanian representative in the French capital, has left for Paris with her family.

M. Jean Lahovary, First Secretary of the Roumanian Legation in Paris, is expected in Bucharest.

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ANGLO-EGYPT'S ROLL OF HONOUR.

In our issue of November 13, 1914, we published a list of Anglo-Egyptians who at that date had joined His Majesty's Forces. Since then their number has increased considerably, and we have decided to establish what may be termed "Anglo-Egypt's Roll of Honour." It is not claimed for the appended list that it is accurate in every detail or that it is complete. Every effort has been made to make it as representative as possible, but in the absence of any official record from which full details could be obtained, and in view of the fact that a great many Anglo-Egyptians either obtained their commissions in England or have been promoted since news of their appointment was last received in Egypt, it is unavoidable that errors and omissions should have crept in. Readers and relatives of Anglo-Egyptians concerned are requested kindly to call our attention to any shortcomings in this respect, and thus to enable us to make our record as comprehensive and as accurate as possible.

Akam, H., A.S.C.
ALBAN, 2nd Lieut. A. H. A., R.A.
ALBAN, 2nd Lieut. E. C. H., R.A.
ALDERSON, 2nd Lieut. A. R., R.E.
ALLARD, 2nd Lieut. W., R.E.
ALLISON, 2nd Lieut. L. G., R.E.
ALLISON, 2nd Lieut. G. N., R.E.
ANDREWS, 2nd Lieut. G. A., 9th Shropshire Light Infantry.
ANDREWS, Captain R. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
ANGEL, Lieut. A., Egyptian Labour Corps.
ANGUS, 2nd Lieut. R. B., R.E. (*Killed.*)
ARMSTRONG, 2nd Lieut. T. A., Westminster Dragoons.

Bacon, S.
BAILEY, Lieut. E. E., R.E.
BAILEY, M.
BAKER, E.
BAMBRIDGE, 2nd Lieut. H. G., R.E.
BARKER, 2nd Lieut. C. L., Gloucestershire Yeomanry.
BASE, Private E. H., Artists' Rifles.
BAXTER, J.
BAYNES, 2nd Lieut. W. E. C., Coldstream Guards.
BEALE, R.
BENNETT, R.
BENNETT, 2nd Lieut. S., 3rd West Yorkshire Regt.
BERNARD, R.
BEYTS, Lieut. C. F., 9th Suffolk Regt.
BIRCH, 2nd Lieut. C., Lancashire Fusiliers.
BLAIR, C.
BOULENGER, 2nd Lieut. C. R., 1/8 Lancs. Fusiliers.
BOWMAN, Capt. H. E., 18th Royal Fusiliers.
BOYCOTT, A. G., R.A.M.C., 3rd Field Ambulance.
BOYES, J. E. W.
BOYLE, C.
BRAMMALL, E. H., R.F.A.
BREWIS, 2nd Lieut. R. B., 6th Lancashire Fusiliers.
BROOKE, 2nd Lieut. G. T., R.E. (*Killed.*)
BROOMFIELD, 2nd Lieut. J., 12th Essex Regiment.
BROSCOMBE, J.
BROWN, C. C., R.E.
BRYAN, G. C., Egyptian Labour Corps.
BUCH, 2nd Lieut. C. J., 10th Bedfordshire Regt.
BUTLER, Lieut. W. J., R.E.

Cadman, 2nd Lieut. W. H., 6th Manchesters. (*Wounded, Gallipoli.*)
CAIRNS, Lieut. J. R., Egyptian Labour Corps.
CALLENDER, Lieut. R. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
CAMPBELL, G.
CAPES, J. L., Naval Commission.
CARVER, 2nd Lieut. H. Q., 19th Liverpool Regiment.
CARVER, Lieut. R. B., 10th East Yorkshire Regt.
CARVER, Lieut. R. C., R.F.C.
CARVER, T.
CASSELS, A.
CHAMBERS, Lieut.-Col. E. L., 12th Yorkshire L.I.
CHESTER, Lieut. S. C. R., R.A.M.C.
CLARKE, Lieut. J. B., Egyptian Labour Corps.
CLAYTON, 2nd Lieut. N. W., 14th Rifle Brigade.
CLOGSTOUN, 2nd Lieut. N. P. S., R.F.C.
COLES H. S., West Somerset Yeomanry.
CONSTANTINIDI, M.
COOK, R., R.F.C.
COOPER, A.
COOPER, F.
COOPER, Capt. L. N., R.E.
CORNISH, 2nd Lieut. P. E., 10th South Lancs. Regt.
CORNWALLIS, Capt. K., Intelligence Dept.
CRAMER-ROBERTS, 2nd Lieut. F. W., West Kent Yeomanry.
CRAWFORD, A. J. P.
CREE, A.
CREE, E.
CROSS, Lieut. S. D., A.S.C.
CULL, Lieut. A. T., 1st Seaforth Highlanders.
CUMMING, 2nd Lieut. W., 3/5 Highland Light. Inf.

Danby, 2nd Lieut. C., 13th Rifle Brigade.
DANIELL, 2nd Lieut. G. F. B., Royal Fusiliers.
DANKS, A. H.
DARTON, D.
DAVID, Lieut. A. G. M., R.F.A.
DAVIDSON, H.
DAVIS, 2nd Lieut. C. J., 8th Manchester Regiment. (*Wounded, Dardanelles.*)
DAVISON, Miss, Q.A.M.N.S.R.
DAWSON, 2nd Lieut. J. H. T., Worcestershire Yeo.
DAY, Lieut. H. B., R.A.M.C.
DAY, W.
DELANY, 2nd Lieut. A. S., Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
DE LISLE, M.
DEMPSTER, Lieut. F. E. R., Egyptian Labour Corps.
DEWAR, 2nd Lieut. A., R.F.A. (*Killed.*)
DICKINSON, Capt. H. E., R.F.A.
DOCHIE, 2nd Lieut. E. A., South Lancs. Regiment. (*Killed in France.*)
DOLMAN, 2nd Lieut. L. H., A.S.C.
DONNELL, 2nd Lieut. E. D., Yorks Light Infantry.
DOYLE, Lieut. T. M. S., A.V.C.
DRAKE, H. O.
DU BOULAY, Lieut. P. H., Egyptian Labour Corps.

Earle, Capt. J. K., 11th Yorkshire Regiment.
EASTWELL, Lieut. M. M., 1st Cambridgeshire Regt.
EBSWORTH, H.
ECCLESTON, A.
EDGE, 2nd Lieut. R. T., R.E.
ELGOOD, Lieut.-Col. P. G., G.S.O., Port Said. (C.M.G.)
ELLIOT, B.
ELMS, E. C.
ELSWORTH, Lieut. E. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.

Furguson, Major A, R., R.A.M.C.
FIELD, Q.-M.-S. J. G., Huntingdon Cyclists' Corps.
FIELDEN, G. St. Clair.
FISHER, 2nd Lieut. A. J., R.F.A.
FORDHAM, H.
FOX, 2nd Lieut. G. H., R.F.A.
FRASER, Miss.
FURNESS, Lieut. J., Egyptian Labour Corps.

Gardiner, Capt. P. W., 9th Cameronians.
GARNER, Lieut.-Col. C., R.A.M.C.
GARRATT, Private E. V., 23rd (Sportsman's) Batt. Royal Fusiliers.
GARRY, Major G. G., R.A.M.C.
GILMOUR, Capt. J., R.A.M.C.
GLEAVE, 2nd Lieut. E. T., A.S.C.
GOODCHILD, Capt. T. P., A.V.C.
GORDON, Capt. A. de R., A.V.C.
GOSCHEN, Lieut. G. G., Grenadier Gds. (*Wounded.*)
GRIEVE, Lieut. J. H., A.O.D.
GRIFFITH WILLIAMS, Lieut. K. B., R.E.
GYE, D. A.

Hall, 2nd Lieut. F. G., R.A.
HAMBLEN, L. T., Egyptian Labour Corps.
HANWORTH, 2nd Lieut. W. C., 5th Royal Warwickshires.
HARKNESS, W. R., Embarkation Officer, Alexandria.
HARRIES, Capt. J., A.S.C.
HAUGHTON, A. J. (*Killed.*)
HAWKES, W. A.
HAY, Capt. J., Intelligence Dept.
HAYWARD, K. J., R.E.
HEATH, 2nd Lieut. W. R., Bucks Light Infantry.
HEBARD, 2nd Lieut. S. C., 15th King's Royal Rifle Corps.
HENDERSON, Capt. W. L., West Yorkshire Regt.
HENDERSON, J. E.
HENDRY, 2nd Lieut. W., 11th Black Watch.
HERBERT, Lieut. J. R., R.F.C.
HERBERT, P., A.S.C.
HERON, Capt. G. W., R.A.M.C.
HICKS PAULL, J., O.C. Egyptian Labour Corps.
HIGGS, Lieut. H. J., R.E.
HILLAS, Lieut. H. G., R.F.C.
HILLIER, G. N., Westminster Dragoons.
HINES, J. T., R.E.
HITCHCOCK, D.
HITCHCOCK, Lieut. G. E. W., R.E.
HODGES, Capt. W. A., R.E.
HODGSON, Capt. H., R.E. (*Missing, Gallipoli.*)
HOLLAND, Capt. E., Egyptian Labour Corps.
HORGAN, D.
HOUSDEN, H. J.
HOWARD, Lieut. F. E., R.A.
HOWELL, Miss, Q.A.M.N.S.R.

Illingworth, H. S.

Kaye-Parry, Lieut. E., R.E.
KEABLE, 2nd Lieut. H. C. L., 8th Royal Berks. (*Killed.*)
KEELING, B. F. E.
KEILL, A.
KEILL, W.
KENNY-LEVICK, Lieut. V. M., Intelligence Dept.
KERR, Lieut. Munro, Royal Irish Regt.
KIDDELL, J. H.

La Haye, N.
LAMB, E.
LAMBTON, E.
LAURENCE, R. M.
LIAS, Lieut. R. J. M., Royal Sussex Regiment.
LOWICK, Lieut. F. W., A.S.C.
LUCAS, 2nd Lieut. W. R., A.S.C.
LUISI, M.
LYSTER, Lieut. F. S., R.E.

Macaldin, 2nd Lieut. J. W., R.E.
MACAULEY, 2nd Lieut. T. C., R.F.A.
MCCULLOUGH, R. L.
MCCULLUM, J.
MACDONALD, 2nd Lieut. I. T. A., A.S.C.
MACDONALD, Major L.
MACDONELL, Capt. M. S., Intelligence Dept.
MCGILL, K. D.
MACGILLOWIE, Lieut. M., R.A.
MCKINSTRY, Lieut. A., 9th Royal Berkshire Regt.
MACKENZIE, Lieut. W. Egyptian Labour Corps.
MACLACHLAN, 2nd Lieut. J. A., 9th K.O.S. Borderers.
MCLAREN, Lieut. G., A.S.C.
MALCOLM, Capt. G. H., 8th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
MALDEN, 2nd Lieut. H. R., 6th Rifle Brigade.
MASON, Major H., A.V.C.
MASON, J.
MAUDE, Lieut. T. L., A.S.C.
MAULE, Capt. W. J., Essex Regiment.
MEAD, G. P.
MEADE-KING, R. E. B.
MILLINGEN, R. Van.
MILTON, E., Scottish Horse.
MITCHELL, Lieut. A. G., 17th Northumberland Fus.
MONTAGUE, 2nd Lieut. C. G. B., A.S.C.
MOORE, E.
MORRISON, Sub-Lieut. C. D., R.F.C.
MULOCK, H., R.N.D.
MURDOCH, F. J. T.

Newhouse, Lieut. F., R.E.
NICHOLLS, 2nd Lieut. G. B. T., A.O.D.
NIXON, M.
NORTH, Lance-Corporal W. G. B., 22nd Royal Fus.
NORTON, Capt. E. B.

O'Brien, J. F. C.
OSBORNE, W.
OTWAY, Capt. J. H., R.E.

Page-Roberts, F. W.
PARKER, Capt. A. C., Lieut.-Col., Intelligence Dept.
PARKER, 2nd Lieut. A. S., 5th Manchester Regt.
PATTERSON, Dr. T. W. S., Captain, R.A.M.C.
PAUL, 2nd Lieut. Sir R., R.F.C. (*Prisoner.*)
PAULL, J.
PEEL, Capt. C. W., Royal Dublin Fus. (*Killed.*)
PEEL, Lieut. E. T., Egyptian Labour Corps.
PEEL, Lieut. W. E., Camel Corps.
PENNEFATHER, Lieut. E. C., Egyptian Labour Corps.
PERRY, Lieut. W. A. C., R.E.
PHILLIPS, Major L. L. P., R.A.M.C.
PLUMPTRE, Lieut. E. A. W., 17th Northumbd. Fus.
PIRIE, Major A. M.
PREECE, 2nd Lieut. D. E., 10th Bedfordshire Regt.
PRICHARD, R. G.

Quentin, 2nd Lieut. G. A. F., 14th Rifle Brig.

Rawlings, Lieut. P. T., R.E.
RAWCLIFFE, 2nd Lieut. C. B., King's Liverpool Regt.
READING, C.
REES, H. C., Bedfordshire Regiment.
REID, Lieut. D. G., Egyptian Labour Corps.
RICE, A. S.
RICHARDS, Major O., R.A.M.C. (D.S.O.)
RICHMOND, Capt. T. S., Egyptian Labour Corps.
ROBB, Capt. C., R.A.M.C.
ROBERTS, 2nd Lieut. M., 17th Royal Welsh Fus.
ROBERTSON, Driver C., Red Cross.
ROBERTSON, 2nd Lieut. R. H., Black Watch.
ROBINSON, H. le W.
ROFE, C.
ROGERS, Colonel Sir J., R.A.M.C.
ROLL, A. W. C., H.A.C., Infantry.
ROLO, Lieut. C., A.S.C.
ROLO, Lieut. I., A.S.C.
ROLO, T.
ROSS, D.
ROSS, Ian, Liverpool Scottish.

Sanderson, 2nd Lieut. F. R., R.F.A., Garrison Adjutant, Alexandria.
SAVAGE, Capt. E. G., 5th Royal West Kent Regt.
SCOTT, Lieut. J. H., Scottish Horse.
SCOTT, Lieut. T. D., R.E.
SHIMMIN, D.
SHINGLETON, S. R.
SIBETH, 2nd Lieut. C. G. A., R.E.
SIMONS, H. D.
SINCLAIR.
SKILL, H. G.
SMITH, Lieut. J. M., A.V.C.
SMITH, S. F. (*Killed in France.*)
SMITH, 2nd Lieut. W. G. R., 10th Yorkshire L.I.
SONNENSCHEIN, E. J., Inns of Court.
SPITERI, S., R.A.M.C.
STAFFORD, R.
STAPLETON COTTON, Lieut. R., A.S.C.
STEPHENSON, Corporal G. B., Bedfordshire Yeo.
STEVENSON.
STEWART, R.
STIRLING, Capt. W. F., Dublin Fusiliers.
STOUT, 2nd Lieut. F. M., 20th Hussars.
STOUT, P. W.
STRANGE, R. F. J., Bimbashi, Coastguards.
STROLOGO, 2nd Lieut. R., 8th Lancashire Regt.
STUBBS, M. G.
STURGEON, H. C.
SUTER, Capt. H.B., Turkish Prisoners' Camp.
SUTTON-PAGE, P., French Foreign Legion.

Tabor, Lieut. E. M., R.E.
TANKINS, F. A.
TAYLOR, Capt., A.A.C. (*Killed in Gallipoli.*)
TAYLOR, H.
TENNANT, J. A. (*Killed.*)
THOMSON, Capt. C. P., R.A.M.C.
THORNLEY, R. R.
TILLARD, T. A.
TODD, Capt. R. E., R.A.M.C.
TOYE, T. H.
TRAILL, G. H.
TRYDELL, Lieut. F. W., A.V.C.
TURNER, 2nd Lieut. J. W., 14th Rifle Brigade.

Valentine, Rev. H. T., Chaplain.

Waddy, Granville.
WADMAN 2nd Lieut. A. J., A.S.C.
WALLER, Lieut. E. S., R.A.
WARD, 2nd Lieut. G. H., 7th Manchester Regiment. (*Missing.*)
WARNER, Lieut. C. W. C., Egyptian Labour Corps.
WARWICK, T. D.
WARWICK, Commandant D. C., School of Gunnery, Whitley Bay.
WASHINGTON, T. L.
WATERLOW, Major J. F., D.S.O. (Lieut.-Col.)
WEAVER, W. W.
WEBB, H. O. T.
WELDON, Capt. L. B., R.F.C.
WHEATMAN, Lieut. H.J., R.N.R. Engineers.
WHITE, E. F. C.
WHITE, F. R.
WHITE, S.
WHYTE, F. J.
WILKINSON, C.
WILLAN, Capt. R. H., R.E.
WILLIAMS, Lieut. C. A., R.A.
WILLIAMS, L. S.
WILLIAMS, 2nd Lieut. T. P., 3rd Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WILLMORE, Lieut. J. G., R.A.M.C.
WILSON, J. W.
WOODS, H. E.
WOODS, N.

TEMPORARY COMMISSIONS WITH THE BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT.

MACDONALD, Colonel Sir M., K.C.M.G.
HARVEY PASHA, Colonel G. S. A., C.M.G., Provost Marshal, Cairo.
MOLESWORTH, Lieut.-Colonel H. W.
VERSCHOYLE, Lieut.-Colonel B.
PECKITT, Lieut.-Colonel R. G.
MACAULAY, Major Sir G., K.C.M.G., R.E., Colonel and Director of Railway Transport.
LIDDELL, Major J. S., R.E., Lieut.-Colonel and Director of Army Signals.
PLUMMER, Major A. H.
BURY, Major L. E.
TILLARD, Major E.
JACOMB, Captain F. B.
KEY, Captain H. F.
HOLDEN, Captain H.
COLSON, Captain F. H.
HODGES, Captain W. A.
WATKINS, Captain C. A. A.
SMITH, Captain T. H.
DREWITT, Captain G. D.
BAWDON, Captain N.
TERRELL, Captain G. G.
AYRES, Lieutenant H. F.
MARTIN, Lieutenant H. F.
PALMER, Lieutenant W. H. de B.
PENGELLY, Lieutenant R. B.
DELANOY, 2nd Lieutenant L.

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THE TROUBLES OF TURKEY.

All accounts of the situation in an enemy country have to be accepted with some reserve owing to the difficulties that confront a foreign observer in distinguishing between the essential and the superficial. These difficulties will be enhanced in such a country as Turkey, where the experiences or feelings of the public will carry no weight with the Government, unless they find expression in a revolutionary movement. At the same time it would be bad policy to ignore the evidence that is forthcoming of the state of affairs in the Turkish capital, for in the circumstances in which Turkey is at war with the Allied Powers the trend of public and of official opinion may sooner or later become an important factor in the conduct of the war against the Turks. Two letters which we publish in this issue from our Special Correspondent at Athens are of considerable interest in this connection: one deals exclusively with the question of Turkey's finances; the other touches upon a variety of features in the general situation. Regarding the financial position of the Turkish Empire, there can be little doubt that it has reached a stage of practical bankruptcy. It required to be in a far healthier state than it was to be able to stand the strain of the war. The example of Germany, as well as the absence of any practical alternative, would encourage the Turkish Government to base its policy on the expectation of having everything set right by the indemnity to be received at the end of the war. Germany will have supplied some ready money, but the details of the note issues tell their own story. Shortage of funds, however, will not prevent the Turks from prosecuting the war with vigour under German instigation, and the acuteness of the financial problem will not be felt in its entirety until after the war. What is more likely to influence the course of the campaign in their cumulative effect is the shortage of supplies, the increase in the cost of living, and the friction between the Turks and Germans. We are far from wishing to lay undue stress on any of these features. That they exist can hardly be doubted; but it may be long before they undermine Turkey's power of resistance or lead to a new order of things in Constantinople. The food requirements of the Turkish people are modest, and they are capable of enduring great privations. But the shortage of such a commodity as coal may be a more serious matter. Already there has had to be a drastic curtailment in the use of coal in Constantinople, but supplies still seem to reach the city, and it is unfortunate that a more effective blockade of the Bosphorus cannot be maintained.

In estimating the possibility of friction between the Turks and Germans we may offset the intolerance and *brusquerie* of German officials against the thoroughness of their methods in making themselves masters in the countries of their unfortunate allies. There is nothing improbable in the report that Germans have been installed as advisers in all the Ministries. As soon as a large number of German officers were appointed to the Turkish army and navy, it would be necessary to insure that the motive power behind the two services should be adequate to the new standard of efficiency. German military and naval officials would thus become the real heads of the Ministries of War and Marine, and from this it would be a natural and easy step to insist upon the leavening of the whole Government. The same process, it may be inferred, has taken place in Bulgaria, and to a considerable extent, though less ostentatiously, in Austria-Hungary. In Turkey, as in Bulgaria, the fiction of an independent Government would be maintained in all outward appearances as far as possible. But the Germans would not be likely to jeopardise the success of their schemes by sentimental considerations. If Enver Pasha and Talaat Bey should fail to pull together, or if their Administration were threatened by popular discontent, the Germans, we may be confident, would have no hesitation in stepping in to save the situation by taking over full control themselves. It is evident that something has happened in Constantinople to call for German intervention and the strengthening of Germany's hold over the Turks. If all were as satisfactory as could be desired, the German Emperor can hardly have failed to extend his journey to Nish by paying a visit to the Sultan. The latter has deserved the honour as much as King Ferdinand. His knowledge of Latin may not be equal to the exigencies of a toast, but the Turks, in taking German chestnuts out of the fire, have been burning their fingers far more disinterestedly than the Bulgarians. King Ferdinand did at least have a national grievance against the world in general, which the German Emperor led him to believe that he was in a position to gratify. The Turkish Government had no quarrel with the Allied Powers, and merely threw in the lot of the Turkish Empire with the Central Powers for the benefit of the latter and for any monetary advantages that a few of its members might derive from close association with German taskmasters and paymasters. It may be that the Emperor William's visit to his trusted Ally on the Bosphorus has had to be postponed until an indispensable preliminary—the drafting of German troops into the Turkish capital—has been completed.

If it be true that a large body of German troops has arrived in Constantinople, we are inclined to think that their presence will tend to mar the rejoicings in which the inhabitants were, not unjustifiably, indulging as a result of the evacuation of the Gallipoli Peninsula by the Anglo-French forces. That German troops will be sent in any great numbers to Mesopotamia or Sinai may be doubted; but whether their dispatch to Constantinople is intended to secure the safety of the Enver régime or to enforce its good behaviour must remain an open question. We must not do the German Emperor the injustice of supposing that he is in any way concerned with what takes place in Turkey so long as the Turks continue to fight Germany's battles with some skill and determination. But next to a Turkish defection during the progress of the war the Emperor William must fear most a display of independence on the part of the Turkish Government, which may affect German schemes for the economic absorption of the Ottoman Empire after the war. Already the absence of any enthusiasm in Turkish governing circles for the inclusion of Turkey in the "economic spheres of interest" of the Central Powers will have been noted in Germany. When to this is added the amazing self-confidence of Enver Pasha, who not only usurps the prerogatives of the Sultan as supreme "War Lord," but claims for the Turks that it is they who have helped the Germans, and shows no disposition to acknowledge Turkish indebtedness to Germany, there may well be misgivings in Berlin lest the situation in Constantinople should get out of hand. Between the upper and nether millstones, represented by the designs of Germany and the Committee of Union and Progress, the unfortunate Turk is in danger of being crushed beyond recognition. The shorter the process can be made for him, the better the material that will be left to build up a sounder, if smaller, Ottoman State, freed from the vortex of European politics. At no time very articulate, the true Turk will be at a still greater disadvantage when the Enver spy system is supplemented by German troops. The Allied Powers, however, will do well not to lose sight of him, but to remain on the lookout for any overtures that he may be able to make, remembering in the meantime that a signal military success over the Turco-German forces is the greatest benefit they have in their power to confer upon him.

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ANGLO-EGYPT AND THE WAR.

THE MEN WHO HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

With regard to the list (published on another page) of Anglo-Egyptians who have joined the colours, a few words of explanation are necessary. It will be noticed that it contains, roughly, 300 names, of which about 200 are those of Government officials and the rest those of men employed in commercial establishments. At first glance the list may not appear to be anything to boast of, considering the figures given by the last census of the British civilian population in this country, but in reality Anglo-Egypt has every reason to be proud of its contribution to the war.

It is an admitted fact in Egypt that the list would have been very much larger if all the Britishers had been free to follow their own inclination. Practically every man of military age has moved heaven and earth to get away to the war, but for reasons that will be mentioned permission has been refused to all but those who could be actually spared.

At the outbreak of war new works were suspended and educational reforms were postponed in view of the necessity for economy. As a consequence, it was possible to liberate many Public Works and Education officials for military service. The staff in the other administrations, however, with but few exceptions, could not be accorded the same privilege for the simple reason that the introduction of fresh blood into the Egyptian Civil Service had of late years been greatly neglected, so that at the commencement of hostilities most of the administrations were already very much understaffed.

It must, moreover, always be borne in mind in considering the question of recruiting that Egypt cannot in this matter be compared with the British Isles or with the Colonies. As to the Civil Service, the material available is specially selected; the men engaged in it cannot be replaced, as at home or in the Colonies, by female labour, nor can the staff be much reduced in size, even when it is up to its normal expansion, without fear of loss of efficiency or injury to the working of the machinery, on which the successful prosecution of the war in a great measure depends. What became imperative for skilled labour at home became equally so for the Egyptian Civil Service and for the staff of the English banks and commercial establishments, the operations of which are essential to the welfare of the State, and which in most cases are rendering great services to the Army, the Navy, and the Empire in general.

These men had to be prevented from misdirecting their energies by joining the colours, and from wasting the special qualifications which had prompted their original selection for their posts, and which in the crisis were to prove so valuable to the Anglo-Egyptian Administration. As has so often been asserted in the past, and as this war has plainly demonstrated, Egypt is a vital point in the Imperial organisation. It was absolutely essential that the life of the country and of its inhabitants should be as little changed as possible, and it was considered that the continued presence in their old positions of men who knew the country and the conditions, and who were known to and trusted by the Egyptians, would be of infinitely more value to the Empire than if those self-same men had been allowed to obey their patriotic instincts and take their place alongside their fellow-countrymen on the field of battle.

Whilst it was a blow to many, the Government's decision, after the first few months of the war, that no one else should be allowed to enlist or take a commission unless there were very special reasons, was prompted by high Imperial motives, and it has undoubtedly tended to keep the country quiet and conduced to the general feeling of confidence that has reigned since August, 1914. Even those whose lot it has been to be kept at their posts have not been deprived of their share of war work, which, whilst it may have been less conspicuous, has been just as important as that of their comrades in the field. Military and political exigencies in time of war are multifarious, and a good deal of the routine work necessitated thereby in this country has fallen on civilian shoulders. Thus there is a Press censorship, a postal censorship, a telegraph and telephone censorship; there are various commissions, whose labours have been deemed necessary either to the economic welfare of the country or to economical action on the part of the military authorities, amongst them the Supplies Commission, which since the outbreak of war has watched over the provisioning of the country and to a certain extent has controlled prices; the Arbitration Commission, which settles the prices the Army has to pay for commodities and properties commandeered; the Resources Commission, which is co-ordinating the resources of the country for military purposes, etc. Then there are all the works that are being carried out on the Canal by Government engineers under the supervision of Sir Murdoch Macdonald and Sir George Macaulay, the Under-Secretaries for Public Works and Railways respectively; and in addition there is the question of enemy trading and the supervision of enemy firms. These are but a few of the branches of activity in which Anglo-Egypt has been called upon to lend a hand since the outbreak of war with, be it noted, a reduced staff, for it must not be forgotten that in addition to Englishmen the Egyptian Civil Service and British establishments employ a good many Allied subjects, who have had to rejoin their regiments, and a considerable number of German subjects, who have had to be interned.

Appearances are deceptive, so also are statistics, and I think that when peace is restored an impartial record of work done during the war by the various portions of the Empire will show that, while the number of its representatives in khaki may not bulk largely beside those of other sister Colonies, Anglo-Egypt has made a contribution to the great war second in importance to no other British dependency.

FOR ARMENIAN REFUGEES.

The Lord Mayor's Fund for Relief of Armenian Refugees, which was inaugurated on October 15 last, has already provided £23,050 towards this object. Out of this £2,550 has been sent to the British Consul at Tabriz for the relief of Assyrians, for although the fund was primarily intended for Armenians, it has been devoted from the start to all refugees fleeing from Turkey.

The latest estimate of the number of these refugees is that they exceed 200,000, mostly women and children, with a number of old men. All subscriptions will go directly to the refugees, all expenses of the fund being defrayed privately. Donations can be sent to the hon. secretary at 96, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ARMAGEDDON.*

Working upon the basis that the Anglo-Saxon race is to be identified with the Lost Tribes of Israel, and our enemies, Germany, Austria, and Turkey, with the hereditary enemies of Israel, "L. D." has produced a volume which contains innumerable quotations from the Bible in support of her theory. It is, however, unfortunately impossible to treat the work seriously owing to the astonishing reasoning, or lack of reason, on the part of the author, who includes the Papacy as the "unclean spirit out of the mouth of the dragon" (Revelation xvi. 13, 14, 16). The assertion is an ingenious one, but even supported by a denunciation of the Papacy, "nearly a hundred years ago," by the Rev. John Brown—whoever he might be—it leaves us entirely unconvinced. For our part we cannot adopt the author's attitude of masterly indifference to the fact that Italy and France, who are warring against the "enemies of Israel," are both Catholic countries. Nor can we forget that, in spite of the official attitude of the Papacy in regard to certain incidents in this war which might reasonably give colour to the idea that Rome was prepared to strain her neutrality to the breaking-point rather than offend Austria, the spirit of Catholicity is making firm and determined progress in our own country. If only for these reasons the author has failed in the case which she has otherwise presented with considerable knowledge and ability. "The strength of a chain is that of its weakest link," and although we do not say that "L. D." is wrong in her assumption that Armageddon is being fought before our eyes, we do say most emphatically that she has failed to forge a convincing chain of evidence to prove it.

Messrs. Longmans and Co. have published recently "Amentet: An Account of the Gods, Amulets, and Scarabs of the Ancient Egyptians," by Alfred E. Knight. The book is illustrated, and its price is 12s. 6d. net.

SERBIA'S PLACE IN THE WAR.

Lecturing last week (20th inst.), at Kensington Town Hall, on "Serbia's Place in the War," Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson said it was quite evident that the destruction of Serbia had knocked the bottom out of the talk of exhaustion by giving the Central Powers what they needed from the Eastern countries. There were some well-meaning people who thought that if Belgium and Northern France were evacuated peace could be brought about, but they ignored the vital importance of the position in Eastern Europe, which had to be settled by this war if the programme of nationality was to be carried out. The Central Powers had a definite constructive policy; they wanted to create a dominion from Berlin to Baghdad; and they openly avowed this to be a war of domination. Had we got a definite policy to counter them? We could not win unless we had a policy of our own. Either we were too lazy, incompetent, stupid, or too late to smash the Berlin-to-Baghdad scheme, in which case we were idiots to have entered the war, or we had got to do something to make the German programme impossible.

In the course of his lecture, Dr. Seton-Watson told two interesting anecdotes. One concerned an experience of his own. He said that in April, 1909, just after the Bosnian crisis was at an end, he was at Cettinje, and had a conversation with the then Prime Minister of Montenegro. He asked the latter his opinion of the situation, and the reply was, "Oh, of course it has only delayed the thing a little. Mark my words. In five years' time there will be a European war over this very question, it is either Austria-Hungary or Serbia-Montenegro; one or other has got to go." Dr. Watson said he had thought the man a megalomaniac, but the time came when he remembered the prophecy. The other anecdote concerned the Morocco crisis of 1911. After it was over a distinguished French diplomatist and an equally distinguished German professor were discussing amicably the situation. The diplomatist said, "Well, my dear Professor, surely we ought to congratulate ourselves on having got out of a very dangerous situation and on having settled up everything. We ought not to have any more cause of friction between the countries after this new arrangement." The professor leant over and tapped the diplomatist on the knee and said, "Your Excellency forgets one thing—when trouble is wanted in Europe it can always be made over Serbia."

* "The War and the Prophets." By "L. D." (London: Morgan, Son and Co., Limited. 2s. net.)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

THE MONTENEGRIN DAGGER.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—No wonder the first news we heard from Montenegro was contradicted a few hours later. We were told that the hereditary weapons of the Men of the Black Mountains were to be given up along with cannon and trash of that sort, but no one who knew his Balkan peninsula believed that for a moment. The Montenegrin will give up his sheepskin coat, his ration of rye bread and kid's flesh, his hut on the mountain side, his wife herself if need be, but never while he lives will he part with his knife, dagger, dirk, poniard, scimitar, djerrid, yataghan—call them what you will; he mostly has one of each in the rainbow sash which curls round his splendid form. Was it not with this knife that his great grandfather killed the Greek who did him wrong, and with it that another ancestor finished off an Armenian, not to speak of those half-dozen Bulgarians whom, helped by one other compatriot only, he wiped out in continuation of a feud of who shall say how many generations? Each inch of that beloved weapon could tell its own tale of grim vengeance, and it is not to be given up at the first bidding of a Hun. Can we not at least save heroic Montenegro out of the Balkan Hades?—I am, etc.,

C. SUTCLIFFE MARRIOTT.

94, Boundary Road, N.W.

IN MEMORY OF GORDON.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The article "In Memory of Gordon" which appeared in your paper last week touched upon a subject in which I am greatly interested. For many months past I have been accustomed to employ boys from the Gordon Home in this town, and although I am not quite clear as to what constitutes the "aims of the founders," to which reference is made in your article, I do know that boys subjected to training in these homes are invariably smart and obliging. I was, however, sorry to learn that any public appeal for funds is feared to be necessary in the near future on behalf of these homes. It is upon this point that I venture to send you a letter for publication. The Committee of Management, excellent and efficient as it doubtless is, appears to have ignored or overlooked the advantages of advertising. Personally, I was resident in Bournemouth for many months before I casually learned that strong, reliable boys were available for garden and other work at low wages from these homes. It seems to me that money paid out in judicious advertisement would probably be productive of results which would render any public appeal unnecessary. The memory of Gordon is by no means becoming dimmed, even in these terrible days; there is surely a light which can never fade behind the name of the "Christian General." An appeal in his name—not for money, but for work for his lads—would assuredly not be made in vain. At the present moment especially it is a patriotic duty to honour the dead who by their devotion and patriotism helped, in their lifetime, to build up the Empire which is battling with the powers of darkness now. Surely no more fitting way of honouring the memory of General Gordon could be found than by providing work—not charity—for the homes founded in his memory. Only let the public know that they exist.—I am, etc.,

N. W.

Bournemouth, January 23.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The Huns have given yet another example of their utter lack of chivalry. During the flight of the King and Queen of Montenegro from Podgoritza to San Giovanni di Medua, enemy aeroplanes hovered over them constantly, dropping bombs and using their machine guns on the party of fugitives. And after their Majesties had left the port, attempts were made by submarines to sink the vessel they were travelling on. This is indeed carrying the doctrine of "frightfulness" to extremes. But I suppose the Huns are beginning to realise, at last, that they have no reputation left to bother about.

***

Judging from letters which from time to time appear in the columns of provincial papers, all does not seem to be right in Egyptian postal arrangements. Complaints regarding the non-delivery of parcels sent to soldiers in Egypt are numerous, and the statement of one correspondent that newspapers are delivered regularly while other packets as regularly go astray seems to point to more than carelessness somewhere. I hope that this state of affairs will soon be remedied. There is nothing like a cheery line from home to put heart into white men on foreign service.

***

In writing of these matters I am reminded of an incident which occurred at a station in the Sudan in the early days of our occupation. A certain soldier-man returned from leave devoted the next part of his life to penning epistles to a lady whom he had left on the other side of the water. Then for some time after his transfer to a pestilential station up-country he lived happily on the strength of her replies. Suddenly, however, these ceased, and for many weeks his temper expanded as his heart contracted. Then he bethought him of the cable, and despatched a runner with an "Urgent" to the nearest telegraph station some 200 miles away. The reply elicited by this expensive communication led to an investigation of the postal quarters at his station and to the discovery of his own letters lying undisturbed in the red box which had been built into the mud-brick wall of the local office. The postmaster was repentant, but suave. He was accustomed to receive all letters for post from the hands of the senders' servants; how was he to know that an examination of this box would mean anything more than a waste of time and energy? How? He caught the officer's eye and, retreating a pace or two, changed his argument. "You can fine me, sir," he said, quickly, "but you cannot beat me." "Oh," replied the infuriated one, thinking back on how the laziness of one had meant the misery of two as he advanced, "*in*-deed!"

***

Not very long ago I was talking to a friend about the outlook at Salonika, and he expressed himself in such pessimistic fashion as to surprise me; for he is generally a cheery soul, and though he had been confined to the house for some days by a slight chill, that seemed a quite inadequate explanation of his mood. But when I discovered that he had been reading the parliamentary reports and the views of certain "military correspondents," the mystery was explained. I was sorry for him, so I passed on some items of real news that had just reached me from a naval officer "on the spot"; and left him a good deal more cheerful as a result. The change was wrought not so much by the actual facts given in the letters from which I quoted—though they were certainly encouraging—as by the obvious cheerfulness of the writer and his quiet confidence regarding the future. As the convalescent remarked: "If that is the way the men out there feel about it, I'm not going to let a crowd of paid politicians and armchair brigadiers-as-ought-to-be upset me!"

***

Unfortunately I cannot reproduce the letters referred to, or there would indeed be fat in the fire in certain quarters. But I may safely give one or two extracts, which will serve to show that our fighting men still manage to look on the bright side of things, in spite of Taubes, submarines, von Mackensens, and all the rest of the paraphernalia so dear to the heart of the apostles of Frightfulness:

> The Bulgars are calling up the people who had paid for exemption, and are reported to be in difficulties with their commissariat—the latest news being that a man only gets a loaf (and nothing else) every third day. . . Ferdy is at Uskub and proposes to visit Monastir, where the Germans have shot forty-two *komitajis* for looting. This hitherto latent respect for the property of others on the part of their Allies has caused much comment among the surviving Bulgars.

***

The above extracts are from a letter written on December 20. In a second letter, dated January 10, the writer refers to "the fun we have been having here, arresting Consuls and other spies," and mentions casually that his own "bag" was quite a respectable one—lucky man! He also, I regret to say, refers to a certain high ecclesiastic whom he visited as "a jolly old bird"; and his summing-up of "a couple of air raids over the town last week" is refreshing. "No great damage, fortunately," he writes, "and we think one of the Hermanns died a nasty, squashy death." There is a certain satisfaction about that. But it is not half so satisfactory as the parts of the letters that I have had to omit.

***

In the midst of war any touch that is essentially of peace seems strange and surprising. In England, after long years of tranquillity and rest, with only the echo of war dimly heard across the blue, we have taken it to heart now, and, especially during the past month or so, the War God dominates us. It is left to Roumania—the peace spot of Europe—to think of other things. So in the midst of the war, when one paper vies with another to give a correct forecast as to when and how Roumania will jump, Roumania thinks out and produces a new magazine on the royal game of chess. I am not a chess player myself, but I play chess, and the new magazine interests me enormously. This would have been the case at any time; it is especially so now in the circumstances of its production. On thinking it over, however, chess is not altogether remote from war, and it may be that in the publication of this magazine the Roumanian has found a safety valve for war-like feelings well-nigh suffocated beneath the weighty cloak of neutrality. In chess he has the attack and the counter-attack, the strategic advance and the diplomatic retreat, the final advance that leaves the opposing forces at his mercy, as in the ways of war. But at first sight it seemed strange to see a publication from Roumania which contains no reference to the dread happenings of our day. For some moments at least it appeared as if the country producing a new monthly magazine devoted to a game while Europe was in the throes of war must be either heroic or mad.

***

The following true story of an event which took place quite recently will give some idea of the increased difficulties our soldiers encounter when they leave the West. Somewhere in the East there is stationed a battalion of the Middlesex Regiment. A telegram was dispatched to a native merchant at a large town in the neighbourhood: "Send 1,000 rations flour next train for Middlesex." The train which should have brought the rations in response to this order brought instead a curt note from the outraged merchant: "Male sex I know, female sex I know, middle sex we none of us know." He evidently thought that someone had been joking.

***

Apropos of this there is another story which shows the surprising results that occasionally follow an uneducated native's attempt to think things out. The engineer who was in charge of the construction of a light railway in Egypt tells me that it is only possible to use the theodolite for the purpose of setting out long distances of curve or straight very early in the morning—between dawn and sunrise. Later the heat refraction blurs the distance and makes accurate work impossible. It is therefore necessary to rise at some abnormal hour to start and complete the work at one stroke, otherwise the instrument must be reset at short distances during the day. Under usual circumstances he decided at night that he would adopt the former method in the morning, but changed his mind when the morning came. On one occasion, however, he came to a straight of over six miles, and decided that he must really do all this in the morning, thus saving himself the necessity of touching his instrument for four or five days. He sent out parties of men with the necessary pegs over night, and at the first streak of dawn he was signalling the position of the first of them. For the benefit of the uninitiated I may explain that the pegs so set out show the exact centre of the line to which the platelayers have to work. Everything went well, and almost before the sun touched the desert the work was done and our engineer went home to breakfast. A couple of hours later the gang that had driven in the pegs to his direction returned—laden. They had carefully collected every peg on their return journey!

CORSAIR.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Units of the Navy.

The Naval Correspondent of the *Times* (January 22) calls attention to the "effective support which the Navy has afforded to the military expedition which has been operating on the rivers at the head of the Persian Gulf."

After commenting upon the gallantry for which the posthumous reward of the Victoria Cross was bestowed upon Lieutenant-Commander Cookson for services in these regions, the writer continues:—

In all the operations in Mesopotamia, from the time that a force was landed at Fao, in November, 1914, continuous assistance has been afforded by gunboat flotillas, and although no naval dispatches have been published, the military officers have spoken in the highest terms of the courage, endurance, and cheerfulness of the seamen in affording effective help under circumstances of great difficulty. The "Comet" appears to have been engaged against the enemy on two of the three great rivers in this neighbourhood. Her gunner was treacherously shot at Naseri, on the Karun, in February last, and she is now heard of in the advance to Baghdad, on the Tigris; while, oddly enough, in the retreat after the Battle of Ctesiphon, the Turks claim to have captured a gunboat which had been disabled and abandoned, which they called the "Kemet," but which may possibly be identified as the "Comet." The landing at the mouth of the Shatt-el-Arab was covered by the guns of the "Espiègle" and "Odin," and a naval brigade participated in the capture of Basra. A naval flotilla also assisted at the capture of Qurnah, and was on that occasion commanded by Captain Wilfrid Nunn, who received the D.S.O. for his services. In the expedition up the Euphrates, another naval force was employed, and assisted at the occupation of Nasariyeh on July 27. The report of the operations stated that a gunboat flotilla pushed on ahead of the troops and shelled the place, which was occupied on the following morning without opposition.

Stricken Serbia.

A Serbian officer who was in command of a machine-gun section during the great retreat of the Serbian army across Albania has contributed two most interesting and pathetic articles to the *Morning Post* (January 24 and 25). The articles should be read *in extenso*, as they give by far the most vivid description of the retreat which we have read, and our quotations on this page are necessarily limited. The following passages speak for themselves:—

Particulars of the hand-to-hand fight at Belgrade have been published in the British papers. But perhaps what you don't know is that on the night of October 7 to October 8 over 6,000 shells were fired on Belgrade, and a good half of them were directed against the six British heavy guns which were taking part in the defence of Belgrade. The British gunners, under the command of Major Kerr, fought splendidly and arose the admiration of all Serbia.

The civilian population tried to fly from Belgrade, leaving behind everything they possessed, as the attack was so unexpected and violent, but very few people succeeded in making good their escape. The Austro-Germans prevented the escape by firing on the road from Belgrade to Torlak, with the result that endless women and children were killed by the big shells and shrapnels. Another proof of German kultur is furnished by the diaries found on prisoners. The Kaiser, in an order of the day to his soldiers, informed them of the campaign against Serbia and advised them to kill every male above fourteen years of age. I saw personally two of these diaries, taken from dead German soldiers.

So much for the unfailing characteristics of German kultur. The next quotation refers to a later period, by which time the writer had been left with only eighteen men, four non-commissioned officers, and one subaltern out of his division:—

One day I thought we were all lost. One of the horses carrying one machine-gun fell down a ravine. We lost over two hours in rescuing the gun. . . . The result was that we lost the connection with the regiment, and at about five o'clock in the evening we could not find the way followed by the regiment.

Suddenly an Albanian peasant appeared, and offered to show us the proper way to Slatina, which was the place where we had to spend the night. I shall never forget the night. The Albanian peasant had simply led us to the mountain with the object of informing his friends of our situation and trying thus to capture us. I must say that the Albanians of the region between Younkula and Debar have proved very unfriendly to us. They attacked our munitions column twice—took over 18 officers prisoners, of whom five were shot, four being captains in my own regiment.

In order to get out of our difficult position I had to order the Albanian peasant to be shot and then find my way by instinct and luck. That night I nearly gave the game up. I was not physically fit for such a big effort, and if I am to-day alive I must thank my sergeant-major, a young Irishman, who by his help and attentions saved my life.

General Aylmer's Advance.

We take the following quotation from an interesting despatch from Mr. Edward Candler to the *Times* (January 22). Mr. Candler's telegrams do not, of course, deal with the latest operations, but they serve to show the enormous difficulties under which our gallant troops have been labouring:—

A pelting rain and a strong, cold wind has prevailed with but few intervals during the last ten days, and further military operations have been hindered by the weather. The mud of Flanders is repeated here, only there is not the relief of roads and billets, and troops have to bivouac in the mire. The gallantry of the ammunition carriers has been a conspicuous feature of the recent fighting. They might have been seen crossing ground exposed to a hail of fire, advancing steadily at a slow walk with heavy ammuntion boxes balanced on their heads or puggarees. The conduct of the regimental stretcher-bearers and ambulance *kahars* is equally worthy of praise. . . . The patient courage of the Indian transport drivers is also remarkable. The inferiority of the enemy's artillery fire, as compared with the Western front, is largely discounted by the natural advantages for defence afforded the enemy by the ground, unbroken as it is by hedges, villages, roads, trees, or deep watercuts, as in Flanders. Across this vast, open plain our infantry have had to attack entrenched positions, and the casualties have naturally been heavy. . . . The dash and fearlessness of the British infantry in this affair was the admiration of the whole column, and the Indian regiments fully sustained the best reputation of the gallant Indian infantry. The costliness of the advance and the depressing climatic conditions have not affected the spirit of the force, which is one of cheerful determination.

An Insoluble Problem.

Writing in the *Sunday Times* (January 23), Colonel F. N. Maude deprecates the action of those sections of the Press and public which "are endeavouring to weaken national trust in the several headquarters *whose interaction controls the course of the war* by renewing an outcry for concentration in the Western theatre."

He continues:—

The bedrock of the whole present situation lies in the determination arrived at by the Allies before the close of 1914 to adopt against the Central Powers exactly the same policy as the Great Alliance of 1813 embodied in the Treaty of Trachtenberg against Napoleon—viz., to avoid all attempts to seek for a military decision in the field until by attrition the numerical chances had turned very greatly in their favour, and the fact that our "Treaty of Trachtenberg" has taken longer to work itself out than was hoped or imagined is due primarily to the far larger numbers and higher organisations involved, also that we have had to assail these at the moment of their highest efficiency instead of attacking them, as in 1813, when the retreat from Russia in the previous winter had brought the Emperor's resources almost to the verge of annihilation.

After a close examination of recent military events up to date, the Colonel proceeds:—

From the enemy's standpoint the situation seems to me insoluble. Unless they abandon Bulgaria and Turkey altogether —politically an impossible supposition—as long as we hold Salonika and are known to have a further large army in the Eastern Archipelago available at a moment's notice, they must keep something in the shape of not less than a quarter of a million men immobile in their present positions—men most urgently needed to meet the Russians in the Bessarabian sector —whereas beyond a relatively weak screen at Salonika itself we are free to go back to France, or anywhere else we please, and can move faster over the sea than the enemy can by land. Hence for purposes of a great decision this quarter of a million Germans are as much out of the field as if they were dead and buried, or in captivity. But to this 250,000 men thus held in check we must add the very great number sacrificed already on the Serbian battlefields, or incapacitated for months to come by wounds, sickness, and so forth (probably another quarter of a million).

The Senussi.

The Alexandria correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* (January 22), writing on the 9th inst., includes the following references to the Sheikh Senussi, whose part in the crisis he considers to be the most interesting problem of the whole Egyptian affair.

From the statements of prisoners and from other reliable sources of information, it now appears that the Tripolitan Arabs, who form a large part of the Senussi's following, have already given indication of the real object of their attempt to attack Egypt. On three separate occasions at three different places they are reported to have looted the tents of the Egyptian Bedouins; and on one occasion, near Sollum (some sixty miles east of Mena Matra), they even forcibly removed the ornaments from the women of a tribe, the men of which had been forcibly enlisted. The Sheikh Senussi himself has given orders that only the Bedouins who were able to support themselves are to be allowed to stay in his camp. Those who have no private sources of supply are to be driven away with their families. It is evident that the Senussi understands that the practice of looting goes ill with professions of friendship. Although the

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professions of the Senussi go for nothing, he can very well be credited with having more expansive ideals than theft and rapine.

The *Standard* (January 24) inclines to the idea that Sheikh Senussi will not greatly trouble us in the future.

Among the suspicious documents found in a hostile Consulate at Salonika was an inflammatory proclamation in Arabic to the tribesmen on the borders of Egypt and Tripoli, in which they were exhorted to strike a blow for the German protectors of Islam. The pretence that this would be in accordance with the wishes of the Sheikh-es-Senussi does not square with the repeated assurances he has given of his goodwill towards the British and Egyptian Governments. In any case the further punishment inflicted on the Arab raiders who threatened our outpost at Mersa Matru shows that these sons of the desert will not gain much by listening to German persuasion.

In Constantinople.

The following quotations, taken from various daily papers, refer to the fact, vouched for by many reputable correspondents, that the number of Germans in Constantinople has been increased to 50,000. Mr. G. J. Stevens, cabling from Salonika to the *Daily Telegraph* (January 24), says:—

Recently a conspiracy was discovered by the police among a body of Turkish officers to assassinate all the German officers in the capital. In one night twenty-one suspected officers were arrested, taken to the Bosphorus, and there drowned, without any further formalities. By these summary methods the Germans, who control the police and all army services, are keeping down the discontent and hatred they have inspired. The Germans are opposed to the expedition against Egypt. They consider the enterprise risky, and fear a crushing defeat, which would considerably damage their prestige in Turkey, as well as react disastrously on German public opinion. They tell the Turks that the campaign in Mesopotamia must be disposed of before attention is turned to Egypt. This has disappointed the Turks, who look to Egypt only for a recompense for all their sacrifices. Their leaders insist on a campaign against Egypt, and will not hear of postponement, but the Germans are so strong that it is considered the latter will end by imposing their will.

The *Globe* (January 25), in a leading article, says:—

The Germans are not the sort of people to send a great army into a foreign capital out of love for its rulers or from any other altruistic motive, and of their own free will they will certainly never withdraw. Enver has betrayed his country to the yoke of the foreigner, and it will lie heavy upon her neck. The arrival of these German troops means that Turkey has now lost every shred of independence which she possessed since she was tempted into an alliance with Germany, and that the Sultan is now no more than the Kaiser's vassal.

The following quotation is from a dispatch from the special correspondent of the *Times* (January 24), who wires from Salonika:—

This sudden and unexpected descent of a German army on the Turkish capital is viewed with deep distrust and resentment by all Turks save Enver Pasha and a small band of adherents whose very lives depend upon the maintenance of German domination at Stambul. My informant does not believe that the Kaiser's troops are intended for the much-advertised Egyptian expedition. On the contrary, he states that while the Young Turks still hanker after that adventure, the Germans have set their faces against it, realising the virtual impossibility of success in that direction. The foreign legions now being poured into Turkey are primarily intended to rivet the yoke under which Turkey is groaning. There have been several plots against the present hated oligarchy, and they have been stamped out with ruthless savagery. That willing and capable adept in German frightfulness, Enver Pasha, governs by terror alone, and my informant states that swift and secret executions, or rather assassinations, are of daily occurrence. In one night lately twenty-one Turkish officers suspected of disaffection were dropped, with stones round their necks, into the Bosphorus. Before the arrival of the German Army there had been many broils between the Turks and the Germans, and in one of these ten Turkish and five German officers lost their lives. Henceforward there is little likelihood of such signs of hostility to Germany being repeated until we and our Allies rid the Turkish nation of its oppressors.

The Pressure of Want.

Dr. E. J. Dillon has a two-column article on the war in the *Sunday Times* (January 23). He is severe in his criticism of the dilatory methods of war in the Balkans, and considers that the Dardanelles fiasco could have been altogether avoided had we approached the campaign with less wildness and a keener perception of the possibilities of failure as well as of success. In writing of Salonika, Dr. Dillon says:—

The Salonika expedition is another memorable instance of the Allies' shortsightedness. There was a moment when the scheme might have turned the tables in our favour and brought the war to the desired issue. . . . Of the two objects which it was to have achieved—to bring help to the Serbs and to afford us an offensive base against the Germans—neither was found to be attainable. To-day we are holding the place for quite different and, one hopes, adequate reasons. Military authorities believe that it can be defended indefinitely against all the forces that the enemy can spare for attack—and one trusts that this time the military authorities are right. If they are, the danger to be guarded against is the bottling-up of a large Anglo-French force by a small number of Germans, Turks, and Bulgars. The Near East offered the Allies a free field for military strategy of a classical character as distinguished from the trench warfare of the West. That was our best, if not unique, chance of winning the war in the field. But we threw it away. At present it might be rash to assert that all hope of bringing the enemy to his knees by dint of military strategy and prowess has faded into thin air. But it is certain that the most effective means of which we now dispose of unsetting the joints of the compacted German fabric is the pressure of want.

Townshend of Kut.

The above heading is given by a writer in the *Evening News* (January 25) to a eulogistic article on the defender of Kut, from which the following extracts are taken:—

The Empire is beginning to learn that this officer, shut up in the little town in Mesopotamia, surrounded by an overwelming number of enemies, knowing that the relieving army is held up by natural obstacles, is one of the most brilliant soldiers it has produced.

When the full story of the battle of Ctesiphon and the retreat to Kut is known, it will make as thrilling a chapter as any in the history of the world war. And General Townshend will figure in that story as the great master mind, the cool and resourceful commander, the prompt and brilliant tactician.

He was backed by some of the bravest troops in the world, but it was the personality of the general that, perhaps, counted most in that sanguinary fight.

There were critical moments. But it was at those moments that General Townshend was greatest. Four times he rallied his men, and himself led them in their charges against the masses of the enemy.

The victory at Ctesiphon was a magnificent one, but the retreat to Kut will equal if not surpass it, as a successful military achievement under disadvantages of an extraordinary kind. Not only did General Townshend—who had hardly any sleep during the retirement—keep off the Turks, but he did so with a loss insignificant in the circumstances, and he succeeded also in bringing down with him all his wounded.

It has been said that the men under him would follow General Townshend anywhere. That is true, and it has been proved over and over again in the campaign in Mesopotamia.

General Townshend is a keen student of Napoleonic methods, and, according to the *Evening News*, had long studied the possibility of war with Germany, and had accurately foretold the magnitude of our military task.

The City of Dreadful Hate.

Under the above striking heading Mr. Jan Gordon writes of Scutari in the *New Witness* (January 20). The article is one which should be read in its full text, but the following quotation may be of interest:—

On a flat marsh, at the edge of a great green lake, surrounded on all sides by high and gloomy mountains, lies the City of Dreadful Hate. It has no country, for those who hold it are not its owners, and to those who are its countrymen it will not submit. The greatest city in all those regions, yet has it no sovereign power, for hate constructs nothing; and so hating itself it lies supine, a prey to any who will possess it. Within its walls a great street divides hate from hate, and at night he who does not hate must carry a lantern so that the haters shall not kill him. This is not romance: this is a description of Scutari, in Albania. . . . Scutari itself is pro-English. The late Governor, Colonel Phillips, was an Englishman, and Admiral Burney, Miss Durham, and George Paget have graven themselves deep upon Scutarian memories. Even the village idiot carries about with him a paper written in English, which he imagines is a money-producing talisman, though it really says: "If this chap worries you, kick him."

Articles to Note.

"The Dardanelles Affair," in the *Outlook* (January 22).

"The Evacuation of Suvla Bay," by "One Who Took Part in It," in the *Westminster Gazette* (January 24).

"Jews in the Near East," interview with Professor Henri M. Léon, M.A., etc., in the *Jewish Chronicle* (January 21).

"Albania," by H. Charles Woods (illustrated), and "The Island of Corfu" (illustrated), in the *Field* (January 22).

"How Gallipoli was Evacuated" (illustrated), in *Country Life* (January 22).

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A "Goeben" Story.

Jan. 20.

Mr. R. M'Neill asked whether the Secretary for Foreign Affairs had any official information showing that in August, 1914, the French Admiral in the Mediterranean informed his Government that he was in pursuit of the Goeben and the Breslau, which he intended to sink before Constantinople, and that he was forbidden to do so by the French Government, in consequence of the objection of England to do anything to annoy Turkey.

Sir E. Grey: The answer is in the negative. There is no record of any such communication at the Foreign Office, and I have no recollection of having heard of it before.

The Allies in Greece.

Sir E. Grey, replying to a question put by Sir E. Cornwall, said: The co-ordination between the military and diplomatic efforts of the Allies in Greece is secured in the same way as elsewhere, that is, through telegraphic and postal communication between the military commanders, the diplomatic agents, and, where necessary, their Governments.

The Dardanelles Operations.

Mr. J. Redmond asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the imputations upon the corps and divisional commanders in Suvla contained in the despatch of Sir Ian Hamilton, an inquiry before a competent and impartial tribunal would be at once instituted to investigate all the circumstances of the case and the loss of life owing to the absence of artillery and the failure of the water supply.

Mr. Asquith: After careful consideration the Government have come to the conclusion that no such inquiry is under present conditions practicable, for the reason that the officers who would be needed to constitute a competent tribunal and many of those who would be necessary witnesses cannot be withdrawn from active service in the field.

Replying to further questions put by Mr. Redmond, Mr. T. M. Healy, and Mr. Dillon, Mr. Asquith stated that General Sir F. Stopford had asked for an inquiry into the circumstances of the landing at Suvla; that the War Office had taken every means to secure that an adequate inquiry shall be made in due course, and that an opportunity will be given to officers of junior rank to put on record their account of what occurred.

General Sir I. Herbert: Will the right hon. gentleman consider the advisability of seeing that officers whose names have been prominently connected with this affair, and who may have been temporarily withdrawn from the Service, are not placed in a prejudiced position until their case has been judged?

Mr. Asquith: These are very delicate matters and apply not only to this particular operation but to a number of other operations which have taken place during the war. All I can say is that we are doing the utmost we can to secure that at the end ample inquiry should be made and care taken to see that full justice is done to everybody concerned.

The Mesopotamian Campaign.

Sir E. Cornwall, asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Cabinet had now before it the scope of the Mesopotamia campaign and the plans for its successful prosecution; and whether he could give the House any information as to the decisions arrived at by the Cabinet.

Mr. Chamberlain: No, I can give no information as to Cabinet business.

Answering a later question, Mr. Chamberlain said: I am glad to be able to say that, the weather having moderated, General Aylmer has been enabled to continue his advance. His troops were yesterday evening close to Es Sinn position, and consequently only about seven miles from Kut. General Townshend reports that no fighting is taking place there. I may add that General Sir John Nixon, who was obliged to relinquish the command-in-chief owing to illness, left, I think, yesterday, and the command was taken over by General Sir Percy Lake.

The Situation in Montenegro.

Jan. 24.

Lord R. Cecil, replying to Sir J. Lonsdale, said that he could make no statement as to the reported capitulation of Montenegro. Telegraphic communication was interrupted, and he had no definite information as to what had happened.

Mr. Lynch asked whether there existed under the control of the Government any body of men forming what might be called a thinking department, whose function it was not merely to deal with events as they arose, but to anticipate them; if so, whether the question of the Near East was dealt with in the manner indicated, and whether it was possible to fix responsibility as far as this country was concerned for the failures which the actions of the Allies have encountered.

Mr. Asquith: The Government, aided by their expert advisers, endeavour to fulfil these functions.

Mr. Lynch: When will they get to work?

Mr. Asquith: They are at work now.

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Questioned by Mr. MacMaster as to the number of British prisoners in Turkey and the treatment they received, Mr. Tennant, in a written answer, said: Although letters from individuals not infrequently speak of markedly good treatment, there is reason to fear that the general conditions of internment in Turkey are far from satisfactory, but owing to the remoteness of some of the camps and the difficulty of communication it is hard to ascertain the actual state of affairs. The American Ambassador at Constantinople has done everything possible to ameliorate the lot of British prisoners, and has supplied them with certain comforts and articles of clothing which the Turks have apparently neglected to provide, but notwithstanding all his efforts he has, by latest reports, been unable to obtain the consent of the Turkish Government to visit the internment camps. The number of prisoners of the Royal Navy and the British Regular, Colonial and Indian Forces is as follows, according to reports available:—Officers, 47; other ratings, N.C.O.'s and men, 598.

Post to Salonika.

Jan. 25.

Mr. Pike Pease informed Mr. Newdegate that letters and parcels for our soldiers at Salonika were sent by the most expeditious route known to the Post Office, and there was no avoidable delay.

British Minister to Montenegro.

Jan. '26.

Lord R. Cecil replying to Major Newman, said:—His Majesty's Minister at Cettinje, who at the time of the recent occurrences in Montenegro was without any staff, has now reached Italy, and arrived in Rome on the 22nd inst.

CYRENAICA.

At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society last Monday Professor J. W. Gregory gave an interesting account of Cyrenaica, which classical country he visited in 1908 with an expedition whose object was to estimate its suitability as a colony for Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe. He found the country to consist chiefly of a plateau of soft limestone, in places 1,800 feet high. The rainfall is low, not more than 12 inches, and falls entirely in torrential showers during the winter months. This method of precipitation is not well suited to cultivation without irrigation, but is the most favourable to storage. The rocks are extremely permeable, so that the water rapidly sinks and finds its way by deep underground channels to the southern oases or the sea. The depth of these buried channels was shown by the fact that at the time of Professor Gregory's visit *wadis* 700 feet deep and more had no springs upon their floors, while a well on the coastal plain sunk almost to sea level proved to be dry. There are, however, some permanent springs, notably the fountain of Apollo, with a discharge summer and winter of 84,000 gallons a day. The soil is light, easily worked and very fertile; but it is found mostly in patches surrounded by areas of bare rock. Good crops of dry, hard barley are raised by the Arabs, and are largely exported to Scotland for use in the manufacture of whisky. Other products are rice, oil, dates and wool. In classical times Cyrenaica also produced honey, condiments and drugs. The country shows abundant evidence of its early civilisation, the ruts worn by chariot wheels can still be seen in the ancient Roman roadways, and the broken piers of Marsa Susa help Greek smugglers to land arms for the Senussi. Cyrenaica had a long period of independence under Barbary pirates, and fell into the hands of the Turks in 1835. These improved the roads, introduced the telegraph, and established garrisons which kept peace between the turbulent Arab tribes. A few years since it was taken by the Italians. Professor Gregory said he had reported unfavourably on the country as a field of settlement for Jewish refugees, but he considered it might prove a not undesirable possession for Italy; though it was too soon to judge Italian progress there. This would necessarily be slower than that of the French in Algeria, or of ourselves in Egypt. We could watch it with sympathetic interest, feeling grateful to any power that would help in the pacification and development of the long derelict lands of northern Africa.

Mr. Hogarth, who followed, said that Professor Gregory having visited the country in August had obtained an excessively bad view of the aridity of Cyrenaica. He thought, moreover, that the local Arabs had contrived that Professor Gregory should not see the best parts of the country. He had seen the ruins of many ancient cities, and none had impressed him more than those of Cyrene. The country was now well inhabited, as such countries go, by a vigorous population of Arabs, extremely well armed, who would have strongly resisted the taking up of the scattered fertile areas. Colonists such as the Jewish Territorial Organisation proposed to send there would have been quite unsuitable.

All the stations of the Church Missionary Society in Persia have now been evacuated. The mission partly left Ispahan, under Government orders, early in October, and after a short stay at Ahwaz and Mohammerah, on the Persian Gulf, the majority of the party proceeded to India. The Rev. W. A. Rice telegraphed from Kerman on December 12 to the effect that the missionaries at that place were obliged to leave, and in the House of Commons on December 23 the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in reply to a question, said that the British Consul and colony at Kerman had left under escort for Bunder Abbas, on the Persian Gulf (some 225 miles distant), on the morning of December 18. This party reached the Gulf early in January. Now we hear that all the British, French, and Russian subjects have left Yezd and reached Ardistan, within the Russian sphere of influence, on the road to Teheran, and that there is no cause for anxiety respecting the safety of any individuals.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The Roumanian grain deals, to which reference is made elsewhere, are of more than usual interest. Some weeks ago our Roumanian Correspondent pointed out that Germany was on the eve of buying important grain supplies, and urged that the Entente Powers should step in and purchase the Roumanian harvest, if only with a view to prevent the Central Powers from acquiring it. I upheld our correspondent's views in these columns, but in the meantime the German purchase of 50,000 wagons had been concluded, the buyers having accepted the Roumanian sellers' conditions. Within a week we followed suit by purchasing 80,000 wagons, admittedly an important deal, but still far too small to affect the political situation or to hamper German intrigues in Roumania. It is a great pity that we have again had tardy recourse to half-measures instead of "taking the bull by the horns" when the opportunity arose. Still, it is in accord with the whole policy which has directed the war on our side.

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I draw the attention of my readers to the extracts reproduced elsewhere from the article on the Turkish situation which appeared yesterday morning in the *Daily Mail*. The article by our Special Correspondent in Athens on Turkish finances will also be read with interest. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that the correspondent of the *Daily Mail* had an interview with Halil Bey at the Foreign Office in Stamboul, in the course of which that official said: "We Turks need the German business initiative. Look what Germany did for Roumania. Germany has reorganised Roumania and set her on her feet. She is now rich and prosperous and full of enterprises. The Germans are with us only for the duration of the war, and they will help Turkey to become a wealthy nation. See what the Germans are doing for us in Anatolia. There we have two hundred German non-commissioned officers teaching our people modern farming." This last assertion certainly gives food for thought.

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Mr. Hutton's lecture read before the Royal Society of Arts on Wednesday night is most hopeful as regards the future of cotton-growing in the Sudan. Lancashire wants fine cotton, and the Sudan is the country to give it. There are, I know, certain expenses to be met in the way of irrigation, etc., before the Sudan is in a position to meet the ever-growing demand for cotton of a superior quality, but in the opinion of Mr. Hutton the initial outlay will be more than justified—an opinion which I have always endorsed in these columns. "It is the duty of the Government," says the lecturer in his article, quoted at greater length elsewhere, "to do all that is possible to develop every district capable of giving high-class cotton. For it is no exaggeration to state that in the success of these efforts depends the whole future, indeed, the very existence, of the Lancashire cotton industry."

I need not insist on the fact that the Sudan is one of the most promising districts "capable of growing high-class cotton." Unfortunately the rapid development of the Sudan as a cotton-growing country is essentially a financial proposition, but "however much the Government may be compelled to cut down expenditure, I should consider it an economic blunder if they were to go back on their promise to guarantee the interest on the loan of £3,000,000 to the Sudan Government." Personally, I do not believe for a moment that they will attempt thus to go behind an enactment voted by Parliament. Besides, as Mr. Hutton rightly said, "The British Government will never be asked to find a single penny through failure of the Sudan Government to provide the interest on the loan." So that "it would be an obviously mistaken policy to delay the issuing of the capital through any mistaken idea of economy"—a sentiment with which I heartily agree.

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The possibilities of the Sudan are not restricted, however, to cotton-growing. There has lately been some mention in the Press of a probable shortage of wood-pulp, the raw material out of which paper is made. Hitherto, for "trust" rather than any other and more plausible reasons, this material has been imported into the United Kingdom from abroad, but I see that the Imperial Institute has risen to the occasion, and has enumerated in a communiqué where the raw material (wood-pulp) can be procured within the Empire. Canada and Newfoundland are already too well known to need special mention, whereas the circumstance that India can produce a waste-grass suitable for the manufacture of paper-pulp will come as a surprise to no one. That, however, the Sudan should be rich in material out of which paper can be made, and that this material is a weed called sudd—the papyrus of the ancients—is less known. In the past the possibilities of this grass have been so largely scoffed at that he was a bold man indeed who prophesied that some day sudd, if properly bleached, would come to the fore as a paper-pulp. The fact, therefore, that such a careful, consultative body as the Imperial Institute mentions the Sudan as a possible source within the Empire for the supply of a vegetable material capable of being turned into paper-pulp, is a welcome admission—all the more welcome because we have been urging the claims of sudd for many years past. Hitherto, the "ring" which controlled the supply of paper-pulp has been so strong that the development of the sudd industry has been rendered impossible. Now that the war has come to show us that we must in future rely more on ourselves, perhaps we will turn to the Sudan for our paper-pulp. Unfortunately, however, the success or non-success of the venture depends largely on the attitude taken up by the paper ring. About this, in its time, I shall have something more to say.

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On Monday M. Basili Pandeli, partner in the firm of Pandeli Brothers, ship-owners, of St. Mary Axe, the Piræus, and Constantinople, was ordered at the Guildhall Police Court to pay a fine of £45 and £50 costs for trading with the enemy. What happened was this: The three brothers Pandeli, one of whom was in Constantinople, another in the Piræus, and the third in London, held a great number of shares in the steamship "Pandeli," and they were desirous of buying up the other shares from the holders—people in Constantinople or the neighbourhood. As a result of correspondence with M. Zani Pandeli at Constantinople, the defendant, on August 16 telegraphed to Mr. Demetrius Pandeli at the Piræus the sum of £3,000 in order to buy the shares.

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The Dallas case, which is now occupying the attention of Sir John Dickinson and a special jury at Bow Street Police Court, is interesting inasmuch as it has to do with Ottoman Jews. Prior to December last restrictions were placed on their leaving this country, but they were then removed without, however, the fact being given that publicity which it deserved. The consequence was that many Ottoman Jews, anxious to leave the country, sought to obtain passes by other than licit means, without knowing that they could have obtained them without incurring heavy expenditure. One result of this action which is now being tried is that Ottoman Jews will no longer be left in the dark as to their right to leave the country if they should wish to do so.

***

The Sudan Government recently imposed a surtax on freights, to take effect on January 1. The collection of this new impost has, however, been postponed until February 1, whereas, in its place, an increased rate has been levied on sugar and simsim. Commenting on this, the *Sudan Times* says:—"The increase in freight dues were decided on in order to make up for the increased expenditure incurred by the Government railways owing to the great rise in the prices of coal; they were not arbitrarily decided upon by the Government, but were fixed at such a figure as was calculated to make up, during the year 1914, for the additional expenses incurred by the railways during the year." The Chamber of Commerce seems to have asked the Government, for obvious reasons, to postpone the introduction of the new rates, at least until February 1, to which the Government agreed. "But this postponement means a reduction of the revenue for 1916 by at least one-twelfth of the estimated increase. This has to be made up somehow, otherwise there would be a Budgetary deficit. To avoid such a deficit, the royalty rates on gum were increased about 2 piastres per kantar, the increase to take effect only after March 1. It is estimated that the increased royalties collected during the latter half of the gum season will just balance the loss on the increased railway rates during the month of January."

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In the ordinary course the contract with the P. and O. Steam Navigation Company for the conveyance of the weekly mails to and from India and other Eastern countries would have expired at the end of this month, but as it is impossible for the authorities to give close attention to the terms of a fresh contract in present circumstances, the existing arrangements have been extended into next year.

COMMENTATOR.

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Roumanian Wheat Deals.

Great Britain and Germany's Purchases.

On January 13, *The Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula, now in Bucharest, wrote as follows :—

"Arrangements have virtually been concluded between the British Legation, representing a financial syndicate, and the Central Commission of Export, for the purchase of 80,000 wagons or 800,000 tons of wheat to the value of about £10,000,000. The exact cost will depend on the rate of exchange, the price being fixed at 3,200 lei per wagon. The whole amount of 800,000 tons must be delivered by April 17. Payment will be made immediately on delivery at the railway stations, ports, or elsewhere."

This message was followed on the 21st inst. by a second stating that the contract for the sale of 800,000 tons of Roumanian wheat to the British Government had been signed.

*** On January 7 we published an interview granted by M. Demitre Greceano, the President of the Roumanian Union of Agricultural Syndicates, to our Correspondent in Bucharest, in the course of which the purchase of Roumanian grain by the Entente Powers was strongly urged. Since then, our Correspondent had a further interview (January 3) with M. Greceano which, though it reaches our hands after the conclusion of Great Britain's purchase of Roumanian grain, contains many points of interest. It will be remembered that at the time of the first interview, Germany was negotiating the purchase of 50,000 truckloads of Roumanian grain, but difficulties arose at the last moment, and the scheme fell through. Our Correspondent, writing on January 3, said :—

The agreement for the sale of 50,000 (fifty thousand) truckloads of grain has at last been signed between the Roumanian Agricultural Commission and the Austro-German Commission, formed in consequence of the creation in these latter States of a monopoly for the importation of grain. The Austro-Germans have accepted the terms proposed by the Roumanians in their entirety : the prices to be double of anything ever realized before ; payment to be made in Roumanian money ; the purchase of Roumanian *lei* to be made with *marks*, the exchange for which being that fixed by the Roumanian Government ; and, finally, in spite of protestations on the part of the German representatives, the export taxes, which amount to fifty millions of francs, to be paid *in gold*.

The unconditional acceptance of these terms are uncontrovertible evidence of Germany's precarious economic situation, and of the necessity in which she finds herself of procuring corn at any cost. Her economic needs exceed her political requirements.

Contract Conditions.

The contract has to be executed within a time limit, for one of the terms of the agreement stipulates that Germany shall, not later than April 3, 1916, furnish for the transport 30,000 closed railway trucks and the number of barges requisite for the conveyance of the remaining 20,000 truckloads of grain by way of the Danube. In the case of the grain not having been removed by the Germans on the date fixed, it will be deposited in the storehouses attached to railway stations at the cost, as well as at the risk and peril, of the buyers, the price paid being retained by the Roumanian agriculturists. The latter have every reason to hope that the exportation will be effected without a hitch, for they have sold no part of the harvest of 1915, and have remained with a good portion of that of 1914 as well. They have thus a total of approximately one million truckloads of corn on their hands, of which 60 per cent. is available for exportation. And this does not cover the whole ground, for the prospect of the 1916 harvest is drawing near, and it promises to be a rich one.

Entente's Mistakes.

So we see how enormous is the mistake of the Quadruple Entente in not acquiring the Roumanian harvest, for the sale of which serious proposals have been made by Roumania, for Germany thus acquires a powerful means of creating a current of opinion in favour of peace, which alone will allow of the country's alleviating her burden of accumulated harvests. None the less, the Roumanian agriculturists' sense of patriotism is such that they will not hesitate to sacrifice their personal interests to the legitimate and rightful claims of the nation, which have lost nothing of their force, of their intangibility, through the measures of coercion and corruption practised by the Germans. This statement is supported in a manner that brooks no contradiction by the debates that have taken place in the Chamber and in the Senate on the subject of the reply to the King's Message, on the occasion of the opening of Parliament. There were but two speakers who advocated adhesion to the Central Powers, M. Stere, and the former leader of the Conservative Party, M. Peter Carp. The latter alone was listened to with attention, his great age, his reputation for integrity, the sincerity of his convictions, and the high offices he has held in the State commanding a respect that the character of his opinions could not have imposed. This was the only concession he obtained, his speech being accomplished without any sign of approval or applause indicating that his words had fallen on sympathetic ears. The current of opinion against the Austro-Germans is such that even the friends of M. Marghiloman, a pronounced philo-German, did not venture to express in public their approval of the speech delivered by M. Carp. On the other hand, the members who spoke in favour of the Allies, with M. Take Jonescu at their head, were warmly applauded. The latter, with his accustomed lucidity, pointed out how great was the fault of the Government for not having intervened in the war when the moment was opportune, and emphasized the fact that Roumania's legitimate claims and aspirations could only hope to be realized by the assumption of arms against Germany and Austria. His words provoked an enthusiasm which has been re-echoed from every corner of the country.

This attitude of the Roumanian people, which is well known in Germany, accounts, perhaps, for the great effort in the direction of Bessarabia which the Austro-German armies are reported to be meditating, for if they succeed in occupying this territory Roumania will be completely encircled and all possibility of military action with the Allies definitely removed. She will have lost all contact with the Quadruple, and find herself clasped as in a vice by the Austro-German forces.

BRITISH SHIPPING COMPANIES.

At ordinary times it is interesting to watch the annual growth in tonnage of British shipping companies. In making comparisons today with sizes of fleets a year ago, changes are chiefly due to reductions occasioned by war. The *Syren* of January 6 gives as usual its annual table. This year, as last, British India line heads the list with 145 vessels and a gross tonnage of 700,318, the aggregate having grown during 1915. The Ellerman, White Star, and the P. and O. Lines have all lost weight. So heavy is the reduction in the White Star figures that that company goes down to sixth place with 434,039 tons. Addition of 41,000 tons has lifted the fleet of Messrs. Holt from fifth to third place. The P. and O., despite the reduction of 33,000 tons, remains fourth, while the Furness line, gaining 29,000 tons, comes up from sixth to fifth. The Royal Mail and the Union-Castle have changed places owing to a substantial diminution in tonnage of the former and a slight increase of the latter. A decrease of 44,000 tons in the Cunard figures brings that company two places lower, the Elder Dempster and Leyland line having both climbed above it. It may interest German pirates to know that, in addition to our Royal Navy, there are still 69 British mercantile fleets, each possessing a gross weight of over 50,000 tons. In fact, the first eleven lines range from 700,000 to 300,000 tons apiece, and between them have 837 vessels.

TRADE NOTES.

Egypt.

The Secrétaire Général des Domaines de l'Etat, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 6,000 kilogrammes of axle grease. Date, February 16.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Wakfs for the supply and installation of a compound steam engine. For further particulars apply to the offices of THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, E.C. Date, January 31.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-1918). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Date, March 1.

Tenders are invited by the Secrétaire Générale des Domaines de l'Etat (Service Technique), Cairo, for the supply (1) of 13,315 okes of "huile pour mouvements"; (2) 7,670 okes of "huile pour cylindres"; (3) 16,200 okes of "huile pour moteurs Diesel." Date, February 2.

Tenders are invited by the Controller, Cairo Tangier Department, for the supply of 320 tons of "extra hard pitch" required during the financial year 1916-1917. Samples shall be submitted at the Roads Service Depot, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, before noon, on March 1, 1916. Date, March 1.

Sudan.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on February 29, for the supply of timber required by the above Department in 1916.

Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W., and from the Agent, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria.

Morocco.

A London firm of general exporters to Morocco desires to act as export agents for United Kingdom firms wishing to do business in the Moroccan markets. The same firm wishes to act as buying agents in Morocco for United Kingdom importers of Moroccan produce. Communications in this connection should be addressed to the Secretary, Statistical and Information Department, London Chamber of Commerce.

H.M. Consul at Fez reports that galvanised ironware, such as pails and corrugated sheets for roofing, is in brisk demand in that district. The following hardware lines are also suggested as being likely to meet with a demand, on a small scale :—Portable cooking stoves for burning wood or roots, fire-place suites, register grates, interiors, dog grates, verandahs, balconies, porches, bandstands, shelters, columns, brackets, crestings, friezes, gates and railings, tomb railings, lamp pillars, general constructional ironwork, electric light columns and brackets, section pillars, castings of every description for electrical engineers, garden rollers, seats, vases and pedestals, feeding troughs for cattle, pigs, poultry, etc., portable boilers, umbrella stands, rain water goods, air bricks, gratings, ventilators, cart brushes, plough castings and fittings, and enamelled iron advertising signs.

Metallic and porcelain enamelled baths, soil pipes and connections, enamelled and tinned cast-iron hollow ware, camp ovens, soap pots, rice bowls, Dutch stoves, etc., are articles in which trade already exists at Fez.

H.M. Consul adds that traders at Fez are practically all native merchants, scarcely any of whom know any language except Arabic, and sending out catalogues to them in any other language would not be likely to be of much use. A list of Fez traders may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers interested on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

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Persia.

The Commercial Adviser at the British Residency and Consulate-General at Bushire reports, under date November 15 last, that in the southern part of Persia fashions change but slowly, and the same types of goods are in demand year after year, cheapness alone affecting the market, while the requirements of the tribal folk are almost entirely restricted to the necessaries of life.

Among the goods of enemy origin said to have been in demand prior to the war are the following :—Woollen prints, very thin and of inferior quality; cotton prints of soft and superior cotton in imitation of the woollen variety; woollen and cotton yarns; Berlin wool, zephyr yarns, velvets and plushes; thin woollen mantles (to imitate the locally woven "aba"); cotton chintz, resembling Kashmir shawls in colour; safety matches of inferior quality of very thin wood; glassware, lampware, china and earthenware, including teacups, sherbert glasses, small teacups (to contain about 2 ounces of tea), thick water tumblers, tumblers with saucers, and thick glass trays; woollen socks, handkerchiefs, cotton undershirts and vests; knives, penknives, scissors and needles; drugs and chemicals; paper; linseed and turpentine.

One of the most important of pre-war imports by enemy firms was sugar from both Austria and Germany. In the year ended October, 1913, some 40,000 tons of loaf and crystal sugar, valued at £770,000, were landed from Hamburg-America steamers alone at the Gulf and Tigris ports. The total import of sugar up the Persian Gulf was expected before the outbreak of the war to rise rapidly to 60,000 tons, and of this quantity only 1,500 to 3,000 tons of crystals were expected to be British refined. The loaf sugar (beet) imported was almost entirely controlled by German firms, and since the war, the import of this sugar into Gulf ports has almost ceased.

The Post Office announces that the parcel post services to Russia, Roumania, and Persian post offices in Northern Persian *viâ* Sweden and *viâ* Norway and Sweden are suspended; but parcels for Russia can still be accepted for transmission *viâ* Canada and Japan at the rates of postage already announced.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Messrs. Thomas Mosley and Co., Gibraltar, announce that Captain Wilfred Humphrey Mosley, son of their Mr. Alexander Mosley, C.M.G., has been admitted as a partner in their firm as from January 1.

The Egyptian *Official Journal* publishes the new Suez Canal dues, that come into force on April 1, 1916. They are 6.75 frs. (in lieu of 6.25 frs.) per ton for loaded vessels, and 4.25 frs. (in lieu of 3.75 frs.) per ton for vessels in ballast.

Sir Alfred A. Booth, Bart., who figured in the New Year's Honours List, is the Chairman of the Cunard Company, a position he has held for the last six years. He has been a director of the company since 1901, and was formerly associated with the Booth Line. He is the nephew of the Right Hon. Charles Booth.

Mr. Edward A. Cohen, head of the firm of Messrs. H. E. Moss and Co., shipowners and shipbrokers, valuers, etc., of Liverpool, London, and Newcastle, died at Liverpool on Thursday. He was often consulted by British and foreign Governments.

In Hamburg a Perso-German Economic Association has been formed to promote commercial relations between Persia and Germany after the war.

Within the last day or so the Egyptian railways have put out an inquiry for 12,000 tons of flange rails, says the *Morning Post*, but there would appear to be very few makers in this country in a position to deal with the business.

It is stated in Athens that the negotiations between Greece and the Entente Powers for a loan are progressing favourably and are nearing conclusion.

Sudan Cotton.

Mr. J. A. Hutton, Chairman of the Council of the British Cotton Growers' Association, read a lecture on Wednesday night before the Royal Society of Arts on "The Effects of the War on Cotton-Growing in the British Empire." Unfortunately the Egyptian situation was not dealt with—the lecturer evidently, and erroneously, siding with those who regard Egypt as "foreign" territory, because still under the control of our Foreign Office. His remarks anent the Sudan are, however, of some interest. After passing in review the development of cotton growing in the "Anglo-Egyptian" Sudan, he stated that it would take too long to describe in detail the possibilities of that wonderful country, but he would mention that there were five distinct and separate propositions as follows :

1. Tokar.—Good possibilities of producing 10 to 20,000 bales in the immediate future.

2. Khartoum and North.—Fair prospects for 5,000 bales or more of good quality of Egyptian cotton with further possibilities in the future.

3. Gezira.—One of the finest cotton propositions in the world. There are possibilities of raising 50,000 bales of high-class Egyptian cotton in the immediate future, and there is no reason why the production should not be increased to 250,000 bales or more within the next ten to fifteen years, with ultimate possibilities of an annual production of more than 1,000,000 bales. As I stated before, the Egyptian crop is less than a million bales.

4. Rain-Grown Cotton.—This is a proposition for the future, but there is land enough to grow millions of bales.

5. Gedaref and Kassala.—Here there are also fair possibilities of producing considerable quantities of both rain-grown and irrigated cotton.

Experimental Stations.

Referring to the two experimental stations which have been established in the Sudan, Mr. Hutton said :

"A most interesting Socialistic experiment has been inaugurated at these two stations. Lord Kitchener was much disturbed by the fact that in Egypt the cultivator, on whom the brunt of the work falls, only receives a very small proportion of the proceeds of his crop as a reward for his arduous labours. He was determined that in the Sudan the farmers should not be left at the mercy of capitalists, and I understand that he himself drew up the proposals which have since been adopted. The scheme is shortly as follows :—The total proceeds of the crop are pooled together and divided into shares. The Government provide the land and the water and receive 35 per cent. of the total. The syndicate who look after the financing, direction, and management receive 25 per cent., leaving 40 per cent for the farmer as the reward for his time and labour."

The great demand for fine cotton was next dealt with by the lecturer, who said : "Lancashire urgently requires increased supplies of cotton of superior quality. It is becoming more and more difficult to obtain cotton of suitable quality for fine yarns, and this is clearly shown in the price of Egyptian cotton. In the five years ending in 1915 the American crop averaged 14,400,000 bales as compared with 8,300,000 bales in the five years ending in 1895, an increase of 6,100,000 bales, but the average price has increased from an average of 4½d. to over 6½d. If we eliminate 1915, when the price was unduly depressed owing to the war, the average would be over 7d. per pound, giving an increase in twenty years of 1¾d. per pound. During the same period the Egyptian crop has increased from an average of about 900,000 to 1,500,000 bales of 500 lbs., an increase of only 600,000 bales in twenty years, but the average price has increased from 5¾d. to 10½d., a difference of no less than 4¾d. per pound. This means that whereas twenty years ago Egyptian cotton commanded a premium of only 1d. per pound over American, the average premium to-day is over 3d. per pound. This increase in premium is almost entirely due to the growing demand for, and the consequent scarcity of, long-staple cotton. One therefore cannot resist the conclusion that it is the duty of the Government to do all that is possible to develop every district capable of growing high-class cotton, for it is no exaggeration to state that on the success of these efforts depends the whole future, indeed the very existence, of the Lancashire cotton industry."

Future of the Sudan.

In the Sudan, the lecturer thought, we could look confidently to the prospects for the future. But, he argued, "there can be no large increase unless the money is found for the construction of the necessary works for the irrigation of the Gezira plain. No doubt after the war is over the financial position will be one of the gravest difficulty, but however much the Government may be compelled to cut down expenditure, I should consider it an economic blunder, and almost a breach of faith, if they were to go back on their promise to guarantee the interest on the loan of £3,000,000 to the Sudan Government. It should not be forgotten that this is not a mere paper scheme. It has already been proved. We have at the present time two large experimental areas in full working order, one of which has been under cultivation for nearly five years. "Experimental" is really the wrong word to use, for these plantations are respectively about 1,500 and 2,500 acres in extent, and are therefore business propositions. I am not at liberty to give you the figures, but I can assure you that these two propositions are already commercially successful, even from a purely commercial point of view. The full scheme therefore cannot fail to be a success, and it would therefore be an obviously mistaken policy to delay the issuing of the capital through any mistaken idea of economy, for I am convinced that the British Government will never be asked to find a single penny through failure of the Sudan Government to provide the interest on the loan."

COTTON MARKET.

Liverpool. Thursday Night.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph :—Egyptian Spot. There has been a quieter demand for cotton this week, but a fair amount of business has been reported. Quotations show an advance of ten points for Uppers and five points for other descriptions.

Estimated sales amount to 3,700 bales, as against 7,600 last week.

Manchester.

During the past week trade has been of very little importance, and still presents a hesitating appearance. Buyers for the moment do not feel inclined to pay current rates.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

Sensational Break.

Last Friday, the *Daily Chronicle* Liverpool correspondent wrote :—"There was a big break in the Egyptian ring to-day. Futures, on Alexandrian and local bulls liquidating, dropped 10 points at a time until active months touched 40 to 44 points decline. A fair recovery followed, and the market closed steady, 27 to 29 points net decline. This collapse was unexpected, and was due to profit-taking by Continental and Indian interests.

"Alexandria selling was said to have been caused by the expectation that the high prices of cotton and favourable weather would lead to an increase in the area under cultivation for the new crop.

"The whole cotton market has been feverish and unsettled all week, with wild and erratic price movements. The height to which cotton has mounted, and the crisis in shipping, which is gravely interfering with shipments, has produced a feeling of pessimism here. There is a poor spot demand and an absence of outside interest. The bears have, consequently had it all their own way, but the future is too uncertain to say that a reaction may not ensue."

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Enemy Trading in Egypt.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 18.

Apropos of remarks made in recent letters regarding the question of enemy trading, the military authorities have just published a list showing the persons, firms and companies of enemy nationality to whom licences have been granted as laid down in Article 1 of the proclamation of August 16, 1915. Three styles of licences have been issued: A, to carry on trade without special restriction, subject to official inspection of the books at any time; B, to trade in Egypt with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain with the same condition as to inspection of books; and C, to trade for the purpose of liquidation only. According to the notice, 346 licences have so far been issued. Under Licence A appear five names, including the Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio, the Egyptian Bonded Warehouses Co., Ltd., and the Regie Ottomane de Tabacs; under Licence B there are 249 names, most of whom appear to be enemy-protected subjects, and so presumably entitled to this special consideration; and under Licence C there are sixty names. There are thirty-three numbers missing, presumably of licences cancelled or lapsed, and one number (256) has been duplicated.

A footnote to the Licence B list states that the Deutsches Kohlen Depot, Port Said branch, has been licensed to liquidate certain outstanding business. It is not clear why this concern was not given a C licence. Special licences have been given to the Deutsche Orient Bank and the Egyptische Hypoteken Bank to carry on business in Egypt under a controller with instructions to undertake no new business, so we may assume that those concerns will in time definitely disappear. The same feeling does not, however, exist in regard to firms like Mayer and Co., Stein's Oriental Stores, Ltd., Tiring Frères, who have been granted licences B. As these firms are, it is understood, capitalized partly with enemy capital, one would like to have some assurance that, at the end of the war, those enemy capitalists will not be able to enter again into their own. No doubt the authorities have taken the necessary steps to prevent this, but the form of licence published does not indicate this.

It is to be noted that Licence C is granted on the condition that the business done shall be only that strictly necessary to the liquidation, which is to be carried out with all due despatch and with no greater delay than may be reasonably required for the realization of the assets. It may be asked whether these conditions are being strictly adhered to by the licensees, for eighteen months seems a more than adequate period within which certain of the enemy firms could have been liquidated. It is interesting to note that the Licence C list contains the name of Boehme and Anderer, the firm to whom I referred a few weeks back as still exhibiting in its shop windows—next door to the Turf Club—German and Austrian goods with the name of the manufacturers plainly marked on them. The fact that this firm holds a licence connoting the closest official supervision of its work makes this proceeding all the more extraordinary, to say the least of it. The published list also contains a glaring omission—the name of F. Diemer and Co., the German booksellers, of Sharia Kamel. It was generally understood that this establishment—the premier library in the capital—had been ordered to liquidate under a British controller, and surprise had been frequently expressed that it had not completed its liquidation long ago and sold off its stock. Is the omission of its name to be taken as the reason this establishment is still doing business? And if it is, why has it not been dealt with long since like other enemy establishments?

BRITISH FIRMS IN BAGHDAD.

Dr. F. Johnson, writing about British interests in Mesopotamia in the *Church Family Newspaper*, says:—

"British commerce is represented at Baghdad by a few well-known firms. The longest established is that of Messrs. Lynch Brothers, with which is associated Stephen Lynch and Co. The former has the direction of the Tigris and Euphrates Steamship Company, the pioneers of steam navigation in Mesopotamia, whose boats now ply between Busreh and Baghdad.

"Messrs. Blockey, Cree and Co. do a large trade in various goods, a special line of late being the importation and fixing of oil engines to pump water from the river and replace the primitive Arab methods of irrigation.

"David Sassoon and Co., of Manchester, have an important branch at Baghdad. Cotton piece-goods find their way into the country in considerable quantities through this firm.

"McAndrews, Forbes and Co. is an Anglo-American firm engaged in the liquorice trade. Liquorice grows wild in Mesopotamia, and large quantities of the root are exported to America.

"The shipping firm of Strick, Scott and Co. has recently opened an office in Baghdad, and is in the initial stage of developing a large trade in petroleum, to be brought up from the Persian oilfields.

"In 1911 engineers belonging to the firm of Sir John Jackson, Limited, came out to construct the great Hindia barrage on the Euphrates, and made Baghdad their headquarters. This work was completed in 1913, but is only the first step in the carrying out of Sir William Willcocks' great scheme for the irrigation of Mesopotamia. For the past thirty-two years the Church Missionary Society has had representatives in the city of Baghdad.

Reuter's Agency reports from Rotterdam that it has been arranged that a Dutch steamer will sail to the East Indies round the Cape once in every ten days. No goods, but only passengers and mails, will be taken to South African ports for the present. The passenger rates to South Africa will be identical with those of the Union Castle Line.

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Engineering Notes.

Forthcoming Trade War.

Mr. Runciman's speech in the House of Commons, to which reference was made in our engineering notes last week, has given occasion for the opening of an interesting discussion in the Press on the question of what is needed for the defence and improvement of British trade during and after the war. Some of the arguments put forward, especially those referring to the engineering industry, are of a more or less academic character, ignoring, apparently, the existing rules and methods which control workshop practice and which often lead to restricted production. But one of the periods of Mr. Runciman's speech which seems to interest a wider circle is that in which he insists on the improvement of our research methods and his suggestion that "we should not attempt to economise on the money we now spend on the technical colleges and modern appliances." These suggestions of the President of the Board of Trade are, of course, very important and must be carried out; for with the continuous discoveries that are being made by the aid of modern science the improvement of research methods is indispensable in order to retain efficiency. The same may be said against any attempt to economise on the expenses required for the efficiency of technical colleges and modern appliances. Moreover, in the various articles which have appeared in the Press this week it has generally been suggested that new institutions for researches should be established, that there should be created a Ministry of Science or new departments in existing ministries, also new technical colleges, implying a radical reform of existing colleges, etc., etc. On the other hand, several writers suggest that existing colleges and institutions are quite efficient for the training of men for industrial and research purposes, but that British manufacturers are not sufficiently interested in the facilities which such institutions offer for their benefit. The argument of the latter regarding the sufficiency of existing colleges and institutions is quite correct, and these, apparently, Mr. Runciman had in mind when he referred to what is mentioned above, but as to the lack of interest on the part of manufacturers, the imputation is unjust, for there are many men who obtained in these institutions an excellent training in science and scientific methods, and who hold prominent industrial positions in Great Britain, the Colonies, and other countries. Other faults, such as conservatism in the methods of distribution, lack of individual and joint efforts in trade competition may be attributed to the British manufacturer, but, at the same time, it must be remembered that he is the most handicapped master of industry in the pursuit of his vocation. He is handicapped by the excessive rules of trade unionism; and it is a question whether some of the methods suggested for aiding production could be adopted without contention from trade unionism.

Influence of Trade Unionism.

In an article entitled "A Nation of Workers," which Mr. H. E. Morgan, the right hand of Mr. Lloyd George in the Ministry of Munitions, contributes to the *Edinburgh Review*," the writer says:—"Not only shall we have to develop our overseas trade, but to develop it in the teeth of such competition as we have never had to face before." Mr. Morgan admits that "the attitude of trade unions may largely determine our position in the future," pointing out that "the worst feature of trade unionism, in practice, if not in theory, is the deliberate limitation of the productiveness of the individual worker. The spirit which governs employment of labour has not yet been sufficiently divorced from the spirit of greed. More co-operation and greater sympathy between employer and worker are absolutely essential." But apart from the writer's remarks, it has been admitted by foreign trade competitors that the greatest blow to British industry was dealt when the trade unions were were allowed to get their hands into works management. The "shop-steward" is the curse of masters and men alike, for his mission really is to see that every man does the smallest possible amount of work spread over the longest possible number of hours. No industrial system can survive the blighting influence of such practices. And if such practices are not discontinued it is very doubtful whether any proposed organisation, or the improvement of methods, educational or other, could be of any avail in the forthcoming commercial struggle. In closing these notes we may ask the manufacturers why do they not take part in the discussion, since almost all letters appearing in the press suggest a remarkable apathy on their part? It is hoped that they are not influenced by the dreamy suggestions that are often put forward that with victory in war we shall secure victory in trade. The words of Mr. H. E. Morgan, referring to competition after the war, should be noted, particularly by manufacturers.

Oil Fuel on Roumanian Railways

An American contemporary states that for the past few years the consumption of liquid fuel on the Roumanian railways has been steadily increasing, and though the figures of consumption for the past year do not reach those for the preceding twelve months, it must not be inferred that the use of oil fuel for the Roumanian State locomotives has reached its zenith. As a matter of fact, the opposite is the case, for the decrease for the past twelve months in the consumption is explained by the reduced traffic upon the lines owing to the European war. During the twelve months the engines consumed about 198,000 tons, which is a decline of just over 6,000 tons when compared with the figures for the preceding twelve months. To-day no less than 85 per cent. of the locomotives on the Roumanian railways use liquid fuel in preference to coal, there being 751 engines regularly using oil out of a total of 873 working on the various State railways. The value of the consumed oil for the past twelve months is estimated at about £260,000, which is admittedly a low figure.

SUDAN COAL.

The Sudan Government Railways announces the addition of a surtax of 10 per cent. to the ordinary freight rates on the Sudan Government Railways, which takes effect from January 1, 1916. The reason for this increase is the increased cost of coal brought about by the war. The price of coal delivered at the Sudan has reached twice its former cost; and it is only fair that the railway administration, who have now to pay such high rates for the coal they consume and whose traffic expenses have, therefore, increased, to increase the freight rates; otherwise, they would be running the railways at a loss. The increase of the freight charges will naturally increase the cost of goods exported from the Sudan or imported to it, and will thus tend to a rise in the prices of the former and a decline in the prices of the latter. But this rise and fall will hardly be appreciable, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. In the cases of valuable goods, the freight of which bears a small ratio to their cost, the surtax will mean only the increase of a fraction per cent. of the cost. But even in the bulky and cheap goods, the freight of which stands at a large ratio to the cost, the surtax will hardly mean more than an addition of 2 or 3 per cent. to the cost.

The quantity of coal imported into Alexandria in 1914 was 1,147,678 tons, as compared with 1,390,860 tons in 1913, and 1,311,092 tons in 1912. In these totals, imports from the United Kingdom figured for 1,024,500 tons in 1914, 1,222,082 tons in 1913, and 1,174,387 tons in 1912. The value of the coal imported into Alexandria in 1914 was £1,365,956, as compared with £1,651,478 in 1913, and £1,287,436 in 1912. In these totals, the value of British supplies figured for £1,206,730, £1,436,143, and £1,136,358 respectively.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

SUDAN CATTLE TRADE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, January 7.

An outbreak of disease amongst the cattle in the quarantine station at Khartoum has made an inevitable pause in the very brisk export that has been continuing for some months of Sudan cattle for slaughter. In out stations there seems to be no similar trouble, and possibly this is an isolated case that has contrived to slip through the cordon maintained by the Veterinary Department, within which no cattle may come till they have been thoroughly examined.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, January 27.

Currants.

The market has been fairly active this past week, and prices are very steady, with inclination, in some instances, to be dearer. Provincial is quoted 38s. to 40s., Amalias 41s. 6d. to 44s., Gulf 44s. to 48s., Patras 44s. to 47s. Vostizza 44s. to 51s., Zante 40s. to 45s., and smalls 40s. to 48s.

Sultanas.

There has been a fair demand with good business passing in Afghanistan and Indian fruit at late rates. There has been no business in Greek fruit, which is still held at the recent high prices.

Figs.

There is no demand, and holders seem inclined to accept slight reduction; but, apparently, the available supplies now in the market do not interest buyers.

Dates.

There is very little demand with small business passing, mostly in Persian at 15s. 6d. to 22s. 6d., while Egyptians are quoted 35s. to 38s.

Seeds.

Linseed is cheaper, but quiet. London-Calcutta spot is offered at 80s. 6d. buyers 80s., afloat ditto. La Plata to Hull, Jan.-Feb., realised 74s. 7½d.; Feb.-Mar., 74s. 7½d., with buyers at 74s. 9d. for March-April. Rape-

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seed is not offered, hence prices are only nominal. Cottonseed remaining quiet. London-Egyptian is quoted at £14 spot and £15 loading.

Oils.

Linseed oil is easier. Spot pipes are quoted £42 2s. 6d.; barrels £42 2s. 6d.; month £42 12s. 6d.; Feb.-April £43 5s.; May-Aug., £45 15s. Rape oil is steady. Ordinary brown naked spot £25, and English refined barrels £54 to £56. Cotton oil is steady, but rather quiet. Ordinary brown naked spot is quoted £45 5s.; refined pale pipes £51; and barrels sweet £52 to £53. Olive oil remains inactive, but prices remain as reported last week.

Oilcakes.

Linseed cakes.—Owing to a remarkable falling off in demand, holders seem inclined to accept reduced prices in order to effect sales. Best London made is quoted £13 5s. to £13 7s. 6d. East Indian seed pure is selling at £13 to £13 5s. per ton. Cotton cakes.—There is a scarcity of Egyptian on spot, and prices remain the same as reported last week. English is slightly easier at £10 7s. 6d. to £10 10s., and Bombay £10 per ton.

Locust Beans.

There is a scarcity of all kinds, and an entire absence of any offer of Cyprus. Prices are only nominal.

EGYPTIAN COTTON PROSPECTS.

A leading Alexandria house, writing to Liverpool firms, says that the prospect of the growing of a large Egyptian cotton crop next year is not considered as very favourable. The very high prices for wheat and other foodstuffs are likely to be an inducement of a voluntary decrease of the cotton acreage. Beyond this, there exists a good deal of apprehension on account of the state of irrigation canals, which have not been cleared at all this year, and the very high prices for coal and chemical fertilisers. Coal is now to be got at a price four to five times higher than its normal cost, and quite prohibitive for a sufficient irrigation, aggravated as it will be by the bad state of the canals.

Government having enforced this year for the first time the destruction of the cotton sticks which usually substituted coal to some extent for the working of the water-lifting machines, this fact perplexes further the irrigation problem. There exists also, says the *Liverpool Daily Courier*, a good deal of apprehension owing to the rotten state of seed, and, the climatic conditions having so far been particularly mild, a late winter might prevent the earlier planting of cotton.

A branch of the Banco di Roma has been opened at Port Said, and M. di Castro has been appointed manager.

PORT OF RENI.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, January 10.

The port of Reni, closed for some time on account of the massing of troops, has now been re-opened for the passage of goods and passengers. The Russian steamer Caserinor runs between Galatz and Reni three times weekly as long as navigation is possible.

COAL FOR GREECE.

An agreement has been reached in principle on the question of the supply of coal to Greek industrial enterprises, says a Reuter message from Athens. The British Government has consented to authorise the export of coal for the use of railway and other companies in Greece, in proportion to their needs, and also for the use of the Greek Admiralty for the needs of the fleet. In addition no difficulties will be placed in the way of the export of coal from America to Greece.

In virtue of a judgment of the Alexandria Mixed Courts, the liquidators of the Bank of Egypt, Limited, have been authorised to sell by public auction the estates of Moheb Pasha, formerly Minister of Wakfs. These estates are situated at Mehalla Kobra and consist of 340 feddans. The upshot price is £E200.

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Turkey's Finances.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, January 12, 1916.

The financial position of the Turkish Empire, never brilliant, has now, thanks to the Germans, reached a stage of practical bankruptcy. The Germans are evidently no longer able to supply their Ally with funds, and the Turks are, therefore, forced to resort to the issue of more paper money to meet pressing requirements.

New Notes.

When the Minister of Finance presented the budget for the year 1332 to the Chamber, he mentioned that a further issue of notes to the value of £T.6,000,000 would be made. These notes are now being put into circulation, but no details of this financial transaction have appeared in the Press beyond the statement that the notes would be guaranteed by the Administration of the Public Debt, but against what security this guarantee would be given is not stated.

It will be recollected that when the previous issue of paper was made last May, it was asserted that the equivalent in gold had been deposited in banks in Berlin and Vienna. The present notes differ from the previous ones in the inscription at the back, and the colour is also somewhat different. The inscription on the first lot stated that the countervalue in gold had been deposited, and that they are payable six months after the conclusion of peace, but the new ones state that the countervalue ("Karshoulouk") has been deposited at the Public Debt and that they are payable at Stamboul one year after the conclusion of peace in Turkish liras, but the word gold is omitted. They are signed by Djahid as President of the Administration of the Public Debt, and dated 18 Teshrin, Evel 1331 (October 31, 1915).

The first notes were signed by Djahid Bey, as President of the Public Debt and also by the Austrian Delegate, but on this occasion the signature of the latter is apparently missing.

The object of making it appear as if these notes had been issued by the Public Debt is doubtless, firstly, to give them an appearance of greater security, and, secondly, to make that administration responsible for their payment after the war.

Scarcity of Gold.

Gold is becoming scarce in Constantinople, and silver coin also, to such an extent that only five medjidiehs (or 100 piasters silver currency) are obtainable at a money changer for a Turkish lira, against the normal exchange of 108. The medjidiehs are evidently being hoarded in the same way as gold. This scarcity of silver currency has not only produced much inconvenience to the public, but means a loss of almost 8 per cent. on the normal currency, an additional burden to the populace already faced with a daily increase in the cost of everything.

With the object of finding a remedy for this shortage of small currency, the Minister of Finance recently called a meeting of the managers of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, the Deutsche Bank, the Wiener Bank, and the Deutsche Orient Bank. The following two decisions were arrived at: Firstly, that a portion of the new notes which still remain to be printed should be issued in halves and quarters of a lira; secondly, that until these arrive, a certain number of the one and five lira Government notes now in circulation should be cut in half at the Public Debt and put into circulation by the banks; and, thirdly, that the nickel coins of a quarter, half, and one piaster should be issued to the public at the rate of 108 piasters to the lira. It is also proposed to coin more Medjidiehs to the value of £T.300,000.

Under the influence of the Germans, Enver, Talaat, and Co. have burdened Turkey with debts, the liquidation of which will be a difficult problem.

Apart from the above paper money, which will be worthless when the war is over, and which will involve loss to the holders of it, Germany must have large sums to receive for war material, etc., etc., as well as the value of the German steamers employed by the Turks and destroyed by the Allies, but, in addition to all this, Turkey's liabilities for "requisitions" must reach a very large figure.

War on Credit.

Turkey has been conducting her war on credit. She makes practically no cash payments, and whatever requirements are obtainable in the country are requisitioned against a scrap of paper, and oft-times even without.

There can be few Christian merchants or tradesmen in Constantinople who have not been victims of this robbery, for of late requisitioning has developed into a shop-to-shop visit to obtain money or the equivalent in kind, whatever may be the nature of the shopman's wares.

The Turkish mercantile fleet has been practically completely wiped out, and the Turkish flag flies over very few ships nowadays. Turkish shipowners succeeded in obtaining the appointment of a commission to assess their losses, but that is about the extent of the redress which they are ever likely to obtain, unless they are clever enough to lay their hands on the private fortunes of the Young Turks.

TURKEY IN WAR TIME.

The *Daily Mail* published yesterday a remarkable article from the pen of the "Man who Dined with the Kaiser"— a correspondent who has been travelling through the Balkans and Turkey. We reproduce below some observations made by the writer whilst living in Constantinople and other Balkan capitals:—

The "Balkan Express."

"The 'Balkan Express' (Berlin-Constantinople) is probably the handsomest train in Europe, and has been designed beyond doubt by the Germans for the purpose of impressing the thousands of people who see it twice a week on its way between Berlin and Constantinople. It impresses and alarms the Turks as a proof of German efficiency. It impresses and delights the Germans, Austrians, Hungarians, Bulgarians, and the rest of the people who see it on its journey. Its name is blazoned in three-foot letters on each wagon. Engine and carriages are decorated with flags and flowers. Every passenger wears a German flag, with the words Balkan Zug and the date, in his buttonhole. On the day in which I travelled in it, it consisted of four sleeping-cars, one dining-car, and one ordinary first and second-class carriage. The food, doubtless for advertising purposes, is infinitely better than that to be had in Constantinople, Vienna, or Berlin. Here, at any rate, one is free from the tiresome bread ticket. For a mark (a shilling) I had an early breakfast of coffee, rolls, butter and marmalade *ad lib.*

Foodless Constantinople.

"But Constantinople is a very different story. In Constantinople one realises the war pressure more than in any of the great capitals in the war zone that I have yet visited. I had been there a few months before, but to-day things are much worse. The dearth of the necessities of life is now of an alarming nature.

"On my way through Constantinople I stayed at the Pera Palace—electric light reduced to a solitary bulb here and there, no gas, bad food, bread tickets, or, rather, bread books, the bread practically uneatable, and the hotel swarming with German officers grumbling bitterly at the fare, but all talking of Egypt. At the Continental, where I stayed on my return from Asia Minor, things were even worse.

"The condition of affairs approaches famine. The electric tramway-car service has now practically disappeared. In the matter of prices I took careful notes. Sugar is 5s. a lb., coffee 6s. a lb., and the Government have advanced even the price of cigarettes about 40 per cent., and anybody who knows Turkey will understand what that means to a people who smoke practically all day long. Matches are 3d. a box. Of paraffin oil none is left. Chocolate is finished. Cheese is unobtainable, apart from the horrible Turkish kind. Mutton has advanced 40 per cent., and beef cannot be had. The small Turkish eggs, which were four a penny seven months ago, are now 2d. each. There is no rice. Fish, of course, is as plentiful as usual.

"When I was in Constantinople seven months ago there was comparative gaiety in the city. It is extraordinary to see the difference that has been made by the absence of electricity and gas. It has at once closed theatres, cafés, kinemas, and all other places of amusement. Nearly all the shops are closed. With the cutting off of the coal supply the whole life of the city has thus been destroyed. The only means of getting about at night is by the aid of electric torches, the very smallest of which cost me 8s.

The Money Question.

"The money question in Turkey is in a most extraordinary position. Seven months ago gold was given at banks in return for cheques. To-day there is a shortage not only of gold, but of silver, and the official Turkish paper money. There has been substituted a kind of Turkish £1 note. Taking the Turkish pound to be worth 17s. 6d., these new £1 notes only realise about 12s. 6d. each.

"For example, when I bought my railway ticket at the station at Stamboul for the Balkan express the clerk made me pay £15 in paper money for it, although its price is £12. As showing the economy of the Germans, the tickets are the old sleeping-car tickets in French, with the words 'Balkan Express' printed across them in English."

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CONTRACTS IN EGYPT.

The Colonial and Mutual Life Insurance Co., Ltd., the head office of which is in London, was recently ordered by the Alexandria Civil Court to pay the widow of George Yatroudakis the sum of £1,000, as insurance money payable at the death of her husband, who resided at Port Said. The company has appealed against this, urging that as the deceased has been a resident of Port Said, the Alexandria Court was not competent to deal with the case. The plaintiffs contend, on the other hand, that the company has a branch at Alexandria, at the offices of Edouard Suares and Co.

It appears, however, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, that the latter contention does not hold, as Messrs. Suares only cash instalments of policies, the receipts for which are issued and signed in London by the manager of the company.

The Court of Appeal in its judgment states that in all matters of contracts, foreigners who are not residents in Egypt cannot be assigned before Mixed Courts except when it has been stipulated that the contract must be executed in Egypt.

The contract in question was concluded by correspondence; thus, the place where the contract was signed and accepted is the place where any litigation must be settled. This was in London. The Court of Appeal also points out that in case of any stipulation to the contrary, debts of the nature in question are payable at the offices of the debtor. Thus, payment must be made in London. For these reasons, the Court of Appeal has quashed the judgment issued by the Lower Court, stating that Mixed Courts are not competent to deal with matters concluded with the Colonial and Mutual Life Insurance Co., Ltd., unless there be a special local clause.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for week, 53 tons, recovered from sediment. Gemsah production for last week, 162 tons (including 95 tons recovered from sediment). Hurgada production for the week, 397 tons (last week, 2,286 tons). Last report of Hurgada well No. 7 is that there are periodical blows, producing on 21st inst. 10 tons, on 22nd inst. 15 tons, on 23rd inst. 10 tons.

CREDIT FONCIER EGYPTIEN.—The annual general meeting of shareholders will be held on January 31 at Cairo.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the eleven days ended December 31 amounted to £E7,977, as against £E6,716 for the corresponding period of last year.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.—Coupon Serial No. 22 on share warrants to bearer for an interim dividend declared of 4 per cent., less income-tax, for the year ended December 31, 1915, will be payable on and after January 31 at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Production for December, 4,754 tons. Production for week ending January 1, 723 tons, for week ending January 8, 873 tons, and for week ending January 15, 815 tons. A fire occurred on Moreni field on 3rd inst., but was speedily extinguished, only four of our derricks being burnt. Production of whole field is temporarily interfered with; damage in course of being repaired. Hope to resume normal production in two or three weeks.

SUEZ CANAL.—Receipts for the 24th inst. amounted to 360,000 frs., against 300,000 frs. for the corresponding day last year.

PRICES IN BULGARIA.

The prices of various commodities, especially foodstuffs, have increased enormously in Bulgaria, says the *Times* Correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula. The Germans are eagerly buying up cereals, meat, fowls, eggs, etc. A considerable amount of gold comes into the country, but a food crisis is feared, especially as Turkey is also buying provisions. The Turks, who anticipated large supplies from Bulgaria, are indignant at the extent to which the Bulgarian market has been drained by Germany.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 30 Novembre, 1915, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

	£E.
Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien	1,750,125
Titres divers	387,381
Comptes-Courants	514,251
Avances sur Marchandises	2,169,854
Avances sur Titres Locaux et Etrangers	1,721,959
Avances sur d'autres garanties	1,214,206
Effets sur l'Etranger	2,664,748
Effets sur l'Egypte	262,379
Immeubles et mobilier	246,741
Placements à courte échéance	1,501,500
Comptes Banquiers	750,765
Gouvernement du Soudan	435,917
Encaisse:	
Especes:	
Or £E.199,570	
Argent et nickel £E.133,178	
£E.332,748	
Billets de Banque £E.651,144	983,892
Divers	300,784
	£E.14,904,502

	£E.
Capital	2,925,000
Réserve:—Statutaire	1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	5,439,938
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,276,438
Ministère des Finances	2,839,678
Compte spécial	14,094
Comptes Banquiers	272,242
Chèques et effets à payer	315,909
Divers	553,733
	£E.14,904,502

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Espèces	£E.6,134,299
Titres	4,416,701
	£E.10,550,000
Billets émis	£E.10,550,000
	£E.10,550,000

GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to November 30, 1915 (New Style: January 14 to December 13, 1915):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Oct.,	1915	2,718,555	1,571,000
Do. do. do	1914	2,925,270	1,863,637
Estimated Receipts for 11 months (Law of Contrct)		26,491,666	9,808,333
Actual Receipts, 11 months,	1915	32,885,005	21,786,887
Do. do. do.,	1914	33,563,086	24,518,491
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 11 months	1915	+ 6,393,339	+11,978,553
	1914	+ 7,071,419	+14,710,158

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

ENEMY TRADE IN THE BALKANS.

The Berne correspondent of the *Morning Post*, writing on January 18, stated that for the further development of the Austro-German commercial *rapprochement* the Hungarian Association of Commercial Travellers will send representatives at the end of January to visit German commercial industrial cities to get into personal touch with German merchants, manufacturers, and chambers of commerce, with a view of furthering commercial relations between Hungary and Germany, the Balkan States, and Turkey.

The running of the Balkan express from Berlin to Constantinople is greeted throughout Germany and Austria as an event of the greatest importance to the Central Powers. The German Press describes the inauguration of the train service as a notable advance in the successful protection of Germany's Balkan policy, while the Austrian Press sees in it a step towards the attainment of the ideal of a Central European Union. At all stations, which were decorated where the express on its initial run on January 15 stopped, deputations of magnates met it, and speeches were delivered.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93⅛	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	74⅛
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	67
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	65
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	54
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	41½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	52⅛
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	51
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	57½xd
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	73½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Ser., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	80½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅞
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅞	—	6¼
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	70
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	¼	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	6	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6¼	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	90
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅜
Do, do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	11/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	—	6
Do. Pref.	4¼	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅜	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅜
,, ,, Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6¼
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	75
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	3/2
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	—	¼
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1/4
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	14/6
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	11/9
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	—	3⅛
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2¼	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Jan. 18.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅞	8/9
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	18/-
European Oilfields	4/9	2/6
Roumanian	20/-	13/3

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Jan. 18.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	425
Canal de Suez	4050	3979
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	578
Turkish Unified 4%	59.95	59.95
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	8.50
Serbian, 1895	—	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Such news as there is from the Near East this week is mainly of a negative character. While the Austrians are consolidating their hold on Montenegro—it is still difficult to determine precisely the official status attaching to the surrenders that may be taking place—the Allies are settling down at Salonika and overcoming the initial drawbacks of an anomalous situation. Perhaps the most interesting development is the more thorough effort now seemingly being made to cope with the submarine menace. Some days have elapsed since one of these craft has been able to claim a victim in the Eastern Mediterranean. In the meantime, the work of eliminating their bases is being carried out systematically. On January 28 the Greek fort at Kara Burnu, at the entrance to the Gulf of Salonika, was occupied by the Allies. The reason for this step was stated in the French *communiqué* to be that it was impossible any longer to allow enemy submarines to navigate with impunity within range of the Kara Burnu batteries. Again, the occupation of Xantophiel, a small island opposite Castellorizo, and the arrest of a German at Retimo, in Crete, were no doubt undertaken with the object of checkmating submarine activities in the Southern Ægean.

While the grip of winter hinders land operations in the Balkans, aerial warfare is being waged with some persistency on both sides. The bombardment of Monastir by a large French squadron was followed by a further attack on the Bulgarian position near Doiran. By way of reprisal, a Zeppelin visited Salonika in the early morning of February 1 and dropped bombs in the usual indiscriminate way. A score or more of people were killed or wounded, the majority of them civilians, but no damage of military importance was done. In contrast to the blind methods of the Zeppelin, which is concerned more with keeping at a height that ensures its safety from gunfire than with accuracy of aim, a raid, carried out on January 25 by Austrian aeroplanes over Durazzo, achieved a definite military purpose. A bomb is said to have destroyed a house in which were lodged a number of Serbian officers, some twenty of whom, it is declared, were killed.

The future of Albania has been provided for by the Central Powers. It is to become, according to the *Volkszeitung* of Cologne, an Austro-Hungarian protectorate. The advantages of such an arrangement leap to the eye. Albania cannot stand alone yet as an independent State; it needs a guiding hand during the period—which may possibly prove of long duration—of political upbringing. Its troubles in the past were due to Italian intrigues. True to her policy of the Balkans for the Balkan peoples, Austria-Hungary will help the Albanians to work for a real and complete independence—presumably, though the writer does not add this, on the lines which have rendered the Government of the Dual Monarchy so popular in the past to all its subject peoples. The heterogeneous nature of Austria-Hungary, it is pointed out, will be a strong recommendation to the Albanians, who cannot be attracted by the example of a rigidly organised national-state, such as modern Italy is. It remains to be seen whether recent Austro-Hungarian history is better known in Albania than it is in Cologne.

Meanwhile, the actual situation in Albania remains obscure. What would seem to be established is that the Austrian and Bulgarian forces are not able to overrun it as rapidly as they had expected. Durazzo will be their first objective, but Essad Pasha has still to be reckoned with, and the delay in the enemy's advance has given the Italians time to formulate plans with him. For the present the Italians are on the defensive; but Essad Pasha's following can be relied upon to adopt the guerilla warfare which can be terribly effective against an enemy operating at a distance from his base. It would be a mistake, however, to regard the situation in Albania as satisfactory. If the military efforts of the Central Powers are to be correlated to their political ambitions, we may expect to see an attempt to penetrate to Southern Albania. Italy in this connection remains an unknown factor. The decision to defend Valona is understood to have been taken, and a decree has been published conferring absolute powers on the commander of the Italian expedition in Albania; but offensive tactics on a large scale are now required, if a final check is to be administered to the enemy's advance.

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Due recognition must be given to the part played by Italy in the withdrawal of the Serbian troops from Albania. She provided most of the shipping and escort necessary to transport across the Adriatic the food supplied by Great Britain and France. To facilitate the progress of the Serbians the British Adriatic mission had to make itself responsible for the repairing of roads and the construction of bridges and ferries. The requisite material was obtained from Italy, and the work was carried out by British engineers, Serbian pioneers, and Albanians, under the direction of British officers. At Durazzo and Valona, as we learn from the Rome correspondent of *The Times*, British and Italians worked together, and it was left to the Italian army to make jetties, unload ships, and convey the food from the base depots to the Serbians.

It is natural that the meeting between the German Emperor and King Ferdinand at Nish should be connected in the public mind with the delay on the part of the Central Powers and Bulgaria to deal with the menace which the presence of the Allied forces at Saloniika interposes to their schemes for conquests in Asia. The explanation that finds most favour is that the honours bestowed upon King Ferdinand were intended to galvanize both him and the Bulgarians to further efforts in the Balkans. A campaign of indefinite duration can have little attraction for the Bulgarians, and, although King Ferdinand must know that his only chance now lies in carrying out German orders to the last syllable, he will be shrewd enough to play off popular feeling in Bulgaria to the best of his ability against any further sacrifices for the German cause. The banquet at Nish would be intended to convey to the dull Bulgarian intellect a sense of the greatness of Bulgaria's new "world-position," and thus to render him more willing to play his part in its maintenance. It is becoming more and more apparent that Germany's scheme in the East can only be carried out by means of long-sustained efforts on the part of both Bulgarians and Turks. We may look, therefore, for a variety of measures which German contempt for the Oriental mind may suggest as useful means to this end.

The latest news from Mesopotamia is the most heartening that has been received for some time. True, it does not hold out any prospect of the early relief of General Townshend's force; but it represents its plight as being less hopeless than was feared. On the withdrawal of the Turks from their trenches on the north-west of Kut, which were exposed to the floods, a British reconnoitring patrol was able to advance 1,200 yards and fill up the intervening trenches. The fact that fifty dead Turks were found in one place, the victims of British gun fire a few days previously, when the enemy was flooded out of his nearest trenches, indicates that General Townshend has not yet wholly exhausted his ammunition. It is to be hoped that food supplies also remain "sufficient," although the term used many days ago may even then have covered an uncomfortably long period of shortened rations and general privation. An official statement from India mentions that General Aylmer's force holds a strong position on the Tigris, but repeats the previous report that the floods render a forward movement impracticable. The emphasis on the safety of the relief expedition is satisfactory, and probably necessary in view of the fears aroused by the failure to publish any details of the last engagement on January 21, when the British losses were admitted to be "heavy." It is to be feared that General Aylmer stands in need of strong reinforcements just as much as of an improvement in the weather conditions before he can resume his advance for the relief of Kut. The enforced delay should have enabled him not only to make good his previous losses, but to accumulate a large enough force to render it impossible for the Turks to bar his way to Kut when once the floods have abated.

The Russians are once more up against the outer line of defence of Erzeroum, known as the Deve Boyun. The strength of this position and the necessity for making good their rapid advance will probably leave us for a little time without much news from this region. In summing up the result of the recent operations an official statement says that the Russians have dislodged the enemy from a region forty miles long, which had previously been organized by him, and have come down from the mountainous regions with a very severe climate into regions that are well populated, easily accessible, and suitable for the encampment of troops for the winter season. To prevent the Russians taking full advantage of these new conditions will be the immediate object of the Turks; hence the counter-attacks that figure almost daily in the Russian reports. There is also a good chance that Erzeroum will be completely isolated from Mush, the second main depôt of the Turks in Armenia. If this should happen, we may expect to see the Turkish higher commands concentrate all their efforts on the relief of Erzeroum, to the exclusion of other schemes which may be nearer to the hearts of their German overlords.

No fresh light has been thrown during the past week on the situation in Persia. In the district between Kermanshah and Hamadan the Russians appear to have achieved some minor successes, which have had the effect of checking the advance of the Turkish force that was reported to have occupied Kangavar. The absence of Turkish *communiqués* on the fighting on this front justifies the inference that the invaders have had to withdraw from some of the ground they had previously occupied.

The stronger the defences of Egypt the greater the equanimity with which the British Government can view the outcome of the German and Turkish efforts to make their joint military operations subserve German military interests in Europe and Turkish political interests in Asia. Thus whether the whole of Turkey's strength is to be retained for Asia, where it must be divided between two or three fronts, or whether she must spare a further contingent for a campaign in Europe, the object of Great Britain must be to leave Egypt equal to any emergency, and not relying on the hurried despatch of reinforcements to meet a threatened invasion. To attain this end, without having to keep too large a force idle in the country for an indefinite period, the defences of the Canal must be so planned that they require a minimum number of troops to man them. For many months after the attempted invasion of a year ago the need for economising troops does not appear to have been appreciated, and Egypt relied for its protection more on numbers and less on mechanical and artificial devices than should have been the case. Within the last two months all this has been changed. It has been realised that if the Suez Canal is to play its full part in the defence of Egypt it must be defended itself, and there is reason to believe that the whole system of defence has been remodelled. Not the least important in the measures adopted for this purpose is the step taken on January 20, when all reservists in the Egyptian Army, with the exception of those employed in Government departments, were called up for service in connection with the defence of the Canal. They will, of course, not be employed for fighting purposes.

The death of the Turkish Heir Apparent, Yussuf Izz-ed-Din, in circumstances which are labelled suicide, comes at a time when it is impossible to gauge its precise significance. On one point, however, there can be little doubt his death constitutes a loss to Turkey, for he was an enlightened Prince, and, as he was credited with some strength of character, his presence at the head of a new Turkey after the war might have proved of lasting benefit to the nation. There have been reports of a breach between Prince Yussuf and Enver Pasha since Turkey entered the war; and it is, therefore, no surprise to find that the theory of suicide is not generally accepted. But whether he died by his own hand or was murdered, his death indicates that all is not well in the domestic affairs of Turkey.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, January 15.

Salonika Resumes its Sloppiness.

After a short spell of bright, sunny weather Salonika has resumed the slushy, sloppy, muddy and cold aspect which it bore a few weeks ago. This week is ending with a downfall of sleet and rain, and the temperature has fallen very low. I do not refer to this threadbare topic in default of anything else to write about, but in order to remind our friends at home of the sufferings of our brave soldiers in the Balkans. Some of them are already inured to cold and exposure through hard experience on the Western front, but others who have not passed through such a preparation, and especially those who have just come from Egypt and India, are having a cruel time. But all, without exception, are wonderfully bright and cheerful under these trying conditions, and as I sit in my room this chilly night I can hear evidence of Tommy's cheerfulness from an adjoining camp. He sings "God Save the King," "Auld Lang Syne," and "Tipperary"; but that is not all. He is on the best terms with his French brothers-in-arms, and the songs of Old England—and Scotland—are frequently varied with the strains of the "Marseillaise."

The Gentle Art of Fleecing.

I referred in my last letter to the efforts of the shopkeepers and itinerant vendors to secure the custom of the British and French soldiers, and the extent to which our language is being used—and murdered—in the process. What I particularly wish to call attention to now is the scandalous way in which the Salonikians are fleecing our men. For example, Tommy orders a bottle of beer, drinks it, and *then* asks the price. The seller, knowing that the goods cannot be returned, asks just what he pleases. The other night I heard one of our men protesting to his comrades that his bottle of beer had cost him 2 fr. The usual price is 6d. Of course, matters are better managed in the canteens established at the various camps, where the tariff is fixed by the British officers in charge.

Theft of Stores.

Salonika is full of thieves as well as spies. The British have landed an immense quantity of foodstuffs and are employing a little army of refugees and others to handle the goods and stack them up in huge piles in the open air. Sometimes a case gets broken and the contents mysteriously disappear. Then Tommy himself sometimes gets tired of the eternal bully beef and barters his rations for something he likes better. In this way a considerable quantity of corned beef tins and other eatables have found their way to the shops of the local grocers, and are there sold at a very low figure. Although I have no desire to encourage this sort of thing, I am still human and sometimes hungry; so the sight of Libby's corned beef at 6d. for the 12-oz. tin was too much of a temptation. I therefore bought a few tins and consoled my conscience with the delightful legal fiction that they had been obtained in "market overt." The price of similar tins in Athens is about 2s.; what they cost in London I don't know. Of course, soldiers are severely punished if they are found selling their rations, but it is impossible to prevent it altogether. I understand, however, that extra precautions are now being taken to stop this traffic in army stores.

The Spy Hunt.

Many spies continue to be quietly arrested and shipped away to various destinations, but an immense number of undesirables still remain. In fact, every person who is not in uniform is looked upon with suspicion. A few days ago the correspondent of a London newspaper who called at the British Headquarters was taken upstairs and handed over to the guard by a stupid and excited sentry. He was, of course, immediately released and an ample apology was subsequently made. On making the acquaintance of a British soldier I have myself been asked more than once, "Why are you not in khaki?" Indeed, our men have been warned to be very chary of speaking to any civilian unless they know him well. A perfect knowledge of English is not always a sufficient indication of one's innocence. A Red Cross officer told me the other night that while engaged on the Western front he had as fellow-worker—in the regulation uniform—a very clever man whose English was beyond suspicion, and who could even use the Scottish dialect. A wounded soldier was brought in, and the clever one at once proposed to perform the slight operation necessary. This being against the British regulations, my informant became suspicious, and said: "Very well, but let us first tell that officer over there." He then conducted the would-be operator towards a picket and communicated his suspicions quietly to the officer in command. The man was at once searched, when he was found to be a German medical man with plans and other damning documents in his possession.

The Press of Salonika.

We have a host of newspapers in this city in Greek, Judæo-Spanish (Hebrew characters), Turkish, French, and even English. The English production is called the *Balkan News*, and both its English and its news might be greatly improved. It is a poor effort. The leading and most reliable French paper is the *Independant*. It is an evening newspaper friendly to the Entente. There are also two French pro-German rags, called the *Nouveau Siècle* and the *Courier de Salonique*. These contain material manifestly "made in Germany," and their leading articles, under flaring headings, are mainly confined to the threatened sweeping of the Allies into the sea at Salonika and the much-advertised expedition against Egypt. Their telegrams are mostly of the veracious "Wolff" variety. The two Greek evening papers are the *Angira* (Anchor), Ententist and Venezelist, the anchor being the Venezelist emblem. The other is the *Nea Alithia* (New Truth), which usually promulgates a decidedly new kind of "truth," of German manufacture. The most popular morning paper in French is *L'Opinion*, which is favourable to the Allies. The leading Greek morning paper is the *Macedonia*, which tries to steer a middle course. It will thus be seen that, just as at Athens, about half the Press is pro-German or openly in German pay. The striking thing about some of these *Boche* productions is that they are not only anti-Entente, but in many respects anti-Greek. Yet the Greeks seem to tolerate them calmly.

The Aeroplanes.

We have had no return visits from hostile areoplanes since I last wrote you, but on New Year's Day (O.S.) we were provided with an interesting aerial spectacle by the French. No fewer than fifteen aeroplanes manœuvred close together over the town, some of them flying very low, and the sound of these fifteen motors created a deep hum, which brought everyone out of doors. The streets and house-tops were crowded with people gazing at the unusual sight. It was just like a flock of huge crows flying close together. Now we have innumerable real crows at Salonika, and I remarked that these birds flew calmly over, under, and even through the crowd of aeroplanes in quite an unconcerned manner, while the sparrows and other small birds appeared to be alarmed and darted away in all directions.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Welcome Rain.

The much-needed rain fell on January 2 and following days, being welcomed throughout the island. The torrents have brought down their deposits of silt, so essential for the annual fertilisation of the great Mesaoria plain and other regions. Recently there have been further downpours, and prospects are generally bright. Many complaints are, however, heard from several districts that much land may remain uncultivated owing to lack of seed corn, which the peasants are in many cases too poor to buy. The alternative is to be driven more and more into the clutches of the money-lenders, whose rapacity is seldom abated. The Government is urged to be more liberal in its loans of seed corn in the general interest of the island.

The Greek New Year.

The Greek New Year day (January 14) was celebrated quietly. Charities were distributed by Church and other philanthropic committees. The funds, however, have been quite inadequate to meet as could be desired the needs of the poor, the number of whom has been largely increased. At Nicosia, in the Cyprus Museum there was an exhibition of about 450 skins of Cyprus birds and of butterflies, the charge for entrance being 1s., the proceeds to be devoted to the Red Cross. Several English residents have devoted attention to the ornithology of the island. Mr. Baxendale, Commissioner of Famagusta, has formed an admirable collection of birds, the work of many years.

Camel's Flesh as Food.

An unusual event in the market at the capital has been the appearance of camel's flesh in butchers' shops. This meat is appreciated by many Turks, although it is not sold regularly, as, e.g., in Cairo. A camel is sometimes slaughtered on festive occasions. This species of food has, however, never become popular among the Greeks, and the innovation is not welcomed. One of the leading papers protests against the sale on grounds of "public health." If, it argues, the authorities cannot prevent the sale, let them at least provide that the camels slaughtered shall be healthy and not over-aged, and that there shall be no repetition of what is said to have occurred recently, when a permit was given to kill an animal of advanced age and suspiciously "high" condition. Also the vendors should be compelled to inform their customers, and to have a notice posted in their shops, so that purchasers may not become the "victims of error, or ignorance, as was lately the case with many, who, as they assure us, bought camel's flesh thinking it was beef."

Loss of the "Persia."

News of the sinking of this liner was received with deep regret. It is believed that a heavy mail to Cyprus was on board, containing letters of the mail December 17 to December 24, and papers up to December 22. It is not surprising that Cyprus mails should leave and arrive with less than usual regularity. Trade is still hampered; for, while there is a good demand for Cyprus produce, difficulties are caused by higher freights and other circumstances referred to lately. Communication between Greece and Egypt is said to be suspended owing to the prohibitive price of coal.

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THE SUDAN: THEN AND NOW.

(From a Correspondent.)

Seventeen years have passed since the signing of the Sudan Convention—January 19, 1899—between the British Government and the Government of the then Khedive, and it is permissible at this, perhaps the most critical, stage of the Sudan's political history, to ask how far the promise then held forth has been redeemed. The placid condition of the country might in itself afford a sufficiently eloquent reply, the latest official efforts to hand showing that the whole people are remaining absolutely quiet and unaffected by either the repeated attempts to stir up discontent among them or the threat of the invasion first of Egypt and then of the Sudan.

The determination by the responsible authorities that, once restored to Egypt, the Sudan should not be governed as Egypt had been governed has proved its salvation. There have been no hampering Capitulations, no Mixed Tribunals, and no Consular Courts with their interminable and perplexing claims for special privileges, exempting from ordinary obligations, and the numerous abuses and injustices to which these and other demands had led. The system of administration adopted at the outset, and persevered with until now, for the regulation of the conquered province has proved the best that could possibly have been selected. The treaty above referred to was the able work of the late Marquis of Salisbury, an undisputed administrative genius, and the present Earl of Cromer, the latter, by personal experience gained in Egypt and the Sudan, having been enabled to avoid the inclusion of anything likely to prove antagonistic to the people of the Sudan or to give rise to friction with the resident aliens.

Above all has been the strict regard for the religious susceptibilities of the people, and the studious observance of their privileges. Whatever qualms or misgivings the Sudanese may have felt upon passing under the control of Christian rulers were dispelled by Lord Cromer's assurance: "There will be no interference whatever with your religion." There has been none; neither, sensitive and excitable as the people are, has the dreaded religious question yet occasioned any feelings of disappointment to Moslem subjects, or any great anxiety to their Christian governors. A sufficiently severe test has been applied of late by the preaching of a "Holy War" at the instigation of the Germans; and nothing could have fallen more flat or have proved more ineffectual so far as the people of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan are in question. It is, therefore, timely to recall the memorable words used by Lord Cromer at Omdurman on January 5, 1899, when, addressing an assembly of Sudanese sheikhs and notables, he said:—"No attempt will be made to govern your country from Cairo, still less from London. You must look to the Sirdar alone for justice and good government; and I do not doubt that you will have no cause for disappointment." These encouraging words have been followed by honest deeds, and it would be difficult to find a people more thoroughly contented with their government than the Sudanese to-day. They have found their rulers animated by a spirit of justice and moderation entirely different from anything of the kind experienced by them or their forbears in former times.

ISLAM AND HUMANITY.

Speaking at a dinner given last Saturday by the Islamic Society of London, in honour of the anniversary of the birth of Mohammed, Dr. S. H. R. Abdul Majid, president of the society, said that one of the principal things which had been impressed upon him by the study of Islamism was that it was pure democracy. In so far as the system of government in England was democratic, it was founded upon the principles and teachings of Islam. There were those who saw in Islamism a combination of Judaism and Christianity, but while he did not acquiesce in that opinion he was inclined to believe that there really was no very material difference between the essential doctrines of Islam and of Christianity, except in regard to the dogma of the Trinity. Islamism was a humane religion, and so was Christianity, but the practices of some of the professedly Christian nations engaged in the present world-war were the negation of the humane principles of their faith. He could imagine nothing more barbarous or inhumane than the raids of Zeppelins on towns or the sinking of passenger ships by submarines.

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

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A FLIGHT FROM NISH.

The following letter from our Correspondent formerly in Belgrade, has only just reached us, though it is dated October 24. It is forwarded from a town in Greece by a doctor, to whom it was entrusted by our Correspondent, and who, in a covering letter dated December 7, writes:—

"About five weeks ago I met at Kralievo, in Serbia, your correspondent, Mr. ——, who had come on there from Tchachak, the place of his last refuge. As he was not strong enough to follow the further retreat of the Serbian army, and communication with Salonika was interrupted, he requested me to accept the enclosed letter, and post it as soon as I should feel sure that it will reach you. So I took it with me on my troublesome journey through Albania, and, as I am obliged to stay here for a day or two in order to rest, will give it now to a reliable gentleman who leaves to-morrow for Salonika. Mr. —— told me at Kralievo that he would go back to Tchachak in order to expect there the further development of events."

We are much obliged to the writer, who will, we trust, see these lines. Unfortunately we have no further news of our Correspondent.

TCHACHAK (Serbia), October 24.

The routes from Nish to the north, south, and east frontiers of Serbia are barred, the direct communications in each case broken, with the result that the inhabitants who would seek escape from any place likely to be invaded find themselves caged, shut in on all sides, unable to flee from the approaching danger. On the south the Bulgarian troops have seized several Serbian frontier positions in the new Serbian Macedonian territories, and are endeavouring to advance into Serbia proper. On the north the Austro-German troops have taken possession of Belgrade and converted Serbia's modern capital into an Austrian provincial town, the newspapers being printed in the German, Hungarian, and Croate or Serbian languages, and the postal and telegraphic communication with Vienna being in perfect working order. They also entered Serbia by Semendria and at other points on the Danube and at several spots on the Sava. In some places they are held in check by the Serbian troops, and in other parts they progress slowly.

All along the lines, north, east, and south, the battle rages with unabated fury, and the numerous wounded soldiers daily transported to Nish, Kragujevatz, and other towns provided with hospitals testify to the intensity of the fighting going on. The small Serbian army is split into two and has to combat against superior forces on both the north and south fronts.

The landing of the Allied British and French troops at Salonika, and their despatch to the aid of the Serbian army, though rapidly carried on, does not progress so quickly as the urgency of the situation demands. The time required for bringing, landing, and concentrating the Allied forces creates a fear among the distressed people lest the help may come too late.

Nish has been overcrowded with fugitives who fled from Belgrade, Valievo, and other Serbian towns, but now the people are fleeing from Nish towards the central part of Serbia, where they find themselves fixed. To go further north would be to approach the Austro-German forces, and in the south the Bulgarian army is advancing.

On the railway lines they are working at high pressure for war requirements, and passenger trains experience unbearable delays. Coming from Nish to Tchachak we proceed by the main line running to Belgrade as far as Stalatz, a distance of three hours by rail, where there is a branch line running west passing through Krushevatz, Kralievo, and Tchachak. The train by which I travelled from Nish to this town was crowded. To secure a seat I arrived at the railway station three hours before the time of departure, and was seated in the railway carriage one hour before the train started. When we set off there was no longer standing room in any of the compartments of the train.

A tedious journey it was! Leaving Nish at 8 p.m., I arrived at Stalatz at 12 midnight, and there should have been a train to continue the journey to Tchachak at ten in the morning, but the passengers, after passing the early hours at Stalatz in an over-crowded waiting-room or in the open air in a drizzling rain, had to remain the whole of the day until 10 p.m.—altogether twenty-two hours' exposure and fatigue—before resuming the journey on the branch line to a place of supposed greater security. The main line for many days was almost blocked. Military trains conveying troops, material, and wounded soldiers were constantly passing to and from the north front, and these trains, for which the train on the branch line waited, arrived, as they often do, ten to twelve hours overdue.

Most of the fugitives coming from Nish carried with them a small portion of their wardrobe, but there were some who had come from Belgrade having nothing but the clothes they were wearing.

The experiences of these poor Belgrade fugitives were indeed terrible. In Belgrade for three days they and all the other inhabitants had to endure a terrible bombardment of the town. The enemy posted heavy guns behind the heights of Bezhania (in Hungary, a long distance from Belgrade), beyond the reach of the Serbian guns, which were of smaller bore and carried shorter distances; and poured a torrent of shells, falling every two or three minutes, from a hundred guns, now on one part, now on another, of the devoted city. In many instances the shells and shrapel did not fall one foot apart, demolishing buildings, killing and maiming all living creatures within reach, setting fire to the houses, and producing ruin in entire districts.

The Belgrade fortress was battered and knocked to pieces. Of the French batteries, some were broken and some rendered useless, the British big guns were repeatedly upset, and as often replaced in position and refired; and great was the destruction executed by the Allied gunners. They poured a devastating fire upon the ranks of the enemy, and of the four Austrian monitors, one was sunk and one disabled. The valour of the British gunners and the accuracy of their fire exceeded all expectations.

But, under cover of their own fire, where nothing could live, it was possible for the Austro-German troops to effect a landing. A German soldier, when taken prisoner, stated that the Germans never expected to meet with resistance after such a cannonading, but, to their surprise, they were met on landing with a bayonet charge by Serbian troops.

For three days the German and Austrian troops fought their way in the town of Belgrade from street to street. Obstinately fighting, the inferior Serbian forces fell back foot by foot, and only when the enemy forces had reached the central part of the town, where the theatre stands, did the Serbians beat a hasty retreat towards the heights of Torloch. There they made another determined stand.

Amidst the falling houses and in the streets many women and children were killed. Thousands tried to escape; many met their death in the attempt, many were wounded, but many succeeded in getting away uninjured.

Sad tales are told by fugitives who arrived at Nish.

Two German aeroplanes hovered over Belgrade, and, circling over the roads outside the town, through which the fugitives were fleeing, indicated the positions to the enemy batteries, which poured a storm of shells amidst the flying people. Civilians and military, men, women, and children, hastened by the sides of the roads, seeking the protection of the straggling houses so far as buildings extended.

They were nearly all on foot, with here and there a cab or cart procured at exorbitant expense by some wealthy refugees, but which did not always ensure their lives, as in some cases drivers and passengers alike lost their lives in the attempt to escape from destruction.

INTERESTING HISTORICAL PARALLELS.

Speaking at King's College last Wednesday on "The War and the Problems of Empire," Mr. Sidney Low said that two centuries ago a plan was laid before Louis XIV. for the conquest of Egypt and Asia Minor. This conquest, it was maintained, was the best and easiest way by which any European Power could attain the domination of the world and destroy the Empire of Britain. A century and a-quarter ago the same scheme was conceived by the imagination of Napoleon, and an attempt was made to carry it into practice by the invasion of Egypt and Syria. The same plan on a larger and more formidable scale was being attempted at the present moment, and if it could succeed (which it could not) the effect would be to shatter the British Empire and to destroy its cohesion and security.

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THE MASSACRES OF SIVAS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Tiflis, January 1.

Within the last few days there have come to light some new revelations regarding the horrible massacres of Armenians in the province of Sivas. Murad of Sivas, a well-known leader in the Armenian movement, and some of his comrades, after struggling for the last eight months against enormous odds, when all was over fought their way out from Sivas to the Black Sea, north-west of Samsoun, and sailed for Batoum, the Russian port, after a thrilling "naval battle" with the Turks.

"A Rehearsal of Massacres."

An interview which Murad gave to me adds something yet more dreadful to the indictment which the civilised world ought to bring against Turkey. The tale of the preliminary phases of the persecutions in Sivas, as recounted by Murad, sounds like a rehearsal of the massacres carried out in many other provinces in Turkey, with one difference—that in Sivas there was one, Muamer Pasha, a bloodthirsty Governor of the Enver Pasha type. The tragedy began with ruthless military requisitions throughout the province, which weighed heavily upon the Armenians in particular. This was followed by endless quarrels over the question of Armenian deserters from the Turkish Army. The Divisional Commander of Sivas gave an order in January last that reservists above thirty-three years of age liable to service might get a permit for temporary exemption; but Muamer Pasha, the Governor, regarded men benefiting by the above order as deserters from the Army.

Fiendish methods were employed by the Turks in disarming the Armenian element, and brigands of the lowest type were utilized for the purpose. With a view to compelling the Armenians of Khourokhon, for instance, to give up their arms, Turks actually shod one, Harutiun, like a horse, and a peasant was done to death by placing a red-hot iron crown on his head.

Sivas lying on the main caravan road from Angora (the terminus of the Anatolian railway) to Erzeroum, the great fortress in Armenia, there was from the beginning of the war an uninterrupted movement of troops. The billeting of these Turkish soldiers upon the Armenian families caused great suffering to the population. Like famished wolves, they consumed everything they found, and they outraged every woman they saw. In the village of Ketcheurd alone, east of Sivas, six good-looking women were so ill-treated by soldiers that they succumbed before the very eyes of their torturers.

Treatment of Russian Prisoners.

In last March some 1,700 Russian prisoners, captured on the Trans-Caucasian front, were brought to Sivas under horrible circumstances. On their way to Sivas they were grossly insulted, spat on by passers-by, and whipped by their Turkish escort. Half of their number reached Sivas almost naked, covered with filthy rags, their feet swollen, and in some cases their sheepskin coat glued to their sore bodies. Armenians organized medical help and comforts for these unfortunate Russians; elementary humanity which, however, elicited considerable resentment among Moslems. The Governor then organized a plot against the leaders of the Armenian people. His aides-de-camp had already killed the Armenian Bishop Odabashian; now he wished to dispose of Murad and his comrades. The latter, however, informed by Turkish friends, did not fall into the trap, and defied the Governor's order.

Fiendish Cruelties.

In the last week of June and early in July, massacres on a large scale began throughout the province. All the male adult population were led away from their women and herded together into camps or prisons, and then massacred in small batches in some neighbouring valley. At Maltepe, an hour's ride east of Sivas, twenty Armenian officials in the Government service were hacked to pieces. At Habesh, east of Sivas, 3,800 Armenians of the neighbourhood were pole-axed, bayoneted, or stoned in blood-curdling circumstances. At Khorasan, the headman of the village, named Nigoghos, was hanged head downwards on a bridge. At Gotni, a village containing 120 Armenian families, bands of criminals released from prison gloried in the exploit of having killed every male above twelve and outraged every female above the same age.

The women of Malatia were stripped naked and, amid the gibes and jeers of the rabble, were led on their way into the Mesopotamian desert. Many of these unfortunate women actually went mad; others employed painful means to end their lives. It would be possible to prolong this tale of fiendish cruelties, but it will suffice to say that the Armenians of Shabin-Karahissar and Amasia, exasperated by the savagery of the Turks, retaliated upon them by burning down the Moslems' quarters and Government buildings. The Armenians of Gurin, Divrig, Mandjalik, etc., fought for days against considerable numbers of Moslem hordes, and treated the enemy in the manner they were treated before. Mademoiselle Sirpouhi Tufekjian, a nineteen-year-old graduate of the American College at Marsovan, refused to save herself by embracing Islam; she would have nothing to do with the murderers of her father, whereupon she and seventeen other Armenian girls were brutally ill-treated by Turks and afterwards killed near a bridge at Herag.

The sum total of these massacres carried out throughout the province of Sivas and the subsequent deportations to south of Euphrates appears to stand at the frightful figure of 150,000 Armenians killed or deported; and, given the circumstances of deportation of these hopeless people, it would seem to be inevitable that death must have overtaken them all by now.

THE SOUTHERN SLAV QUESTION.

Speaking last Monday at University College, London, Dr. Seton Watson said that the Southern Slav question was the result of the movement for unity between the three western branches of the Southern Slav race, Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, the fourth branch, the Bulgarians, standing apart for the present. The idea that the question could be solved on a purely Serb basis was as absurd as the other idea, held in Austria-Hungary, that it could be solved on a purely Croat basis: it could only be solved on the Jugo-Slav basis. This movement for Southern Slav national unity underlay all the various phases of the last ten years of conflict between Austria-Hungary and Serbia; it had given to Serbia the rôle of a Slavonic Piedmont; and it was still permissible to hope that the present war would end for her in a similar way to that in which the war for Italian unity ended for Piedmont in 1859.

Serbia and Montenegro were occupied by between four and five millions of Serbs, but seven or eight million people of the same and kindred races lived in Hungary. The Serbs and their kinsmen had occupied their present territories since the seventh century. They had been Christianised at a time when the Greek and Roman Churches were temporarily in communion with each other, but when the schism reappeared the Serbs had been drawn towards Byzantium and the Croats and other more westerly branches of the Jugo-Slav race towards Rome. These western branches had lived under the rule of the House of Hapsburg since the battle of Kossovo, when Serbia passed under the heel of the Turk. An awakening of the national spirit among them had come in the early part of the nineteenth century, when Napoleon founded the short-lived State of Illyria; and this spirit had developed under the influence of various remarkable men—poets, agitators, and priests, both Greek and Roman Catholic. It had been opposed by most unscrupulous methods on the part of the Hungarian Government, notably by the trial for high treason of fifty-three Serbs some years ago. The basis of the trial was the attempt to prove the existence of widespread revolutionary plots in Croatia for the union of Croatia and Serbia, and in that way to provide a case for Austria-Hungary in the military action which she contemplated as the result of the annexation of Bosnia in the preceding autumn of 1908. The attempt was to implicate Serbian official circles. The trial lasted seven months, and the behaviour of judge and public prosecutor gave rise to the most unheard-of scandals. There had been nothing like it since the days of Judge Jeffreys.

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BULGARIA'S DEBT TO RUSSIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Odessa, December 14.

The Bulgarian Committee of Odessa has issued an "Appeal to the Bulgarian Nation," of which the following is the substance:—

Dear Fellow-countrymen,—Forty years ago, in 1876, when the waters of the Maritza were stained with the innocent blood of numberless Bulgarian fathers, of pitilessly butchered mothers, and of infants torn from their mothers' breasts and bayoneted; when our land was pillaged, drenched in blood, and was forgotten and forsaken by all; in those days of suffering only the Slavonian Mother—Holy Russia—from the banks of the Neva cried to the criminals to stop. She marched with the Cross to the assistance of her suffering Bulgar-brothers. The immortal Tsar-Liberator, the Emperor Alexander II., acted in unity with his people. Never was the national spirit of Russia so overwhelmingly expressed as in that bloody epoch. And at the gates of Tzarigrad—predestined by history to be the centre of united Slavdom—on February 19, 1878, in the ashes of the remains of our country and over the bones of hundreds of thousands of Russian heroes, Bulgaria was born after five centuries of oppressive Turkish slavery.

The hundreds of thousands of Russian heroes who sacrificed their lives for fraternal Bulgaria marked with their blood the right course for the Bulgarian nation—the only one that guarantees to it its place amongst the family of Slav nations—of travelling with its great Liberator on the road to the unity of all the Slav races.

In this sacred covenant the eternal enemy of the Slavonian races—the Germans—saw a danger for their immoral interests. They energetically rose up against the political integrity of Bulgaria. They never tired of sowing discord amongst Bulgarians with the one object of deflecting us from our political course and morally weakening us.

Fellow-countrymen, you, faithful to the sacred covenant of the immortal sons of Russia, who marked out for us our historical road in our new political life—you, following up this course two years ago, succeeded in realizing the political reunion of the Bulgarian nation. The world was astonished at the triumphant march of the sons of Bulgaria, who broke the military might of the Turkish Empire, which military critics thought impossible of fulfilment by the united Balkan nations.

Fortress after fortress fell before the armies of the allied nations. In the battles of Lozengrad, Lule Burgas, etc., etc., we witnessed unexampled heroism which brought the Bulgarian troops to the walls of Constantinople. The second capital of the Empire, Odrin, also fell before the Bulgarians. Bulgarian ideals were realised, Bulgaria fulfilled her sacred duty to the memory of those Russian heroes who gave her political existence, and together with whom the sons of Bulgaria fought on the heights of Shipka and freely sacrificed their lives for Bulgaria, the land of their birth. . . .

But, alas! in the day of the great triumph of Bulgaria and of Russia that evil genius, Ferdinand of Coburg, the representative of German interests, unhappily standing at the head of Bulgaria, following his own ambitious designs, in opposition to all human instincts and morals, destroyed the great fabric, the fruit of united Slav work. Against the nation's will he began the fratricidal war of 1913. The fatal word was spoken, and the evil genius of Bulgaria dug a grave for her. . . . The criminal Ferdinand remained unpunished, and, continuing his evil course, in alliance with Turks and Germans he decided finally to wrench Bulgaria from the motherly embrace of Russia, to strip her morally, to bury her existence as an independent Power. . . .

Russia, with tears and with moral suffering, prays for the blessing of God as she unsheathes her sword to punish the evil-doers and deliver her child, Bulgaria, from the chains of her Turco-German enemies, and to keep her within the family of Slavonian nations. Russian soldiers are coming to Bulgaria to fight, not against you, but against the Germans, Turks, and their allies, Ferdinand and his placemen. Receive with open arms the sons of your Liberators from the Turkish yoke, who, fulfilling the wishes of their heroic fathers, desire to free you from the present Turco-German slavery. Formerly your valiant fathers fought shoulder to shoulder with the Russian heroes on the heights of Shipka and elsewhere. Be you also valiant sons of the Bulgarian nation and join the ranks of the sons of your Liberators.

This, in the present fatal hour, is the only way to save the Bulgarian nation from spiritual treason to herself, her historical past, and the Russian heroes who disinterestedly and freely shed their blood in order to create Bulgaria. In this hour of suffering in the political life of Bulgaria, in consideration of its seventy years of activity on behalf of the political and social awakening of our native country, the Bulgarian Committee of Odessa considers it its duty now to appeal to your highest honour and with you to induce the unoffending sons of Bulgaria to withdraw from participation in the crime by means of which Ferdinand of Coburg hopes to change the face of Bulgaria and to bury for ever the Bulgarian race, and to consign him and his manipulators to the bottomless grave instead.

THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

ITALY AND VALONA.

There has been little activity in the Balkan theatre of the war during the past week.

Montenegro.

The fate of Montenegro has evidently been sealed—for the time being. It is by no means proved, however, that the remnants of the brave little army which defended its country to the last did not retire at the last moment into Northern Albania, though it appears likely that the Montenegrins as a whole capitulated, and are now living in their homesteads under the iron spur of the Hapsburgs. In any case, as pointed out previously, Montenegro as such ceases to be of military value, the only immediate help we can expect being from King Nicholas's troops now in Albania.

Albania.

It will be remembered that in our notes last week we urged on the Italian Government (if it had not already done so) to strengthen and fortify an enclave in Albania so as to render it impregnable. We pointed out that this was essential as tending to prevent the turning of the left flank of our position in Salonika, and also as a protection against an enemy incursion into Greece. It was, therefore, with great satisfaction that we learnt, towards the end of last week, that the Italian Cabinet had decided to fortify Avlona (Valona), and to hold it at all costs. Better late than never, and we can trust our Mediterranean Allies, now that a definite decision has been taken at Rome, to hasten and perfect the strengthening of the town. A glance at the map will show how an impregnable Salonika and a likewise impregnable Valona will tend to checkmate any further progress of the enemy in the direction of the Ionian and Ægean Seas.

In the meantime, there has been little fighting reported from Albania. Austrian aeroplanes made on the 31st ult. an aerial raid on Durazzo, corresponding with the raid on Salonika, but little damage seems to have been done. Essad Pasha's men are helping the Italians to fortify themselves in and around Valona, and doubtless Serbs and Montenegrins are concentrating in the same region. How far south of Scutari or west of the old Serbo-Albanian frontier the enemy have penetrated is at the moment unknown, but as the prevaricating Bôches, generally so adept at making a mountain out of a molehill, have not been able to magnify a single incident in Albania during the past week, we can take it for granted that they have not advanced in either direction more than a mile or two, perhaps even less.

The Enemy Campaign.

All interest centres at the present moment in the campaign to be begun by the enemy. The fact that the air-raid on Salonika coincided with a similar demonstration against Durazzo, and, the fact, moreover, that the week has passed quietly in Albania, seems to indicate that an attack is to be launched simultaneously against the two sectors. Latest news shows that the enemy are feverishly restoring the Ghevgheli-Strumnitza sector of the Vardar railway, destroyed by us during the historic retreat from Doiran; moreover, preparations are being made in the east to attack the Italian position in Albania. When, therefore, the way seems, to the German General Staff, to be clear in both sectors, the drive will be pushed forward and a desperate attempt will be made to deploy the troops as they advance. In other words, we are on the eve of witnessing an attempt on the part of the enemy to repeat in the Balkans the Hindenburg strategy of last summer in Courland. Von Mackensen, in charge of the Balkan campaign, has arrived in Monastir, where there has taken place a concentration of enemy troops, and it is from this centre that the attack will be launched towards the south-west, south, and south-east. Admittedly, other attacks will take place from secondary points along the enemy line extending from San Giovanni di Medua to Dedeagatch, but the nucleus of the enemy position, the centre of the semi-circle sweeping from Salonika to Valona, is at Monastir.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE BALKANS.*

During the Turco-Balkan War of 1912 Mr. Fox was war correspondent for the *Morning Post*, and afterwards, when the victorious allies fell out and took to fighting one another, he stayed on in the troubled area—apparently as a free lance. The volume under review gives the impressions he gathered at that time, and though it was written before the present war broke out and no attempt is made to touch upon the events immediately preceding the outbreak, it is a valuable and interesting book. Mr. Fox had opportunities of studying the peoples of the Balkans at a time when their best qualities were in evidence, and subsequently when their lowest feelings of greed and cruelty had been excited; he also met many prominent politicians and well-known men of action; and he shows himself a close observer and often a shrewd critic.

Like most people who have studied the question on the spot, he has reached the conclusion that the only real hope for the Balkans lies in sinking their long-standing rivalries, differences, bickerings and feuds and reconstituting the Balkan League on a broader basis. But he confesses that he "hardly dares to hope for such a happy ending to the long, miserable story of the Balkans"; and, of course, events that have happened since he penned this, the concluding sentence of his last chapter, have not helped to better the prospect. Nor can we, with the best will in the world, find much reason to hope that the "great man" who "could build up a greater Switzerland, perhaps, of the Slavs, the Greeks and the Roumanians in the Balkan Peninsula, with Great Britain, Russia and France as joint sponsors for the freedom of the new Federation," will be forthcoming. Indeed, the Balkans have always been unfortunate in the matter of statesmen, though they have produced many patriots.

The first half of the book is historical, chapter i. giving a sketch of the Balkan Peninsula from earliest times down to 1912, chapters ii. and iii. dealing with the period of the Turkish rule, chapters iv. and v. with the wars of 1812-13. The remaining five chapters are entitled "The Troubles of a War Correspondent in the Balkans," "Jottings from My Balkan Travel Book," "The Picturesque Balkans," "The Balkan Peoples in Art and Industry," and "The Future of the Balkans." The sketch of the early history is naturally a very slight one, but it will at least enable the uninitiated reader to form some idea of the number and variety of the conflicting causes that went to the making up of that Riddle of the Sphinx which has so long troubled the peace of Europe: the Balkan Question. The story is an interesting one, even in the compressed form in which it is given here; but it is hardly calculated to afford much satisfaction to the reader who hopes to find in it support for the theory that with the disappearance of the Turk from Europe all will be well with the troubled region. It appears, indeed, that as long as the Turk was strong his presence in the Peninsula was not an unmixed evil for its peoples. It was only when his powers began to wane that, conscious that Europe regarded him as an intruder—which he was—and affected to regard him as a tyrant and oppressor without redeeming qualities—which he was not—he began really to merit the bad opinion which the world had already formed of him. Then he began to massacre, and with the Hamidian régime he became "unspeakable" indeed. But even at his worst the Old Turk was never quite as black as he was painted, and when Mr. Fox writes (page 26) "The atrocities in Bulgaria which shocked Europe in 1875 were not the continuance of a settled policy of cruelty and rapine," he is stating a simple truth which it did not suit Europe to recognise at the time. Those massacres, which were horrible enough in all conscience, were the direct result of a Bulgarian rising, and—

> The Turks felt that they had been making an honest effort to promote the interests of the Bulgarian province. They had just satisfied a Bulgarian aspiration by allowing of the formation of an independent Bulgarian Church, though this meant giving grave offence to the Greeks. Probably they felt that they had a real grievance against the Bulgars.

Again (page 185), we find an incident which throws a curious light on this subject of "atrocities":—

> During my stay in the Balkans I found no evidence of Turkish cruelty. There was plenty of evidence offered by the Bulgarians, but it usually smelt of the lamp of some patriotic journalist of Sofia. Once, near Mustapha Pasha—when all the war correspondents were cooped up under strict censorship, prevented from seeing any of the operations around Adrianople—the Bulgarians found it necessary to burn a village for strategic reasons. The chance was offered to the Press photographers of seeing this, if it were represented in their pictures as the atrocious burning of a village by the Turks. I believe that the offer was accepted by some. The "atrocities" by Turks, regularly recorded by the Bulgarian Press Bureau, were, as far as the main theatre of operations was concerned, founded on similar evidence.

We are not likely to forget for some time that the Bulgarians have lately been accusing the Franco-British troops of "atrocities." Apparently the air of the Balkans is favourable to the growth of such charges, as it is favourable to intrigues in which, alas! questions of churches and schools play an all-too-prominent part—to the great loss of the unhappy peasants who make up the bulk of the population.

For these peasants Mr. Fox has a real liking; for the priests and politicians he has none. Thus we find him writing (pages 78, 79) of the Balkan statesmen:—

> There were some exceptions . . . . but as a rule they were men of very ordinary ability and very extraordinary conceit. Close association with them dissipated for a time the extremely good impression that Bulgarian, Serbian, Grecian, and Roumanian peasants and officials and traders had made on me.

And again (preface, page v.):—

> The Balkan peoples left me with a steady affection for the peasants and the common folk generally; a dislike and contempt, which made few exceptions, for the politicians and priests who governed their destinies.

The account given, in chapter iv., of the wars of 1912-13 is full of interest. The author is ungrudging in his praise of the manner in which the Bulgarian army was mobilized and the first operations of the campaign were carried out—"up to the point at which Adrianople was invested from the north, Kirk Kilisse captured, and the cavalry sent raiding southwise to attack the Turk's lines of communication." He considers, however, that "Kirk Kilisse . . . was a vastly over-rated fortress," and criticises the failure to press on with the capture of Adrianople instead of merely "masking" the city. He is of opinion, it must be added, that the hand of the Bulgarian generals was forced by political considerations, and that they were handicapped by their sappers being of stuff much inferior to their artillery. At Chatalja, too, they were undoubtedly seriously hampered by a shortage both of ammunition and of food; and, of course, "before the Peace Conference had actually begun its work, charges and counter charges of atrocities were bandied about between Bulgar and Greek." In such circumstances the wonder is not that Constantinople did not fall to the allies, but that they actually achieved what they did.

The chapter on the work—and worries—of the War Correspondent is full of interest at the present time, and it throws a good deal of light upon the methods of the Military Press Censor. Mr. Fox reminds us that it was in the Near East that the War Correspondent achieved some of his earliest and greatest successes, but he thinks that the Balkan War "probably will close the book." Certainly the Correspondent in the present War is of a new type; but we have yet to learn whether the author will be justified in his estimate when he writes:—

> Ko-Ko's account of the execution of Nankipoo (*sic*) is, in short, the model for the future war correspondent. The other sort of war correspondent, who patiently studied and recorded operations, seems to be doomed. In the nature of things it must be so. The more competent and the more accurate he is, the greater the danger he is to the army which he accompanies.

It would be easy to quote many entertaining passages from this chapter, but lack of space forbids. Nor can we do more than refer briefly to many other interesting topics touched on by the author. His description of the Bulgarian army's wonderful ox transport is capital, and his reference to the "fierce indignation" aroused in Bulgarian breasts when a French war correspondent compared the passage of a great train of these waggons with a passage of the Huns seems to have about it a prophetic touch! His comments on the sanitary services of the belligerents and the physique of the peasant soldiers will be read with quickened interest at the present time, as will those on the Bulgarian army's

* "The Balkan Peninsula." By Frank Fox. (A. and C. Black. 7s. 6d. net.)

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work in trench digging and so forth. But perhaps the general reader will find even more interesting the estimates of national character and the descriptions of leading men, such as Generals Dimitrieff and Savoff, and MM. Venizelos, Nikolitch, Take Jonescu, Gueshoff and Daneff. These are not, perhaps, marked by any great originality of view or expression; but they appear to be eminently sound upon the whole, and, being the result of personal observation, are of more value than certain more "brilliant" efforts.

In the spelling of proper names and foreign words Mr. Fox is not always satisfactory. Vranja, Vranje or Vranye we are accustomed to, but "Vranga" is new to us; "Venizuelos" instead of Venizelos (or Venezelos) is positively irritating; and "Bashi Bazouks," though sanctified by constant mis-usage, is almost equally so. The transposition of Enos and Midia which occurs on page 88 is a deplorable slip, which an examination of the sketch map included in the volume will not serve to check, neither place being indicated thereon. Taken all round, however, the book is emphatically a good one, and a word of special praise must be accorded to the illustrations, which are mostly well chosen and all admirably reproduced.

BOOK NOTES.

A book of interest is "The Foundation of the Ottoman Empire: A History of the Osmanlis up to the Death of Bayezid I. (1300-1403)," by Herbert Adams Gibbons, Ph.D. It is published by the Clarendon Press at the price of half-a-guinea. In his preface the author states: "This book is written because I feel that the result of my research brings a new point of view to the student of the twentieth-century problems of the Near East, as well as to those who are interested in fourteenth-century Europe."

It is a far cry from the Near East to Australia, but there appears to be good reason to suspect that in the remote past adventurous explorers from the region of the Persian Gulf found their way to Australasia, and not only explored but actually made some attempt to colonize near Port Darwin. It is thought that they coasted by way of Colombo and from the Malayan peninsula by the Indonesian Bridge by Timor, right to the spot. There is here an attractive theme for an author to handle, particularly in the form of a novel, and the well-known writer "Coo-ee" is dealing with it in his new book, "Koi."

Part VIII. of "The Great World War: A History," edited by Frank A. Mumby, and published by the Gresham Publishing Co., contains "The Campaign in Mesopotamia" and "With Sir Ian Hamilton in Gallipoli," by the Editor, and "The Navy in the Dardanelles—Second Phase," by David Hannay.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

L'Unité Yougoslave: Manifeste de la Jeunesse Serbe, Croate et Slovène réunie. Avec une Preface de M. le Professeur T. G. Masaryk. (Plon-Nourrit, Paris. 1 fr.)

Palestine and the Powers. (The Intention and Aims of Russia, Germany, Britain and Turkey regarding the Zionist Movement, in the Light of Prophecy.) By Frank G. Jannaway. Maps and photographs. (Elliot Stock. 3s. 6d. net.)

ALLIES HONOUR SERBIA.

Under date of January 27, Reuter's Paris correspondent reports:—A demonstration by the Allies in honour of Serbia was held in the Sorbonne to-day in the presence of President Poincaré, the Ambassadors and Ministers of the Allies, and representatives of all the State bodies. In order to give the meeting as international an aspect as possible, speeches were made by representatives of all the Allied nations.

M. Vesnitch, the Serbian Minister, said: "It is not Great Britain who will fail in keeping her promises. Great Britain has known us ever since Richard Cœur de Lion received our hospitality and caused to be built for us a most beautiful church on the spot where our ancestors had saved him from shipwreck on his way back from the Crusades. Great Britain has always been the champion of the liberty of national autonomies."

M. Barthou, the ex-Premier, declared that the cause of Serbia was that of Russia, just as the cause of Belgium was that of Great Britain. M. Barthou said the restoration of Serbia, the deliverance of Belgium, the liberty of Poland, and the restitution of Alsace Lorraine were essential conditions of peace, for without them peace would be neither honourable nor lasting.

Sir Thomas Barclay said that England did not rest content with expressing sympathy and speaking kind words. The maintenance of small countries against absorption by great States was the century-long foreign policy of Great Britain. "We cannot stand aside to-day and be indifferent witnesses," he said, "of the crushing of peoples who have acquired the right to live by their capacity to govern themselves properly. The idea of Germany to impose on other States its Kultur because it had succeeded on its own soil, is profoundly repugnant to us. We wish to see Serbia remain Serbia. That will be one of the objects of the present war with the approval of the whole English people."

LUTHER'S "HYMN OF HATE."

By Estelle Blyth.

Not long ago I was hunting through an old book, picked up secondhand at the seaside. It is called "Exotics," and is a collection of "Spiritual Songs," translated from the old German and Italian by George MacDonald into English verse, which is surely not less beautiful and melodious than the original. It is chiefly a selection from the spiritual and mystical songs of Novalis and of Martin Luther, and half-way through the book I came upon what the Monk of Wittenberg has called "A Children's Song, to Sing Against the Two Arch-enemies of Christ and His Holy Church—the Pope and the Turks." It is quite a nice little hymn, of which I quote two out of the three verses, the third being only the Ascription of Praise without which no ancient hymn was ever ended:—

> Lord, keep us by thy word in hope,
> And check the murder of Turk and Pope,
> Who Jesus Christ, thine only Son,
> Fain would tumble from off thy throne.
>
> Proof of thy might, Lord Christ, afford,
> For thou of all the lords art Lord;
> Thy own poor Christendom defend,
> That it may praise thee without end.

That is quite a good Hymn of Hate in its way, but what a gulf separates it from the Hymn of Hate that Germans trumpet forth so lustily to-day, and from the parrot-cry of "Gott strafe England," that is taught to the small Teuton in the nursery. Germany has strayed somewhat widely from the paths of Luther. The pious Teuton has always been so fond of dinning Luther's praises into the ears of whoever could not escape—much in the same way that the average American cannot keep the amazing excellence of George Washington out of either his conversation or his magazines; both Teuton and American being in the somewhat lonely position of having but one outstanding national hero, the old world has listened with toleration and politeness. However, Germany has now crowded Bismarck and Bernhardi on to the pedestal where Martin Luther has stood for over three centuries in solitary glory.

Lo! what a change is here. The two chosen friends and allies of Protestant Germany to-day are just those whom Luther bluntly called "the Arch-enemies of Christ and His Holy Church"—Latin Austria and the Turk. When the Kaiser came to Palestine eighteen years ago, amongst the high Turkish officials sent from Constantinople to attend upon him everywhere was that Djevad Pasha whose hands were scarcely dry after certain horrid deeds done in Crete; but this was the man whom the Kaiser picked out of his Turkish suite to attend him constantly; he went nowhere without him. And now we hear from German sources of the unholy bribe he has offered to the Pope for his passive acquiescence in a war wherein thousands of Roman Church-people are killed, and wronged, insulted, robbed, and tortured almost daily—namely, the bribe of the restoration of temporal power to the Papacy in Palestine, and the holding of the holy places at Jerusalem. No doubt the Pope will reject such an impudent offer; but that does not exonerate the Kaiser, who is so generous with other men's goods, including those of his allies. Certainly, he provides us with what grim humour there is to be found in this ghastly war.

On the whole, I think that Martin Luther's little Hymn of Hate, though somewhat mediæval in character, is a cleaner thing than the Hymn of Hate as sung by his compatriots to-day. A good deal might be said on this subject, but I forbear; for though Martin Luther once threw ink at the devil, I am not going to imitate him—nor any other German.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I hope the appeal made by Mr. Greenway on behalf of Mrs. Marling's Fund for the supply of comforts to the men of the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force will meet with a prompt and generous response from the public. Some time ago—as some of my readers may remember—I referred to the subject in these columns and mentioned that officers with the Tigris force had said that their men were well supplied, thanks to friends in India. But the Mesopotamian affair has grown enormously since the letter on which I based my former note was written, and I feel sure that every penny subscribed to Mrs. Marling's fund will be welcome and—what is quite as much to the point—will be laid out to the best possible advantage for the men who are now fighting such an uphill fight amidst most deplorable conditions. When all was going well in this theatre of the war the British public paid little attention to the doings of the force—after the manner of the B.P., which takes such things as advances as a matter of course. Now that General Townshend is beleaguered at Koot we hear far more of him and his gallant little force than ever we did in the days of their wonderful progress up-river. We may have our own opinions about the circumstances that have led to the changed aspect of affairs; but there can be no two opinions about the debt we owe to the M.E.F. Mrs. Marling's Fund gives us an opportunity to show our appreciation of the fine achievement of the British and Indian troops in Mesopotamia, and the obvious thing for us to do is to take the chance, with thanks to Mrs. Marling for giving it to us.

***

I see that a lady clerk has been appointed to a position in the Ministry of Education, Cairo. I wonder who is responsible for this innovation, and why? I have considered the idea carefully and it likes me not. In England it is well enough, but England is so different. The appointment, if, as I have not the slightest doubt will be the case, the lady does well, will probably be followed up by others of the same kind. A new scheme of things will be introduced—a scheme which, to my mind, is foreign and should remain foreign to Egypt. It is possible, though, that the feminine element has been introduced into the Ministry only because the rush to the colours has left the Department short of male workers, and, if so, there is nothing more to be said. *Any* change is justified if it gives one more *fit* man to the services, and thus hastens us along the road to victory. But when again we settle down to calm days of peace let us restaff the Egyptian Ministries with male workers alone. A thousand reasons prompt me to insist upon the advisability of this.

***

The results of the bomb-dropping at Salonika by a Zeppelin airship have not been made officially public; but if the military importance of this event is no greater in the East than it was at home this week our authorities will have good cause for sneers. I had almost written "amusement" instead of "sneers," but after all there is, to the English mind at least, no cause for amusement in slaughter. The *Boches* are however, cast in a different mould. The slaughter of the innocents in Paris has been marked by the demonstrations of a cheering crowd at Berlin. I am glad that the aged inventor of the airship which bears his name was not at home when the cheering scum appeared before his house. By the time that the war is over we will have few Germans to remember by their untarnished fame. Let us give Count Zeppelin the benefit of the doubt, and imagine him responsible only for his invention, and guiltless of the murderous use to which it is put.

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From the morass of Germany's degradation it is quite cheerful to turn to one deed of our enemy which is apparently free from the stain of innocent blood. On the broad, clean waters of the Atlantic a German raider has appeared, and by the capture of a liner has added a chapter of romance to the full volume of the sea. The commander of the raider appears to have acted with due regard to the dictates of common humanity, and although this trait in his character may not commend itself to Berlin, it is good to be able to add one more name to the short list of uniformed Germans who can claim to be regarded as men. I hope that the end of this gentleman's career at sea will leave him with as clean a record as that of his predecessor, von Müeller.

***

In the illustrated papers I see pictures of a troupe of Serbian players who are making a round of Scottish towns. Dressed in the national costume of their country, they are reported to be drawing good houses; the natural sympathy of the Briton with members of a suffering race is standing them in good stead. Where they came from before they sprang into fame before the footlights of the bigger music-halls I know not, neither do I know whether their advent was before or after the declaration of war. The photograph shows the troupe to number eight—two men, two women, two children, a boy and a monkey—and I take it that they are, with the exception of the monkey, members of one family. I wonder if their coming is to be the herald of other similar troupes in the future. In the old days companies of strolling players were common enough in our country places, but cheap railway fares making it easy for the villagers to enjoy the larger entertainments of the towns the wandering minstrel has gradually disappeared. Perhaps we may look for his resurrection now.

***

Some weeks ago I referred to the *Exmouth Express*, a lively journal published on H.M.S. Exmouth, and mentioned an adaptation of "The Jackdaw of Rheims" which had appeared therein. I also remarked that I should much like to have an opportunity of reading the complete poem, the Jackdaw being an old favourite of mine. Now, thanks to the kindness of a reader, my wish has been gratified, and I am glad to say that I find the verses quite up to sample. I hope the Editor of the *E.E.* will not be very wroth if I quote the opening lines:—

> King Constantine sat in his chair of state
> To decide on a policy big with fate.
> Counsellors, Ministers, all were there,
> But a little bird perched on the back of his chair
> And chirruped, I fear, in the Royal ear
> Certain words, which none else were intended to hear,
> Which caused him to take up an attitude queer.

The "bird," one is hardly surprised to find, "represents Kaiser William." Its fate, at the hands of "a Man"—"he spoke to the King and, his methods were terse, He caused that Bad Bird to entirely disperse"—is tragic, if not lamentable. And the Moral is above suspicion:—

> By way of a moral, if I may remark,
> It isn't a good thing to work in the dark;
> Don't send your advisers away. In a word,
> Have nothing to do with any dark *Bird*.
> And lastly, the proverb's as old as it's true—
> Be off with the old ere you're on with the new.

***

Parts of the *Exmouth Express* are not to be understood by a mere rover like myself, but it is a joyous production, and seems to suggest that there is a good deal of fun to be had "somewhere down the Mediterranean." (The Censor will kindly note that I do *not* state that the Exmouth is, was, or ever will be anywhere near the Mediterranean. Even though I have seen Mr. Norman Wilkinson's book I regard such evidence as a picture of "H.M.S. Exmouth in Kephalo Harbour" as merely a clever bit of bluff, skilfully designed to mislead the Enemy.) What I chiefly envy the Editor and his talented staff is the facilities they enjoy for collecting—and publishing—information denied to stay-at-home *confrères*. One political note begins: "The profound significance of the momentous events which hourly involve the sinuous coils of an involved skein of secret history before the bewildered eyes of our wondering readers cannot fail to become apparent when observed with that clarity of vision which befits the impartial spectator." It is a gem worthy of the expertest of our Home experts, and it reads equally well backwards, forwards, or from top to bottom.

***

A correspondent sends me a cutting from a Sunday paper in which the writer of certain notes begins one paragraph with the remark, "So Erzerum means 'fortress of Rome.'" My correspondent, who is an Oriental scholar, comments: "Erzerum is no doubt a fortress, but its name does *not*

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mean 'Fortress of Rome.' *Erze* is the Turkish way of pronouncing the Arabic *ardd*, which means 'land,' and *roum* is the plural of *Roumi*, the name by which the Arabs designated the Greek masters of Constantinople. . . . Therefore Erzeroum means 'Land of the Greeks.'" I am obliged to my correspondent. But I would respectfully suggest to him that we should more correctly render the name as indicating "Soil of the Greeks"—with a shade of meaning attaching to it of "Greek territory"—rather than "Land of the Greeks," which to the average English mind would imply "Country of the Greeks."

***

A total eclipse of the sun is advertised to take place to-day, but as I write the sun appears to have made a masterly movement of retreat, and is anyway determined to give the Londoner no chance of prying into its affairs. I console myself with the knowledge that at the best the phenomenon will be only partial in England, and as I was fortunate enough to be at Wadi-Halfa, in the Sudan, on the occasion of the last eclipse, I know what it is like. I remember that day well because I had to break a window that had been the joy of my existence in order to obtain fair glass to smoke. I recollect, too, the incredulity of the natives when I informed them that the world would darken before its time that day. At Assuan, some distance further north, the eclipse was total; at Wadi-Halfa a tiny crescent remained like the most slender moon in a sky of grey. The whole world became grey: I remember that effect so well. Even the desert took on a leaden hue quite different from anything I had ever seen before. And the natives from their incredulity coming to anxiety through astonishment, and passing again to relief as they felt the sun's returning glow—the whole thing is a very vivid memory. To-day in modern Babylon it is pleasant to recall such scenes. I suppose there are thousands of Englishmen at this moment wishing that they were in London—I wish I were anywhere else.

***

In the "Press on the Near East" page of this paper I noticed extracts from an article by Mr. Ignatius Phayre the other day. Now, I have read this article, and in it I find references to a gentleman whom I have previously mentioned in these columns, Baron Max von Oppenheim to wit. Says Eyoub of Mr. Phayre's article, in speaking of the Baron:—

> He had Ministerial rank in Cairo; he ran the German Agency and set the Nile on fire with anti-British machinations. Baron Max was here on Baghdad Railway business. I met him again at Port Sudan with a general in his train, an ex-admiral too, and Dr. Pruefer, his Oriental secretary, to whom the Panislamic lot look up—the Hisb el Watani leaders, Sheikh Shawish, Mohammed Farid, and the rest. Last I heard of Pruefer he was dictating recipes for bombs to the "Extreme" young men!

And so the tale goes on. I wonder if our Intelligence Department ever guessed what Oppenheim was doing? Later the Baron journeyed to the Khabur to exhume Hittite statues in his spare moments, and to attend to other little businesses of his own in which his country might be interested. I wonder where he is now? Somewhere, it is safe to say, where his exceptional knowledge of Arabic will stand him in good stead.

CORSAIR.

THE EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND.

A lecture of unusual interest and charm was recently delivered under the *ægis* of the Egypt Exploration Fund by Mr. Aylward M. Blackman, M.A., at the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington Gardens.

Mr. Blackman took as his subject "The Old Kingdom," the name given to the period covered from the Third to the Sixth Dynasties. In a previous lecture ending with the Second Dynasty he had shown how, out of the conglomeration of barbarous communities, arose the United Kingdom of Upper and Lower Egypt, the first civilised nation in the history of the world, and explained how Egypt attained this position by the invention of copper implements, culture having rapidly advanced when once the significance of this momentous discovery had been grasped.

After an interesting description of the gradual development in the structure of tombs, which led to the construction of the Pyramids of Giza, and a dissertation upon these "wonders of the world," the lecturer went on to give a graphic description of the highly organised system of government which exemplifies well the civilisation of the Old Kingdom. He explained the procedure of court and the gradual evolution of a feudal system which, by the assumption by local governors of hereditary rights and their steady increase in power, was firmly established by the Sixth Dynasty and continued until the reign of Sesostris III., of the Twelfth Dynasty. Through it the Old Kingdom gradually came to an end, its slow decline being reflected in the growing greatness of the provincial nobles at the expense of the central authority.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

THE ARABS AND THE WAR.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The Egyptian correspondent who in your issue of last week was dissatisfied with what he calls the negative attitude of the Egyptian Arab Sheikhs towards the war, overlooks the fact that no one goes to fight without an object in view, and also that these Arab Sheikhs are not free agents, but Egyptian subjects. Helping the British to defend Egypt would certainly be an object near to their hearts, but the British Government has said that it will not call upon Egypt for assistance.

There is, however, to my mind a subjective reason for Egypt to wish to draw the sword, and that is, her own dignity and sense of chivalry in view of the misery in which she finds her brothers in Syria and Asia Minor under the cruel government of a worthless Turkish clique sold body and soul to Germany. Let us hope that if H.H. Sultan Hussein chooses to do so, our Government will put no obstacles in his way and will give him full support. Egypt should have a greater, not a lesser, future under British protection.—I am, etc.,

January 27. ALEXANDER SEFI.

IN MEMORY OF GORDON.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Apropos of the letter from "N. W." published in your paper last week, it may be of interest to some of your readers to know that there is—or was some years ago—a "Gordon Boys' Home" at Southampton as well as at Bournemouth; and unless I am much mistaken, there is a similar institution in Brighton also.

As far as Southampton is concerned, the Home always seemed to me to be one of the best institutions in the town. I often thought, however, that it would have been better if the boys could have been boarded in the institution, and thus kept away from influences which, though those of "home," were not, I fear, always desirable. The boys themselves were available for any kind of work, and were, as a rule, obliging, civil lads, though drawn from a somewhat rough class. The existence of the Home in Southampton was due to the fact that General Gordon lived there for some years—in Rockstone Place, if my memory serves me aright; and it is not without interest to note that Sir Charles Wilson, who endeavoured to relieve Gordon at Khartoum, also resided in the same town for some time, when he was Director of the Ordnance Office.—I am, etc.,

AN ADMIRER OF GORDON.

Southfields, January 31, 1916.

DIARY OF THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

The following chronological order of events in the Balkans during the past month are from the monthly review published by *The Times*:—

January 9.—Austrian assault on Mount Lovtchen, Montenegro.
January 10.—Austrians take Mount Lovtchen.
January 11.—Austrians approaching Cettinje, the capital of Montenegro. French land at Corfu to prepare for the Serbian Army; Greek protest.
January 12.—Allies blow up the bridge at Demir Hissar, on the Salonika Railway.
January 13.—Fall of Cettinje. French submarine Foucault sinks Austrian cruiser off Cattaro.
January 17.—Capitulation of Montenegro reported by the Austrians.
January 18.—Dedeagatch again bombarded by the Allied fleet.
January 19.—Negotiations between Austria and Montenegro broken off.
January 23.—Austrians occupy Skutari. French air raid on Monastir.
January 25.—Austrians occupy San Giovanni di Medua.
January 28.—Allies occupy the Cape and Fort of Kara Burnu, commanding the harbour of Salonika; Greek protest.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Feb.	1916. Jan.		1334. Rebi I.	5676. Shebat.
4	22	Friday	29	30 Adar.
5	23	Saturday.....	30 Rebi II.	1
6	24	Sunday	1	2
7	25	Monday	2	3
8	26	Tuesday	3	4
9	27	Wednesday	4	5
10	28	Thursday	5	6

Thursday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Eugenie of Greece, daughter of H.R.H. Prince George, who was born in Paris in 1910.

The Montenegrin Royal family visited the Fourvière church at Lyons on Wednesday afternoon. The newspaper *Salut Public* formally denies the report that the Royal family intend to take up their residence in Marseilles.

A report from Lyons mentions that King Nicholas of Montenegro is suffering from an attack of malarial fever.

General Sir Charles Monro had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Thursday of last week.

The *London Gazette* of last Friday contained the announcement that the King has been pleased, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, to confer the dignity of a Baron upon Admiral Sir Charles William de la Poer Beresford, G.C.B., G.C.V.O. (commonly called Lord Charles William de la Poer Beresford), and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, by the name, style, and title of Baron Beresford of Metemmeh, and of Curraghmore, in the County of Waterford.

On the 24th ult., at Government House, Brisbane, the wife of Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams gave birth to a son.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of January 22 announces: Lord and Lady Brassey have engaged rooms at the Continental Hotel and are expected to arrive on the 25th inst.

According to a telegram from Constantinople, Mr. Morgenthau, the American Ambassador at the Porte, left on Wednesday for America on leave of absence. He is travelling via the Balkans and Berlin. The Dutch Minister saw Mr. Morgenthau off at the station.

Lord Oranmore has returned to Castle Macgarrett.

Sunday next will be observed in most of the churches throughout the country as "Armenia Sunday." There will be special prayers on behalf of the Armenian and Assyrian peoples, and collections will be made for the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund.

Lady Loughborough, who is now staying at Shepheard's Hotel, will remain in Cairo as long as Lord Loughborough is on active service in the Near East.

Amongst those present at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, for the wedding of the Marquess of Granby and Miss Kathleen Tennant were: Prince Bibesco, Lord and Lady Lamington, Lady Ian Hamilton, Baroness d'Erlanger, Sir Walter and Lady Susan Townley, Colonel Yate, M.P., and Miss Yate, Mrs. Charles Van Raalte, and Mr. and Mrs. Bonham Carter.

Sir Francis Gore, K.C.B., late Solicitor of Inland Revenue, has been elected Hon. Treasurer of the Serbian Relief Fund, in succession to the Earl of Desart, who has resigned in consequence of the pressure of Government business. Sir Francis Gore is a brother of the Bishop of Oxford.

In a Convocation held at Oxford on Tuesday a decree was carried constituting Dr. Bernard P. Grenfell, Fellow of Queen's College, Honorary Professor of Papyrology.

Lieutenant Arthur Podmore, Royal Engineers, who was recently mentioned in despatches, has been awarded the Military Cross for gallant conduct at Loos. Before the outbreak of war he was chief engineer to the Constantinople Telephone Co.

Under date of January 29, the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports: News reaches here from Montenegro that that famous old Voivode Elia Plamenatz, cousin of Queen Milena, and formerly Minister for War, fell down dead in the street of Cettinje on hearing the news that the Austrians were about to enter. Plamenatz was a centenarian, and the most celebrated of Montenegro's old school of fighters.

Brigadier-General George Benjamin Hodson, C.B., D.S.O., of the Brigade Staff, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, whose death from wounds is reported, entered the service in 1882. After much service in India, he took part in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, and received the medal and bronze star. He served also in the Burmese campaigns (1885-7), the Hazara Expedition (1891), on the North-West Frontier (1897-8), and with the Aro Expedition (Southern Nigeria) of 1902. He was frequently mentioned in dispatches, and held many medals. General Hodson, who was made a C.B. in 1911, married in 1910 Dorothy Clara, daughter of Mr. William Murray, of Clanricarde Gardens.

Captain Sir Robert Marcus Filmer, 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards, who died of wounds on January 27 in France, was in the Grenadier Guards from 1898 to 1904. Afterwards he was in the Reserve of Officers, and held a commission as major in the Yeomanry. In July, 1915, he rejoined his old regiment. He took part in the Nile Expedition of 1898, fighting in the Battle of Omdurman and obtaining the Egyptian medal with clasp. In the South African War (1899-1902) he was engaged in many other chief actions, and for his services he received the Queen's medal with five clasps and the King's medal with two clasps. He won further distinction in the present war, and was recently awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and skill near Neuve Chapelle on the night of December 11-12, 1915, when he made a most daring reconnaissance of the German trenches previous to a successful attack, crawling down the entire length of one trench to a point where it joined another.

The *Egyptian Gazette* (January 14) reports: The death has occurred, at Cairo, of Madame Gerane Artin Pasha, the wife of Yacoub Artin Pasha. The funeral took place at the Armenian Catholic Church in the Darb el Gineneh yesterday morning.

A service in commemoration of the death of General Gordon was held at Rochester Cathedral last Sunday evening. Kipling's Recessional, "Lest we Forget" was sung, accompanied by the band of the Royal Engineers. The Vice-Dean (Canon J. Wood) preached in the absence of Dean Storrs through illness. Gordon was prominently associated with Chatham, and there are many mementoes of him in the Royal Engineer Museum, including his yellow jacket.

The 1388th anniversary of the birth of the Holy Prophet of Islam was celebrated by the Islamic Society of London by a dinner and symposium at the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, on Saturday night. Addresses were given on "The Life of the Prophet" by Dr. Henri M. Leon, formerly Professor of Arabic at Constantinople; "The Spiritual Teaching of Islam," by Maulvie F. M. Sayal; "The Practical Teaching of Islam," by M. Kassimoff; "The Esoteric Teaching of Islam," by Professor Inayat Khan Sufi; and "The Influence of Islam on Humanity," by Dr. S. H. R. Abdul Majid.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces that Dr. Reisner has just left Cairo for archæological research in the Sudan, and the work near the Giza Pyramids is temporarily suspended.

The Montenegrin Prime Minister, M. Muchkovitch, has arrived in Paris.

The Prisoners of War Help Committee has received, through Lady Chalmers, a contribution of £1,000 from the Moslem Community of Ceylon, for the relief of prisoners of war.

The Wounded Allies' Relief Committee, of Sardinia House, Kingsway, have received a letter from Dr. Aspland, who was in charge of their Serbian unit and is now a prisoner of war at Vrnjatchka Banja, Serbia, saying that he and his wife (who is also a prisoner) are well and cheerful. He cannot, of course, say when they will be liberated, but adds that they are well treated by the Austrians.

Major the Hon. Edward Stuart St. Aubyn, who is a brother of Lord St. Levan and heir-presumptive to the peerage, is reported "missing, believed to have been drowned in the Eastern Mediterranean." Born in 1858, he entered the King's Royal Rifles in 1879, joined the Reserve of Officers on November 29, 1900, and on November 12 last year was appointed a Staff officer of the third grade. In Egypt in 1882 he was present at the reconnaissance of Ramleh, the affair at Tel-el-Mahuta, the action at Kasassin, and the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, and was awarded the medal with clasp and the Khedive's bronze star. He also served in the South African War. He was D.A.A.G. on the Headquarters Staff of General Sir Redvers H. Buller's Natal Army, was mentioned in dispatches three times, promoted to major, Reserve of Officers, for his war services, and awarded the Queen's medal with four clasps. He was a Knight of Grace of St. John of Jerusalem. Lord St. Levan's heir is now his nephew, Mr. Francis Cecil St. Aubyn, Grenadier Guards, son of the late Hon. Arthur St. Aubyn.

Next Monday afternoon, at 5 o'clock, at the London School of Economics, Kingsway, the Hon. W. Pember Reeves, Ph.D., will deliver the first of a course of six public lectures on "The Balkan States." H.E. the Hellenic Minister will take the chair at the first lecture. The five remaining lectures of the course will be delivered on following Mondays.

Lord Reay will preside over a meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society to be held at 22, Albemarle Street, next Tuesday afternoon (4 p.m.), when Professor D. S. Margoliouth, D.Litt., will read a paper entitled "The Islamic Pulpit."

Next Monday evening, at a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, Mr. H. Charles Woods will read a paper, "Communications in the Balkans."

On Tuesday next, at 8.30 p.m., under the auspices of the Royal Colonial Institute, Mr J. L. Garvin will read a paper on "The British Empire and the Near East" at the Hotel Cecil. Lord Curzon will be in the chair.

The Marchioness of Londonderry opened at the Portman Rooms on January 27 a bazaar and entertainment organised by the Women's Volunteer Reserve with the object of rendering aid to distressed Serbians. Each of the stalls had been organised by one of the seven companies of the London Battalion. Mrs. W. M. Charlesworth said that a cheque for nearly £400 had been received from Vancouver, through Dr. Scarlett Synge, who had been out in Serbia. Lady Londonderry, in declaring the bazaar open, said that her own sister had been out in Serbia nursing for a year, and she had written home an account of the hardships the Serbians had undergone which would make the heart bleed. Her sister and the other members of the unit were prisoners now, but they were still carrying on their nursing work.

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Lady Murray, who has succeeded Lady Monro as president of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force Fund, has sent to the Press an appeal for gifts and comforts to alleviate the hardships of the troops now in Salonika and Egypt. She writes:—"I should like specially to draw attention to the fact that, although the troops have been withdrawn from the Dardanelles, their needs are as urgent as ever. At present what are most required are:—Underclothing, mufflers, cardigans, pipes, tobacco, cigarettes, matches, tinned milk and fruits, towels, handkerchiefs, gloves, chocolate, and writing wallets. Cheques should be made payable to Lady Murray, and gifts should be addressed to her, care of Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund, 24a, Hill Street, Knightsbridge, London, S.W."

The amount received to date for the purchase of motor ambulances for presentation to British troops in the Balkans by the Hellenic community of London totals £6,193 19s. The latest subscriptions being: Mr. S. A. Agelasto, £10; Mr. J. M. Agelasto, £5; Mr. M. A. Embiricos, £100; Mrs. Amb. Ionides, £5; Mr. E. E. Mavrogordato, £5; Mr. S. Manuel, £5 5s.; Mr. A. Mavrogordato, £10; Mrs. J. A. Ralli, £10; Mr. A. A. Ralli, £25; Mr. S. S. Ralli, £20; Z. A., £5. Nine ambulances will shortly be delivered. The treasurer now earnestly appeals for donations to the extent of £350. This sum, together with the balance in hand, would complete a tenth ambulance. Subscriptions should be sent to Mr. N. Giannacopulo, care of Messrs. Ralli Brothers, 25, Finsbury Circus, E.C.

Another instance of remarkable heroism and devotion to duty on the part of a clergyman is related by a correspondent in the *Times*. Upon the outbreak of war with Turkey, the Rev. W. A. Wigram, D.D., acting Chaplain of the Crimean Memorial Church at Constantinople, volunteered to stay at his post. It may be remembered that shortly after the beginning of our attack upon the Gallipoli Peninsula, the Turks selected fifty Allied subjects in Constantinople, and took them to the battle area for the purpose of exposing them to our fire. This atrocity was prevented mainly by the intervention of the American Ambassador.

After the victims had been selected, Dr. Wigram came forward and volunteered to take the place of one of them. His proposal being assented to, he accompanied the party to the Straits, devoting himself to furthering their spiritual and material welfare, "in circumstances," so the narrator of the incident says, "which were not always pleasant, and might at any moment have become dangerous."

Dr. Wigram, who is the head of the Assyrian Mission, is a son of the late Canon Wigram, of St. Albans, and is a nephew of the late Mr. Reginald Wigram, of Leeds. Before going East, he was curate of St. Jude's, South Shields, and of St. Barnabas, Hendon, Sunderland. His relatives in this country still hear from him, and he is quite well.

A telegram from Geneva states that the Turkish Consul at Salonika, who arrived there on Monday, has left for Germany.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

The appointment of Lieutenant-General Sir J. G. Maxwell, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., to be temporary General (dated January 28) is announced in the *London Gazette*.

The promotion to the rank of general of Lieutenant-General Sir James Willcocks is announced in the *London Gazette*.

Mr. Williams, Inspector-General of the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works and Assistant Under-Secretary of State for that Ministry, will retire from the Government service at the end of the present financial year, when his post will be abolished.

His Excellency the High Commissioner of Cyprus has appointed Mr. John Richard Holmes to fill the office of Judge of the Supreme Court from January 3, 1916, and until further orders.

Lewa F. F. Carrol Pasha, M.B., of the Medical Corps, Egyptian Army, has been appointed Principal Medical Officer in place of Lewa Bray Pasha, who was struck off the Service a few months ago.

Bimbashi G. T. Raikes, 13th Sudanese, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army, on reversion to the British Army.

SUDAN APPOINTMENTS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Captain R. C. Greenwood, who has hitherto acted as 1st Inspector at Wau, in the Province of Bahr-el-Ghazal, has been promoted to the position of Senior Inspector in the same province. Captain Greenwood has seen some ten years' experience in the service of the Sudan Government, and holds the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel (Kaimakam) in the Egyptian Army.

Mr. E. D. Bally, 2nd Inspector of the Sennar Province, has been appointed 1st Inspector of the U.N. Province.

Captain E. H. Ross, hitherto a 2nd Inspector serving in the Upper Nile Province, and with eight years' service to his credit—much of which has been passed in the Khartoum station—has been advanced to a 1st Inspectorship, to date from the beginning of the year.

It was announced some time ago in the columns of The Near East that Mr. A. L. Butler, who for over fifteen years had been Superintendent of the Game Preservation Department (Sayadin), would soon retire from the service of the Government on pension. A public notification to this effect has just been published in the *Government Gazette*, the retirement dating from January 1.

It is generally conceded that Mr. Butler rendered considerable assistance to the Administration, first in organising and then in controlling the Game Preservation Department, often under very trying circumstances.

Among some of the more recent appointments under the Administration have been the transfer of Mr. R. A. Bence-Pembroke, 2nd Inspector of the Kordofan Province (with official residence at Nahud), to a similar post in the Province of Khartoum; the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. F. C. C. Balfour, hitherto temporary 2nd Inspector at Talodi, in the Nuba Mountains Province, and with ten years' service to his credit, to the vacant Second Inspectorship at Nahud; the transfer of Mr. T. A. Leach, hitherto 2nd Inspector at Rufaa, in the Blue Nile Province, to a similar position in the Khartoum Province; the transfer of Mr. P. Munro, formerly 2nd Inspector at Omdurman, in the Khartoum Province, to the White Nile Province; the transfer of Mr. A. P. Coote, 2nd Inspector of the Halfa Province with official residence at Halfa, to the Red Sea Province; the transfer of Mr. R. V. Bardsley, a 3rd Inspector at Khartoum North, to the Blue Nile Province; and the transfer of Mr. W. L. Cheesman, hitherto a 3rd Inspector, with residence at Port Sudan, in the Red Sea Province, to the Halfa Province. Mr. Cheesman has had a little over two years' experience in the Sudan Government's service.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 2s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTH.

Carver.—On January 30, at Oasis, Ramleh, Egypt, to Ralph and Mary Carver—a son.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1916.

MESOPOTAMIA.

In a war of so many fronts, full of incident in its daily progress either at sea, on land, or in the air, it is difficult for public attention to be held for long to any one sphere. The very length of General Townshend's stand against a superior force of Turks under German direction has caused the siege of Kut to be accepted in this country with almost the same fatalism as is applied to the temporary stalemate in the western theatre of war. But a brief official statement to the effect that the recent floods have rendered a forward movement on the part of General Aylmer's relief expedition impracticable has more significance than a bulletin from France stating that there is nothing to report. Nearly nine weeks have passed since General Townshend's column, falling back before the enemy after an unsuccessful attempt to hold the ground captured at Ctesiphon, took up its position at Kut. It was immediately invested, and we must suppose that steps were taken without delay to send forward reinforcements for its relief. A month elapsed before this expedition under General Aylmer, advancing from Ali Gherbi, some 150 miles from Kurnah, came into touch with the enemy. On January 7 and 8 the engagement became general, and the Turks withdrew some eight or ten miles up the river. By this time bad weather had set in; coupled with the determined resistance of the enemy, it made any advance on General Aylmer's part a formidable and necessarily slow undertaking. The relief expedition, however, held on its way. The Turks were engaged once more on the 13th, and this time the fighting continued for three days. A further withdrawal for a few miles brought the enemy back within a carefully prepared position. The British attacked on January 21, but in spite of the heavy losses suffered were unable to dislodge the Turks. For the last fortnight no further operations have been attempted owing to the heavy rains and floods. In the meantime General Townshend's force remains beleaguered at Kut. The latest telegram from this centre, despatched on January 28, reports that the Turks have had to evacuate the entire length of their advanced trenches owing to the inundations, and have fallen back two thousand yards. General Townshend's position, being on higher ground, has escaped the worst consequences of the flood; and the message adds that all is well in his camp. Rescue, however, must come from without, as it would be too much to expect that the garrison should be able now to fight its way to the relief expedition.

Fortunately, the position at Kut was a strong one when the Turks evacuated it, and it will have been rendered even more formidable during the British occupation. But that a force sent forward on what was virtually a raiding expedition should be able, after nearly reaching its objective, to fall back a considerable distance and then make its supplies last for a siege of over two months, is a striking testimony to the organising powers of those in command and to the spirit actuating all ranks.

But while our immediate concern is to see General Townshend's column extricated from a position of danger and hardship, we cannot overlook the fact that its fate is bound up with the larger question of the future of these regions. In the early days of the attempt to force the Dardanelles we combated the theory that a withdrawal was impossible on account of the serious blow it would inflict on British prestige in the East. We maintained that the ultimate issue of the war would determine the place that Great Britain would occupy in Oriental esteem, and the contention still holds good in connection with the course of events in the Middle East. But it would be idle to suppose that the British nation could contemplate with indifference a serious reverse on the Tigris, which might render further operations in Mesopotamia too costly for the resources at our disposal in view of our commitments in other parts of the world. The question of prestige might, perhaps, wait until the end of the war; but the failure to make good now would almost inevitably be followed by results which might endanger the British position from Egypt to India. A claim on the part of the Turks that they had been able to drive the British out of both Gallipoli and Mesopotamia would cause the unsophisticated native of those regions to credit at once all the stories that had been poured into his ears by Turco-German agents of the impending collapse of the British Empire. The subsequent pacification of the Middle East could not be effected by a decision reached in a council chamber in Europe, but would have to be carried out by extensive military operations on the spot. It is for the purpose of avoiding these that we have to guard against the temptation of treating the Mesopotamian expedition as of no military importance. Its effect on the campaign in Europe may be nil; its significance throughout the length and breadth of the Middle East at this stage of the world war can hardly be over-estimated.

Fortunately, a variety of circumstances combine to hearten us in the vigorous prosecution of the Mesopotamian campaign. The Russian success in Armenia comes at a time when the Turks were badly in need of a breathing space after their exertions on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Difficulties of transport will have made them rely more on the original accumulation of supplies in their different theatres of war than on any regular system of provisioning their armies at the front. Thus the sudden advance of the Russians against Erzeroum and Mush, which were the depots for the campaign in the Caucasus, will have thrown the whole Turkish organisation much more out of gear than a similar thrust would affect the arrangements of any other belligerent. It is unlikely that even with German supervision to help them they will be able to cope with the danger threatening them in Armenia without weakening the Baghdad command. The latter, however, is already responsible for the expedition into Persia and for its own defence against the British forces on the Tigris. For the moment the three Russian lines of advance from the north and east and the operations of the British force in the south are too far apart to be co-ordinated; but if they can be pressed home until Baghdad is reached by one or other of the forces, the Turco-German menace to Persia and the Indian frontier will be removed and Turkey's usefulness to Germany will be largely impaired. This is not the time to relax at any one point the pressure now being brought to bear on the Turks. A mistake was made in entrusting the dash on Baghdad to an inadequate force. Whatever political considerations could be urged in support of the hurried advance must carry yet more weight in favour of a renewal of the attempt. But this time a more accurate estimate of the enemy's strength will have been formed, and there can be no question of entrusting the task to one or two divisions. A dash on Baghdad may be ruled out of court; but there does seem to be solid ground for continuing the pressure the British are exerting on the enemy from this direction, always with the ultimate view of joining hands with the Russians, and thus finally breaking Turkish power in the Middle East.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of the "NEAR EAST" to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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BATTLE SONGS OF SERBIA.

Probably no nation under the sun has such a continuous fighting tradition as Serbia. That is why most of her literature is patriotic. In the bookshops of Belgrade and Nish could be found translations of Maeterlinck, Shaw, Tolstoy, Daudet, and other European "classics," but few Serbian romances or poems. Their history is romance, their battle-song is their verse.

From the day when they were forced by invading tribes to leave the slopes of the Carpathian mountains and to petition the Eastern Emperor for permission to settle in the unoccupied parts of the Balkan mountains, the Serbian people have sustained warlike activity. The story of their political conflicts with Turkey, Austria, Russia, and Bulgaria is long and complicated, and often ends in defeat. Like the heroes of Homer they cradled their children to antique chants of the exploits and the unflinching bravery of their forefathers. Many an old rhymed and musical ballad recounts the misfortunes of a race which has been compelled to fight against oppression again and again. Talk with a Serbian soldier and you will find him a veteran of three wars, talk with an older warrior and he will prove to have served six or seven times. In all the hopeless muddle of Balkan warfare there is no nation with a finer record for courage than these Serbs. Their worth has been tested not only in victory, which means nothing, but in the hour of bitter defeat.

Among the persons celebrated in the Serb legends is Marco Kralyevitch, last survivor of Kossovo. Courageous as his sword, strong as Hercules, he seems to incarnate the very genius of his people. At the hour of his death he climbed a high mountain, with one stroke decapitated his faithful horse, then broke his sword and shattered his battle lance in seven pieces, that the enemy might never boast of taking his arms. On the great plain of Kossovo to-day the Serbs have ruined their abandoned cannon and destroyed their material for the same reason. It was not so very long since that the Austrians crossed the Danube, and a certain Serbian battery, rather than leave their munitions to the enemy, stayed at their posts until the last shot was fired, and so rapidly did they work the overheated guns that the enemy imagined heavy reinforcements had arrived, and so retired.

The story of the old defeat on Kossovo, as related in the ballad, is worth recounting:—

The next day at the break of dawn two great black ravens soared over the vast plain of Kossovo. They came to rest on the white tower of the illustrious Serbian prince. One croaked mournfully and the other spoke: "Is not this the tower of the glorious prince? Is there anyone in the tower?" The princess heard them; she climbed the white tower and questioned them thus: "God bless you both! Tell me, whence come you so early in the morning? Is it by chance from the field of Kossovo? Have you seen there two powerful armies? Have they fought? But which, tell me, which is victorious?"

And the two black ravens replied: "Many thanks for thy blessing, Militza. It is from Kossovo that we come. There we saw two powerful armies which engaged in a great battle yesterday. Of the Turks a few remain, but of the Serbs all that are left are bleeding or wounded."

Turkey or Austria, it matters not which, Serbia has ever fought for freedom. "Tipperary" or "The Girl I Left Behind Me" do not form the themes of their battle-songs. An expeditionary corps fighting away from home is unknown in their military annals: they always fought on their own soil to resist aggression. The national song reflects the situation:—

Rise, rise up, ye men of Serbia.
  Unsheath the sword in honour's cause.
Rise in defence of King and of country;
  Never submit to enemies' laws.
Rally, rally, duty calls us,
And the foemen we shall slay.
    With hearts aglow and colours flying,
    Serbia shall crush her foes:
Save once more our Fatherland,
Our King, and patriotic band.
    Save once more our Fatherland,
    Our King, and patriotic band.

Spare us, God, whom we adore,
From the shame of new defeat.
Hear again what we implore—
Strength in this our great distress.
Protection bring us as before,
Our fate is in Thy hands.
    With hearts aglow and colours flying,
    Serbia shall crush her foes:
Save once more our Fatherland,
Our King, and patriotic band.
    Save once more our Fatherland,
    Our King, and patriotic band.

It is not by chance that reference to the Deity appears in these songs; for in the past the Cross was raised against the Crescent whenever the flag of Serbia marched against the Turk. Like the "Marseillaise," the patriotic tunes were, if not written, at least immortalised on the march. These were the strains which urged the warriors on to battle, this was the music which stirred the hearts of the very soldiers. Like "Rosalie," in praise of the cold steel of the bayonet—a mistress who can be glowing as well as chilly—and the "*Soixante-quinze ça c'est à nous*," sung to-day by the *poilus* of France, these traditional Serbian verses grew out of the life at the front.

Another typical piece will close the present comment. Some officers were gathered together one evening last summer at a little country inn near the Danube. One of the Americans present wanted to sing the following characteristic song, and was requested not to, because it was deemed distinctly a piece of battle music, to be used only in the trenches.

Hear, ye brother Slavonians,
  A Serbian mother's voice.
Our enemies are rising
  Our downfall to rejoice,
To soil by greedy force
Our honour sanctified.
    For liberty and Serbia
    Oh, God, with us abide.
      Come, Oh, come! Serbians arise,
        Follow, brothers, follow,
      For home and family ties.

Rally now, ye Serbians true,
  To battle without dread.
Take up the rifle, grip the sword,
  The powder and the lead.
Don't allow the race to die,
Name and tongue so dear.
    Fight to keep your liberty,
    Then slavery never fear.
      Come, Oh, come! Serbians arise,
        Follow, brothers, follow,
      For home and family ties.

Mighty Marco Kralyevitch,
  Bring forth spiked mace;
Peter Karageorgevitch,
Lead on your loyal race.
Shield the people from disgrace,
And let us bravely die
For Serbia, our Mother dear,
  While you hear our battle cry:
      Come, Oh, come! Serbians arise.
        Follow, brothers, follow,
      For home and family ties.

If, as Burns said, songs make the country, in Serbia at least 'tis courage makes the songs.

ELBRIDGE COLBY.

FOR OUR SERBIAN ALLIES.

The Serbian Minister in London wishes to convey his warmest thanks to all the benevolent donors who have sent until now their donations through the Serbian Legation for several relief funds existing in Serbia.

At the same time, the Serbian Minister has to announce that several relief funds in Serbia are sending through him their appeal to all benevolent men and women, fathers and mothers, and all philanthropic institutions, emphasising the horrible suffering of the Serbian refugees, the starvation of the population staying at home in Serbia, the painful scenes of the desperate mothers and frozen children. Many thousands of refugees are dispersed in the villages of Greece, in the Albanian desert, or in the rocky hollows of Montenegro, without home, without food. The life of these refugees is now nothing else than a slow dying out. This help will be a real help only if it comes as quickly as possible. Such appeals have been made from the following funds:

The Serbian Archbishop of Belgrade's Relief Fund for the Families of the Fighting Men.

The St. Helen's Relief Fund for the Orphans whose fathers were killed in the war.

The Parliamentary Fund for the Relief of Serbian Refugees.

The Serbian Red Cross Fund for the Wounded Soldiers.

All those who would help any of the above-mentioned funds are requested to send their contributions through the Serbian Legation, 195, Queen's Gate, London, and they should notify for which of the funds the donation is intended.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.

DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

H.M KING OF SPAIN

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Position in Egypt.

The *Daily Graphic* (January 31), in a leading article on our position in Egypt, thinks that—

The men responsible for the defence of Egypt and the Sudan will not be guilty of the folly of underestimating what the enemy can effect against us in that part of the Allies' zone. They will prepare not for a small but for a big risk, all the more because they have to think for and fight for a people easily excited and made fanatical. On the other hand, the news which has come to hand during the last day or two of the results of the Germans' efforts in Western Egypt is as heartening to ourselves as it is depressing to the Teuton agents who have worked so long and so patiently to make the Senussi movement against us a success. The entrance of Turkey into the war naturally disturbed the fiery Berber tribes, especially the Senussi, who for years have indulged in sporadic outbreaks. On the strategic withdrawal of our force to Mersa Matruh, the Senussi and other tribes attacked the British, were defeated, and withdrew some miles away. Before they could re-form effectively General Wallace attacked them and broke them up. The moral effect of this is very great indeed.

German Press and Egypt

The correspondent of the *Sunday Times* (January 30), in an interesting article dealing with the internal conditions of Germany to-day, concludes with the reference to the proposed Egyptian expedition which we quote below:—

The confidence with which German journalists write of the Egyptian expedition might lead one to suppose that the country is practically in German hands. We are told that the expedition planned by von der Goltz has not yet started because everything is not quite ready. You see, there is the desert to be crossed before the Suez Canal is reached, and it would be foolish to set out without proper water transport, etc. Meanwhile readers are told what will happen when this "neck" of the British Empire is hewn asunder. When Djemal Pasha and his Chief of Staff, Freiherr Cress von Cressenstein, have accomplished their picnic, the British Empire will be no more; India, East Asia, Australia will, of course, separate automatically. Meanwhile, the illustrated papers are publishing photographs of Alexandria, Cairo, and other scenes in Egypt or on the Canal. It is significant that the subscriptions to these reproductions are nearly always preceded by the legend, "Zorm Vormarsch gegen Aegypten."

The Royal Meeting at Nish

The Budapest correspondent of the *Morning Post* (February 1), in a dispatch on the Royal meeting at Nish, says that despite official assurances that the people of Serbia were "most friendly towards the Germans and Austrians, and were gratified to them for liberating them from their rulers," the fact of the Kaiser's move was kept a dark secret until he had left Serbian territory. The writer continues:—

As to the object of the visit, nothing can be read in the Budapest and Viennese newspapers, and one is naturally confined to hearsay, but it is generally agreed that the Emperor came to persuade King Ferdinand, and through him the Bulgarians, to take up a more favourable attitude towards the Central Powers on the question of participation in the campaign against the Allies on Greek territory. The German Emperor in the evening had an hour's conversation with King Ferdinand in his railway carriage, the only other persons present being General Falkenhayn, the Chief of the Staff, and M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Premier. What was arranged in the railway carriage, which was guarded on all sides by a double row of German sentries, is, of course, not known, but it is conjectured that most important questions were settled.

The same correspondent also includes the following reference to Salonika:—

Direct messages from Salonika state that the Allies are still landing great numbers of troops almost every day, and that the British have brought up numerous heavy guns, the necessary ammunition being landed from a great Atlantic liner. The Serbian refugees, who were very numerous in Salonika, are leaving almost daily for Italy and France, for the Greek authorities did not show so much sympathy towards these unfortunate people as they expected to meet.

Made in Germany.

Canon J. T. Parfitt, "Vicar of Mesopotamia and Rural Dean of the Garden of Eden," who has been contributing a series of articles to the *Evening News*, has some pertinent things to say regarding Germany and the proclamation of the "Jehad."

The massacre of a million Armenians was the smallest part of the wholesale slaughter contemplated by Germany when she forced the Sultan to proclaim a "Jehad." . . . I have no hesitation in saying that this "Jehad" was made in Germany, and was long ago planned as an essential part of the great world-war. It was never initiated by the Turks; the Shereef of Mecca refused to recognise it; the Sheikh of Islam demurred, and the Sultan himself hesitated till the guns of the Goeben looked in at the palace windows, till Enver Pasha and his clique of assassins practically surrendered the capital of Islam to the Kaiser, who straightaway commandeered the Khalifate, imposed his imperious will on the Khalif, and is now running the Ottoman Empire to its inevitable doom. As far back as 1906 there were Germans who openly declared they would make a tool of Islam in the event of a world-war, and, with the aid of fanaticism, would forge the dynamite to blow into the air the rule of the Western Powers from Morocco to Calcutta. The great Pan-Islamic movement was set on foot soon after the Kaiser proclaimed himself in Damascus "the Defender of Islam." Fanatical enthusiasts were then sent from Constantinople to every Moslem State to stir up discontent, to promote the prestige of Turkey, and to prepare for the great and terrible day when, at the Kaiser's signal, a "Holy War" would massacre millions in the East while unholy Huns made havoc of civilisation in the West.

The whole of the article, which is fourth of the series, is of exceptional interest.

The Balkan Question.

Sir Edwin Pears, writing under the above heading in the *Contemporary Review* (January), attributes the danger in the Balkan question partly to the shortcomings of our diplomatic system and partly to the fact that "while our Consuls in all these States compare favourably with those of Germany, they have nothing to do with politics." The beginning of his article is devoted to an examination of the various causes which have worked for Balkan discord. In referring to the attitude of King Constantine (it must be remembered that this article was written some weeks ago) Sir Edwin writes:—

His obstinacy is supposed to be based upon the opinion that the Central Powers are certain to win. He should at least remember that so far as Greece is concerned, the countries which have sea power at their disposal are necessarily the victors. Greece occupies certain of the islands of which she took possession during the Balkan wars. England and France made no objection to her retaining them. Indeed, a peaceful Greece ought to be the ruler of nearly all the islands of the Ægean. Their people are all Greek in race, language, and religion, but if Greece is going to become a traitor to her liberators she may easily be made to suffer the penalty of her treason. Her possession of any islands will be determined by the will of the Entente Powers. Her fleet, of which the "Averoff" is the most important unit, is a respectable one, but of course could not complete for a week with either the French or the British Mediterranean squadron. The Allies not being barbarians, the sacred stones of the Acropolis would be religiously respected, but the Piræus is a fortied town, and is full of factories, which would be tempting in case of a naval blockade. The sober-minded men of Greece, therefore, could entertain little doubt of the powerlessness of their country in presence of the combined fleets.

The writer thinks that so long as Mr. Skouloudis retains his position as Premier we may trust the Greek Government. "If he should resign, except to give place to Venezelos, the Allies would be wise in dealing with Greece as an enemy." The following paragraph refers to the events which marked the concluding phases of the Balkan war and their relation to present-day affairs:—

It is, however, known that Serbia and Greece, apparently anticipating foul play on the part of Bulgaria, signed an agreement setting aside that which constituted the Balkan League. So far as I have been able to judge, the agreement was an act of injustice to Bulgaria. The arrangements made on March 13, 1912, which were the basis of the Balkan League, were ruthlessly disregarded. Macedonia was divided between Serbia and Greece. I know nothing to justify such a division. It was provided, however, that if Bulgaria should attack Serbia, Greece should come to her assistance. Greece has failed to do so. She has offered as excuses the most miserable quibbles. King Constantine, judging from what he is reported to have said, instead of using his Danish common sense, has chosen the unkingly part of adopting these Greek advocates' subterfuges. Mr. Venezelos on this matter has spoken out like a man.

German Dreams.

Sir Edwin then includes an examination of the progress of the war from the German point of view, which insists that the German dreams of expansion in the East are materialising with the defeat of Serbia and the check of the Franco-British forces that went to her relief. From the Entente point of view the writer says:—

Let us first ask how far the entry of Turkey and Bulgaria will affect the main issue of the great war. . . . It is asserted that these two States can array upwards of a million additional men against us. . . . England alone has already a million on whom neither she nor her Allies counted twelve months ago. Russia, whose *amour propre* and whose resentment are more aroused by the conduct of Turkey and Bulgaria than are England and France, has a practically exhaustless supply of men. Time is on her side and on ours. Time saved Paris and Calais. But is it true that a million of men will be added to our enemies? Turkey has made a brave fight for

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her existence under her German leaders, but her best regiments have been destroyed, her resources are nearly exhausted, and she can only obtain munitions from Germany. It is doubtful whether she could bring an effective quarter of a million into the field. The Bulgarians are excellent soldiers, but 350,000 is about the outside number they could put into the field.

As to our position at Salonika, Sir Edwin thinks that we can afford to rely upon the decision of the military commanders. If they think we can attack with the certainty of success, well and good; if not, time spent in waiting works to our advantage. The writer includes the following reference to the Turks:—

I wish it were possible to think of the Turks apart from their treatment of subject races, in which they have proved themselves hopeless. Considered simply as soldiers, they compare favourably with any others in their general conduct. Numerous recent letters speak even of a certain chivalry towards their enemies which recalls the estimate of the Crimean war when the Turk was spoken of as a gentleman. British prisoners speak well of their treatment. As I have already suggested, I believe the mass of the Turkish people, Moslems as well as Christians, remain with friendly feeling towards Englishmen.

He thinks that Roumania will remain neutral until by their deeds the Allies have shown her the way to immediate and certain victory. He concludes:—

Something must be said of the set-back that our troops have received in their advance towards Baghdad. It seems to have been one more of our usual blunders, due to our despising our enemies. To send "two men and a boy" is the traditional remark in India on the way we meet risings and other troubles with small States. If this be the explanation, it will not, in spite of the Kaiser's emissaries, produce much ill-effect in India. The natives, prince or soldier, will simply remark upon the repetition of the old blunder. The matter may have to be done again.

Our country has much reason for complacency, much justification for what our enemies incorrectly call hypocrisy. We have no cruelties with which to reproach ourselves, no Rheims Cathedral, no "Lusitania," no Edith Cavell, nothing like support or toleration of Armenian massacres. Our hands are clean. We have played and are playing the game. Therefore it is that without hypocrisy we may claim that the nation has strength because it has possessed its soul in quietness and patience.

Germany and the Balkans.

M. Joseph Reinach, writing in the *Morning Post* (January 28), points to the swift revival of Russia as one of the greatest surprises which Germany has suffered as the result of miscalculation. After showing that not only have the German attacks been stopped, but that fresh Russian armies, "more powerful and admirably armed," are entering upon the scene, the writer continues:—

It is now that the German Emperor has conceived the hope of getting a decisive success in the Balkan Peninsula; but here, too, his dream is dissolving. In point of fact, Serbia has been crushed and Montenegro is succumbing. But the Franco-British are turning Salonika into a vast entrenched camp like the lines of Wellington at Torrès-Védras. . . . The Serbian Army is in process of reformation, and will be seen again in the battle line. The King of Montenegro, after an hour of despair, has recoiled before the infamy of the Austrian conditions of peace. . . . It would seem that the German Staff does not share the Emperor's illusions as to the diversion in the Balkans. When one considers that the two European theatres of the Franco-Anglo-Belgian and Russian War are the principal ones for Germany, and those on which the result of the world-war has to be decided, one is forced to believe that the Grand German Staff at first considered its participation in the Balkan operations as quite temporary. One proof of this is that, once the invasion of Serbia was accomplished, the withdrawal of the German troops began, at first towards their second lines and then to the French and Russian fronts. But meanwhile circumstances arose that have greatly complicated the situation in the Balkans and have given the German Staff fresh and gravely difficult problems to solve. Above all, Germany's new ally, Bulgaria, though she has helped to increase the Austro-German forces on the Balkan front, has demanded exceptional sacrifices from Germany.

Roumania's Attitude.

We take the following paragraph from a dispatch from Mr. A. Beaumont at Milan to the *Daily Telegraph* (February 2):—

The attitude of Roumania is openly declared by the Vienna and Budapest papers to be giving great concern to Austria-Hungary. A despatch from Galatz, Roumania, says that some days ago a mixed commission, composed of artillery and veterinary officers, left aboard a Russian steamer, the "Admiral Kaschmiroff," to purchase horses in Russia for the Roumanian Army, which is being rapidly equipped with everything necessary for a severe campaign. Large consignments of horses already arrived at Galatz and Reni six days ago, and others are expected. An influential Roumanian who has just been in Rome, and is proceeding to Paris and London, declares that the sentiment in favour of the Allies has greatly increased latterly. Quite a considerable change has been produced in the minds of the Agrarians since the large grain purchases by England Roumanian farmers, who were being slowly ruined, have been saved by this action, and the pro-Entente feeling it has engendered is giving grave concern to Germany and Austria.

The *Morning Post* correspondent, writing from Budapest on January 18, says:—

Some change has been observed in the policy of Roumania recently, and her attitude is greatly exercising the diplomatic representatives of the Central Powers in Roumania, as well as Vienna and Berlin. According to reports received, the events in Salonika are being followed with much greater interest in Roumania than the fighting on the Bukovina frontier, in spite of the adjacent position of the latter, for, naturally, Roumania considers herself first of all a Balkan State, and all its interests are bound up with her position among the other States of the Peninsula. It is stated by all the Hungarian correspondents in Bucharest and by those diplomats who have been in the Roumanian capital lately that the landing of the Allied troops at Salonika and the fact that the Entente Powers are about to embark on serious operations in the Balkans have had considerable effect on Roumanian public opinion. It was noted during the early stages of the offensive against Serbia that the pro-Russian feeling in Roumania declined to a certain extent, and the friends of the Entente Powers became less active, but at present the pro-Russians are again in the ascendant.

The City of Panics.

The *Daily Chronicle* (February 2) publishes a long dispatch from its New York correspondent, who quotes at length from an article by the Athens correspondent of the *New York World* on the situation in Turkey. This neutral observer, after weighing the evidence of travellers arriving from Constantinople, has come to the conclusion that all is not well between Turk and German.

While in appearance preparations are made for the Egyptian expedition, and every means is sought for the maintenance of the war, in reality all the Turks, old and young alike, are looking forward to the end of this bloody affair and for peace at any cost. . . . Only half a pound of bread is allowed each person daily; coffee is worth 4s. a lb., petroleum 1s. 3d. a lb., rice 1s. 8d., macaroni 1s. 5½d., sugar 1s. 8d.; a box of matches, formerly sold for ½d., now sells for 5d. In a word, prices are now five to ten times higher than in normal times.

Referring to the proposed expedition to Egypt, the writer continues:—

So the expedition for Egypt is purely a German scheme, and the Turks are driven into it, although they well understand that they have nothing to gain from such an exhausting and dangerous undertaking. If the Turks fail to attack the English before the end of February, in the month of March the usual sandstorms will begin, and the much-advertised undertaking will have miscarried. About three weeks ago, with much ceremony, three Turkish divisions, about 30,000 men, left Constantinople, and now I learn here, from authentic sources, that they have already crossed the Taurus Mountains. I am informed that all the soldiers are destined for Egypt, and are provided with blue glasses. No German or Bulgarian soldiers will take part in the expedition, but the Germans will equip the Turks and furnish the artillery, and, through specialists and officers, will direct the entire operations. Travellers have seen hundreds of wagons full of soldiers going from the Dardanelles to Constantinople to join the Egyptian army. The English and French at the start of the Turkish war underestimated the Ottoman military power, and now they are overestimating the so-called Turkish army, which is only a mob of half a million men. The gates of Constantinople are not to be reached through the Straits of the Dardanelles, but by crossing the Taurus Mountains.

Articles to Note.

"Folk Poetry of the Serbs," by Arthur L. Salmon, in the *Outlook* (January 29).

"Massacres of Armenians by the Turks" and "Hunting in Egypt," by "E.," in the *Field* (January 29).

"The Permanent Values," in the *Times* (February 1).

"Six Months in the Dardanelles," by "Zachabona," and "Germany in Asia Minor," by W. J. C., in *Blackwood's Magazine* (February).

"The Failure of Sir Edward Grey," by R. W. Seton-Watson, in the *English Review* (February).

"The Fate of Belgrade," by a Serbian Officer; "The Germans in Persia," by Robert Machray; "The Evacuation of Gallipoli," by Sydney A. Moseley; and "Marriages in Roumania," by Helene Vacaresco, in the *Fortnightly Review* (February).

"The Pact of Konopisht: Kaiser and Archduke, June 12, 1914," by Henry Wickham Steed, in the *Nineteenth Century* (February).

"The Winter Climate of the Eastern Mediterranean," by Major H. G. Lyons, F.R.S., in the *Sanitary Record* (January 28).

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Greek Islands.

Jan. 28.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Sir C. HENRY, said Germany and Austria had on several occasions endeavoured to utilise several of the Greek islands for hostile operations, but it was hoped that the measures which were being taken by the Hellenic Government, in conjunction with the British and French naval and military authorities, would effectively put a stop to these practices.

The Roumanian Grain Deal.

Mr. KING asked whether the British Government had acquired any rights over grain or flour in Roumania, and, if so, what were the intentions of the Government as to the disposal of the supply acquired.

Lord R. CECIL (Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs): His Majesty's Government have concluded contracts for the purchase of a certain amount of Roumanian grain. The purchases will be spread over a period of several months. The grain is to be held at our disposal in Roumania and exported after the war, so soon as export facilities permit.

In reply to a supplementary question as to the amount of money involved and the price at which the purchase was made, Lord R. CECIL said he thought he ought to be given notice of questions involving figures.

The "Baghdad" Railway.

Colonel YATE, having asked the Secretary for India if he could give any information as to the present state of the Baghdad Railway; how far the cuttings through the Taurus and Amanus ranges were nearing completion; where was the railhead at present; when it was expected that communication would be established with Mosul; and how far the line north from Baghdad had been completed,

Lord R. CECIL replied: The area dealt with in the hon. and gallant member's question lies entirely in enemy territory. I regret, therefore, my inability to make public such information on the subject as may be in the possession of his Majesty's Government. I shall, however, be very glad to give my hon. and gallant friend what information I have.

EASY DIVORCE IN HIGH ASIA.

In the course of her paper, "Seven Months in High Asia," read before the Central Asian Society, at 22, Albemarle Street, on Wednesday evening, Miss Ella Sykes said that in Kashgar, inhabited by a wild race of peasant cultivators and shopkeepers who appeared content with the rule of the Chinese, the status of the women was decidedly superior to that of their Persian sisters. Divorce was extremely common—anybody could be divorced for the small sum of 4d.—and was carried to such lengths that quite young girls had been married several times. The custom of temporary marriage among traders was much in vogue. There were plenty of shrines reputed to cure human maladies.

MESOPOTAMIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

MRS. MARLING'S FUND

For Providing Comforts for Troops Serving in Mesopotamia.

Hitherto the subscriptions in this country to the above Fund, which subscriptions now amount to £1,583 10s., have been collected privately among those more particularly associated with the Persian Gulf.

In view, however, of the large augmentation of troops now operating in that theatre of war, and of the greatly increased difficulties of the task which they are called upon to perform, Mrs. Marling desires to extend the scope of the Fund by making an appeal to the general public, whose assistance in such a worthy cause will, it is hoped, be readily given.

Mrs. Marling, when making her appeal, wrote as follows:—

"There are many people who have personal experience who will realize how terribly trying to troops the carrying out of military operations in Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf must be at this season. The following paragraph, taken from the 'Near East,' quoting a letter from a soldier serving with our forces in those parts, brings home to us that the brave men fighting under such exhausting climatic conditions are not benefiting by the many organizations formed at home for the purpose of giving small comforts to our Armies abroad:—

"'The People of England seem to have forgotten us' is the pathetic cry of a soldier serving with the British Expeditionary Force at the head of the Persian Gulf; we have not had so much as a box of matches from England."

All money collected is being remitted to the credit of Colonel Sir Percy Z. Cox, K.C.S.I., Senior Political Officer to the Expeditionary Force, who is employing it in the purchase of comforts for the troops suitable to the local conditions.

All donations should be sent to:—

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA,
25, ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.,

and cheques should be crossed and made payable to "Mrs. Marling's Fund."

WOMEN'S VOLUNTEER RESERVE AND STRICKEN SERBIA.

Last Thursday a bazaar organised by the Women's Volunteer Reserve, in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund, was formally opened by the Marchioness of Londonderry at the Portman Rooms, Baker Street. Among those who were present on the platform with Lady Londonderry were Mrs. Charlesworth, the Earl of Meath, and Dr. Holmes, who has spent some years in Serbia and has done a great deal of work in connection with the hospital units that have gone out there from this country.

Mrs. Charlesworth, in the course of a few remarks, formally introducing Lady Londonderry, stated that the Vancouver branch of the W.V.R. had sent a cheque for close on £400, the result of a week's effort on behalf of Serbia.

Lady Londonderry said that she knew the admirable and patriotic work the Women's Volunteer Reserve had performed, but nothing it had done would appeal more to the sympathy of the British public than the holding of the present bazaar. It was not necessary to enlarge upon the disasters that had fallen on the gallant little nation. They had driven off the Austrians time and again. At last, faced by overwhelming odds and deprived of the assistance they had been led to expect, they faced single-handed the combined attack of Austrians, Bulgarians, and Turks; and though defeated they made their enemies pay a terrible price for victory. Now their homes were a desert, and those who still remained in the country were at the mercy of their traditional foes, the Bulgarians. She appealed to all present to help make the bazaar a success.

Dr. Holmes followed with an account of experiences in Serbia. He said that about half the Red Cross nurses who had gone out from this country had escaped, but the remainder were left behind. The gratitude of the Serbians to England for the surgical, nursing, relief and other assistance that had been given was extreme. All honoured the name of Englishman; it was a passport to their homes and to their hearts. One effect of this cordial feeling would be that after the war young Serbians would come to England for their education rather than go to Vienna. Commerce between the two countries would also grow.

OTTOMANISING TURKEY.

A recent number of the *Egyptian Gazette* contained the translation of an interesting article, from the pen of a correspondent who has spent a long time in Constantinople, which appeared in *Al-Mokattam* (Cairo). This writer announces that a large society has been formed in Turkey for the purpose of Ottomanising the Turkish elements and making the Empire purely Turkish. The society is known as the "Turks Ushaghy," or "Turkish Family." It has the following branch societies:—

(1) The Turk Yurdi, or the "Turkish Empire," the object of which is to purify the Turkish language of Arabic words and make it Mongolian in the strict sense of the word. (2) The Turk Drinky, the object of which is to disseminate the national idea among the Turks, not only in the Ottoman dominions, but also in all countries inhabited by the Turks. (3) The Turk Balkishy, i.e., the "Turkish Flag," for the translation of scientific works into the old Turkish language. (4) The Turk Kushy, or the "Turkish Force," for popularising games to strengthen the muscles and improve the health of the Turks. Candidates for admission to this Turk Ushaghy Society, or to any of its branches, must be of Turkish nationality, pay a monthly subscription, and change their names. . . . The Turk Ushaghy Society and its branches have established clubs in Constantinople and in all the towns and villages of the country in which the ancient history of the Turks is studied. . . . Only Turks are allowed to join the Ushaghy Society's clubs, and members on entrance have to produce their tickets bearing also their photographs. Efforts are being made to have the Koran translated into Old Turkish, as well as the Friday sermon, religious prayers, etc., which were formerly rendered in Arabic. They also propose to remove from the mosques the names of the Sihhaba, or the Prophet's companions, as, according to a modern Turkish writer, "a Turkish horse is superior to the prophets of other nations."

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DIRECTORY

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

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MONCK-MASON, A., Ottoman Bank, Alexandria.
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RAWE, Reuben, Old Phaleron, Greece.
REES, Messrs. T. Bowen and Co., Ltd., 34, Stadium Street, Athens.
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REITH, Mrs. G. Douglass, U.F. Manse, Clunie, near Murthly, Perthshire.

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SILLEY, Mr. Ronald H., and family, Villa di Meni, Island of Capri, Italy.
SILLEY, Mr. and Mrs. Walter, and family, c/o Imperial Ottoman Bank, Limassol, Cyprus.
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SIMMONS, Miss E., 75, Casewick Road, West Norwood.
SIMMONS, George H., c/o Imperial Ottoman Bank, Larnaca, Cyprus.
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SMITH, F. W., "Heathcote," Bexley, Kent.
SMITH, Mrs. H. Watson, Clatterbach, Walton Hill, Clent.
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SOFIANO, Mrs. Alexander, and sons, Rue Nikis, No. 11, Athens.
SPROWSON, Mr. and Mrs. William, and family, The Ferns, Harrow-on-the-Hill.
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STREATER, Mr. and Mrs. Frank, British Consulate, Dedeagatch, Bulgaria.
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WAUGH, A. T., Hotel Continental, Athens.
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WEALE, W., Foreign Office, S.W.
WEALE, Mrs. 132A, Durham Road, Wimbledon.
WEALE, Miss M., "Rosedale," Wellington Street, Slough, Bucks.
WEALE, Miss Norah, Lydgate House, Hunstanton.
WERNDEL, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. G., Grand Hotel Bulgarie, Sofia.
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WHITTALL, Reginald, and family, 60, Scarsdale Villas Kensington, W.
WHITTALL, W. J. H., 1, Princes Square, Bayswater, W., and c/o Hotel Minerva, Athens.
WHITTALL, Charlton, Hotel d'Angleterre, Athens.
WHITTALL, Lady, c/o Hotel Minerva, Athens.
WHITTALL, Kenny, 62, Princes Square, W.
WHITTALL, Edwin, and family, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
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WHITTALL, Miss Lucy, 60, Scarsdale Villas, South Kensington, S.W.
WHITTALL, Mrs. Jack, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
WILKINSON, J. W., and family, Chios, Greece.
WOODS, Lady, Hotel Continental, Athens.
WOODS, Mrs. Harold, Hotel Continental, Athens.
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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

We publish this week a comprehensive list of the more important enemy firms in Egypt to be affected by the new regulations, together with some pertinent remarks made last week by our Cairo Correspondent. Evidently he thinks that the special licences granted to the Deutsche Orient Bank and Hypotheken Bank are an earnest that these firms will automatically disappear—an optimism which I feel far from sharing. The first-named, it will be remembered, is a powerful German organisation operating directly or by means of branches throughout the Near East, and it stands to reason that after the war is over it will leave no stone unturned to re-establish itself in Cairo and Alexandria under any suitable name or guise. Therefore, something more drastic than the special licence is needed to put an end to enemy intrigues in Egypt, but we have no assurance that the Government intends adopting a Draconic policy as regards obnoxious enemy concerns. It has taken us eighteen months to bring forth the regulations as reproduced elsewhere, and though, as a half measure, they may be approved, they do not, be it said frankly, cut the Gordian knot. As a writer in the *Egyptian Gazette*, referring to our recent remarks on the subject, pithily put it, it is simply ludicrous that after eighteen months of war we should still be *discussing* the status of enemy firms in Egypt. Surely, they are not so condescending in Germany.

***

I gave it as my opinion last week that the British Government would hardly be likely, as feared in some quarters, to release itself from its responsibilities towards the Sudan, in so far as the irrigation loan was concerned. This is borne out by a recent despatch from our Cairo Correspondent, in the course of which he said that "although no work on any extensive scale is being carried out in connection with the Sudan irrigation schemes —for which a loan was obtained three years ago—that embarked on before the war broke out is being continued within certain limits in order to ensure that the money already expended shall not be lost through the complete suspension of new works." This statement should reassure those who are inclined to be too pessimistic. On the other hand, there are others, the Egyptian Press included, who have been weaving around Mr. Buckley's visit to the Sudan and the Abyssinian frontier a grandiose scheme, political as well as technical. According to our Cairo Correspondent, Mr. Buckley's visit to the country has no such object. "It is being made for the purpose of studying and taking the levels of Lake Tsana—nothing more, nothing less. Lake Tsana, whence the Blue Nile takes its rise, is destined in the near future to play an important part in the irrigation projects of the Sudan, and the Anglo-Egyptian authorities, in whose hands the execution of those projects will lie, quite naturally insist on having the fullest data before definitely embarking on the 'heavy' part of the enterprise, which will have to be proceeded with as soon as peace is restored."

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It is, of course, still too early to discuss the future of Asiatic Turkey, but the following analyses of Italy's pretensions are of more than purely academic interest. The writer is the well-known Italian Imperialist, Sig. Giuseppe Piazza, who recently published a work, entitled *I Dardanelli, L'Oriente e la Guerra Europea*. Minimising the importance of the Adalia sphere, he says—and I reproduce his statement without comment:—"We ought to claim an extension of the Adalia concession by means of sufficient hinterland to give it a real value. The immediate hinterland of Adalia does not extend further than Bourdour and Isparta, that is, to a maximum depth of 100 kilometres. But traffic from the interior is diverted towards the West by the Smyrna-Aidin Railway, and the region situated beyond the lakes is cut by the first section of the Baghdad Railway, with its two exits, one to Constantinople and the other along the Adana branch to the port of Mersina. Consequently the concession of Adalia is of no interest, unless completed by the concession to Italy of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway to the West, or of the territory situated to the East, comprising the small Austrian concession of Alaya, as far as Mersina, perhaps even up to Adana, and to the head of the Gulf of Alexandretta, already coveted by others. A third hypothesis, with a view to enhance the value of the Adalia concession, would be the annexation by Italy of the flourishing vilayet of Koniah, situated to the North East, together with all that part of the Baghdad Railway which crosses it."

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Lecturing on Armenia at the Association Hall, Manchester, on Wednesday night, Mr. Llewellyn Williams spoke of the industrial and commercial possibilities of Armenia. The country south of Erzerum was exceedingly rich in mineral wealth. The largest copper deposits in the world were there. Gold was there, and coal and iron, oil and zinc in large quantities. Nor was this the only wealth. On the great uplands there was sufficient pasture for as many sheep as would supply wool for the whole of Germany's industrial demands. In 1913 on the fertile plains of Cilicia 200,000 bales of cotton were harvested, and he was told it was equal in quality to the best Egyptian. In the north of Asia Minor other experiments in cotton-growing had been made with most promising results, and Paul Ranbach, when desiring to enlist the financial support of German-Americans, said that when Germany had control of Asia Minor she would be independent of the whole world for raw materials, and, more than that, would be absolutely independent and careless of the British Fleet.

***

Two important events took place during the week, the first being the business meeting at the Guildhall on Monday, when resolutions were adopted for the furtherance of our trade war, and the second being the report, published on Monday, of the Board of Trade Sub-Committee. A synopsis of both is published elsewhere.

***

Ever since the beginning of the war THE NEAR EAST has taken a strong attitude in urging that steps should be taken now to prepare for the trade war which is bound to ensue as a result of the present military war. Among the measures frequently suggested in these columns are four, namely:—(1) The reform of the consular service (2) the direct participation of banks in our industrial and commercial developments; (3) tariff reform; and (4) the organisation of sample exhibitions. The first and third points were expressly emphasised at the Guildhall meeting; and all four points were emphasised in the Sub-Committee's report. It is to be hoped, therefore, that at last our Government of lawyers, in view of the fact that practically all business men, men who know something about business even if they are foreign to politics, insist on the introduction of necessary reforms, will dilly-dally no longer, but take measures to meet the business men whole-heartedly.

***

The greatest interest, as regards the above two events, centres in the suggestion that there should be instituted a Ministry of Commerce. The strong demand for such a department, at whose head should be placed a strong business man, has become so universal now that I do not think the Government can hesitate any longer in creating it. I do not mean, by these remarks, to cast a slur on the activity and enterprise of the Board of Trade, but the work undertaken by the Board is already so greatly in excess of its forces that it must be relieved if the trade machinery of the country is not to become clogged. The creation of the Ministry of Commerce, therefore, becomes imperative.

***

The following official communication appears in Khartoum papers:—"In view of the difficulty experienced by the authorities in balancing the 1916 Budget and the fact that the Government's financial year begins on January 1, a circular has been issued to the effect that until the 1916 Budget is issued, all departments of the Sudan Government should consider the provisions of the 1915 Budget as the basis of their expenditure. In case, however, any additional expenditure is found necessary, the case should be referred to the financial authorities for special approval."

***

The Cairo Bourse has reopened its doors, and, we are told, business was good on the first day. The Alexandria Bourse remains closed. On inquiring yesterday in the City, I was told that it mattered very little as far as London was concerned, whether the Egyptian Exchanges were open or not. The restrictions here make it impossible for us to take any advantage of prices ruling in Egypt, and Egypt will only be a buyer in London (she cannot be a seller) if prices here are lower than in Egypt. As for the amount of business done in Cairo at the beginning of the week, the impression here is that it was no heavier than the usual private buying and selling which has been going on in Egypt since the war started.

COMMENTATOR.

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Enemy Firms in Egypt.

Special Licences Granted.

With reference to our Cairo Correspondent's letter on the above subject, published in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST, we have now received a copy of the *Official Journal* giving a list of enemy firms affected by the new proclamation. They are 346 in number and are divided into three classes, A., B., and C.

A.—Trade without Special Restriction.

The text of the licence is as follows:—

"This is to certify that the ———— is authorized to carry on business in Egypt subject to any provisions with regard to trading which are now, or may be, from time to time in force in Egypt. Provided that the books of the licensee shall be open to inspection at any time by the Licensing Officer or such officer as he may appoint for that purpose."

Licences in these terms have been granted to the following:—

Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio.
Egyptian Bonded Warehouses Co., Ltd.
Egyptian Petroleum Storage Co.
National Insurance Co. of Egypt.
Régie Ottomane des Tabacs.

B.—Trade with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain.

The text of the licence is as follows:—

"This is to certify that the ———— is authorized to carry on business in Egypt subject to any provisions with regard to trading which are now, or may be, from time to time in force in Egypt, provided that the licensee shall not, except with the special permission of the Licensing Officer, trade or have commercial communications direct or indirect with persons outside Egypt, except only with such persons as may be resident in the British Empire, or in countries in alliance with Great Britain; provided also that the books of the licensee shall be open to inspection at any time by the Licensing Officer or such officer as he may appoint for that purpose."

Licences in these terms have been granted, among others, to the following:—

Alexandria Arenolith Co.
Anglo-Egyptian Cigarettes Co.
Behrend and Co., Ltd.
Berlitz School of Languages (Alexandria).
Braunstein, Haim (Alexandria).
Cattaui, J. M., Figli, and Co. (Cairo).
Cohen, Félix (P.O.B., 141, Port Said).
Cohen and Co., J. (Port Said).
Del Mar, E., Société des Drogueries d'Egypte.
Delta Foncier et Agricole.
Eggert, Joseph (Cairo).
Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Co., Ltd.
Electricity and Ice Supply Co., Ltd. (Alexandria).
Fernandez and Co. (Cairo).
Fischer, Max (Cairo).
Fischer, R. E. (Cairo).
Flash, F., Halim Pacha Square (Cairo).
Frankel, Mayer (Cairo).
Frankel, Jacob (Alexandria).
Freylinger, Charles, 127, rue du Vieux Caire (Cairo).
Green, J. E. and A. (Cairo).
Green, N. E., and Co. (Cairo).
Green, M. S. (Cairo).
Green, Felix (Alexandria).
Heinzle, Giovanni F. (Alexandria).
Hergel, P. E., National Hotel (Cairo).
Hess, Constantinidis and Co. (Alexandria).
Hirsch, Moses (Alexandria).
Lancaster, Sasson and Co.
Lanz, Jacob, Bazar Français (Alexandria).
Menasce, Charles de.
Menasce, Alfred de.
Menasce, E. J. L. de.
Menasce, Edmond de.
Menasce, Emile de.
Menasce, Félix.
Menasce Figlio and Co.
Menasce, Georges de.
Menasce, Jacques B. de.
Mohr and Fenderl.
Morison, Carl.
Nahmann and Co.
Oelbam and Selbermann.
Ott and Co.
H. Pollack and Co.
Poppel and Co.
Reiser, Lucien (Alexandria).
Roemer, Charles (Cairo).
Rosetta and Alexandria Rice Mills Co., Ltd.
Rudman, Max and Co.
Ruelberg, Georg (Alexandria).
Sachs, David (Alexandria).
Sachs, Halifa and Sons (Alexandria).
Sachs, John V. (Alexandria).
Sachs, Jacques and Co.
Salvago and Co., C. M. (Alexandria).
Sanguinetti and Co. (Alexandria).
Société du Chemin de Fer Kench (Assouan).
Société Anonyme des Eaux de Tanta.
Société Générale d'Electricité et de Mécanique (Alexandria).
Société Egyptienne d'Entreprises Urbaines and Rurales.
Société Foncière d'Egypte.
Société Anonyme des Immeubles du Caire.
Société Anonyme Egyptienne des Immeubles d'Egypte.
Société Anonyme des Presses Libres.
Stross, A. (Alexandria).
Trapp and Co., Wm.
Villforth, Henriette, Pension Villa Nationale (Cairo).
Weinrich, K., and Co.
Werner and Co.
Wirth and Co.
Zola (Schustermann, Pauline) (Cairo).
Eckhardt, Victor (Cairo).
Filature Nationale d'Egypte, Société Anonyme.
Green, Ralph S. (Cairo).
Nahman, Alfred (Alexandria).
Mayer and Co., A.
Salamander Shoe and Clothing.
Stein's Oriental Stores, Ltd.
Tiring and Frères, Victor.
Société Anonyme des Presses Allemandes (Alexandria).

N.B.—The last five firms are further subject to the supervision of a Controller appointed under the authority of the General Officer Commanding the Forces in Egypt.

The Deutsches Kohlen Depôt, Port Said branch, has also been licensed to liquidate certain outstanding business.

C.—Trade for the Purpose of Liquidation Only.

The text of the licence is as follows:—

"This is to certify that the ———— is authorized, subject to any provisions with regard to trading which are now, or may be, from time to time in force in Egypt, and subject to the following conditions and restrictions, to carry on business for the purpose of liquidation only.

"1. The business to be done under this licence shall be limited to such acts as may be strictly necessary for the liquidation of the business of the licensee.

"2. The licensee shall proceed with the liquidation of the business with all due dispatch and with no greater delay than may be reasonably necessary for the realization of the assets.

"3. The licensee shall not, except with the special permission of the Licensing Officer, have commercial communications, direct or indirect, with persons outside Egypt, except only such persons as may be resident in the British Empire, or in countries in alliance with Great Britain.

"4. All funds now in hand shall be paid into an account with a bank in Egypt to be approved by the Licensing Officer, and all payments received or made in the course of the liquidation authorized by this licence shall be paid into or out of such account, which shall not be drawn upon except for the payment of liabilities of the business (exclusive of partnership capital) or for reasonable current expenses.

"5. The books of the licensee shall be open to inspection at any time by the Licensing Officer or such person as he may delegate for the purpose."

Licences in these terms have been granted to the following:—

Abel and Schellenberg (Cairo).
Austro-Orientalische Handels-Aktiengesellschaft.
Bayer Bruder (Cairo).
Boehme and Anderer.
Bohm, Friedrich and Heymann.
Brach, Gustav and Co., Succ.
The Colloid Wolfram Lamp Co., 45, Sharia Abdine (Cairo).
Continental Caoutchouc and Guttapercha Co.
Cotton Export Company, Soc. Anon.
Gasmotorem-Fabrik Deutz.
The Egyptian Lloyd.
Engelhardt, Leopold and Co.
Fix and David.
Flick, H. and C.
Soc. Anon. d'Electricité Ganz.
Prima Fabbrica Birra di Graz.
Hess and Co.
Holz and Co.
Kirchmayer, Rudolf and Co.
Klink and Lauer.
Koenig and Jessenitzer.
Kortenhuis and Hammerstein.
Kunzler and Co.
Lichtenstern, Jos. M. (Cairo).
Lindemann, R. and O. (Alexandria).
Mulhauser and Co.
Bornstein, L. and Co.
Pollack, Leopold and Co.
Schneider and Rothacker.
Seeger Bros. and Co. (Alexandria).
Siemens-Schuckert.
The Upper Egypt Artesian Boring Co.
Andres and Co., Fritz (Alexandria).
Orenstein and Koppel-Arthur Koppel.
Steaua Romana.

The Deutsche Orient Bank, A.G., and the Egyptische Hypotheken Bank, are licensed to carry on business in Egypt under the supervision of a Controller with instructions the effect of which is to prevent these banks from undertaking new business.

***Lists B and C, as reproduced above, are not complete: in the former, 249 names appear, and in the latter sixty. The full list may be examined at the offices of THE NEAR EAST, Devonshire Square, E.C.

Our Cairo Correspondent, analysing the new regulations in last week's issue of this journal, pointed out that most of the names in List B are those of enemy-protected subjects, and are "presumably entitled to the special licence." "As for the Deutches Kohlen Depot," he adds, "it is not quite clear why this concern was not given a C licence." On the other hand, our correspondent assumes from the special licences granted to the Deutsche Orient Bank and the Egyptische Hypotheken Bank, that "these concerns will in time definitely disappear," but "the same feeling does not exist in regard to firms like Mayer and Co., Stein's Oriental Stores, Ltd., and Tiring Frères. As these firms are, it is understood, capitalized partly with enemy capital, one would like to have some assurance that, at the end of the war, those enemy capitalists will not be able to enter again into their own. No doubt the authorities have taken the necessary steps to prevent this, but the form of licence published does not indicate this."

Our correspondent continues:—"Licence C is granted on the condition that the business done shall be only that strictly necessary to the liquidation, which is to be carried out with all due despatch and with no greater delay than may be reasonably required for the realization of the assets. It may be asked whether these conditions are being strictly adhered to by the licensees, for eighteen months seems a more than adequate period within which certain of the enemy firms could have been liquidated.

"Licence C list contains the name of Boehme and Anderer, the firm which still exhibits in its shop windows—next door to the Turf Club—German and Austrian goods with the name of the manufacturers plainly marked on them. The fact that this firm holds a licence connoting the closest official supervision of its work makes this proceeding all the more extraordinary, to say the least of it.

"The published list also contains a glaring omission—the name of F. Diemer and Co., the German booksellers, of Sharia Kamel. It was generally understood that this establishment—the premier library in the capital—had been ordered to liquidate under a British controller, and surprise had been frequently expressed that it had not completed its liquidation long ago and sold off its stock. Is the omission of its name to be taken as the reason this establishment is still doing business? And, if it is, why has it not been dealt with long since like other enemy establishments?"

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British Trade After the War.

Board of Trade Committee's Recommendations.

The report drawn up by the sub-committee of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Trade on Commercial Intelligence on measures for recovering the position, after the war, of certain branches of the British industry, was published on Wednesday, and contains several important recommendations, the majority of which have been urged in these columns from time to time.

The Committee state that the following were the branches of industry to which it apeared that their inquiries could most usefully be directed:—Paper manufacture, the printing trade (including colour-printing), the stationery trade, the jewellers' and silversmiths' trade, cutlery, fancy leather goods, glassware (including table glass, laboratory ware and glass bottles), china and earthenware, toys, electrical apparatus, brush, etc., trade.

The following are the principal recommendations of the sub-committee:—

Scientific Research and Training.

Larger funds should be placed at the disposal of the new Committee of the Privy Council, and also of the Board of Education, for the promotion of scientific and industrial research and training.

The universities should be encouraged to maintain and extend research work devoted to the needs of the main industry or industries located in their respective districts, and the manufacturers engaged in those industries should be encouraged to co-operate with the universities in such work either through their existing trade associations or through associations specially formed for the purpose.

An authoritative record of consultant scientists, chemists and engineers, and of persons engaged in industrial research, should be established and maintained by some suitable Government department, for the use of manufacturers only.

Copyright.

The United Kingdom copyright law should be brought into line with that of the United States.

Patents.

The efforts which have been made to secure uniformity of patent law throughout the Empire should be continued.

Trade Marks.

All German and Austrian goods imported into the United Kingdom should be required to be marked with an indelible mark "Made in Germany," or "Made in Austria-Hungary," and goods imported from other foreign countries should be similarly marked either with the country of origin or with the words "Foreign Made," or "Not British." Such marking should be in all cases on the actual goods and not merely on the package.

Alien firms and alien-owned companies should be prohibited from registering in the United Kingdom trade marks containing English words.

The Government of India should be urged to reconsider the question of the establishment of trade mark registration in India.

Transport Facilities.

An impartial tribunal should be set up to secure that no preference is accorded to traders in other countries by British shipping companies or shipowners, or by home railways; that is, that rates charged by British shipping companies, shipowners and railways to British traders shall in no case be higher under similar conditions than those charged to traders operating from another country, the principle adopted being that equality of payment entitles traders to equality of services.

Financial Assistance.

The joint-stock banks should be invited by his Majesty's Government, so soon as opportunity offers, to consider the possibility of affording a greater measure of assistance to British industrial enterprise.

All Government Departments, local authorities and statutory bodies entrusted with the control of moneys raised by taxes or rates should be under legal obligation to purchase, so far as possible, only goods produced within the British Empire.

British financial houses concerned in the issue of foreign loans in the United Kingdom should be urged to endeavour to secure that preferential treatment be accorded to British contractors and manufacturers in respect of the public works to be carried out by means of such loans.

Trade Exhibitions.

The following broad principles should be adopted in respect of future trade exhibitions:—

Trade exhibitions should be held under the control of the Board of Trade.

Exhibitions should be exhibitions of manufacturers' wares for traders, and should not be organised with a view to attracting the general public.

Exhibitions should not be too general in scope, but should be for a limited number of branches of industry at a time, according to the importance and dimensions of each particular industry in this country.

Establishment of a Ministry of Commerce.

His Majesty's Government should be urged to consider anew the advisability of establishing a separate Ministry, charged solely with the safeguarding and extension of British industry and trade, and freed from the regulative duties in respect of railways, shipping, and harbours, and the duties in respect of labour, which at present devolve upon the Board of Trade.

The appointment of trade commissioners, responsible, and reporting directly, to the Board of Trade, should be extended to the principal foreign countries.

Consular Service.

The organisation of the Consular service should be dealt with so soon as possible after the completion of the report of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, with a view to the increase of its commercial utility.

Commercial Travellers.

Representations should be made to the Governments of the self-governing Dominions and of the Colonies with a view to the preferential treatment of British commercial travellers in respect of licence fees.

Trade Catalogues.

Representations should be made to the Governments of such British Possessions as levy import duties on imported catalogues and trade circulars, with a view to the substantial reduction of such duties in respect of the catalogues and circulars of British manufacturers.

Tariff Protection.

We are of opinion that where the national supply of certain manufactured articles which are of vital importance to the national safety or are essential to other industries has fallen into the hands of manufacturers and traders outside this country British manufacturers ready to undertake the manufacture of such articles in this country should be afforded sufficient tariff protection to enable them to maintain such protection after the war.

With reference to the strongly-expressed opinion of many of the witnesses that the enactment of protective duties on the industries, other than those referred to in the preceding paragraph, which have formed the subject of our inquiry, is essential to their maintenance, we wish to report that, in view of the following considerations:—

(a) That there exists a strong desire to respond to the feeling in our Dominions in favour of an Imperial preference in trade, and that there is also a strong desire to arrange preferential trading with those who are our Allies in the present war, and

(b) that the present high direct taxation tends to raise the rate of interest on money, and cheap and abundant capital for the employment of their labour is of the greatest importance to the working classes,

it will be necessary to impose some widely-spread import duties, and we are therefore prepared to recommend that a larger proportion of the revenue should be raised by reasonable import duties. We are of opinion that such import duties would go a long way towards satisfying the requests for special protective treatment for the industries which we have had under consideration.

We would only add that, in view of the threatened dumping of stocks which may be accumulated in enemy countries, the Government should take such steps as would prevent the position of industries likely to be affected being endangered after the war or during the period required for a wider consideration of the whole question.

The members of the sub-committee—Sir Algernon F. Firth, Mr. A. J. Hobson, Mr. Stanley Machin, Mr. E. Parkes, and Sir Albert Spicer—are unanimous in their recommendations, except that Sir Albert Spicer makes a reservation in regard to the immediate enactment of protective duties. Sir Albert thinks that the consideration of a tariff for these special industries should wait until after the war, unless it can be undertaken earlier, when the whole issue can be again considered in the light of what, he hopes, will be an agreed policy with our Dominions overseas and our present Allies

Value of Imports.

The report contains a table showing that the value of the imports into the United Kingdom during 1913 of goods of the kinds included within the scope of the inquiry may be taken as approximately £16,000,000, of which nearly £7,700,000 represented goods of German origin and £500,000 goods of Austro-Hungarian origin. The total value of such goods imported into the five self-governing Dominions and India in 1913 is estimated to have been not less than £3,000,000.

In reviewing the evidence given the sub-committee state that the value of scientific research in industry, and the desirability of Government assistance in the promotion thereof, was generally recognised both in the memoranda furnished and by the witnesses who appeared before them, though it was admitted that British manufacturers and workmen have not always shown themselves in the past sufficiently appreciative of the value of scientific investigation into industrial problems or of technical training. It was recognised that the "Made in Germany" mark had served somewhat as an advertisement of that country in the past, but there appeared to be a consensus of opinion that for some considerable time it would have the opposite effect in the British market.

With regard to the improvement of transport facilities, it is stated that the evidence showed clearly that there is widespread dissatisfaction with the working of the United Kingdom railway system, and a general belief that the State railway system of Germany is operated greatly to the advantage of the export trade. The Sub-Committee are disposed to think that there is some foundation for the belief that the German railway authorities have as a rule shown themselves more ready to give special facilities to individual traders and to have more regard for their individual circumstances than has been the policy of the British railway companies.

With reference to tariffs, it is stated that practically all the representative firms and associations consulted asked for a measure of protection.

The causes of the ability of German firms in the past to undersell their British competitors on which most emphasis was laid in the representations made to the Sub-Committee are:—(a) The low railway rates charged in Germany on goods for export and other transport advantages. (b) The industrial combinations in Germany which, with a large home market secured to them by the tariff,

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were able to produce on a large scale, and to dispose of their surplus product abroad at very low prices. (c) The low rates of wages prevailing in certain industries in Germany.

GUILDHALL MEETING.

A meeting, called at the suggestion of the London Chamber of Commerce and other associations, was held at the Guildhall on Monday to consider measures which should be taken after the war for the promotion of trade and commerce, and to deal with the subject of industrial employment.

The Lord Mayor presided, supported by the Sheriffs and many members of the Corporation, and those present included many representatives of Chambers of Commerce, Mayors, and Lord Provosts, bankers, merchants, and business men.

The Lord Mayor read a message from Lord Derby expressing regret that he was unable to be present, and adding that he was in hearty agreement with all the resolutions to be put before the meeting. Mr. Andrew Fisher sent a message declaring himself "heart and soul with all the meeting symbolizes."

In moving the first resolution, which expressed loyalty to the Throne and confidence in final victory, the Lord Mayor said he thought they must ensure that, whatever happened, the relations—the misguided relations—which existed before the war between ourselves and those who were now our enemies should never again prevail.

Sir George Pragnell said our technical and commercial education must be remodelled if the English race was to keep its position. They wanted the world, and especially their enemies, to know that above everything else they placed the smashing of Germany, both as a maritime Power and as a commercial competitor. The Consular service ought to be composed of our best educated and most practical business men, who should be paid good salaries, with a commission or bonus on the increase of British trade.

A Ministry of Commerce.

Sir Algernon Firth moved:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that immediate steps be taken by his Majesty's Government, Chambers of Commerce, and other kindred associations, throughout the country, to formulate in close co-operation adequate action for the defence and improvement of trade and employment after the war, and with this object in view this meeting suggests full discussion of the fiscal, legislative, and voluntary efforts which ought to be made, and of the concentrated action and decisions which must be taken; and recommends the establishment of a Ministry of Commerce to carry out a constructive commercial policy for this country."

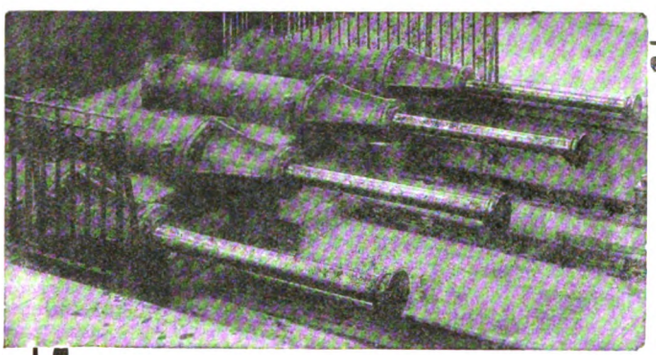
He said the President and officials of the Board of Trade had every desire to promote trade, and within their powers were efficient; but they had many functions and were choked with administrative work. Frequently since 1869 Chambers of Commerce had urged the appointment of a Ministry of Commerce. Twice a resolution in its favour had passed the House of Commons, and in 1905 a Bill was promised in the King's speech. This great war had found us in a chaotic position in regard to commercial matters. Too long had we gone on in this haphazard fashion. It was our duty to lose no time in formulating a policy. It was essential to have a new Minister who would gather round him men of experience and judgment, and confine himself to steps to be taken after the war for development of trade.

International Trade Relations.

Lord Desborough moved:—

"That steps be taken by means of close co-operation to improve the commercial relations between the United Kingdom, his Majesty's Dominions beyond the seas, and our Allies, and also to make certain that Germany and her Allies shall not be able again to acquire an undue influence upon trade and employment in the British Empire."

Mr. Neville Chamberlain, Lord Mayor of Birmingham, suggested that they should take with them on the deputation the approval of Labour, and that they should include representatives of Labour on the organising committee. "It has been justly said," he concluded, "that this is not a tariff reform meeting, but I trust that as the son of a man who in this building once begged his countrymen to think Imperially—(cheers)—I may be permitted to express my satisfaction at being present at this great gathering, with whose objects and whose spirit he would have found himself so entirely in accord."



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KERMAN CARPETS.

In his annual report on the district of Kerman for the year 1914, H.B.M. Consul gives the following particulars concerning Kerman rugs and the state of the trade as a whole. He says:—Two kinds of carpets are produced in the Kerman and neighbouring districts, the Kerman carpet and the Afshari rug.

Kerman Carpets.

The carpet, which much predominates, is woven in the town of Kerman, and in the villages of the district such as Sar-asiab, Jupar, Chatrud Rawar, etc. It is, in general, a finely woven fabric, worked on cotton warp. The designs in part are indigenous, or at least in the common possession of the trade, and in part special designs introduced by the various European firms who retain or try to retain their sole right in them. The colours used in Kerman are in general decidedly bright. Design, colours and mingling of colours are questions of taste, but it would seem that Europe and America are satisfied with the choice made by the Kerman carpet firms. Aniline dyes are banned in principle, and even in fact are little used. Carpets are to some extent bought by the exporting firms, ready-made in the open market, but the larger proportion are woven on contract to the order of the firms, who supply the designs and sometimes the cotton yarn for the warp.

These carpets are exported both to America (New York) and Europe (Constantinople, London, Berlin, Paris).

Afshari Rugs.

These are small rather coarse rugs, with somewhat crude designs, woven entirely of wool, by the Afshar nomads. They are not woven to order. Aniline dyes are common in these rugs. The principal foreign demand for them is in Austria-Hungary and Germany, the market being Constantinople. America does not take them at all. European firms do not in general pay much attention to Afsharis. There is some difference of opinion as to whether the trade is a rising or a falling one. It is stated by some that the Afshari is being displaced by a better and cheaper type of rug made in the Hamadan district. An average price for the ordinary small rug (about 6 feet by 10 feet) is 80 to 100 krans.

The year was not a prosperous one for the carpet trade. During the first half of the year the European and American markets were satisfactory, but the demand did not equal the exports from Kerman and stocks gradually accumulated in Europe. London and Constantinople became over-stocked, while American buyers held back in order to benefit by the new Customs tariff which came into force on January 1, 1914. Unfortunately, before that date arrived a financial crisis had arisen in the United States, and New York in turn began to become over-stocked.

By an unhappy coincidence the local market had also in the meantime become prejudicially affected. The entry of a new European firm (the Persian Carpet Company) in the field in June, and consequent increase of competition, led to a considerable rise in the local market, and most of the firms endeavoured to secure themselves for the future by giving long contracts at high rates to weavers and designers. The conditions so introduced will for long continue to embarrass the exporting firms, and will probably, in the long run, prove equally disadvantageous to the weavers who have for the moment been profiting by them. Small demand and low prices in Europe and America are incompatible with large orders and high prices in Kerman. If the cost of production continues high the Kerman carpet trade will probably permanently lose headway.

A complaint is made by European firms that Persian exporters are doing much to ruin the market in Constantinople. It is stated that these merchants do business on a commission basis. They forward carpets to Constantinople and then obtain advances on them from the banks. The carpets remain for months spread out in the Customs-house. Eventually they are sold for what they will fetch or auctioned as bankrupt stocks. The banks are sufficiently covered to have no particular interest in the prices accepted, and the owners are in Persia. It thus often arises that carpets are sold in Constantinople at smaller prices than were originally paid for them in Kerman, leaving out of the question all expenses and commissions. It is obvious that such conditions are highly injurious to ordinary sound business.

Engineering Notes.

Agricultural Implements in Greece

The U.S. Vice-Consul at Athens states that one of the principal objects of the Royal Agricultural Society of Greece is to increase the use of agricultural machinery and modern farming implements. In order to encourage its use the society imports from time to time such machinery as it feels it can dispose of to farmers and others. The society has in the exhibition buildings of the Zappion, in Athens, a sales office, and has on exhibition agricultural implements. It is intended to open branch offices in other parts of Greece. The records of the Athens office show sales to landowners and farmers during 1914 amounting to £695. The society endeavours to furnish full instructions relative to the working of each machine sold, and by a "follow up" system to see that each buyer secures the best possible results from his purchase. It is the policy of the society to keep in its headquarters a permanent exhibition of machinery of general agricultural interest, such as apparatus for horticulture, arboriculture, vinicultural, apiculture, cheese and butter making, and general dairy farming.

Submarine Oil Storage

At a recent meeting of the Institution of Petroleum Technologists, Mr. H. Barringer, M.Inst.C.E., gave an interesting description of a method for submarine oil-storage, devised by Messrs. Doxford, of Sunderland. The subject is of great importance at the present time when the question of how enemy submarines replenish their supplies of fuel in the Mediterranean and elsewhere, occupies the attention of naval and military authorities. The design consists in providing a submerged storage for oil where the containing vessels would be safe from bombardment either by guns on land, aircraft, or submarine boats. The inventors suggest as a convenient size of tank a cylindrical vessel, 150 ft. in length and 30 ft. in diameter, with hemispherical ends and internal dividing bulkheads of dished form, in order to minimise weight as far as possible. This vessel would carry a deadweight of about 2,400 tons of liquid fuel and could be submerged in any reasonable depth of water, a ballasting compartment being arranged at each end. The joint capacity of these two compartments would be somewhat in excess of the reserve buoyancy when the vessel is fully loaded, and in this case would be about 150 tons, viz., 30 tons in excess of the reserve, so that if required the vessel could be sunk to the bottom of a harbour.

How it is Controlled.

Each oil compartment has three connections leading to the valve-room, one for ballasting, one for dealing with oil, and one for the expulsion or admission of air. The connection can also be used for the admission of compressed air when this is employed as the means of discharge. The ballast tanks have connections to deal with water. The submersion of the vessel can, of course, be carried out without any attendant power-craft, but to bring her to the surface compressed air must be supplied from an auxiliary vessel, in order to force out the ballasting water. The expulsion of a little over thirty tons in this case would bring the vessel to the surface. If compressed air is not available, and the vessel is not lying in too great a depth of water, oil or water can be pumped out by flexible hose until she rises, a second hose being provided to admit air. When it is required that the vessel should remain on the bottom, the ballast-valves are open, and water allowed to enter and take the place of the oil pumped out. Under these conditions water must come in direct contact with oil, but by fitting the sea-valves and pump suctions well apart, and introducing baffle-plates in the way of the pump-suctions, any disturbance of the oil immediately in contact with the water, and possible mixing, is avoided. Arrangements for mooring and towing the vessel are provided; thus, in addition to securing absolute safety from a military point of view, this submersible type may be equally valuable from a commercial standpoint. Being movable, it can be brought alongside a vessel if required, or be used as a temporary or permanent oil-storage in a port where there is no ground available on shore for an installation of oil tanks, etc.

German Oil Storages.

To those who are acquainted with the topography of the Ægean archipelagoes, and the Eastern Mediterranean coast, and know the natural condition of the numerous and closely-scattered islands, islets and lotty rocks that stud that historic sea, the treacherous activity of the German submarines is not so wonderful as it generally appears. It is well known that throughout that sea, inhabited by seafaring people connected by tradition with the British and French mercantile marine service, the Germans and Austrians are disliked, and it is very doubtful if the enemy could get any assistance from them in carrying out their piracy. It is the uninhabited Ægean islets and rocks with their tricky inlets and hidden caverns, that offer a convenient lair to the pirates. Excellent spots for submerging oil tanks, and using them as a base with absolute safety are numerous between Cape Malea and Crete, Karpathos and Rhodos, in the Gulfs of Smyrna and Adramiti, and in some deserted islets in the Ionian Sea, where there are very suitable sandy bottoms along apparently rocky coast. And it cannot be doubted that oil storages of the character described above are being used by the enemy.

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P. O. B. 1095. Telg.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2066.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-18). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Date, March 1.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Public Works for the supply of 50 tons of natural asphalt required during the financial year 1916-1917. Samples shall be deposited at the Roads Service Depot, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, before noon, on February 29.

Tenders are invited by the Director, Technical Schools, Cairo, for the supply of raw materials required for 1916-1917, such as wood, hardware, paints, oil, cement, bricks, building stones, sand, quicklime, etc. February 29.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Public Works for the supply of 320 tons of "extra hard pitch" required during the financial year 1916-17. Samples shall be submitted at the Roads Service Depot, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, before noon, on March 1.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Public Works for the supply of sundry materials, such as lime, homra, sand and cement tiles, required during the financial year 1916-1917. Samples shall be deposited at the Roads Service Depot, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, before noon, on March 4.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Alexandria has forwarded a specification and tender form in connection with a call for tenders by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior (Lunacy Division) for the supply and delivery of 320 metric tons of Newcastle coal required by the Abbassia and Khanka Asylums at Abbassia, Cairo, for the period of fifteen months from April 1, 1916, to June 30, 1917. Copies of the specification and form of tender may be obtained from the Director of the Lunacy Division, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, at which address sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received. No date for the receipt of tenders is mentioned. A copy of the specification and form of tender may be consulted by United Kingdom coal exporters at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The Secrétaire Général des Domaines de l'Etat (Service Technique), Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of accessories for workshops, etc. Lists, samples, etc., can be seen at the head offices in Cairo. Date, March 1.

The Secrétaire Général des Domaines de l'Etat (Service Technique), Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 20 tons of coke. February 15.

Sudan.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on February 29, for the supply of timber required by the above Department in 1916.

Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W., and from the Agent, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria.

Cyprus.

Tenders are invited by the Public Works Department and the Royal Engineers at Limassol for the supply of materials, etc., for the year 1916-17, delivered at the Depot, Limassol, as in Lists numbered I., II., and III., obtainable from the Director of Public Works. Tenders may be made for any one, two, or all three lists at the option of the person tendering. All tenders should be sealed, and should be addressed to the President of the Tender Board, the Office of the Treasurer, Nicosia. Tenders should be marked "Tender for Materials, Limassol," in the left hand top corner of the envelope, and should reach the Office of the Treasurer not later than 11 a.m. on February 18. All details regarding the articles to be supplied can be obtained from the Office of the Divisional Engineer, Limassol.

Tenders are invited by the Public Works Department, Nicosia, for the supply of materials, etc., for the year 1916-17, as per the Lists numbered I. to VII., to be obtained at the P.W.D. Office. Tenders may be made for any or all of the seven lists at the option of the person tendering. All tenders should be sealed, and should be addressed to the President of the Tender Board, the Office of the Treasurer, Nicosia. Tenders should be marked "Tender for Materials, Nicosia," in the left hand top corner of the envelope, and should reach the Office of the Treasurer, not later than 11 a.m. on February 18, 1916.

The Public Works Department, Nicosia, invite tenders for the supply of petroleum and petrol for the year ending March 31, 1917, delivered at the Public Works Department Yard, Nicosia, or at the Municipal Store. All tenders should be sealed, and should be addressed to the President of the Tender Board, the Office of the Treasurer, Nicosia. Tenders should be marked "Tender for Petroleum for Public Works Department," or "Tender for Petrol for Public Works Department," in the left hand top corner of the envelope, and should reach the Office of the Treasurer not later than 11 a.m. on February 18, 1916. All details regarding the articles to be supplied can be obtained from the Office of the Director of Public Works, Nicosia.

Gibraltar.

A London firm of general exporters, having agents in Gibraltar, desires to act as export agents for United Kingdom firms wishing to do business in that market. The same firm wishes to act as buying agents in Gibraltar for United Kingdom importers of local produce. Communications in this connection should be addressed to the Secretary, Statistical and Information Department, London Chamber of Commerce, 97, Cannon Street, E.C.

Greece.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of translation of a Greek Royal Decree, dated October 18-31, 1915, which establishes, as from November 1-14, 1915, a State Monopoly of the importation and sale of chemical matches and playing cards in the new Greek territories (Macedonia, Epirus, the Ægean Islands, Crete, and Samos). The Decree contains particulars as to the form in which, and prices at which boxes of matches and packs of playing cards are to be sold, and as to the inscriptions which the labels on such articles are to bear. The translation of the Decree may be seen by persons interested, on application, at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Morocco.

The Board of Trade have received from H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier copies of a Tariff showing the valuations of the principal articles of merchandise imported into Morocco. These valuations form the basis on which duty is to be assessed by the Moorish Customs Administration during the first half of the year 1916. The Tariff (in French) may be seen by persons interested, on application, at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. Goods imported into Morocco by sea are, with certain exceptions, subject to duty at the rate of 10 per cent. ad valorem, and also to the special tax of 2½ per cent. ad valorem, imposed as a temporary measure by Article 66 of the Algeciras Act.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

SUDAN CATTLE ROYALTY.

(From a Correspondent.)

Owing to the continued misfortunes experienced by the people of the Dongola Province, the Administration has very wisely reduced the amount of the annual tax payable on each head of cattle by one-half. This impost is now, therefore, only P.T. 5 instead of P.T. 10. This concession will prove an immense boon to the large number of natives interested in the cattle trade, which has suffered considerably of late years owing to one cause or another. There are certain exemptions from this concession provided for.

COTTON MARKET.

Liverpool. Thursday Night.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph:—There has been a moderate demand for cotton this week and a fair amount of business is reported. Prices have ruled easier and quotations show a decline of 10 points for Sakkelerides and 20 points for all others, except Abbassi, which is exceptionally five points down. The sales, which include 110 bales of Sudan cotton, are estimated at 4,100 bales.

Manchester.

We have experienced a quiet market this week, with no new features in evidence, and the turnover is disappointing.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, February 3.

Currants.

There has been a good demand this past week, with good business passing at late, and in some instances higher, prices. One more steamer has been unloaded this week, while another is still waiting for her turn. The Greek market is reported strong.

Sultanas.

Good business continues in Afghan and Indian fruit at recent rates. Greek sultanas are quiet, and quotations are firm and unchanged.

Figs and Dates.

Only small business passing at more or less steady prices.

Seeds.

Linseed has improved during the week, but at time of writing the market appears lifeless and without any inquiry for any kind. Sellers, however, want Calcutta to London, spot, Jan.-Feb. and Feb.-Mar., 81s. 6d.; La Plata to London, Jan.-Feb. and Feb.-Mar., 75s.; La Plata to Hull, spot, 80s.; Jan.-Feb., Feb.-Mar., and Mar.-April, 75s. 6d.; and April-May, 76s. Cottonseed is quiet and nominal. Egyptian to London, passage, £14, and loading, £15. Egyptian to Hull, spot and loading, £15 5s., and Feb., £15 6s. 3d. asked. Bombay to Hull, passage and Jan.-Feb., £14 10s. is asked. Rapeseed, nominal; Canary seed is very scarce and dearer. Spanish spot 115s. to 130s. ex store, per 464 lbs. White Rangoon beans, old crop, steady but quiet; spot, £24 5s., ex store; afloat, £23 15s. c.i.f.; new crop is easier, Mar.-April, £23 c.i.f.

Oils.

Linseed oil recovered a little during the week, but to-day has again declined, and spot pipes are at £42 15s., barrels £43 5s., month £43 5s., Feb.-April £43 15s., May-Aug. £44 15s. Cotton oil is dull, crude, pipes, spot, £49, and sweet, barrels, £52. Rape oil is firm, ordinary brown naked nominally £52; English refined, barrels, £56.

Locust Beans.

Stocks are very limited. Cypros are quoted £10 to £10 5s., store, net terms.

GREEK ORANGE CROPS.

The U.S. Consul at Athens reports, under date of December 3, that the orange crop of the Athens district is being gathered, and despite the large consumption by the Allied forces in or near Greece the prices remain low. A good lemon crop is being gathered, and prices remain low. The mandarin crop is large and of excellent quality.

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CAIRO BOURSE.

Cabling on Monday, the Cairo correspondent of the *Times* said:—The Cairo Bourse was reopened this morning for cash transactions. The conditions were excellent, with buyers predominating and sellers restricted, and there was a tendency of a rise all along the line, some categories, especially hotels, being demanded at higher prices than before the war.

"At Alexandria the Bourse has not yet been reopened as it refuses to accept the proposal that it should reopen free of all restrictions, as the Government wishes, but it is believed that it will be forced shortly to fall into line with Cairo."

EX-KHEDIVE'S ENTERPRISES.

The *Official Journal* of the Egyptian Government (January 13) publishes the following two decrees:—

Societe des Biens Fonds Urbains et Ruraux.

Whereas the principal shareholder in the Société des Biens Fonds Urbains et Ruraux is the Daira of H.H. Abbas Pasha Hilmi, Ex-Khedive of Egypt, of which Daira Mr. P. Claudio Jannet has been judicially appointed receiver and manager; and whereas the engagements of the said company have been guaranteed by the said Daira; notice is given that Mr. P. Claudio Jannet has been appointed receiver and manager of the property in Egypt of the said company in accordance with Articles 9 and 10 of the Proclamation of January 25, 1915, with power to do all such acts as may be necessary to the good management of the said property.

Societe Belge Egyptienne de l'Ezbekich.

Whereas the principal shareholder of the Société Belge Egptienne de l'Ezbekieh is the Daira of H.H. Abbas Pasha Hilmi, Ex-Khedive of Egypt, of which Daira Mr. P. Claudio Jannet has been judicially appointed receiver and manager; and whereas the company has issued debentures the majority of which are held by persons of Belgian Nationality whose interests may advantageously be represented in the management of the company; notice is hereby given that Mr. P. Claudio Jannet and Mr. M. Van Regemorter, manager of the Cairo branch of the Banque Belge pour l'Etranger, have been appointed joint managers and receivers of the property in Egypt of the said company in accordance with Articles 9 and 10 of the Proclamation of January 25, 1915, with power to do all such acts as may be necessary for the good management of the said property.

*** Our Cairo correspondent, referring to these two companies in last week's issue of the NEAR EAST, said:—

"These two companies were really only constituted as a cloak for the commercial enterprises in which the ex-Khedive from time to time engaged himself. In both of them the Daira Khassa of Abbas Hilmi Pasha is the chief shareholder; but whilst the Daira guaranteed the financial engagements of the Société des Biens Fonds, in the case of the Société Belge-Egyptienne its property is mortgaged to a group of debenture-holders, most of whom are Belgian. Both companies own property in the Emad-ed-Din quarter in Cairo—enormous buildings let out in flats, the imposing nature of which strikes the new arrival in the city. It is interesting to note that it was in the construction and administration of these buildings that the ex-Khedive was so imposed upon. His suspicions were finally aroused by a chance incident, and he found, to his disgust, after a special inquiry had been held, that he had had to pay double the price that the construction had actually cost, and that in addition he was receiving but a fraction of the rent-roll that the tenants were paying. That was about a year or so ago prior to the war, and Abbas Hilmi Pasha, who for reasons best known to himself could not discredit those principally concerned, took speedy steps to remove them to other positions."

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The National Bank of Egypt, Cairo, Alexandria, or any of its branches, offers its services to any persons who may wish to buy the Exchequer Bonds now being issued by the British Government

According to latest information received in Paris, the desert line being built from Syria towards Egypt now reaches a point twenty miles south of Bersheba, where all trains stop.

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ALEXANDRIA AND PORT SAID QUAY DUES.

The following is the text of the decrees relating to the quay dues at Alexandria and Port Said published in the *Official Journal* of December 27, 1915 :—

We, the Sultan of Egypt.

Whereas quay dues were instituted at Alexandria on September 22, 1880, and considering that the quays of Port Said are now in a fit state to minister to the needs of commerce and that Port Said can as well as any other Egyptian port so provided be made liable to quay dues in the same degree as Alexandria, on the proposal of our Minister of Finance and in conformity with the opinion of the Council of Ministers, Decree.

Art 1.—Quay dues ad valorem are established on all goods landed or embarked at Port Said both with regard to exports and imports. The tariff of these dues shall always be the same as those of the port of Alexandria.

Art. 2.—Our Minister of Finance is authorised to establish by simple decision and within the limits of the quay dues for the port of Alexandria, quay dues on all other Egyptian ports as soon as he shall judge such action possible.

Art. 3.—Provisionally and during the length of the war the quay dues for exports are fixed at twelve per thousand of their value, both for Alexandria and for Port Said.

The present decree will come into force thirty days after its publication. Our Minister of Finance may, however, waive the right to payment of the whole or a part of the dues on exports of cotton or cotton seed for contracts that he may recognise as having been made before the publication of the present decree. This abatement, however, may only be allowed for cotton and cotton seed exported during the present cotton season ending August 31, 1916. He will establish by a Ministerial decision to be published the conditions under which the abatement may be obtained.

The text of the decision relative to the abatement of quay dues on exports of cotton and cotton seed at Port Said and Alexandria is as follows :—

Art. 1.—In order to benefit by the abatement of the quay dues provided for by the above decree exporters must within a period of fifteen days from the publication of the present decision send their applications with the necessary papers to the Customs Administration as well as proof that the contract was signed before the publication of the decree. This latter document must indicate the date of the contract, the quantity sold, the country of destination, the name of the buyer and the date for delivery.

Art. 2.—The Customs Administration will have the right to verify applications either by the examination of the exporter's books or by other means.

Art. 3.—Only cotton and cotton seed effectively exported according to the details and indications above mentioned may benefit by the abatement. This rebate will be twelve per thousand for exports from Port Said and ten per thousand for exports from Alexandria.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 31 Décembre.

Prêts Existants:

	1914. £E.		1915. £E.
Prêts à court terme	10,127	..	3,314
Catégorie "B"	5,499,385	..	4,933,553
Total	5,509,512	..	4,936,867
Echéances:			
Dues	1,212,087	..	1,001,304
A échoir	—	..	—
Total	1,212,087	..	1,001,304

Perceptions:

	1914. £E.		1915. £E.
Arriérés au 31 janvier	704,977	..	1,394,546
Restant	510,149	..	993,721
Perçu	194,828	..	400,825
Echéances:			
Perçu	208,975	..	722,949
Total perçu sur annuités échues	403,803	..	1,123,774

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for the week, nil (last week, 53 tons); Hurgada production for the week, 460 tons (last week, 397 tons); Hurgada Well No. 7 has been producing since January 27 from 60 to 75 tons a day.

CREDIT FONCIER EGYPTIEN.—The ordinary general meeting of January 31 having failed to collect the number of shares required by the by-laws for rendering legal its proceedings, a new ordinary general meeting will be held at the Registered Office at Cairo on Thursday, February 17, at 3 p.m.

CREDIT FONCIER D'ORIENT.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held in Paris on February 26.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the week ended January 10 amounted to £E6,200, or an increase of £E489 over the corresponding period of last year.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.—Week ending January 20, £1,375 (increase £142); aggregate to date, £3,904 (increase £319).

NESTOR GIANACLIS.—The Bank of Athens announces that the coupons for the 5 per cent. debentures due to-day will be paid on and after that date at the London office, 22, Fenchurch Street.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Production for week ending 22nd ult., 680 tons.

SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME DU BEHERA.—Payment is being made on Coupon No. 43 of the debentures at the offices of the National Bank of Egypt.

SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME DES CHEMINS DE FER DE LA BASSE EGYPTE.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held on February 18 at Cairo.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.—The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal for the 31st ult. amounted to 150,000 frs., as compared with 260,000 frs. for the corresponding day last year.

ROUMANIAN OIL EXPORTS.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* of January 6 publishes the following official figures of the exports of petroleum from Roumania in 1914, as compared with the previous year :—

—	Total Exports. 1913. Metric tons.	1914. Metric tons.
Crude oil	28,622	15,405
Residues and gas oil	341,912	167,523
Mineral oil	9,543	8,617
Lighting oils and distillate	418,622	297,800
Benzine	237,168	164,143
Paraffin	579	536
Total in 1914	—	654,024
Total in 1913	1,036,446	—

—	Exports in 1914 to— Germany. Metric Tons.	United Kingdom. Metric Tons.	Austria-Hungary. Metric Tons.	Italy. Metric Tons.
Crude oil	92	—	11,180	—
Residues and gas oil	17,362	17,144	31,467	58,928
Mineral oil	3,678	—	1,974	14
Lighting oils and distillate	22,742	45,769	20,898	35,349
Benzine	55,290	15,058	18,732	13,783
Paraffin	—	—	2	70
Total in 1914	99,164	77,971	84,253	108,144
Total in 1913	126,295	232,880	77,184	118,643

The decline in the exports in 1914 (about 37 per cent.) was in part due to the effects of the war, such as the closing of the Dardanelles, and temporary restrictions and prohibitions to export benzine or residues. In the first seven months of 1914, however, the exports amounted to only 522,777 metric tons, as compared with 619,602 metric tons in the corresponding period of 1913.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	76
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	67
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	65
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75¾
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	54
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	41½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	52
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1907	77	—	57½xd
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	74
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Ser., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	80½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3⅞
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	70
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9⅝
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	—	3⅜
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5⅜
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	90
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13¾
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirsæus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	1⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	½	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	½	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	6
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅞	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅜
" " Founders	½	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	75
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	⅜
Sidi Salem Co.	⅜	—	½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	½
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	—	1⅜
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1⅛	—	15/9
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	17/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3¾	—	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	81/5
Upper Egypt Hotels	2¾	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Jan. 18.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	8/9
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	18/-
European Oilfields	4/9	2/6
Roumanian	20/-	13/3

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Jan. 18.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	425
Canal de Suez	4050	3979
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	578
Turkish Unified 4%	59.95	59.95
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	8.50
Serbian, 1895	—	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 249.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

On all sides fears are being expressed that the blight of the negative is settling down on the Allies' operations in the Near and Middle East. A little while ago we were bidden to rejoice because on Gallipoli, while fortune refused our arms to bless, we withdrew our troops with wonderful success. Now, just as the impregnability claimed for Salonika is hailed as a subject for satisfaction, so we are asked to receive with outward manifestations of complacency the news that "all is well" with General Townshend after a nine weeks' siege, and that the expedition sent to relieve him occupies a very strong position—twenty-three miles away. To what extent this unsatisfactory state of affairs is due to divided counsels regarding the value of the different operations it is not possible to say, but the total effect of the Allies being everywhere on the defensive is prejudicial to their prestige in the East, and can only serve to embarrass any neutral State waiting for an opportunity to declare itself on their side.

The case between the "extreme Balkanics" and the "extreme Westerners" was well put by Mr. J. L. Garvin in an address given last Tuesday under the auspices of the Royal Colonial Institute. The very title of the paper, "The British Empire and the Near East," it may be said in passing, was a condemnation of the policy laid down for Great Britain eight years ago, and again a few days before the outbreak of the war, that the affairs of the Balkans were not of sufficient concern to her to justify a declaration of war on her part. It may be that a lingering attachment to this short-sighted view prompts the unwillingness to venture far in any direction in the Near East to-day. But it is only necessary to consider the present situation to arrive at the conclusion that it is one which the Allies cannot accept indefinitely. Mr. Garvin's contention was that Germany, having abandoned the grandiose idea of conquering the world at one blow in the Western theatre, had reverted to her previous plan of two wars—the first to consolidate her position on the Continent, the second to bring the world overseas under her power. For the moment the programme embodied in the words *Drang nach Osten* had become a fact, and without a complete reversal of this fact there could be no real victory for the Allies and no future security for any of them. For the British "it would be of small avail to have kept such a mastery on the seas as we hold now, if the enemy were left in a position on land which would jeopardise both Egypt and India."

A permanent occupation by Germany of the position she now holds in the Near East—a Middle Empire stretching from Hamburg to Persia—is unthinkable, and there is no difference of opinion between the two schools of strategists regarding the necessity of depriving her of it. They part company, not in respect of the direction in which the final blow is to be dealt to Germany's hopes, but in respect of the locality in which the first real blow is to be delivered. Mr. Garvin summed up the arguments for a "determined offensive initiative" in the Near East. Even at present, he said, in spite of the primitive means of transport and the poor conditions of production, Germany hopes to draw from Turkey in Asia many of the supplies that are cut off by sea. The German Chancellor asserts that there is already plenty of cotton coming up the Danube. We do not know what he means by plenty; but if Germany holds her own and a bit more for another year she will throw organising energy into the work of getting cotton from the East, with considerable contributions as well in the shape of copper and chrome and grain. All this is as good as making large gaps in our naval blockade. The surest way of preventing Germany from drawing upon further supplies from Asia is to cut her lines of communication by means of a successful offensive in the Balkans. Again, there is the obligation to make it possible for Roumania to declare herself on the side of the Allies, and it is certainly worth some risks to obtain the support of a fresh army numbering from half to three-quarters of a million men.

The arguments in favour of vigorous action in the Near East are so overwhelming—for in addition to those mentioned there are all the potential developments that might result from the strengthening by such a move of the hands of those in Bulgaria and Turkey who are at heart on the side of the Entente Powers—that it is difficult to believe that we shall not see the Allies in due course taking the offensive in this theatre. A further delay will make for an improvement in the weather, and may possibly enable the Allies to benefit

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by some of the enemy's preparations in the way of roads. Moreover, the need for co-operation among the Allies is paramount, and there should be no question of an advance until a maximum effort can be made. Such an effort, it need hardly be said, predicates the support of the Roumanian army, which should be in a position to hold any force sent against it in the Carpathians, while devoting its main attention at first to Bulgaria.

But while the Allied Powers postpone their advance in the Balkans, it cannot be overlooked that the enemy also makes no move. In view of the fact that the initiative rested with him as a result of the overrunning of Serbia, the delay on his part is the more significant. It has enabled the Allies to complete their defensive works round Salonika, and to accumulate a force capable of taking the offensive. Various reasons are assigned for the enemy's hesitation. As there are symptoms of dissatisfaction among the Turkish authorities over the course that events are taking in the Balkans, it may be inferred that the delay in the attack on Salonika is not exclusively due to broken bridges and damaged railways, which prevent reinforcements being hurried to the front. The exchange of visits between the German Emperor and King Ferdinand, and the honours heaped on the latter, while no corresponding favours are extended to the Sultan in Constantinople, point to anxiety on Germany's part to coax Bulgaria into yet greater efforts without relying too much on Germany's co-operation, and tend to confirm the reports of increasing reluctance on the part of the Bulgarians to continue the war after they have gained possession of all, and more than, they desired. On the other hand Germany and Austria-Hungary have their preoccupations elsewhere, and cannot want to extend their commitments before they are sure how things are likely to go in other theatres of the war.

If the latest reports are to be credited, the Central Powers are at last alive to the fact that any hold they may have flattered themselves they still had on Roumania has already slipped from them. This discovery may well paralyse their action in the direction of Salonika. For some time past they cannot have been too sure of the Roumanians; but they will probably have relied on the spectacular effect of the blow that fell upon Serbia to put off for some time the day of Roumania's participation in the war. Even now we cannot count on any action taken by the Roumanian army finding the Germans unprepared. They are more likely to be well informed of the Bucharest Government's intentions, and in such circumstances will seek to steal a march on the Roumanians instead of waiting to be attacked. Fears that this may happen are finding expression in reports that German and Austrian troops are concentrating on the Roumanian frontier, and that Germany is threatening the Roumanian Government. The Allies must see to it that no miscalculation on their part imposes on the Roumanian army a burden too great for its numbers, or even heavy enough to affect its fighting value at the time of a general advance against the Central Powers.

Further examination of the various versions of the course of events that preceded the withdrawal of King Nicholas from Montenegro reveals only unimportant discrepancies. A formal demand for an armistice was made, and the Austrians insisted upon an immediate surrender. To this the Montenegrins signified a general assent and asked for the terms of the capitulation. When these were made known they were at once rejected on behalf of the bulk of the army, which left the country, together with the King and certain members of the Government. Whether the latter as a whole came to an agreement that certain of their number should remain behind to conduct the negotiations for the surrender of the defenceless population has not been stated. But the capitulation was carried out with certain formalities, although the number of able-bodied men involved must have been small. The rejection of their original demands caused the Austrians to modify them, and the terms ultimately imposed were less rigorous than those published in the first flush of success.

The withdrawal of what was left of the Montenegrin army does not detract much from the value of the Austrian success, which lies more in the importance of Mount Lovtchen to the nation in possession of the Bay of Cattaro than in the elimination of Montenegro. It is claimed that so long as its waters were dominated by the guns on Mount Lovtchen the Austrian men-of-war were not safe in the bay. French guns of small calibre had at an earlier stage of the war driven them from the inner and middle basins. If the French had carried out the scheme at one time attributed to them of replacing these guns by others of a larger calibre, it is probable that the outer basin also would have been made untenable for the Austrian fleet. Before the French plan could be adopted Italy entered the war and took over the defence of the Adriatic. Mount Lovtchen never received its heavy guns. The Austrian fleet, finding itself no longer closely confined within the Bay by the vigilance of the British and French fleets, recovered its courage, and submarines sallied forth to raid in the Adriatic and Mediterranean. Now that Italy has decided to accept her responsibilities in the Balkans, and has undertaken to defend Valona, it is to be hoped that her Navy will once more keep the Austrian fleet a prisoner in the Bay of Cattaro. A long time must elapse before Italian heavy guns can be placed on Mount Lovtchen; but the vigilance of Italian ships can help to restore to the Mediterranean the sense of security of which the presence of Austrian and German submarines temporarily deprived it.

General Townshend's force has entered upon the tenth week of its siege at Kut. The fact that it is able to communicate with the outside world by wireless telegraphy lessens the mental strain of the investment, but does not mitigate the physical hardships of its position. Another favourable feature is the absence of any Turkish attacks for a considerable period. The fate of the force, however, depends almost entirely on its capacity to make what must have been at first a scanty stock of provisions last until the arrival of the relief expedition. Three weeks have passed since General Aylmer delivered his last attack against the Turks. His losses on that occasion and the state of the weather and the river precluded any further operation against the enemy; but he has been joined since then by General Lake, who has succeeded Sir John Nixon as Commander-in-Chief in Mesopotamia, and it must be assumed that the strength of the expedition is now equal to the task before it as soon as the floods render an advance possible.

In our last issue we touched upon the critical situation of the expeditionary force in Mesopotamia, and emphasised the danger of yielding to the temptation to belittle the military importance of the operations in this theatre and of regarding a possible withdrawal as a matter of little account. The reference would hardly have been justified had there not been some reason for supposing that the possibility was being entertained in responsible quarters. It is the more gratifying, therefore, to find that the Government of India, also considering it necessary to take note of the suggestion of a withdrawal, has issued a formal denial that any such step is contemplated. A *communiqué* published on February 7 states that General Townshend is holding Kut "as a point of strategical value," and that General Aylmer's operations are intended to support him there. This pronouncement, it may be assumed, would not have been made unless General Lake was already, or very nearly, in a position to make good the policy enunciated.

Activity still prevails in Armenia, in spite of the severity of the weather. In the absence of any statement regarding the investment of Erzeroum it would appear to be the intention of the Russians to contain the fortress while straightening out their line from the Black Sea southwards. The pursuit of the Turks carried the Russian centre a long way in advance of the right flank, and here the work of accounting for the enemy may take some time owing to the nature of the

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country. In its effort to belittle the Russian successes in Armenia the official German Press reveals the anxiety which prevails, if not in the German, at least in the Turkish higher command. The claim that the Turks can afford to be indifferent to any Russian success on this front because they have more important work on hand elsewhere will bring little comfort to the Turks themselves. An advance of seventy miles at one stroke is no bagatelle—the more so when other Russian columns farther south are being brought within striking distance of the Baghdad line of communication.

In Persia the Russians are also in close touch with the Turco-German forces based on Kermanshah. As there has been no denial of the enemy report that Kangavar had been retaken from the Russians, we may accept its accuracy. The Turks, however, do not seem to have been able to advance beyond this town, as the latest engagements have been in its immediate neighbourhood. Against the raiding tactics of the enemy the Russians are adopting the plan of deliberately clearing the country of the invaders as they advance. The absence of communications makes it difficult to bring up reinforcements, but in this respect our Allies are more favourably situated than the Turks. The only news from the south of Persia during the past week is to the effect that communication has been established with Major O'Connor, the British Consul at Shiraz, and other members of the British colony in that town who were kidnapped some time ago. They are now at Ahram, and report that they are all well and are being well treated.

It will come as a surprise, if not as a shock, to many people to learn that the old vexed question of the Mixed Courts in Egypt is still *sur le tapis*. That there would be no drastic changes until the end of the war was understood, but the natural corollary to that arrangement was that the machinery of "carrying on" should continue to run without any possibility of a hitch. Thus the renewal of the mandate for the Mixed Courts was to be regarded as merely a matter of form, which would give no rise to discussion. It appears, however, that Italy is making her consent conditional on the appointment of an additional Italian judge in view of the larger proportion of Italian subjects amongst the foreign population of Egypt compared with other Powers having equal representation on the Bench of the Mixed Courts. The matter will, of course, be adjusted satisfactorily, but as the new status of Egypt presupposes a radical modification of the present judicial system, it is unfortunate that the subject should have been brought up for discussion at this time.

One of the results of the Alliance between Germany and Bulgaria, King Ferdinand informed his hearers at the Nish banquet, was to be the promotion of *Kultur* in the Near East. We have no means of knowing the interpretation that Ferdinand of Coburg places upon this word, but it is evident that so far the results of the intimate relations between Bulgarians and Germans have been very different from the qualities usually associated with the word. To set against the Armenian massacres, carried out for the most part under the eyes and with the approval of German officials on the spot, we have the report of a cold-blooded murder of Serbian prisoners by their Bulgarian captors. The details of this gruesome act need not be repeated here; they merely reproduce *en masse* some of the methods practised by the Germans at an earlier stage of the war in Belgium. But of such acts it can always be said that they were the crimes of individuals rather than the deliberate policy of a Government. The excuse does not apply to the Armenian massacres. In any case the Bulgarian Government is not making a good start in a *Kultur* campaign, if it be true that it has refused to allow any assistance in the form of food or comfort to be given to prisoners of war in the country. Our Bucharest Correspondent relates that a sum of £4,000 has been collected in Roumania for the benefit of French and British prisoners of war in Bulgaria. The Dutch Minister in Sofia was asked to distribute the money, but the Bulgarian Government will not sanction the proceeding. The matter is, perhaps, of minor importance in the sum total of Bulgaria's official shortcomings; but it cannot fail to be entered up against her at the day of reckoning.

Reports of renewed liveliness in the Black Sea are to be welcomed. A Russian *communiqué* speaks of torpedo boats fighting an action with a Turkish coast battery, and evading the attentions of a "Turkish" submarine. Even more significant—a squadron of Russian hydroplanes attacked with bombs a large steamer anchored at the jetty of Zunguldak. In view of the splendid efforts that the Russians are putting forth in the Caucasus and Persia, in addition to the gigantic task with which they are confronted in the eastern theatre of the war, their Allies cannot press for activity in any other direction. But it would undoubtedly be an invaluable contribution to the Allied cause if the Black Sea fleet could enforce its mastery over those waters. It was a great disappointment when it was realized that Russia's fleet was not equal to the task of keeping the Turks' attention continually occupied at the entrance to the Bosphorus; but it was hoped that it would at least put an end to navigation along the Anatolian coast. We hear, however, of a large steamer at Zunguldak, Constantinople's chief coal depôt. Hydroplanes introduce a fresh element, and inspire the hope that the veil recently drawn over naval matters in the Black Sea has concealed preparations of which the Allies may shortly expect to reap the benefit.

CHRISTMAS IN CONSTANINOPLE.

We are indebted to a correspondent for permission to reproduce the following extracts from a letter written from Constantinople on January 10. The information they give regarding the prohibition against American ladies visiting our wounded soldiers in hospital appears to mark a further extension of the Hunnish influence in the Turkish capital. Our readers will, however, join us in thanking the Dutch ladies who undertook the errand of mercy that their American sisters were debarred from fulfilling:—

"Thousands of wounded come in every day since 'the Allies have left the Dardanelles.' We have about fifty-four of our men in hospital, and we boiled four puddings for them, and twelve for the prison camps, for Christmas. Cases of things were sent down to them—sweets, games. cards, boots, clothes, mending materials, puddings, etc., and the Dutch ladies went to serve the puddings, pies, etc., that were made for those in hospital. Not even American ladies were allowed to see them, but the Dutch are supplied with extras to feed up our men.

"Things here get dearer and dearer, and we cut down something every week. Washing soap is now 30 piastres the oke, rice 18, coffee 101, and tea 100. They say things are being sent through to Germany."

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 25.

The Situation on the Frontiers.

There is little to report from the two frontiers on the East. The defences are rapidly nearing completion. However successfully the Turkish invasion may have been resisted last February, it is generally recognised now that it is a mistake to try to defend the Suez Canal by making that waterway the first line of defence; that the attack should be met out in the open, and that the Canal should only be treated as a position—unrivalled in its strength—on which to fall back in case of need. As a result of the change in strategy now adopted, and of the great activity displayed by all concerned, the Turks, if and when their attack materialises, should find our defences a very tough proposition—one that it will baffle all their ingenuity to tackle with success. With regard to the western frontier, heavy rains have interfered with operations, and the country is reported to have become a quagmire. An engagement took place yesterday to the west of Matruh, in which our troops were entirely successful, but up to the time of writing no details are available.

The Egyptian Army Reserves.

The sensation of the week—if one may so term it—has been the calling up of the Egyptian Reserves, which was done by Ministerial *arrêté*. The reservists are not required for fighting purposes, but solely for transport work. It appears that a camel transport corps is being organised on a very large scale. The ordinary camel-driver has proved useless for this work, and, in fact, has in the past considerably hindered operations. The G.O.C. the British Forces in Egypt decided that to ensure the success of this new organisation he must have a body of men accustomed to military discipline, and, considering that the Egyptian reservists fulfilled this condition, he asked the Egyptian Government to assist him by calling up the reserves, which it was empowered to do in time of war by the Recruiting Law.

The reservists are being called up gradually, and retired officers are being appointed to command them. The mobilization has, on the whole, been well received by the population. When the news first spread there was a certain amount of uneasiness; but the publication of an explanatory note by the Ministry of War, to the effect that the reservists were required for transport work, has had an entirely tranquillising effect.

The reservists will receive double the ordinary army pay. The British Government offered to meet the expense, just as it is doing in the case of the civil servants whose services have been lent to the military authorities. The Egyptian Government declined the offer, stating that it considered it only right that it should freely give the services of its subjects for any work that was connected with the defence of what is, after all, its canal.

The Question of Court Uniforms.

The *Official Journal* has published particulars of the dress to be worn on all official occasions by Government servants and the public. It may be remembered that a new system of grades and decorations was instituted last year. Those persons who have one of these grades are to wear the uniform laid down for such grades. The general public admitted to State ceremonies is to wear ordinary evening dress, as heretofore; but for civil servants not possessing a grade a brand new uniform has been designed. Briefly, it is a frock-coat of a prescribed style with green silk revers, black velvet collar and cuffs, and a stipulated number of gilt buttons bearing three stars and crescents inset in a floral wreath down the front, on the cuffs, on the back, and at the tail; the trousers are to be of the same stuff as the coat, and there is to be a low-cut white waistcoat.

No doubt it is meet and right that guests at the Sultan's Court should wear some more distinctive dress than the old "Stambouline" or frock-coat, but one may, I think, reasonably ask whether the present is a fitting moment to introduce this reform and place a further burden on the Egyptian civil servants, who, as it is, are suffering heavily from the penalty attaching to fixed incomes at a time of stress like that of to-day. The notification of the obligation to purchase and wear this new Court uniform was hailed in certain circles as an earnest of the Government's intention to increase salaries next April. But I fear that the civil servants concerned are for the most part foredoomed to disappointment, and that this notification can but be regarded as an indication that the change in Egypt's status has not driven out the "topsy-turvydom" that has been her peculiar characteristic since time immemorial; for while the Government at home preaches rigorous economy in all directions, the Egyptian Government is, it would appear, pressing its employees to practise what, without any disrespect, and to put it mildly, is the reverse. Frock-coats were considered adequate for the great Coronation ceremony of December 20, 1914, and they could quite reasonably be permitted to continue service until normal conditions set in once again, when the powers that be could by all means insist on the adoption of the new uniforms.

State Banquet to General Murray.

H.H. the Sultan gave a banquet at Abdin Palace this week in honour of General Sir Archibald Murray. It was one of the largest functions of its kind that has been held here since the institution of the new régime. The guests included the Sultania, the princes, General Maxwell and his staff, Sir Henry McMahon and the Residency staff, the Ministers, the Advisers, the Under-Secretaries of State, and many of the generals commanding the various British forces at present stationed in Egypt, with their aide-de-camps.

THE EMPIRE AND THE NEAR EAST.

On Tuesday last, at a meeting convened at the Hotel Cecil by the Royal Colonial Institute, Mr. J. L. Garvin delivered an address on the British Empire and the Near East. In the absence of Lord Curzon, Dr. G. R. Parkin, C.M.G., presided, and among those present were M. J. Renkin (Belgian Minister for the Colonies), Admiral Sir E. Fremantle, G.C.B., Captain Muirhead Collins, Lt.-Col. J. W. Barrett, C.M.G., Major-General the Hon Sir R. Talbot, K.C.B., and Sir Harry Wilson, K.C.M.G.

In the course of his address, Mr. Garvin said that in the latter part of the nineteenth century the legitimate pride of the Germans at their success in many directions had turned to a boundless arrogance, dangerous for themselves and the world. The assumption made by many of our writers that the future would be to the English-speaking peoples and the Slavs had rendered them furious. "The twentieth century will belong to the Germans," said General von Liebert, and they bent themselves to create by sheer force of war a Middle Empire, which by combined power and position would be the greatest in the world. The British Empire they did not believe would survive, and when it broke up they hoped to pick up some of the spoil. In pursuance of their plans, the Kaiser paid his famous visit to the Holy Land, appearing as a kind of cross between Parsifal and a commercial traveller. A concession was obtained for the Baghdad railway, founded on Chesney's surveys, just as the German aniline dye industry was founded on Perkin's discovery.

Having traced the course of events up to the present time, Mr. Garvin said that the Allies had allowed themselves to be surprised by the obvious, and Serbia was crushed while they debated. As the result of Germany's decisive idea and effort in arms and policy, her push to the East had reached almost the furthest goal of practical ambition at the present stage. Upon the use of this fact the Germans rested their real hope of a substantial victory which would give them in the end the effective control of the Old World. Without a complete reversal of this fact there could be no real victory for the Allies and no future security. Even at present Germany hoped to draw from Turkey-in-Asia many of the supplies that had been cut off by the sea; and, looking ten years ahead, Asia Minor and Mesopotamia would be one of the richest mining and agricultural regions in the world. To such a Middle Empire Greece and Roumania would gravitate. So would Serbia, for the Serbs were resolved to be one people. They had shown they would passionately prefer to be united in one independent State, but if that proved to be impossible, they would prefer union under German control to continuing divided. The Allies could not accept the present situation. No part of the game had yet been finally lost in the Balkans; and with sea-power in our hands and the forces that we have to-day it would be the fault of the Allies in general and our own gross fault in particular if the Entente Powers did not wrest from the Germans the mastery of the Near East on both sides of the Bosphorus.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, January 26.

Interruption of Communications.

The destruction of the Demir-Hissar bridge and the cutting of the telegraph wires caused an interruption of postal and telegraphic communications with Constantinople, and for a fortnight no mails were received in Athens. Postal communication has now been established viâ Kavalla and Drama, and a batch of belated mails has come to hand. Telegraphic communication for commercial purposes is practically impossible.

Travellers from Constantinople have now a difficult and disagreeable journey to perform, and not a few have come viâ Smyrna, embarking at Vourla on sailing vessels. Hundreds of refugees are continually coming away from Smyrna in this manner. There is great misery there, and, it is said, much sickness through eating too many figs, a diet which the poor have been obliged to resort to in the absence of anything else within their means. Imported articles, such as sugar, tea, coffee, etc., can no longer be procured.

Reported New Vali of Smyrna.

There is a report that the Vali, Rahmi Bey, is to be transferred to Constantinople, and is to be replaced by the famous Bedri Bey, the chief of the police at Constantinople. This change will doubtless prove very distasteful to the subjects of the Allies in Smyrna, whose unmolested existence has undoubtedly been due to Rahmi Bey, whatever his ulterior motives may have been. The appointment of Bedri to Smyrna seems to indicate that the Germans intend making it hot for the English and French there.

Many guns have been removed from that district—in fact, men and munitions are being hurriedly despatched south, but whether to Syria or to Baghdad it is impossible to say definitely. There appears to be a very general opinion that there is much bluff about the proposed expedition to Suez, and that the Turks are really concentrating all their energies upon plans for inflicting a crushing defeat on the British forces in Mesopotamia. Von der Goltz is evidently there with a large staff of German officers. The occupation of Baghdad by the British would no doubt be very much more distasteful to the Germans than a Turkish defeat on the Suez Canal, and everything points to a great effort being made to prevent the fall of Baghdad. Moreover, it is hoped by the Turks that another setback to the British on the Tigris, following the evacuation of the Gallipoli Peninsula, would have favourable results amongst the Mussulmans in general towards the Turks.

It is reported that about 100,000 troops have been withdrawn from the Dardanelles, and that after receiving new equipment in Constantinople they have been sent south by the Anatolian Railway, on which all ordinary traffic had been stopped.

Naval Activities.

Since the British evacuated the Gallipoli Peninsula large numbers of wounded have been arriving in Constantinople, an indication that the bombardment by the ships had inflicted considerable loss on the enemy. The British submarines continue to be active in the Marmora, and do considerable damage to small craft, but few vessels now attempt to navigate the Marmora.

The Sultan's yacht Ertogrul, which had been transformed for carrying munitions to the Dardanelles, was torpedoed on her first trip, but it is reported that she succeeded in beaching at Phanaraki Point, and has since been refloated. The repairs she requires, however, as with other damaged vessels in Constantinople, are probably impossible to effect in view of the absence of the necessary material.

The Goeben has again ventured into the Black Sea, and the Turkish *communiqué* of January 11 stated that she exchanged shots with the Russian cruiser Imperatrice Maria, without receiving any damage. She was apparently convoying a coal-laden steamer from Zunguldak, and was caught by the Russian fleet. The steamer was sunk by a Russian torpedo, and the Goeben was chased into the Bosphorus. She is evidently still able to navigate at a high speed—when running away!

The severe explosion which occurred at Hasskeui a short time ago appears to have taken place in a shell-filling department, and was caused by the explosion of cordite. Some thirty to forty German workmen were among the large number of casualties.

Anti-German Feeling Spreading.

The situation in Constantinople appears to be deplorable and most trying for Europeans—the Huns excepted, who evidently take good care to provide themselves with all they require.

The Germans are evidently becoming thoroughly hated by the Turks, and the feeling in the Army against their brutal taskmasters is constantly growing. In fact, Constantinople is being ruled in much the same way as a town in Belgium, and the Turk is less than ever his own master. German officers are now never seen together with their Turkish colleagues, and by their overbearing manners they create a feeling of disgust amongst all Turks with whom they come into contact.

Evidently no German troops have arrived in Constantinople, though there are by this time many thousands of German soldiers of the different services drafted into the Turkish Army, and it it reported that the Dardanelles fortifications are to be garrisoned by them.

The Germans are gradually obtaining full control at Constantinople, and are trying to make their position secure against the effects of a possible revolution against Talaat, Enver, and company.

There is a growing pacificist party, which realises that further resistance on the part of Turkey against the Entente Powers is useless, and would like to get rid of the German yoke; but there is apparently no means of bringing about a change as long as Enver's influence over the Army exists.

The Cost of Living.

There is intense misery in Constantinople, and the cost of living is higher than ever. Coffee, for instance, is now 90 piastres the oke, and the price of sugar fluctuates between 40 and 50. Rice is 18 piastres the oke, and cheese 30. There is scarcely any silver money seen now, and only 104 piastres in nickel coin are obtainable for a lira. It is stated that the *mejidiehs* have been sent to Mesopotamia and Syria, to bribe the different Arab tribes. The half-lira notes, cut in half by the Public Debt and signed by the President of that Administration, are now in circulation.

Talaat's Threats.

On January 3, in reply to a question in the Chamber of Deputies about the arrest of the Turkish consul at Salonika, Talaat made a statement to the effect that he hoped the question would be satisfactorily settled, otherwise the Government would take the steps necessitated by the circumstances, and would throw the responsibility on those who perpetrated the illegal action. What the nature of the reprisals would be was not mentioned, but as a matter of fact, several members of the staffs of the French Embassy and Consulate who had remained in Constantinople have since been arrested. The names mentioned are Dugardier, Baudouy, and Gojon.

British Subjects.

An Englishman residing at Kadikeui, named Robinson, has also been arrested. Naturally, all the Allied subjects are in a state of nervousness, and each one expects, as he retires to sleep, to be awakened in the middle of the night and conducted in a semi-comatose and semi-attired condition to one of those filthy dens which in Turkey serve as prisons. That is the way it is usually done! Mr. Scudamore is still under arrest, but Mr. James La Fontaine has been released and has returned to Constantinople safe and sound.

Instructions have been given by one of the Ministries that a note should be made of all houses and property belonging to the subjects of the Allies, and that particulars should be given as to how they are occupied at present and the whereabouts of their owners.

It is also reported that a law is to be passed that rent should be paid for all houses requisitioned by the military authorities, evidently with ulterior motives. The form of payment will doubtless be a "scrap of paper"!

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, January 22.

A "Dull" Week.

The past week has been one of comparative dulness in Salonika. We have the usual endless stream of Allied troops and transport in the streets, but this has become such a familiar spectacle that the novelty has worn off. Occasionally, however, a newly landed battery of artillery or a regiment attracts momentary notice. The feeling among the people as well as the military is one of ever-increasing confidence as the Allies steadily add to their forces here. Indeed, the attitude of the Greeks in general appears to become more and more friendly every day, and the Greek soldiers now fraternize much more openly with the British Tommy. Although few if any Tommies know modern Greek, it often happens that one of the Greek soldiers speaks English, learnt either at school, or, more likely, during a sojourn in America.

"Scots Wha Hae."

I suppose the Censor will allow me to mention that we have several Highland Regiments here. It is bitterly cold weather for the kilt, but these hardy sons of the mountain and glen do not seem to feel a bit more uncomfortable than their trousered comrades. One particular café-keeper must have had his eye on these regiments when he painted in bold letters on his window, "Scots Wha Hae"—on the inspiration of some Scot, no doubt. At first sight it does not seem a tactful way of attracting the Southern Tommy also to remind him of those who "wi' Wallace bled" in fighting against his English ancestors; but, of course, he thinks nothing of and cares nothing for the ancient quarrels of those days. So he sits beside that window along with his Scottish comrades oblivious of the original meaning of the words. English, Scottish, and Irish—all are now brothers and all are *British*.

Salonika's "Metropolitan Police."

As I have already indicated, the main streets of Salonika are full to overflowing of wheeled and other traffic, but what particularly strikes an Englishman on reaching a corner or cross-roads is the sight of a British policeman regulating all this traffic. And everyone—Greeks and all—obey him implicitly. You might almost imagine you were at the Mansion House or Ludgate Circus instead of nearly 2,000 miles from London. The policeman is, of course, in khaki, but on his armlet you can read the letters M.P. (Military Police), and as a matter of fact most of these stalwart fellows are ex-members of the Metropolitan Police Force.

With all this military traffic the tramway cars are being continually held up. But this matters little; the service is so meagre and irregular that most persons prefer to walk. The machinery at the electric station broke down about two months ago, and the company still awaits necessary new parts which are expected from England or France. They are thus losing a golden opportunity.

"Don't Buy My Goods"!

Who ever heard of a regular vendor of any commodity begging the public not to buy his goods, or else to husband what they do buy so as to make it spin out as long as possible before making a further purchase? Yet that is just what the Salonika Gas and Electric Light companies are doing. The one sells gas and the other electric current, and both have pleading notices in the newspapers in which they ask their customers to use as little as possible, the former because of the scarcity of coal, and the latter both for that reason and because their plant is in a damaged condition. The unfortunate shareholders must grind their teeth when they realize the opportunities they are losing of making exceptional profits under present circumstances.

The Cost of Living.

We hear a good deal about the enormous increase in the price of food and other necessaries in Constantinople, but Salonika is not far behind. The cost of living here is increasing by leaps and bounds. This is not entirely due to the scarcity of these necessaries, but partly to the characteristically grasping nature of the merchants. Roughly speaking, the price of the oke (about $2\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.) has more than doubled within the last month. Let me give a few examples, converting the prices per oke into English money. Bread, already so dear, costs 1s. 3d. per oke, and is sometimes unobtainable at any price. Yesterday I saw crowds waiting at each bakery, and Greek soldiers were selling their bread rations to the public at from twice to thrice that high price. Beans have jumped from 1s. 1d. to 2s. 1d., potatoes from 2d. to 7d., charcoal from $1\frac{1}{2}$d. to $3\frac{1}{2}$d., and petroleum from 3s. to 13s. per tin (five gallons). Then, babies must have milk, although it has risen from 6d. to 1s. per oke. Eggs have risen from 1d. to $2\frac{1}{2}$d. and 3d. for two. Sugar, for which an official tariff of 1s. 4d. per oke was supposed to be in force, costs 2s. and more, and meat has risen from 2s. to 3s. 4d. As to imported goods, such as cheese, wine, ham, candles, etc., prices have become more prohibitive still. Finally, drinks of all kinds at the cafés have recently been more than doubled in price for the benefit of us strangers.

It is proposed to form a joint Greek and Allied commission to deal with this matter, but the weeks roll by, and nothing is done. Those of us who earn salaries have therefore to accept with the best grace we can what in effect is only equivalent in purchasing power to less than one-half our former emoluments. This state of things affects with special cruelty the poorer classes and the crowds of refugees who are pouring into Salonika, for all of whom charity cannot provide even the most necessary food.

Contraband Traffic.

The Greek is a born contrabandist, both by sea and land. Now that railway communication between Salonika and Bulgaria has been interrupted by the blowing up of various bridges by the Allies, large quantities of goods are finding their way across the frontier in carts in the neighbourhood of Ghevgheli. The Allies have no proper guards along this frontier, and the Greek troops seem to interfere in no way with their fellow-countrymen in thus earning an honest—or dishonest—penny. I also know, on the best authority, that several Greek sailing vessels engaged in this traffic have recently been captured. As regards petroleum and benzine, there are special regulations under which no shipments can be made except by permission of the British authorities. But after such permission is granted for a particular port and the vessel has left Salonika, there is nothing to prevent the captain from directing his course towards a convenient spot, where, perhaps, a German submarine awaits him. One vessel which recently sailed from Kavalla to Piræus was discovered near a small island in the vicinity of Rhodes, and another which left Piræus for the same port was captured near the coast of Asia Minor. As the Standard Oil Company of New York has practically a monopoly of the market here for petroleum and its products at the present time, some people may be under the erroneous impression that this American—and consequently neutral—company is in some way responsible for part of this traffic. I have the best authority for saying that this is an entire mistake. My information is that not a drop of the company's products is sold without express permission from the British authorities and heavy guarantees on the part of the purchasers; but no restrictions and no guarantees, however heavy, can always prevent a dealer or a captain at sea from yielding to the temptation of trying to earn the big profits to be derived from such contraband traffic. Indeed, I hear that the naval authorities have specially recognised the very correct attitude of the company towards the Allies in this respect.

Spies and Thieves.

The local newspapers report that a German spy who arrived here a few days ago from one of the Greek islands was immediately tried by court-martial and shot.

Thieves are as plentiful as spies, and it requires constant watching on the part of the military to prevent stores being carried away. Besides the crowds of labourers employed in handling the goods, there is always a gang of boys with sacks hovering about the outskirts of the enormous stacks of corned beef and other foodstuffs ready to take advantage of the slightest inattention on the part of the sentry or other guardian. A small shanty near these supplies was raided by the British a few nights ago, and the three male occupants were promptly arrested. The place was cram full of stolen British goods.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, January 11.

Transit of Roumanian Goods.

In a previous letter it was mentioned that Roumania was negotiating the transit from Salonika of the goods ordered abroad. The Bulgarians explained that they were in no way responsible for the delay, since all communications between Salonika and Bulgaria had been interrupted. The Roumanian Government has now decided to have the goods, which amount to about 1,500 truckloads, embarked at Salonika, and sent round viâ Sweden and Russia. This means a delay of some months, in spite of the facilities offered by the Russian authorities for the transit of goods for Roumania. The Swedish authorities have refused the transit of munitions. These will, therefore, have to be forwarded by way of Archangel.

Misery in Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian regiments forming the garrisons on the Roumanian frontier points are reported to have been entirely replaced by German, Austrian, and Turkish troops. I am, however, disinclined to believe this news, which does not appear reasonable. Persons arriving from Varna relate interesting facts regarding the economic situation in Bulgaria. All the most important foodstuffs have been exported into Austria and Germany, so that the population is in a state of great material want. Prices have risen very high. Many families, having relatives in Baltchik, have moved over the frontier, the conditions of life in Bulgaria having become intolerable.

Miss Cavell's Monument.

The subscription organised by *La Roumanie*, one of the newspapers appearing in the French tongue, with the object of contributing to the expenses of the monument to be raised to the memory of Miss Cavell, now amounts to the sum of 2,000 francs.

January 19.

Bye-elections.

The public has been much preoccupied with the candidature of two Roumanians from Transylvania for the vacant seats of Galatz and Caracal. Special significance was lent to these bye-elections by the unique circumstance that the two candidates, Father Lucaci and the poet Goga, are Austro-Hungarian subjects, and that their election would have given a somewhat official character to the solidarity which exists between the Roumanians of the kingdom and their co-nationals who live beneath the sceptre of the Habsburgs. Their candidature was warmly supported by the leaders of the Unionist Federation, MM. Filipescu and Take Jonescu, but met with violent opposition, accompanied by some bloodshed, which can only be accounted for by the liberal expenditure of German gold. The Government cannot reasonably be made responsible for the disturbances, which were of a riotous nature; but, on the other hand, the authorities may be suspected of not having done their utmost to maintain order. The candidates set up a good fight, which resulted in what is known as a "ballottage." Dissatisfied with this result, and as a protest against the hostile measures employed by their opponents, the two Nationalists have withdrawn their candidature.

The *Nationalul* of January 19 affirms that the German Government has informed the Roumanian Minister in Berlin that it regards the candidatures of Father Lucaci and Octavian Goga, as well as the sale of wheat to Great Britain, as acts of provocation. The communication is said to have been phrased in a menacing tone, but the news has not been confirmed, and may, therefore, be provisionally ignored.

Recall of Von dem Busche.

The German Minister in Bucharest, who was said to have left for Berlin on leave, is now reported to have been definitely recalled. The recklessness with which German money has been squandered for purposes of propaganda and corruption, and the totally inadequate results from a German point of view, together with the failure to prevent the sale of wheat to Britain, are given as reasons for his recall. Herr von dem Busche's substitute is said to be the Duke of Mecklenburg, who will at the same time assume the direction of German diplomatic affairs in the Near East. Prince Hohenlohe has also been mentioned in this connection. This news has not been confirmed, and is, therefore, subject to caution. Meanwhile, it is Count Waldburg who remains in charge of the Legation. He is popular in Bucharest society; indeed, the only fault the majority of people find with him is that he was born a German.

Divorce in Roumania.

According to recent statistics, Roumania is the country that boasts the highest proportion of divorces in Europe. In Germany there are said to be seventeen divorces per 1,000 marriages, in France twenty-one, and in Switzerland—who would believe it?—no less than forty. Roumania easily holds the first place with fifty divorces per 1,000 marriages. The number is said to have doubled in this country during the last twenty years. There can be no doubt, however, that divorces were much more frequent a few decades ago. There are no statistics to prove it, records not being strictly kept at that time, but the history of so many well-known families supports this opinion. Of course, early marriages had something to do with it. The grandmothers of the present generation were mostly married at the age of sixteen or seventeen, and a few of them earlier.

An Anniversary.

It is exactly fifty-seven years since the Moldavian deputies, recklessly oversetting the resolutions of the Great Powers as expressed in the Convention of Paris, took the first step towards the realisation of national union by unanimously electing Colonel Alexander Couza as Prince of Moldavia. Within a few weeks he was elected Prince of Walachia, the union of the principalities becoming a *fait accompli*, which maintained itself in spite of Austria's efforts to defeat a development eminently foreign to its own organisation, and destined by its character to form an obstacle to the accomplishment of her plans.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, January 22.

Bulgarians in Macedonia.

According to information published in the local press there would seem to be very little reason to doubt an early attack on Salonika by the Austro-German troops. Certain facts, such as the activity of German aeroplanes, which, coming from Xanthi, frequently fly over Serres and the neighbouring districts, tend to confirm this information. In speaking of an "early" attack one must, however, take the words only in a relative sense. What has become of those great hosts, the German armies of 800,000 men, with which Serbia was to be crushed? Nobody knows, or, rather, everybody knows that this was all merely a piece of bluff, intended to alarm Greece. It must be remembered how at that time the Germanophil Press tried to terrorise the Greeks by threatening them with the fate of Belgium. The truth is that, in spite of their boasts, the Austro-Germans would never have succeeded in defeating the heroic Serbs without the help of the Bulgars. So to-day, without the help of King Ferdinand's troops, they would be powerless to attack Salonika.

Apparently there is no longer any doubt as to the entrance of Bulgarian troops upon Greek territory. The promises made by Germany guaranteed us against such an unhappy eventuality—at least, so we were serenely assured by the organs of the German propaganda. Their tone, however, has now changed, and they state that if the Bulgarians penetrate into Greek territory the Greek Army will withdraw before them, as before the Germans and Austrians. Yet it appears that the object of our mobilization was to prevent them from making this entry. What matters? We have seen strange things happen, and others are happening, and doubtless we shall live to see many more.

A Stroke of Policy.

In February, 1915, when M. Venizelos wished to intervene on the side of the Entente, we were told: "Do nothing! Bulgaria would profit by it, and move also to realise her ambitions." We did nothing. It was the Bulgarians who acted, and took what they coveted.

Well, now that the calamity that was foretold has arrived, our Germanophil journals prove that it is great luck for us. Bulgaria has become immeasurably greater, it is true, but it is precisely her aggrandisement that will prove to be our strength. Roumania, become anxious over the extension of her neighbour, Bulgaria, will inevitably become the ally of Greece.

How well it has all been thought out! We will be weak alone, and redoubtable with an ally. At that price, the Republic of Saint Marino, by allying herself to a victorious Germany, could impose its will on the universe!

The Coming Attack.

Shortly after the retreat of the Allies the Germanophil journals stated that in ten days' time the Anglo-French troops would be turned out of Salonika and driven into the sea. Since then more than a month has passed, and not only are the Allied troops still there, but the Austro-Germans have not yet even shown themselves. True, their arrival is announced for ten days hence. They are completing the construction of a railway to ensure their supplies. They are provided with abundant munitions and numerous artillery, especially heavy pieces. Austria is said to have sent several 42-cm. guns. On the other hand, the Allies are not lacking in either the means of defence or big guns. If the Austro-Germans, with their Bulgarian allies, bring up 300,000 men, the Anglo-French troops are quite ready for them.

According to the *Neon Asty*, Allied torpedo-boats have discovered in a Chalcedean monastery, near the village of Soufla, a store of fifty barrels of benzine, hidden in the guardian's cave. The use for which this oil was destined is obvious. For some time past it had been patent that the German submarines were obtaining supplies in the bays of Chalcedea, but the exact locality has hitherto remained a mystery.

The Serbs at Corfu.

The French landed at Corfu in the dead of night. They immediately proceeded to occupy the Achilleon, covering up the escutcheon bearing the German Imperial arms with a French flag. They arrested the custodian, as well as the Austrian Vice-Consul. The apprehension of the latter gave rise to a funny incident. This worthy had only recently changed his abode, and the military picket sent to effect his arrest presented itself at his former residence, where the officer was amazed at being confronted by a harmless old couple, who were, not unnaturally, greatly perturbed at this nocturnal visit. The members of the Serbian Government continue to reach Corfu. M. Pashitch, the Premier, several Ministers, and a number of Deputies have already arrived. King Peter, who is undergoing treatment at Ædypsos, is not expected there for two months. There is a likelihood that the Skuptshina will soon meet in Corfu. Serbian soldiers reach the island daily. They are being supplied with arms and munitions by the Allies.

A MEDITERRANEAN SUBMARINE ATTACK.

At Mudros we took on board the crew of a steamer that had recently been sunk in the Mediterranean by an enemy submarine. And this is the way one of the ship's officers told me the story.

The s.s. Provincia, of the Fabre Line, had left Mudros. She was a small boat, not very fast, of 4,800 tons displacement, 2,245 registered. At 8.45 in the morning of the first of October she was in longitude 21 degs. 09 min. east of Greenwich, and in a direct latitudinal line with the south point of Cerigotto, just about 120 miles from that same land. The *Unterseebot* approached, flying the Austrian flag, and demanded that the whole complement of thirty-eight persons should take to the boats. One was rowed over to the submarine and then used by the Austrians for their own visit to the doomed vessel. A bomb in the hold did the rest.

These are the simple facts of the case. But the most amazing part of the whole performance follows. When the ship's boat was on its journey the officer with whom I conversed was asked, in excellent French:

"What line do you belong to?"

"The Fabre Line.'

"Oh, the same as the Santa Anna!"

And the Santa Anna had had her little experience with enemy bombs coming out of New York harbour so recently that the crew of the Provincia had not yet even heard of it. Yet these officers on the Austrian submarine knew it all.

When the ship's boat returned, what was the surprise of the Provincia's crew to find it crammed full of extra food supplies.

"So this is the way you revictual?"

"No, not at all. These supplies are for you! You may be at sea for some time yet."

"But why this extraordinary consideration?"

"Well, you see, you are French. We would not treat Englishmen so well; but we have no malice towards you."

And the sturdy little Breton sailor replied: "We ask no favours from our enemies. Not even our lives."

Whereupon the small boats were set free, the submarine proceeded onwards, the bomb in the Provincia sent her to the bottom, and the members of the crew spent seven hours in the open sea until they were picked up by a British boat, the ——, and taken to Mudros, where we met them. But the "Austrians" would not have treated Englishmen so well.

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Bucharest, January 18.

The German Taskmaster.

The internal situation is passing from bad to worse. From the moment the Germans took charge of affairs the conditions of life began to become more difficult, and things have gone so far that numberless families are on the verge of starvation. This state of things is due in part to the exportation of grain. Large quantities of corn have been sold to Germany at a low price, and the same thing has happened in the case of Greece as a result of German pressure, the motives for which are obviously of a political character. The indigent population is suffering heavily as a result of these measures, for the stock of grain has fallen considerably below that necessary for internal consumption, and prices have risen in consequence. M. Radoslavoff has attempted to justify his action by invoking motives of a higher order, which do not appeal to the populace, so that his excuses have failed to dispel the existing state of dissatisfaction. The Austro-German command, being all-powerful, requisition all edible articles that they can lay hands on, exporting the same to Austria and Germany. Another factor which contributes to bring about this state of affairs is the absence of all healthy males up to the age of fifty, the pecuniary aid which the State grants to the families of the mobilized being totally inadequate.

Here are a few details with regard to prices: 1½ lb. of black bread is said to cost 5d. to 6d., and then it is in a state of impurity due to admixture with foreign bodies. White bread is sold only to the sick upon presentation of a medical certificate countersigned by the commander of the garrison. The price of this is about 8d. for 1½ lb. Pork, which was formerly sold at 5d. the lb., has now reached 1s. 8d. The price of many other articles of consumption has risen five times above the normal. This applies to tea and coffee. All the milk is requisitioned for the hospitals, which is specially hard upon the children. All eggs are exported. At Rustchuk some fifty head of cattle are killed daily for the exclusive use of Austro-German troops.

The New Governor of Serbia.

The appointment of an Austrian—General Salis-Seewis—as military Governor of Serbia has produced much dissatisfaction in Bulgarian political and military circles. This nomination has come as a complete surprise to the Bulgarian authorities, who consider that they should have been consulted in the matter; and has, in consequence, given rise to the suspicion that in case of victory the Austro-Hungarians will claim for themselves a part of Macedonia. The Bulgarians had previously sought (and obtained) Germany's sanction to the appointment of a Bulgarian governor in the person of M. Ceaprashikoff, formerly Minister at Niah, with the idea of anticipating Austro-German pretensions in this direction. The new appointment is looked upon as a provocation; for the Bulgarian functionaries already established in Serbia thus become subordinated to the authority of an Austro-Hungarian governor.

Even in the impossible event of the Central Powers being victorious, the Bulgarians would probably have to submit to many a humiliating disappointment.

Sofia Bombarded.

On January 11 a French aviator flew over Sofia, throwing bombs on to the town. This caused an indescribable panic among the inhabitants, who but once before in the history of the city had been visited by an enemy aeroplane. This was in 1913, when Lieutenant Capsha, of the Roumanian army, performed the feat of flying over the Balkan Mountains. Too gallant a soldier to frighten an unarmed populace, he could not refrain from dropping a gracefully-worded message of greeting to the fair inhabitants of the Bulgarian capital. But, then, circumstances were different in those days.

Allied Prisoners in Bulgaria.

The Bulgarians have really succeeded in surpassing the limits of inhumanity. The respectable sum of £4,000 had been collected in Roumania for the purpose of alleviating the sad lot of French and British prisoners of war in Bulgaria. The Dutch Minister in Sofia had been requested to act as intermediary in the distribution of this sum. He now reports that the Bulgarian Government have categorically refused their consent to assistance of any kind being given to their prisoners. There is no precedent for such conduct in the history of the war. May this item be added to the sum of Bulgarian ignominy on the day of reckoning!

Bulgarian Troops Pass into Austria.

Bulgarian troops numbering 80,000 (over three divisions) are reported to have passed into Austrian territory by way of Orshova. Their destination is unknown. It is not probable that they will be sent to the Russian front, so that the choice must be between the Italian and French fronts. It is supposed that they will be replaced by Austro-German troops, the exchange being a concession to the aversion the Greeks entertain to having their territory invaded by Bulgars.

A Political Crime?

M. Tontchourmanski, a member of the Stamboulovist party, and a political friend of M. Ghenadieff's, is reported by telegram to have been assassinated on January 13 as he was leaving the Union Club at Sofia. Near the National Theatre he was accosted by one Dimitroff, who, drawing a revolver, fired three shots at him. The assassin then took his own life with the three remaining bullets. Both victims died almost immediately. Tontchourmanski was a great landowner in the Roumanian Dobruja, and one of the richest men in Bulgaria. Dimitroff was his agent. The motive of the crime is unknown. Some attribute it to a private quarrel; others give it a political significance. The report that accomplices of Dimitroff's have been arrested supports the latter hypothesis.

Boycotting Charities.

A painful impression has been created in certain Bulgarian circles by the boycotting of a charity bazaar on the part of the wealthy inhabitants of the capital. There is, however, nothing very astonishing in this, for, as we mentioned above, there is great misery in the country, the German régime is weighing heavily on all, and people are very much alive to the fact that Bulgarians may have much to gain by victory, but that their chief function is to help save the Central Powers.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The correspondent of an Austrian paper, in describing the meeting of the Kaiser and Ferdinand of Coburg at Nish, says that:—

> "German motor-cars brought the Bulgarian party to their quarters through the 'Mackensenstrasse,' over the 'Wilhelmplatz' into the 'Bismarckstrasse.' In the whole town one saw everywhere German street signs."

What a truly German touch! What a horrible fate for Nish! It's surely bad enough to have *Boche* and Bulgarian stalking its streets without this crowning horror. But, after all, the thing is a cheap insult to the heroic Serbian people, an insult at which their heroism can afford to laugh. The Germans, in their love for such petty circumstance, remind me of a child which, trembling in the dark, reiterates its courage in spoken words, hoping that they may become true. To label a street with a familiar name doubtless gives to the invaders a fine sense of ownership, but unfortunately for his gentle sensibilities the end is not yet. Lord, what fools these mortals be!

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Apropos, I suppose, of my note on Zeppelin airships in this paper last week, a correspondent writes asking for my candid opinion of the North Sea incident, when the captain of the British trawler King Stephen left the crew of a wrecked Zeppelin to its fate. My opinion is that the action was entirely justified, for I look upon the matter in the following light. Germany has, from the moment that war was declared, striven to impress all nations with the fact that no consideration of God or man is important to her if it interfere with her own interests. No oaths are binding, no claim of humanity important if by disregarding them the German cause may be in any way advanced. It would plainly have been to the German interest had she been able to counter the loss of her Zeppelin by the capture of a British trawler and its crew. The commander of the airship might take what oaths he chose, knowing as he spoke that if chance enabled him to break them he would be hailed as a hero throughout the length and breadth of Germany. With this knowledge before him the British skipper not only did right in refusing to trust the German word; he had no right whatever to risk the loss of his ship and liberty by acting otherwise. The value he placed on German honour was its exact worth; its standard was set by the Kaiser on his throne. And though it is not pleasant to contemplate death in cold blood, I had rather think of a hundred Germans bent upon an errand of murder dying thus than of one woman or her child struggling in the water while German sailors jeer as a torpedoed ship goes down.

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The Rev. W. A. Wigram, Acting Chaplain of the Crimean Memorial Church at Constantinople, to whom reference was made in the Personal pages of THE NEAR EAST last week, is one of the joint authors of "The Cradle of Mankind," the other being his brother, Mr. E. T. A. Wigram. The work is one of the most entertaining and withal instructive works on life in the eastern parts of Turkey in Asia and on the Tigris that I have read. It was reviewed in THE NEAR EAST at the time of its publication, some two years ago; so I must not quote any of the good stories with which it abounds. But I think that some of my readers may be glad to be reminded of it just now, when the advance of our Russian Ally over ground that is described by the authors, makes the book a profitable one to study. Incidentally, it helps one to understand how it comes about that Dr. Wigram should have risen to the occasion so finely when the Turks decided to send our countrymen off to the Gallipoli Peninsula last year as an act of "frightfulness."

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In the note published in last week's NEAR EAST on the paper, "Seven Months in High Asia," read by Miss Ella Sykes, before the Central Asian Society, I observe that the lecturer stated that in Kashgar the custom of temporary marriage among traders is much in vogue. This reminds me that such marriages are not confined to the traders of Kashgar, but are quite common amongst another class, which one would think would be more particular, to wit, the Shiah pilgrims to Meshed Ali and Meshed Hussein. I heard a good deal about this subject when I was in the neighbourhood of the famous shrines, and there is no doubt whatever that these "temporary marriages" do take place, and very frequently. Apart from what I heard from my friends the Arabs, I may refer to what is written by the Rev. J. P. Peters, in his "Nippur" (vol. ii. p. 316). "Besides the ordinary bad practices of the country regarding marriage, the Shiite Moslems have in connection with their pilgrimages a curious practice of temporary marriage. The pilgrim marries a woman for a day, week, or month, as the case may be; the price and the time are agreed upon beforehand; the marriage is regularly performed by an imam; at the end of the stipulated time the man divorces his temporary wife, and she is ready for another contract of marriage." It reminds one of certain arrangements connected with some of the temples that stood in this same land thousands of years ago; and it seems to suggest that customs linger on in countries in spite of changes of rulers and of religion. Indeed, that is what we find in other lands less conservative than the Chaldean plain, which is to-day the Busreh vilayet of the Turkish Empire. And since custom is largely the outcome of climatic influences and of tradition, we need hardly be surprised to find the Shiah pilgrim treading in the footsteps of his forerunner of thirty or forty centuries ago in more ways than one.

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A few days ago I was told by a friend a quaint story which centres round a small cafe in Bucharest, and upon which, it seems to me, a clever author might easily build up a quite fascinating romance. The building referred to stands not far from King Ferdinand's palace, but it is not the imposing, flourishing place one would expect to find in such a neighbourhood; on the contrary, it is small and somewhat faded-looking; and to an imaginative person who has heard its history it wears an air of depression. Moreover, if rumour may be trusted, nobody cares to sleep in the place. So there you have the setting for a story; and if you wish to write a sensational "thriller," I would suggest as a title: "The Haunted Café, or The Gypsy's Warning."—For, as you will see, one of my old friends, the gypsies, figures in the romance, though only in a subsidiary part.

***

In the 'Seventies, or thereabouts, this Bucharest café enjoyed a reputation very different from that which now attaches to it—though, to be sure, as a café it may, for aught I know to the contrary, be not unpopular even to-day. At that time it was kept by a genial Roumanian, who was married, and had for many years lived on affectionate terms with his wife. But in his old age he fell a victim to the charms of a fresh fair, and after some little hesitation, he determined to be off with the old love and on with the new. Accordingly, he announced his intention to his better half, and—they seem to do this kind of thing almost as easily in Roumania as in certain of the American states—obtained a divorce. But, odd though it may seem to us, the divorce did not lead to any ill-feeling between the parties. The husband actually built a new house for his first wife at the end of the little *parc* attached to his café; and there she took up her residence, while her rival was installed in the café itself. Moreover, the husband used regularly to visit the divorced wife, and took a very real interest in her welfare.

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Bucharest may not have been quite so surprised at this state of things as—let us say, Upper Tooting, would be; for it is not so far from Constantinople, where *kiosks* and pavilions in *parcs* are not so rare as they are in Clapham—or Tooting, in which haunts of suburban respectability these things are managed in a quite different fashion. Nevertheless, Bucharest *was* mildly puzzled by the husband's intense solicitude for Wife Number One's well-being, which was palpably unaffected. But at last the secret came out. In his young days the proprietor of the café had consulted a gypsy fortune-teller, who had informed him that he would certainly die at the same time as his wife (Number One). Therefore, in guarding her, he was guarding himself, and his anxiety whenever she was unwell was comprehensible. Certainly he was to be pitied! When the lady suffered from any indisposition he became perturbed; and once or twice when she was confined to her bed his inquiries were constant and his agitation intense. Bucharest smiled at first, but presently it realized that the matter was serious enough in all conscience to the poor man; and then it became sorry for him. For his first wife was obviously breaking up fast, and he, by fretting and worrying, was doing his best to fulfil the gypsy's prophecy. Finally, he did fulfil it, for his first wife passed away in her little house at the end of the garden, and he followed her at once. Doubtless the gypsy, had she appeared then in Bucharest would have made her fortune in a fortnight; but probably, being so talented, she had already done so elsewhere—in Regent Street or in the United States.

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As to that, my friend could tell me nothing, but he was able to round off the story of the café. The second wife attempted for a time to carry on the business; but public feeling seemed to be against her, and ere long she sold the concern and betook herself elsewhere. The new proprietor found the house "unlucky," and retired; his successor had a similar experience. As I said above, to-day nobody is over anxious to sleep in the café; and the moral I draw from the tale is: Keep clear of gypsy fortune-tellers. It may be after the style of the "Moral" to "Nell Cook." But I decline to draw any other.

CORSAIR.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Feb.	1916. Jan.		1334. Rabi II.	5676. Adar.
11	29	Friday	6	7
12	30	Saturday.....	7	8
13	31	Sunday	8	9
	Feb.			
14	1	Monday	9	10
15	2	Tuesday	10	11
16	3	Wednesday	11	12
17	4	Thursday	12	13

Sunday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Irene of Greece, second daughter of King Constantine, who was born at Athens, January 31, 1904 (O.S.).

Her Majesty the Queen has now fixed Monday next at a quarter past two o'clock for the unveiling of the Florence Nightingale Memorial which has been erected in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Prince Alexis of Serbia, brother of King Peter, has arrived at Mentone from Italy.

Under date of February 6, Reuter's Corfu correspondent reports:—The Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia arrived in Corfu this afternoon from Albania, on board a French torpedo-boat. In company of the French Admiral the Crown Prince left the French warship and landed amid loud cheering from the crowd and the playing of the Serbian and French National Anthems. On the quay were all the Serbian Ministers, representatives of the Allied countries, Serbian and French high officers, and the Greek civil, Greek military, and Allied authorities. After having shaken hands with the Ministers, and exchanged a few words with each, his Royal Highness reviewed the two guards of honour, and then proceeded to the hotel where apartments had been reserved for him, loudly acclaimed along the whole route.

The *Matin* publishes the following from Athens under date February 8:—"The newspapers state that in Serbian official circles it is declared that the Prince Regent Alexander of Serbia, who is shortly expected in Athens, intends to proceed afterwards to Paris and London."

Under date of January 11 our Bucharest Correspondent writes:—Their Majesties King Ferdinand and Queen Marie of Roumania celebrate to-day the 23rd anniversary of their wedding-day. Prince Ferdinand of Hohenzollern had been for three years Heir-Presumptive to the throne of Roumania, when, on January 11, 1892, he was married to Princess Alexandra Victoria Marie, daughter of the Duke of Edinburgh and of the Grand-duchess Alexandra of Russia.

The French Government has decided to confer the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour and the Croix de Guerre on Lord Kitchener.

Vice-Admiral Richard Peirse had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday morning, when his Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath.

The same day Rear-Admiral Ernest Troubridge, recently returned from Serbia, had the honour of being received by the King.

Lady Lang has left the United States on her return to England, where she is expected to arrive on the 20th inst.

Mr. Morgenthau, the United States Ambassador at Constantinople, says a telegram from The Hague, will return to America via Copenhagen.

Sir Charles and Lady Waldstein and the Misses Seligman have arrived at 41, Park Street, Mayfair, which they have taken for two months.

A Reuter's message from Cairo, dated the 9th inst., reports:—

Miss Irene McMahon, younger daughter of Colonel Sir Henry McMahon, High Commissioner for Egypt, was married quietly this afternoon to Captain Evans Gordon. The Sultan of Egypt last night gave a banquet in honour of the bridal couple.

The engagement is announced of Evelyn Amy, the only child of Lieut.-General Sir G. M. Bullock, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bermudas, and late G.O.C. of the British Army of Occupation in Egypt, and Lady Bullock, to Captain John Goldsmith, R.M.L.I., H.M.S. "Cumberland."

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major Luke Tunnard, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, attached Egyptian Army, and Joan, only daughter of the late Frederick Koski and Mrs. Koski, of Chicago, U.S.A.

The engagement is announced of Aida, eldest daughter of Mr. Diacono, of Cairo, with Major Hugh Poate, of Sydney, 1st Surgeon attached to the Ghezireh Palace Hospital, and son of the Surveyor-General of Lands in Australia. The wedding is expected to take place in a few months.

The Earl of Kinnoull, who died at Hove on Monday morning, succeeded his father in 1897. Formerly a lieutenant in the 1st Black Watch, Lord Kinnoull became Divisional Inspector of Egyptian Police, and during the campaign on the Red Sea he served as Chief of the Staff to Baker Basha, receiving the Egyptian medal, the bronze star, and other awards.

The death is announced of Commander George Douglas Jephson at a convalescent home in Nice. He saw service in the Persian Gulf and at the Dardanelles during the present war.

The death has taken place at Merstham, Surrey, in his seventy-ninth year, of Deputy Inspector-General James Trimble, late of the Royal Navy. He was present at the naval and military operations in the Eastern Sudan in 1884, and was mentioned in despatches and received the medal and the Khedive's bronze star. He retired in 1893 as a Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets.

Under date of January 11, our Bucharest Correspondent writes:—

His Excellency M. Blondel, the French representative in the Roumanian capital, has recently undergone a minor operation. His state of health is reported to be satisfactory.

I have to record with deep regret the death of Professor Heresco, the well-known surgical specialist, whose sudden decease has filled with dismay his colleagues as well as his patients. He had barely reached middle age, but his name is known in Europe and America to every specialist in his particular branch. Not merely Roumania, but the whole medical world is the poorer by his loss. He was a passionate supporter of the cause of the Allies, and the last words that passed his lips were expressive of regret that he could not live to see the downfall of Germany.

In a later letter (January 19) our Correspondent reports:—

M. Blondel, the French Minister in Bucharest, has not completely recovered from the effects of the small operation he had to undergo, but his convalescence is reported to be progressing favourably.

Bucharest society has suffered a great loss in the person of Madame Simone Lahovary, the widow of the statesman Alexander Lahovary. She had organised an entertainment in favour of the Serbian refugees, and while distributing to these the proceeds she developed typhoid fever, to which she finally succumbed. Madame Lahovary, née Ghermani, enjoyed a high position in Roumanian society, her intellectual gifts being much appreciated.

Monseigneur Camilli, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Jassy, has died at the age of 76.

Baron Otori, the Secretary of the Japanese Embassy, has left for Greece (states a Rome telegram) to report to his Government on the situation there, Japan not having a diplomatic representative in Athens.

Second-Lieut. R. G. Bond, Army Service Corps, of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, London, has been promoted to lieutenant.

Mr. R. Johnston, of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Cairo, has been appointed second-lieutenant in the 2nd Camel Transport Corps.

Mr. A. H. Orensteen, of the same agency, is also joining the forces in Egypt, probably as an interpreter on the staff.

Mrs. Wynne, who was recently employed by the Grand Duke Nicholas in organizing dressing stations and field hospitals for the Russian Army at the Turkish front near Batum, is now in the Caucasus on her way to Persia. She is accompanied by Miss Macnaghtan and Mr. Bevan, with her ambulance cars and their English and Russian personnel. She is officially attached to the Russian Army, and will accompany it during the Persian campaign.

Miss Kathleen Burke, delegate of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, left England last Saturday for a lecturing tour in the United States and Canada "to raise £10,000 in two months." Before her departure the Serbian Minister wished her "God-speed," and stated that he was desired by his Government to express the profound gratitude of Serbia for the "extraordinarily useful work which was accomplished in Serbia by the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service during this war."

The Scottish Women's Hospitals have now established a hospital in Corsica for Serbian refugees, and Dr. Milan Curcin, Chief of the Department for Foreign Missions of the Sanitary Section of the Serbian Army Headquarters, has been directed to place himself at the disposal of the Scottish Women's Hospitals to facilitate the installation of this hospital by procuring all requisite information concerning the refugees.

Forty members of the Second Scottish Women's Hospital Unit have arrived in Zurich after internment in Austria as common military prisoners of war. They at once proceeded to Berne, and expected to travel direct to London on Wednesday night. With them are thirty other British women, including nineteen members of the First Scottish Unit. Nearly a hundred more women were expected to arrive yesterday.

The King has been pleased to grant permission to Mr. Frederick Terry Rowlatt, Governor of the National Bank of Egypt, to wear the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Nile, which decoration has been conferred upon him by the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services.

The King has been pleased to grant permission to Mr. Henry Higgs, C.B., of his Majesty's Treasury, ex-Inspector-General of Finance to the Egyptian Government, to wear the Insignia of Grand Officer of the Order of the Nile, which decoration has been conferred upon him by the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services.

MRS. FRANK BARKER wishes to recommend MANOLI CORBETTI, 22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street, W., to anyone wishing to purchase YAOURT, HALVA, TOMATO PASTE, BLACK OLIVES, ORIENTAL JAMS, or CIGARETTES, all of which he gets direct from Salonika and other parts of Greece.—[Advt.]

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The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that Prince Alexander of Serbia has conferred the Order of St. Sava upon Professor Bosanquet, of Liverpool, who crossed and recrossed to Valona, at great risk, on behalf of the Serbian Relief Fund, and was bombarded by an Austrian aeroplane during the voyage. Professor Bosanquet is now at Corfu, whither M. Grouitch, formerly Serbian representative in London, has proceeded to join him.

An Exchange telegram from Cairo states that the funeral of Sayed Mohammed El Morghani was of the most imposing character, the Sultan and the Sirdar being represented. El Morghani was hon. C.M.G., which was conferred on him when the New Year's Honours were issued. He had always been pro-English, and was the most influential man in the Sudan in favour of Great Britain. He accompanied Baker Pasha to Suakin in 1883, and made whole-hearted but unavailing attempts to induce Osman Digna to lay down his arms.

On Thursday last week, at Buckingham Palace, the King conferred the Victoria Cross upon Corporal Cyril Royston Guyton Bassett, of the New Zealand Divisional Signal Company, for most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the Chunk Bair Ridge, in the Gallipoli Peninsula, on August 7, 1915. After the New Zealand Infantry Brigade had attacked and established itself on the ridge, Corporal Bassett, in full daylight and under a continuous and heavy fire, succeeded in laying a telephone line from the old position to the new one on Chunk Bair. He has subsequently been brought to notice for further excellent and most gallant work connected with the repair of telephone lines by day and night under heavy fire.

Serbian deputies, who left Rome for Nice on Thursday, deputed five of their number to thank Baron Sonnino, Minister for Foreign Affairs, for their reception in Italy and for the assistance rendered by the Italian Government in convoying Serbian refugees across the Adriatic.

We are informed that it was the Greek Catholic Patriarch of Egypt, and not the Coptic Patriarch, as was stated, who died on January 10.

On Monday, February 14, at 5 p.m., at the London School of Economics, the Hon. W. Pember Reeves, Ph.D., will deliver the second of a series of public lectures on the Balkan States. The remaining lectures of the series will be given on following Mondays. We regret that owing to pressure on our space our report of the first lecture is unavoidably held over until next week.

On Monday next Madame Grouitch will give an account of the Serbian nation in exile at 35, Grosvenor Square.

The Chairman of the Serbian Relief Fund has received a cable from Corfu informing him that the French and Serbian authorities there would welcome the establishment of a British hospital. Accordingly arrangements have already been made by the Serbian Relief Fund to despatch such a hospital (the seventh hospital organised by the Serbian Relief Fund) to Corfu, and Mr. E. P. Warren has been appointed Administrator. It is hoped that Mr. Warren, with an advance party of the hospital staff, will leave London for Corfu on Monday next.

Before a meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, held at Burlington House on Tuesday evening, Mr. A. Hamilton Smith, Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum, read an illustrated paper on "Some Greek and other Reliefs recently acquired by the British Museum." Many interesting photographs were shown of votive and tomb reliefs, the latter including single figure, double figure, and group examples.

Sunday was "Armenia Sunday," and at many churches in the metropolis and throughout the country collections were taken on behalf of the Lord Mayor's Fund for the relief of the Armenian and Assyrian peoples in their extremity.

According to a Sofia telegram, the Greek and Roumanian Governments, on account of the military situation created by recent events, and in accord with the Bulgarian military authorities, have thought it desirable to recall their Consuls from Monastir.

The Imperial Merchant Service Guild has received messages from Turkey from Captain Ernest Allen, late of the steamship Assiout, and Captain V. D. Lazzolo, late of the steamship City of Khios, interned in Turkey, together with the crews of these vessels, stating that they are all well.

Mr. Arnold Bennett is organising a grand concert to be given at the Haymarket Theatre, on Sunday evening, February 20, in aid of the funds of the Wounded Allies Relief Committee, Sardinia House, Kingsway, W.C.

The committee of the Association of Serbian Students at the University of Zurich makes an appeal for funds for the support of those Serbian students, now cut off from all communication with their homes, who are unable to continue their studies unaided. Subscriptions may be sent to M. Cloetta, the rector of the University of Zurich.

The death has taken place, at his residence in Malvern, of Admiral John F. G. Grant, who served in the Black Sea in 1854. He afterwards took part in the China War of 1862. He retired from the Navy in 1894, and was in his eighty-first year when he died.

An armlet scheme, similar to that in force in England, will shortly be introduced for British subjects in Egypt.

The following announcements are published in the *London Gazette* :—

ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL AND ST. GEORGE.

The King has been graciously pleased to give directions for the following appointment to the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, for services rendered in connection with military operations in the field :—

To be an Honorary Member of the Third Class, or Companions, of the said Most Distinguished Order :

El Lewa Shehata Pasha Kamel, Chief A.D.C. to his Highness the Sultan of Egypt.

D.S.O. AND MILITARY CROSS.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the undermentioned rewards for distinguished service in the field :—

To be an Honorary Companion of the Distinguished Service Order :

El Bimbashi Mohammed Effendi Shahin, Egyptian Cavalry.

Awarded the Military Cross :—

El Yuzbashi Mahmud Effendi Hilmi El Samma, Egyptian Infantry.

Sadek El Esfahani, Military Works Department, Egypt.

El Yuzbashi Mustafa Effendi Mansur, Egyptian Infantry.

El Yuzbashi Aref Effendi Lebib, Military Works Department, Egypt.

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143, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

OBITUARY.

SIR CHARLES RIVERS WILSON.

The death is announced of Sir Charles Rivers Wilson at his residence in Berkeley Square. Sir Charles, who was eighty-four years of age, had a distinguished career, which included important service in Egypt. He entered the Treasury in 1856, and after only three months he was appointed private secretary to Mr. James Wilson, and later acted in the same capacity to Mr. Robert Lowe when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Gladstone Administration of 1869-74. He was appointed Comptroller-General of the National Debt in 1874, and having become closely acquainted with Egyptian affairs by reason of his connection with the Council of the Suez Canal Company as a representative of the British Government, he was appointed Joint Finance Minister of Egypt, with M. de Blignières, in 1877. He received the K.C.M.G. in 1880 in recognition of his services during the difficult years of Ismail's obstinacy. He remained on the Council of the Suez Canal after he had relinquished the post of Finance Minister, and his tact and knowledge went a long way towards securing a satisfactory arrangement with France regarding the admission of extra British directors to the Board in 1884. Sir Charles, who retired from the Council in 1895, was twice married. His first wife, Caroline, daughter of Mr. R. Cook, died in 1888, and seven years later he married the Hon. Beatrice Violet Mary Mostyn, sister of the seventh Lord Vaux.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL W. J. ST. J. HARVEY.

It is announced that Brigadier-General William James St. John Harvey died at Amarah, on the Tigris, on February 2, from wounds received on January 20. He was employed with the Egyptian Army for eight years (1906-1914), and his death will be sincerely deplored in Egypt and the Sudan.

Born in 1872, he was educated at Eton and Sandhurst, and, passing out of the R.M.C. with honours, entered the Black Watch in November, 1892. He became captain eight years later, major in 1910, brevet-lieutenant-colonel in February and colonel in July of last year; and last September he was gazetted to the command of a brigade. After serving with his regiment in Mauritius, Cape Town, and India, he volunteered for service in the 2nd Battalion in the South African War. He was wounded in the advance on Kimberley, but afterwards took part in the fighting at Paardeberg and Driefontein, and in other operations; and he was mentioned in despatches and received the Queen's medal with four clasps and the King's medal with two clasps. He joined the Egyptian Army in February, 1906, and commanded the 9th and the 11th Sudanese; he was also D.A.A.G. and A.A.G., and later became Head of the Recruiting Department. He served in the Sudan (Blue Nile Province) in 1908, and in 1910 commanded the expedition against the Atwoot tribe; and he held the Egyptian medal, the Sudan medal with clasp, the 3rd Order of the Mejidieh, and the Osmanieh.

M. K. MAVROMICHALIS.

M. Kyriakoulis Mavromichalis, a former Premier of Greece, died in Athens on the 2nd inst. He came of an influential family of Maina, and entered the Greek Parliament as one of the members for Maina. In 1902 he was Minister of the Interior in M. Deliyannis' Cabinet, and in the next (and last) Cabinet of that statesman he was Minister of War and, *ad interim*, of Marine. On the assassination of M. Deliyannis (1905) it was thought possible that M. Mavromichalis would succeed to the leadership of his party; but the majority chose to follow M. Rhallis, and it was not till 1909 that M. Mavromichalis came into power. Then he was called upon to form a Cabinet at the time of the crisis brought about by the rise of the Military League; but the Cabinet, which depended upon the pleasure of the military, fell early in the following year. M. Mavromichalis was well disposed towards the Entente, especially towards France; but he was strongly opposed to M. Venizelos, and therefore lent his support to a policy of neutrality in the present war. He was a wealthy man, and popular socially, but his political abilities were not of a marked order.

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ROLL OF HONOUR.

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

The Editor of THE NEAR EAST *would be obliged if relatives of former British residents in the Near East who have joined H.M.'s forces would communicate additional names or other particulars for insertion in our Roll of Honour. Biographical details concerning those who have fallen in their country's service would also be appreciated.*

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co., Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Captain A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
BARKER, 2nd Lieut. C., Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
BARRON, Captain J. B., Worcester Regiment, France.
BATH, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
BELL, Sister M. J., Edinburgh War Hospital, Bangour.
BINNS, Lieut. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
BINNS, Lieut. Harold H., Royal Naval Division Headquarters, British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
BINNS, Lieut. W. Hylton, care of The British Consul, Brindisi.
BLYTH, Captain R. C. P., 1st Gloucestershire Regiment, attd. Egyptian Army. (*Killed in Action.*)
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
BOND, Lieut. Gladwyn J. T., 1/3 West Riding Brigade, R.F.A., Ripon.
BOND, Trooper Sidney, 1779, Royal Horse Guards.
BOND, Corporal R. (41,357), Headquarters Staff, "D" Battery, 79th Brigade, R.F.A., 17th Division, B.E.F., France.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Private Henry J., R.A.M.C., Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.
BROOKS, Corporal George, 41356, D. Batt., 78th Brig., R.F.A., 17th Div., B.E.F. France (in hospital with fever).
BURN, E. R., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BURNS, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Accidentally Killed.*)
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C. Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CHARNAUD, Lieut. A., R.N.V.R., Acting Interpreter.
CLEMOW, F. G., M.D., C.M.G., British Red Cross Mission.
CLIFTON, Capt. H., Interpreter, 11th Batt. Durham Light Infantry, 54th Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital, Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CORBETT, Lieut. H. C., M.D., R.A.M.C.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, York.
CUMBERBATCH, 2nd Lieut. H. D., 6th Battn., The Buffs, 12th Division, B.E.F., France.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. R. C., 7th Battn., The Rifle Brigade, 14th Division, B.E.F., France.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., No. 38983, R.F.A., B. Battery, 84th Brigade, 16th Division, British Expeditionary Force, France.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Battalion.
ELLIOTT, Flight Sub-Lieut. Clifford W., R.N.A.S.
EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GOUT, Captain Charles L. Gout, 2/4th K.O.Y.L.I., Lark Hill Camp, Camp No. 10, Salisbury Plain.
GOUT, Rifleman Evelyn, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GRAVES, Captain Philip, Intelligence Department, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian H., "A" Co., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade, Queen's El Ward, Bed 40, Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester. (*Wounded.*)
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HOLMES, 2nd Lieut. Gerald H., 2/5th Batt. Leicestershire Regiment.
HOLTON, Corporal Alfred, Royal Naval Division, Divisional Engineers.
HOLTON, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.
IRELAND, Private D. J. (3346), 15th County of London Regiment.
JACKSON, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
KERR, Miss E., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., H.M. Hospital Ship Brighton, British Expeditionary Force, France.
KEYSER, Lieut. A. G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, Rifleman Fred., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. Hugh, 2/7th City of London Regiment, Acting Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
LA FONTAINE, Sub-Lieut. J. S., R.N.V.R., Hawke Battalion. (*Wounded.*)
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LE BAILLY, Lieutenant R. F., R.N.V.R., Recruiting Officer for Royal Naval Air Service, Brook Green Road, Hammersmith.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
MACKENZIE, 1st Lieut. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
MACKINNON, Lieut. Eric, 13th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
MACKINNON, Dr. Frank I., Captain, R.A.M.C., San Antonio Palace, Malta.
MACKINNON, Dr. John M., Captain, R.A.M.C., 3rd King's African Rifles, Mombasa, British East Africa.
MACKINNON, Lieut. Patrick, 12th Field Co., Royal Engineers, 6th Division, B.E.F.
MACKRAY, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.
MCLOCHLAN, Private B., 1st Canadian L.I.
MCLOCHLAN, Private G., 1st Canadian L.I.
METCALFE, Sister E. J., Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
MOORE, Miss K. M., Royal Red Cross, Serbia.
MORRISON, Lieut. J., 4th Seaforth Highlanders, B.E.F., France.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MUMFORD, P. F., Army Service Corps, R.E., Baldock.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NOWILL, 2nd Lieut. Sidney, 2/17th City of London Regiment, Acting Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., Haddington.
PEACOCK, 2nd Lieut. Frank, 4/4th Batt. London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers.
PEARS, Captain G. B., Military Cross, R.E. (*Wounded.*)
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
PODMORE, Lieut. Arthur, Military Cross, R.E.
POYNTER, Lieut. Hugh E., No. 2 Base Supply Depot, Portishead, Somerset.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
REES, Sub-Lieutenant J. Langdon, R.N.V.R.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
REES, Sub-Lieutenant T. B. F., R.N.V.R.
RICHARDS, Miss, Dispenser, Edinburgh War Hospital, Bangour.
ROBINSON, Lance-Corporal J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem. (*Killed in action.*)
RICE, Rifleman Cecil, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Died from Wounds.*)
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SAMSON, Seaman George McKenzie, V.C., R.N.R. (*Seriously Wounded.*)
SEAGER, Lieut. J. A., 16th Middlesex Regiment, France.
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regt., Woldingham.
SELLAR, Lieut. Fred. B., Interpreter, Central European Expeditionary Force.
SEMPLE, Rev. S. H., C.F., 7th Royal Scots, 156th Brigade, 52nd Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
SIMMONS, Gunner H. C., 123rd Heavy Battery, R.G.A. (*Died from Wounds.*)
STEPLING, Rev. Canon, R.A.M.C.
STOCK, Lieut. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
SUMMERS, Lieut. H. C., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Europa."
SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).
THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
THOMPSON, John, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
TRWAITES, Captain H., R.A.M.C., France.
TORRANCE, Dr. D., R.A.M.C.
TRENTER, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.
VAN LENNEP, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
VAN MILLINGEN, 2nd Lieut. Charles A. M., 14th Rifle Brigade.
VAN MILLINGEN, Private R. G. C., 3rd Batt. London Scottish.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Eghbert, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
WEALE, 2nd Lieut. W. W. C., 11th Batt., Devonshire Regiment.
WELLS, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
WHEATLEY, Miss, Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. No. 21, Ambulance Train, British Expeditionary Force.
WHEELER, Captain P. F. C. d'Erf, 3rd Dorset Regiment, Medit. Exp. Force. (*Wounded.*)
WHEELER, 2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Nowell Popham d'Erf, 7th Dorset Regiment, Portsmouth.
WHITEHOUSE, Mid. L. E., R.N.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Lieut.-Commander F. E., R.N.
WHITTALL, Lieut.-Commander H. E. C., R.N.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. H. V., Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Kenneth, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut Roland, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. (*Died from Wounds.*)
WHITTALL, Rifleman Walter, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Wounded.*)
WILSON, Dr. Marian E., Scottish Women's Hospital, Abbaye Royaumont, France.
WOODS, Harold, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
WRATISLAW, Captain J. C., 8th Leicestershire Regiment, 110 Brigade, 37th Division, B.E.F., France.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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BIRTHS.

ARCHER.—On February 4, at Cairo, the wife of Bimbashi H. G. F. Archer, Cairo City Police, of a son.

DUDGEON.—On the 6th inst., at Khanka, near Cairo, the wife of Herbert William Dudgeon, of a son.

JACOMB.—On February 8, at Giza, near Cairo, the wife of Capt. F. Bernard Jacomb, R.E., of a son.

DEATH.

ALSTON.—On the 8th inst., at Ryde, Isle of Wight, after an operation, Catherine Haultain Alston, widow of Colonel Sydney Vere Alston, and second daughter of the late Major-General E. M. Boxer, R.A., F.R.S.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1916.

ROUMANIA AND THE WAR.

Evidence accumulates that Roumania will abandon before very long her present attitude of neutrality. Her position has been one of considerable difficulty. The outbreak of war found her technically within the orbit of the Triple Alliance. She was, however, no more bound than Italy to accompany the Central Powers in a venture for conquest, and at the Crown Council held on August 3, 1914, the treaty that linked her to Germany and Austria-Hungary was for all practical purposes denounced. The proposal that she should avail herself of her military convention with the object of taking Bessarabia from Russia was rejected. In a war that for the moment appeared to arise more or less legitimately from a difference of opinion between two groups of Powers, it was held that Roumania must observe neutrality. As the weeks passed, however, the real significance of the European struggle came to be appreciated. It was seen that the war was no longer to be regarded as the outcome of an unfortunate misunderstanding, but that its causes had to be looked for in a clash of principles profoundly affecting the whole basis of international relations. In such circumstances Roumania was not long in making up her mind in which direction her duty and interest lay. But certain material factors had to be taken into consideration. She had to make sure of the position in the Balkans before she engaged in a war on her northern and western frontiers, and, above all, it was necessary to be equipped on a scale adequate to the demands of modern fighting. When Greece pleaded her misgivings about Bulgaria as an excuse for not joining in the war, Roumania hoped to find the support she needed in Italy. But she was kept in the dark regarding the negotiations between Italy and the Triple Entente, and was not given the opportunity of co-operating in a joint campaign. Italy, indeed, soon showed that she was concerned only with her northern border. Participation in the war, therefore, would impose on Roumania a far greater military strain than she had originally anticipated, and every week increased the amount of munitions that she had to regard as the irreducible minimum with which she would be justified in starting the war. Then followed a long period of neutrality under protest, no less trying to the Roumanians themselves than to the Allied Powers, whom they were eager to join. The withdrawal of the Russians confirmed them in the correctness of their policy. From a purely military point of view no other course was open to Roumania than to push on steadily her preparations for war and to wait until the time arrived when her intervention on the side of the Allies was calculated to secure the maximum effect.

The psychological moment for Roumania's participation in the war is, we believe, now drawing near. For many weeks past the Central Powers appear to have given up all hope of influencing her policy in their favour. As long as there was the least prospect of success they worked hard to win the Roumanians over, and their efforts were not always as open and above board as that entailed by the purchase of cereals last December. Unfortunately for Germany, who after protracted negotiations was only able to offer a million sterling in ready money as part payment, any effect the purchase might have had on the Roumanian public was neutralised by Great Britain coming forward as a purchaser for four times the amount, and handing over ten millions sterling without waiting for delivery of the goods. But Roumania's policy has not been determined by the question of markets for her cereals. The money she now receives will ease the financial situation, and will enable her to face a campaign with greater confidence. The fact that her total war credits up to the present time amount to £24,000,000 affords a valid reason for not continuing indefinitely an attitude which adds to the indebtedness of the country without helping to bring nearer the day of the realization of the national aims. Not the least regrettable feature in the internal situation in Roumania has been the apparently wide gulf between the Government and the Opposition on the question of the policy to be pursued by the country. That gulf would now seem to have been bridged. The Government is less concerned with the punctilious observance of the letter of neutrality; the Opposition has come to appreciate the reasons for delaying action until Roumania is in a position to put forth her maximum effort. It remains to be seen whether, as a result of the delay, the task imposed upon her army has been enhanced by the opportunity afforded the enemy of completing his defences on the Roumanian frontier. We shall hope, however, to see the Roumanian Army spared the ordeal of a serious campaign in the Carpathians. If it must advance by that route, it should be when the Russians have penetrated once more far enough into Bukovina to render the retention of a strong Austro-Hungarian force on the actual frontier of Roumania too hazardous a proceeding. There are other directions in which the Roumanian forces can be profitably employed.

As public opinion in Great Britain has been exercised by Roumania's delay in taking up the part which her destiny has clearly mapped out for her, and is apt to credit her with a desire to adopt "the tactics of the hyena," by joining in the war when the enemy has been defeated, the recollection of some of the difficulties in her way can but serve to enhance the merit of two vigorous speeches by M. Take Jonescu, an abbreviated report of which appears on another page. Throughout the war M. Jonescu has pleaded for the immediate participation of Roumania on the side of the Allies. The greater the danger of his country being led astray into a false attitude, the more insistent has he been on a policy of staking all for a righteous cause. He is still opposed to a "policy of carrion-crows," but he realises that there is something to be said for the past delay, and he was able at the opening of the session at the end of the year to deal with the subject of Roumania's participation in the war from the standpoint of dispassionate statesmanship. There is ground for supposing that his views are shared by the bulk of the Roumanian people, although few could be found able to express them in the masterly manner in which M. Take Jonescu's oratorical gifts enabled him to present them to the Roumanian Parliament. Of special interest is his summary of Roumania's foreign relations during the last forty years. He did not seek to disguise the national fears of Russia, but he believed with Bismarck that Russia, with her desire of access to the open sea once realised, will be a lesser danger to small nations than when they stood between her and her ambition. In no circumstances could he admit that it was Roumania's part to act for ever the policeman whose task it was to bar Russia's way to the open sea. Further, M. Take Jonescu repudiated the idea, so sedulously circulated by Germany that it had come to be generally believed, that Roumania had had to take refuge as a humble adjunct of the Triple Alliance from fear of Russia. She entered into a treaty with the Central Powers as the only means of escape from the hostility of Austria-Hungary. Her action did not remove the hostility, but it made it less aggressive. In spite of the advantages Roumania gained from the Alliance, Austria-Hungary has remained her real enemy, and there can be no settlement of the point at issue between them until Transylvania is incorporated in the Roumanian kingdom.

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A ROUMANIAN STATESMAN ON THE WAR.

(From Our Bucharest Correspondent.)

The following is the summary of a speech delivered by M. Take Jonescu in the Roumanian Chamber of Deputies in the debate on the reply to the King's message during the last week of the old year:—

M. Take Jonescu naturally begins his great speech by referring to the extraordinary events that are taking place, and to the unusual importance of the situation as far as Roumania is concerned. He points out that Roumania's future hangs in the balance, and that there never were days more critical for his country. He deplores the short-sightedness of people who will look upon the present conflict as though it were but an ordinary war on a large scale, instead of realising that we find ourselves in the midst of a catastrophe that has befallen the whole of mankind, and that we are witnessing the death of an old world and the birth of a new one. The inability which so many display to recognise the magnitude of the events that are taking place he explains by a reference to a certain speech of Mr. Balfour's, in which, to justify his retirement from the leadership of the Unionist party, the latter gives it as his opinion that at a certain age a man becomes less adaptable to new currents, less receptive of new ideas, and, his authority increasing in inverse ratio, he becomes a drag upon the progress of the State. The superhuman struggle into which mankind has thrown itself voluntarily is not the consequence of a simple lawsuit between Germany and France, Germany and England, Germany and Russia; nor are their misunderstandings founded upon a question of commercial competition, a matter of colonies, a trifle of some thousands of square miles in Alsace and Lorraine: the causes that have set vibrating so many human souls lie deeper, must be sought for beneath the surface of things. This war is something quite different. It is the last battle delivered by the forces of reaction against the principle of national sovereignty. Have you not asked yourselves what the new nations, the new republics created by the Anglo-Saxon beyond the seas, are seeking in this conflict? Why have 7-8 per cent. of the Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand populations thrown themselves voluntarily into this war? For love of the Mother Country? Mankind does not act in this manner for a mere sentiment. Why is the American conscience moved as it is? From motives of affection for England? No public speaker in the United States used to strike a more popular note than when he "twisted the British Lion's tail." Why has this democracy of 100 millions been thus strangely moved, this democracy which is carrying out upon mankind the most beautiful of experiments: the building up of a civilisation without prejudices, without classes, without monarchies, without militarism, without a single impediment, based upon the sole principle of national sovereignty carried to its extremest limits? This vast movement can not be explained otherwise than by the supposition that mankind is undergoing a complete transformation, which has found its expression in the form of a general massacre. This war, provoked without a doubt by Germany, is the last attempt on the part of a single people to acquire universal domination. And on what grounds has this attempt been undertaken? What is its justification? Superiority of culture? A more refined civilisation? None can deny Germany's contribution to the common treasure of civilised humanity. But is this contribution of greater value than that of France, than that of Italy, than that of the Anglo-Saxon people? Were the whole contribution of Germany wiped out, man's wealth of intellectual, artistic, and material treasure would indeed be reduced, but not impoverished. German culture has produced one thing which is unique: a political machinery which presents the paradox of an ultra-modern economic organisation with a mediæval political system.

Passing on to the subject of neutrality, M. Take Jonescu ridicules the very idea of it, and rebukes those who would adopt what has been called "a policy of carrion-crows." He knows of cases, he continues, when, the circumstances being insignificant, it has been possible to adopt the tactics of a hyena; but he knows not a single case in history in which a people has announced such intentions beforehand; for that would be the height of incapacity matched with the blackest depth of immorality. Leaving out of discussion all considerations of a racial character; all considerations based on the feeling of gratitude on the one hanr, or, on the other, of the sense of injury received—all considerations, in a word, of a sentimental nature—there remains one policy which, in his judgment, the Roumanian people should adopt, a policy founded on the instinct of the nation. And what is the national instinct? The national instinct is that potent factor which throughout its history has made the Roumanian people comprehend, sometimes consciously, sometimes unconsciously, that for a thousand years the problem has lain between them and the Hungarian people. In a word, "either the Magyars dominate us from the Carpathian summits, or we, established in the Transylvanian stronghold, dominate the Hungarian plain. Other solution there is none."

M. Take Jonescu proceeds to discuss at considerable length Roumania's relations with Russia. He admits that the neighbourhood of Russia is a danger, because in every case the neighbourhood of a great Power is a menace to a small nation. With Bismarck, he finds not unjustified Russia's desire of access to the open sea, and he quotes Bismarck's words to the effect that Russia, her wish once realised, will be a lesser danger to the small nations when these no longer stand between her and her ambition. He scoffs at the part that some would assign to Roumania, of acting for ever the policeman whose task it is to bar Russia's way to the open sea.

M. Jonescu then refers to the tragic days, so ominously charged with thunder, that followed on the crime of Serajevo. People who were aware of the state of enervation that had reigned in Viennese political circles, especially in the year 1912-1913, knew that the Austrian Cabinet would not fail to make the most of the crime perpetrated in the Bosnian capital. The few who were initiated into the secrets of Roumania's foreign relations were full of foreboding lest the provokers of the war should succeed in wearing to the end the mask of peace, thus forcing the provoked into a declaration of war; for Roumania would then have found herself in the sad plight of having to fulfil the terms of the military convention imposed upon her by Austria in 1883. When events took a form that relieved Roumania of all obligations imposed by the spirit as well as the letter of the treaty, the great burden that weighed upon the minds of those responsible was to some degree lightened; but it was not entirely removed, "for it is not possible to be the ally of a State for one-and-thirty years, and then, on the morrow, to draw your sword against her." There are things that are morally impossible. Little nations that have come into existence as a result of their own efforts cannot indulge in the luxury of immorality. This treaty, which continued to weigh on the minds of Roumanian statesmen, ceased to exist politically on the day of the Crown Council, and juridically on the day of Italy's declaration of war on Austria. Politically it ceased to exist when it was agreed that a defensive alliance formed with the object of maintaining the peace of Europe could not be transformed by one of the parties into an offensive alliance designed to disturb the general peace and satisfy the lust for conquest. It ceased juridically, to the satisfaction of the casuist in international law, when Italy resorted to arms, for, allied with three others, what is your duty when two of these take to quarrelling between themselves?

Before the establishment of her independence there was no question of Roumania possessing a foreign policy, in the European sense of the term. After the war the Roumanian nation found itself constituted into an independent State, even raised to the dignity of a kingdom, and in possession of something even more important, viz., a quality acquired on the Bulgarian battlefields, confidence in its own strength, which is, perhaps, the most powerful weapon a nation can possess in the fulfilment of its mission. And this gave rise to a movement which may be described as a blossoming of the spirit, an awakening of confidence in its own capacities, a birth of more vivid hopes for the future. This was the moment at which Austria chose to administer a crushing blow. She invented the question of the Danube at a moment eminently favourable for it, there being no power in Europe at that time who could prevent her. Russia had a Danubian question of her own to settle, and her relations with Roumania in 1881 could not be expected to be very friendly; Germany had but recently allied herself to Austria; Italy was to enter the Triple Alliance a year later; France had lost much of her weight as a factor in international politics since the tragedy of 1870; England was on intimate terms with Germany. So that was the moment Austria chose to take up the question of the Danube, and in Roumania everyone knew that the question was not limited to the Danube; that there was something more serious behind; that Roumania was threatened with the loss of her independence. The question arose whether Roumania would be admitted to the London Conference. The German Ambassador opposed the idea, and the Conference gave Austria protective rights over the lower Danube, and secondarily over Roumania.

Meeting with resistance on the part of Roumania, Austria sought some other weapon. On June 5, 1883, at a banquet following the unveiling of the statue of Stephen the Great at Jassy, M. Gradishteano spoke of the two pearls that were missing from the crown of Stephen the Great. The two gems were: Bessarabia, the larger one beyond the Pruth; and Bukovina, the lesser one. From Russia came no word of protestation. Russia could not imagine that her military power could dissolve in a gluss of champagne. But from beyond the Carpathians—where the one thought was to find a way of stamping out Roumania's new-born spirit of independence, which was considered a danger to Hungary—there came the noisiest protests. Excuses, explanations, alike proved unacceptable. Roumanians were accused of wishing to provoke Austria. The accusations brought against Serbia in 1914 are but a repetition of those brought against Roumania in 1883. The situation became intolerable. Escape from this situation became imperative. The Alliance presented the only way of escape. But be it understood that the formation of the Alliance was not the result of fear inspired by Russia. It was due to the other neighbour having made life intolerable; and no other means of escape from this unbearable state of affairs presented itself.

This Alliance, which was forced upon Roumania, has brought her advantages as well as disadvantages. It has brought her money, and M. Carp points out that this has come almost entirely from Germany. But, asks the speaker, addressing himself to M. Carp, if he (M. T. Jonescu) were at the head of the Government to-day, would he not be charged with lunacy if he demanded money from Austria? The Alliance has brought tranquillity to Roumania—a real advantage, for it has allowed her to develop in peace. This must be acknowledged to the credit of those who, though under compulsion, signed the treaty. Another point gained was that the persecutions against the Roumanians of Transylvania became, from time to time, less harsh as a result of Roumania's inclusion in the Alliance. Lastly, the Alliance was productive of projects entertained at Budapest for concessions to be made to the Roumanian inhabitants of Hungary, projects that constituted a genuine thermometer: whenever there was apprehension of a general war the proposed concessions would become more generous: as the fear of war became lessened they would be withdrawn. Such concessions no serious-minded man can accept as a solution of the problem. Concessions are inadmissible in questions in

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which the life of the one necessarily excludes the life of the other. At their best they can only form a temporary *modus vivendi*.

M. Take Jonescu then mentions the proposals made by Bulgaria and Serbia on different occasions to form an alliance with Roumania, which came to nothing through opposition on the part of Austria. Passing on to the events of 1912 and 1913, the speaker traces the difficulties of the situation created by Austria-Hungary's apprehension that Serbia and Roumania should become too strong, a powerful Bulgaria, on the other hand, being in her interest, since there is no Bulgarian Irredentism in Austria-Hungary. Speaking of the Roumanian campaign in 1913, he says: "The national instinct was so powerful at that time that when we mobilized in order to cross into Bulgaria the people interpreted the mobilization by means of placards bearing the words 'Down with Austria.' When we were sending our army over the Danube the soldiers thought they were crossing the Danube to reach Transylvania. *Through Bulgaria into Transylvania!* Our experience of to-day proves that their instinct was wiser than all our judgment."

Then follows a striking account of the disadvantages accruing to the State, from a military point of view, from the erroneous assumption that the western frontier would always be open, and that everything that might be needed in case of war would be forthcoming from this direction. Finally, M. Take Jonescu discusses the different moments at which Roumania's participation in the war might have been favourable, insisting at length on the great part Roumania might have played when Bulgaria mobilized, had the Government possessed the courage to seize the opportune moment. He deplores the short-sightedness which prevented the Government from grasping the fact that it was not only Roumania's duty, but eminently her interest, to offer a protecting hand to Serbia.

THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

THE COMING STORM.

Though, to all intents and purposes, no serious fighting has taken place in the Balkan theatre of war since last Thursday, it looks, from the growing complexity of the situation, as though we were on the eve of great happenings. It has frequently been said, during the past eight days, that the Bôches have been massing men on the Western front for a decided attack on our lines, but it is more than likely that these reports have been intentionally spread by the enemy in order to throw dust in our eyes, and lead us to expect the great attack there when it will not take place. Conforming with this, we see it reported that the Germans have, practically speaking, evacuated Macedonia, leaving the Bulgars to hold us in check at Salonika; but up to the present, at any rate, there is no confirmation of any such withdrawal.

The German "Couloir."

The facts of the case are that, as long as Southern Albania and Salonika are held by the Allies, and Roumania is an unknown but by no means negligible quantity, all Germany's boasted conquests of territory in the Balkans are a source of danger rather than an advantage, and all her aspirations in the Middle East —Turkey-in-Asia, Egypt, etc.—remain dreams without a shred of reality to clothe them. It is, therefore, imperative for her to clear the Balkan situation as rapidly as possible, and to protect the two threatened flanks of her Belgrade-Sofia "couloir."

Albania.

From the military point of view, the western flank of this "couloir"—namely, Albania, offers more immediate interest, because here General Koevess is attempting to throw the Allies back from the old Serbian frontier. According to Wednesday's news, the Austrians were advancing on Tirana, with Durazzo as their ultimate objective, and were co-operating with the Bulgarians, who have occupied Elbasan. Yesterday, a Serbian official *communiqué* from Corfu reported a successful rearguard action fought by the Serbs near the Ischz River on February 1, but admits the evacuation of Alessio. This gives us some information regarding the position occupied by the Serbs, but the best account of the situation in Albania as a whole is given by the Budapest correspondent of the *Morning Post* on January 27 (published on Tuesday). Though admittedly compiled from information gleaned in an enemy capital, it, nevertheless, throws some curious light on what has been a carefully darkened picture of Italian activity in Albania.

We quote therefrom as follows:—

Coming events around Valona and Durazzo will create quite a novel situation in the Balkan theatre of war, for it is well known in the Monarchy that the Italians are concentrating large numbers of troops there, and that they are prepared to put up a most desperate resistance. The Italians continue to land large numbers of men at Valona, and from an Austro-Hungarian point of view it is most essential to deal with this menace first of all. I learn that Bulgarian troops will be employed in this campaign against the Italians. The miltary critics in Budapest and Vienna are quite confident that the Italians at Valona will not be able to oppose the offensive movement of General Koevess for more than a week, although the terrain in that part of Albania presents even greater difficulties than those attendant on the Montenegrin campaign. The number of the Italian forces in the Balkans is estimated here at something between seventy and a hundred thousand, if they have continued to land troops at the rate at which they began. On the other hand, the Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian armies who will oppose them are at least double that number. The marshes round about the town of Valona are a great hindrance to both sides, and it is reported that the Italians are trying their best to drain the roads leading over them. They have a considerable number of heavy guns at Valona, a great camp has been built for the troops, and an immense quantity of ammunition and some mountain artillery have been landed. The coming operations around Valona will be a struggle for Otranto Bay, one of the most important points on the Adriatic.

It will be noticed that the above message was written a fortnight ago, since when the Italians will have been able greatly to strengthen their position. The interlude will, likewise, have been taken advantage of by the enemy, and it is to be assumed, with the military history of the Serbian campaign before us, that when Koevess begins his real "drive" through Albania, it will coincide with a similar attempted drive by Mackensen in the direction of Salonika. On the other hand, it is probable that if the German scheme fails to materialise promptly, the initiative will pass into our hands, or events on the northern flank of the "couloir" will prohibit the carrying out of the enemy's strategic plans.

The Northern Flank.

These considerations bring us to the northern edge of the Belgrade-Sofia "couloir." Happenings here are extremely obscure, so obscure, as a matter of fact, that they are, happily, interfering with the schemes of the German General Staff. This flank is controlled by Roumania, and its position as regards the world war is, as yet, an unsolved riddle. Therefore, a general enemy advance, either towards Albania or Salonika, or against Mesopotamia and Egypt, is utterly impossible as long as Roumania has not declared herself. In these circumstances, the immediate object of the German General Staff must be to procure a decision in Roumania before furthering their Balkan projects. From all accounts, attempts are already being made to oblige her, by means of the mailed fist, to fall in with the enemy plans, but so far no definite result has been obtained. Latest information, however, reveals some interesting facts: The Roumanians are leaving their Russian frontier exposed and are massing troops on the Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian frontiers; the Bulgars have declared Rustchuk a war zone, and are fortifying the right bank of the Danube (whether they are moving troops from Macedonia on the northern Bulgarian frontier, or whether Turks are being used for this purpose is, as yet, unknown); the Kaiser, personally, has steamed down the Danube to inspect the Roumanian forts; and, finally, Austro-German troops are concentrating on the Carpathian line, on the northern Roumanian frontier. At any moment, therefore, we may read that Roumania has thrown the die. There is no denying the fact that the political situation is one of extreme gravity, and that the Bôches will do all in their power to precipitate an issue in order to enable them to proceed with their plans in the Near East. Fortunately for us, we have no reason to doubt the pro-Ally sentiments of the Roumanian people and statesmen; and we would point out that, in the event of an Austro-German attack on the Carpathian frontier, a strong Russian army can immediately come to the aid of the Roumanians, thus tightening our grip on the ephemeral Belgrade-Constantinople "couloir."

To sum up, the key to the situation in the Balkans, and to the realisation of the enemy's plans, lies in Bucharest. A great deal, however, depends on the measures adopted by the Allies to prevent a recurrence of our diplomatic disasters of the past six months.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ZION'S GLAD MORNING.*

Mr. Frank G. Jannaway is a firm believer in the contention that "we are living on the eve of 'Zion's glad morning,' so long predicted by Israel's inspired prophets," and his new book is principally concerned with arguments and quotations in support of this view. The sincerity with which he approaches his subject and the unquestioning faith that leads to its elaboration are, indeed, among the pleasantest features of the book. His admiration for all people and things Jewish is very real, but it is more than a pity that it tempts him to the inclusion of numerous uncalled-for comparisons between Jew and Gentile, always of course, with the intention of proving the great superiority of the former people. The incidents he quotes are not of sufficient strength to be of any real value to his argument, and they form an irritating background which might well have been dispensed with in a book of such undoubted interest. The following quotation illustrates our meaning:—

A card was handed in to us one evening at "Olivet House," the well-managed and homelike hotel of Mr. and Mrs. Hensman and nephew, where we were staying. On it was printed "Isaac Nissenbaum, Clokes Pressed." We interviewed him, and inquired the object of his coming. "Oh," he replied, "I have come to clean your clothes." Yes, they sadly needed cleaning after all the rough exploring we had been doing; but we had no others to wear while these were being cleaned; that, however, was no obstacle to "Isaac." "You take them off and go to bed, and I will bring them back nicely done in two hours." "Isaac" was as good as his promise. No wonder the Gentile is being ousted by the Jew.

Beyond its graceful advertisement of a popular and well-known hotel, this paragraph, which is headed "The Jew at the Top," hardly contains more than the sneer with which it ends. The "we" referred to by Mr. Jannaway is presumably the author himself, because throughout the book he consistently refers to himself in the manner usually reserved to editors and kings.

Mr. Jannaway's description of the gradual increase in the number of Jews in Palestine is interesting. In 1827 there were not more than 500 Jews in the whole of the country, while last year their number had increased to no less than 100,000 Jews settled in Palestine. Thus it will be seen that the author has some ground for his enthusiastic support of the call made by the late Dr. Theodore Herzl—"Palestine for the Jews." A list of Jewish colonies in Jerusalem is included, showing the date of their foundation and the approximate number of their inhabitants. The present war has to a certain extent affected these ghettoes, but the author looks forward to the day when the Jews will return in increased numbers.

The Turko-Italian War of 1911-12, and the great European War, commencing 1914, both directly affected the three seaports of the Holy Land (Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout), thereby interfering with the tide of Zionism. But only short-visioned people will look upon such as a waning of the movement. We admit that on the outbreak of the great European War a few thousands of Jews hurried away to British protected Egypt, and a few to America. But the latter were very little above the yearly average, and the former will, no doubt, quite as quickly hurry back to the Land as soon as the war is over. Hundreds of Italians left Palestine when war broke out between Turkey and Italy in 1911, but thousands went back when peace was proclaimed. And history will repeat itself, for there is no doubt that where thousands left in 1914 tens of thousands will hurriedly return as the result of peace, especially when it is fully realised what a British Protectorate means. We make bold to predict that the undesired period of interrupted progress will have the same effect that enforced idleness has, and that the reaction will be great.

Each contention of this sort that Mr. Jannaway makes he supports with Biblical quotations, and in dealing with the departure of Jews from Palestine at the present time calls attention to the passage in Isaiah, and attempts to prove that this exodus was necessary in order that the fulfilment should be given to the prophecy:—

"It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people which shall be left . . . from Egypt. (Isaiah xi. 11.)

In his interpretation of the Scriptures the author recognises the Turkish Empire as the symbolic Euphrates; Britain as Tarshish; Russia as Rosh; Germany as Magog. And it must be admitted that his quotations are well chosen, and, as far as may be, give colour to his theories. But his anxiety to shower discredit upon the Gentile leads him into a strange display of ignorance at times, as, for instance, in the paragraph which we quote below, and which is headed "Armageddon."

The nations are fast getting ready for this unparalleled and sanguinary scramble upon the mountains of Israel. The strange thing about it all is that, although these nations profess to be Christian, and to have the God of the Bible on their side, they are in total ignorance of His programme, and have not the slightest idea that their ceaseless piling up of armaments is most graphically set forth in the Holy Scriptures.

Mr. Jannaway must indeed have been dazzled by the contemplation of Jewish greatness if he has failed to notice the controversy on this subject which has raged since the outbreak of hostilities. Such passages as these, loosely included in support of his own contention, can have no other effect than to destroy the value of the work as a whole. The unquestionable qualities of the Jewish race, as shown by such an ardent champion as Mr. Jannaway, should surely stand far above the need of anything like this.

The political argument of the work is based almost wholly upon the authority of the Scriptures, and, as we have intimated, this has been cleverly done. It cannot, however, be overlooked that there is a reverse to the medal; other authorities no less informed have produced series of quotations which place quite another construction upon the divine purpose of the war. Any book of this kind is of value now, and though Mr. Jannaway leaves us unconvinced, his work is certainly interesting, especially as a record of Jewish accomplishments in Palestine during recent years. The arrangement of the matter, which is set out under small heads and is not divided into chapters, is, in our opinion, a mistake, especially as the index at the end is inadequate for the purpose of reference.

The book is illustrated by many photographs.

* "Palestine and the Powers." By Frank G. Jannaway. (London: Elliot Stock. 3s. 6d. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Foundation of the Ottoman Empire: A History of the Osmanlis up to the Death of Bayezid I. (1300-1403). By Herbert Adams Gibbons, Ph.D. (Clarendon Press. 10s. 6d. net.)

The Rise of Rail Power in War and Conquest, 1833-1914. By Edwin A. Pratt. (P. S. King and Son. 7s. 6d. net.)

Visits to Monasteries in the Levant. By the Honourable Robert Curzon, Jun. With an introduction by D. G. Hogarth. (Humphrey Milford. 2s. 6d. net.)

THE ISLAMIC PULPIT.

Professor Margoliouth delivered an interesting address last Tuesday in the rooms of the Royal Asiatic Society, his theme being The Islamic Pulpit. The records, he said, left the inquirer in some confusion as to whether the original pulpit was a seat or a platform; but the Arabic name *minbar* was clearly derived from the Ethiopic *manber* or *menber*, which signified "chair" or "throne." The chief or only piece of furniture in an Abyssinian church is a wooden erection called by this name, and the introduction into the Prophet's Mosque of a *minbar* is placed by historians at the time of the return of the exiles from Abyssinia.

Of the sermon itself, Professor Margoliouth said that orthodox jurists enumerated its elements as five: the words, "Praise be to Allah," a blessing on the Prophet, an admonition to piety, a blessing on the believers, and a lesson from the Koran. Besides these it was customary to add a prayer for the reigning sovereign and a mention of the "pious Caliphs." The Prophet had recommended brevity to preachers, and some of the discourses attributed to him were of "ten words," *i.e.*, a few sentences. The most famous of sermon-writers belonged to the middle of the fourth century of Islam. His sermons were throughout in rhymed prose, and occupied on the average five minutes in delivery.

In the course of a short discussion that followed the address, Mr. Yusuf Ali said that Moslem preachers were beginning now to address themselves to the question of how to explain their religion in direct relation to the life of the people; and if that tendency continued they would make some contribution not only to the religious thought of their own faith, but to religious thought generally.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Diplomatic Mistakes.

Dr. E. J. Dillon, who has been contributing an interesting series of articles on the Diplomatic History of 1915 to the *Daily Telegraph*, says in the concluding number (February 8), that the "two cardinal mistakes of Entente diplomacy during the year 1915 turned upon the Near East, and were caused by a misconception of the respective contributions which each of the Allies was expected to make to the final victory."

In the first place he refers to the debated question of the future of Constantinople. He admits the temptation that confronted the statesmen concerned to reward the splendid services of Russia by formally giving her a free claim to the Turkish capital, and continues:—

But the essence of statesmanship is to yield not to temptations, but to reasons deriving from the interests of the cause they are championing. And whatever one may think of Russia's right to Constantinople, the cause of the Allies was certain to be impaired by disposing of the city at such an early stage of a long and uncertain campaign. It must have occurred to Entente statesmen—for it was self-evident—that to dispose of the Turkish capital just then was to throw away a trump card in our subsequent dealings with the domestic adversaries of the Young Turks. The Turkish Opposition was eager to overturn the Government, establish a new régime, and reverse the Germanophil policy of the Talaat-Enver Cabinet. Whether this projected revolution would have come to anything is dubious, but once Constantinople was known to have been made over to Russia the stimulus to organise it was gone. . . . On the Balkan neutrals the effect was still more sinister, Bulgaria was roused to indignation by the tidings. King Ferdinand's hope and impatience to use the Byzantine robes he had ordered and to get crowned in Aya Sofia were known throughout Europe. And when the news of the decision of the Allies reached Sofia it strengthened tenfold the links that already bound Bulgaria to the Central Empires.

Dr. Dillon then turns to the two other countries which were favourable to the Allies, but which have not yet abandoned their neutrality.

Roumania's resentment was, if possible, stronger still. Roumania is a Black Sea Power, dependent on the freedom of its waterways for economic prosperity. And the perspective of Russia possessing Constantinople, dominating the Straits, and thus commanding Roumania's principal outlet, went far to extinguish whatever ardour may have subsisted in the breast of Bucharest Ministers for the Allies. This arrangement was one of the chief grievances in Bratiano's indictment against Russia, and one of the mainsprings of his attitude towards the Entente. . . . Even Greece, whose King was called Constantine as a reminder that the Hellenes once were—and still aim at being—masters of Constantinople, took umbrage at the premature bargain. It was also clear that Italy could not be expected to relish the establishment of Russia on the Golden Horn while a Southern Slav State, Russia's protégé, was to have access to the Adriatic.

In short, that unlucky transaction was the fertile source of grievous trouble and disappointment. And it was easy to foresee that it could not be otherwise.

It would be unjust to charge any one country or even any one party with this amazing blunder. They are collectively responsible. . . . When all the extenuating circumstances have been fully taken into account, the agreement disposing of Constantinople and flinging away our cheering prospects in the Near East will remain the most fateful piece of diplomatic folly perpetrated during the war. And disconcerting as its consequences have already been, we have by no means experienced the last of them.

So much for the first mistake. The second, in Dr. Dillon's opinion, was "embodied in the Dardanelles Expedition, also conceived and organised for the sake of our Russian ally, to whose land operations we were then looking for the definitive decision."

The Position of Greece.

We take the following quotation from an article by Dr. Ronald Burrows in the *Contemporary Review* (February):—

When our Governments talked of the great future that lay before Greece if she joined us, the Zaimist Ministry replied that, anxious as it was about the future, *le danger actuel* was too great. Yet any danger of a German or Bulgarian invasion, granting such a thing as possible, is as nothing, either in actuality or in terror, to the danger that would overwhelm Greece if England and France were to judge her traitor.

This is the tragic possibility that we Philhellenes have had to face. It is one that the Greek world has not faced. Too many Greeks imagine that their country is in the same position as Holland or Sweden or Spain, whose neutrality is understood and respected. There could be no greater delusion. Rightly or wrongly, England and France regard Greece as a friend who, on two critical occasions, in the first days of March and the first days of October, has drawn back and failed them. Their own blunders, the just causes that Greece has had for misunderstanding them, are forgotten. If the neutrality of Greece were to change to a hostile, or even to a strict neutrality, love would turn to anger. This is as true of France as of England, or even more true, as the love is greater.

The Turkish Royal Tragedy.

The tragic death of the Turkish Crown Prince is regarded by M. Emile Galli, formerly in control of the *Levant Herald*, as due to assassination and not suicide. According to the Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post*, M. Galli says that this terrible act had been long foreseen. We quote from portions of his dispatch on the subject:—

A Prince of the Blood, he had for many years been in opposition to Enver Pasha. In April, 1914, after a secret interview with the German Emperor at Berlin, Enver summoned to Turkey fresh German instructors in so great numbers as to resemble an invasion.

General Liman von Sanders on reaching Constantinople was presented by Enver to the Sultan, who smiled, but refused to speak. The Crown Prince refused to see him, saying when pressed that if Liman arrived he would be thrown out of the window. . . . Later, after the arrival of the Goeben and Breslau, Enver acknowledged the *coup d'état*, and said that the Turks had just bought the two boats, Germany giving credit till after the war. "Will no one," said the Crown Prince, "blow out the few brains you have left?"

Similarly when the attack was made on the Russians the Sultan was furiously indignant because the blow was delivered without his authorization. The Prince was with the Sultan at the time, and as Enver was leaving said: "Your accomplices and you are about to ruin Turkey. Beware the rage of the people. You will be killed like dogs." It is presumable, M. Galli writes, that the Prince was unable to withhold a protest at the occupation by Germany of Turkish districts. That was presumably his death warrant. Unquestionably the Prince foresaw his assassination, for, says M. Galli, he left six sealed papers to friends, only to be opened in case of his assassination.

The *Times* (February 7) publishes the following illuminating references to the event:—

The news of the "suicide" of the Turkish Heir Apparent was in Germany subordinated to the announcement that the Sultan had been made a Prussian field-marshal. A paper like the *Vossische Zeitung*, which specializes in Near Eastern affairs, actually devotes about half as much space to the death of Prince Yussuf as to that of "Missie," the famous chimpanzee of the Berlin Zoological Gardens. There are, however, certain signs that even the German Press does not believe in the official Turkish story. The *Berliner Tageblatt*, which states openly that Prince Yussuf's father, who met a similar death forty years ago, was "murdered," speaks of Prince Yussuf's Liberal leanings, and then remarks:—"It cannot be said that in recent years, after the complete victory of the Young Turk programme, he played any leading political part."

But the most interesting and most damaging evidence is a telegram of Wednesday's date from the Constantinople Correspondent of the *Frankfurter Zeitung*. After the usual remarks about the sad state of Prince Yussuf's nerves, the correspondent betrays the fact that Prince Yussuf was trying to get out of Turkey. He puts it thus:—

"The Heir Apparent intended to take the Balkan train yesterday, in order to make a short trip to Vienna *incognito* for the benefit of his health. On the previous day he visited the graves of his grandmother and his father at Stambul, and after praying there for a long time distributed rich gifts in money."

Bulgarian Atrocities.

A special correspondent of the *Morning Post* (February 5), writing from Salonika, gives a description of Bulgarian atrocities which is revolting in the picture of sheer inhumanity that it pourtrays. The details were for the most part supplied by a Bulgarian deserter, stung to speech by the horror of scenes he had witnessed. We take the following quotation from his narrative, at a point where he tells of three hundred Serbian prisoners—of course unarmed—boys of fifteen and old men, gathered before a newly-dug pit to which they had been marched:—

By this time the guards had loaded their rifles and stood round the Serbians in a ring with levelled bayonets, while, huddled together, their prisoners embraced each other or sank in apathy to the ground. The cavalry captain rode up to the miserable throng. "Each man will bind the eyes of his neighbour," he shouted in Serbian. They did so. It took a long

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time, and was a pitiable sight. Some young boys were crying. Many of the men shouted defiance at the guards, who looked expectantly on, and at the cavalry, whose swords were drawn ready for the butchery. They blindfolded each other with strips torn from their waistcloths or whatever else they had. "Now kneel down," came the harsh order. One by one the victims crouched to the ground. The captain turned again to his troopers. "Start work" was the order he gave. The infantry guards, still keeping a circle to drive back any who might try to flee, drew off a little to give more room, and the Bulgar cavalry rode in among the kneeling throng of prisoners at a canter. With yells of cruel delight, they slashed at the unarmed victims. Some of the Serbians tried to seize the dripping sabre blades in their hands. An arm slashed off at the shoulder would fall from their bodies. Others, tearing off the bandages that blindfolded them, attempted to unhorse their executioners, gripping them by the boot to throw them out of the saddle.

But even three hundred, though brave, could do nothing against eighty armed men.

At length, at the end of half an hour, "the troopers were tired of cutting and thrusting":—

A few of them dismounted and, sword in hand, walked here and there among the bleeding groups, pricking them to see if any still lived. Some, though badly wounded, were still alive, but the Bulgarian captain did not give time for all to be finished off, and at his orders the whole pile of mangled prisoners, whether breathing or dead, were pushed by the infantry into the grave which had been dug earlier in the afternoon, and the earth was shovelled at once on top of them.

Some of the butchers appear to have been touched by conscience even as they worked, for they shouted "We are doing this in charity, we have no bread to feed you, so if we spared you it would be to die of hunger."

German Designs in Egypt.

The *Glasgow Herald* (February 5) devotes a leading article to the above subject, leading up by presenting a parallel of Napoleonic times with those of to-day. Our quotations are taken from the latter part of the article:—

The real point of contact of the two great designs is, of course, that a German conquest of Egypt would be the most serious blow which Germany can hope to inflict upon Great Britain. If the Germans could establish themselves in Egypt, they would be in a more favourable situation than that of Napoleon during the French occupation. . . If this country were fighting Germany with no allies, or if the Germans had suffered less severely in the fighting of the last eighteen months, the menace would be immeasurably greater. Can Germany, suffering from the slow but exhausting pressure of our blockade, approaching the end of its reserves of men, committed to the defence of lines of enormous length both in the West and in the East, its Balkan ally menaced by the strong Allied forces at Salonica, spare a sufficient force to lead the Turks to victory in Egypt? Napoleon effected an easy landing at Alexandria; the German-Turkish army must face a march across a desert. Napoleon made a sudden attack upon badly equipped Ottoman troops; there can be no element of surprise in an attempt on Egypt to-day, and the British Army has had plenty of time for preparation and is not likely to be unequal to its responsibilities. There is little chance of picking up incidental glories by the way, as Napoleon dazzled the East by his successes at the Pyramids and Jaffa and Aboukir. Such considerations do not inevitably lead to the conclusion that no attempt upon Egypt will be made, for the Germans are not accustomed to be daunted by the anticipation of difficulties, and we do not know all the conditions which, in their view, may offer a reasonable prospect of success, or the circumstances which may drive them to something like a gambler's throw. But the season of the year in which such an expedition may best be made has come and is going, and we shall probably know before long whether the Kaiser is going to emulate Napoleon in this respect or not.

Bread Scarcity in Turkey.

A special correspondent of the *Morning Post* (February 8) at Salonika supports the rumours that have been current for some time that all is not well at Constantinople in regard to food, and the concluding paragraph of our quotation again emphasises the brutality of the official Turk. The behaviour of the Turkish officials on this occasion stands out in plain contrast to that of Turkish soldiers, described under a separate head on this page.

Though the withdrawal from the Dardanelles, as represented to the public of Constantinople through official organs, may have given a fillip to the popular temper, it is a melancholy story that travellers from the Turkish capital bring. Bread, an Armenian who escaped under American protection tells me, is rationed at the rate of 2½ lb. among eight people per day. Petrol is said to cost two Turkish liras, which is about 36s. a tin. Business is stagnating.

Encouraged by the ruthless attitude of mind of their new military preceptors, Turkish officials have regained all the old brutality that characterized them in the days of Abdul Hamid. One of the first fruits of their unnatural alliance with the Bulgarians was the arrest by the latter of the many Christian deserters from the Turkish Army who had found, as they thought, safe refuge in Bulgaria, a country of their own faith. They were all returned to the tender mercies of the Turkish Courts-martial, and my informant assures me that most of them were beaten to death.

Turkish Humanity.

The following quotation from a communication of a British officer who had served for several months in Mesopotamia, to the *Morning Post* (February 7), adds another link to the chain of evidence that the true Turk is a clean and honourable opponent:—

I have such an admiration for the Turks (the Pucca Turks, I mean; not the Kurdish savages, who butcher Armenians, or the Baghdad Turco-Arabs) that I wonder more and more how they ever came into the German net. They did a thing after Ctesiphon that commands recognition. A barge-load of 300 of our wounded stuck in the mud, and, with some medical personnel on board, had to be abandoned. The Turks towed the barge down stream, and, under cover of the white flag, sent the whole lot, including the medical personnel, back to the British camp unharmed in any way. I know of two wounded British officers left out on the night after the battle who were found by the Turks. In both cases the Turks took away all their equipment, haversack, belt, revolver, papers, and field-glasses, but both men say that they were not harmed in any way, and in the case of one man they gave him water to drink, loosened his coat, and made him more comfortable. They left both for our people to collect next morning. It is the Arabs who maltreat our wounded and commit all sorts of atrocities.

Italy and the Adriatic.

To the *Westminster Gazette* (February 7) Mr. H. Charles Woods contributes an interesting article under the above heading. He thinks that the real position of our Ally is imperfectly understood by many people. She, like England, France, and Russia, has a "western front" of nearly 300 miles, which must be adequately defended against attack at all costs. It is due to no lack of loyalty to the Allies that Italy has not undertaken the operations on the east of the Adriatic which appear to have been expected of her in some quarters. The writer continues:—

For Italy the balance of power on the Eastern coast of the Adriatic, the Albanian question, and the numerous problems connected with the situation there are so important that they must rightly be watched with the closest attention in Rome. Possessed of practically no satisfactory harbours on her Eastern coast, Italy is faced by a long stretch of shore provided with havens of absolute safety. Consequently, whilst she is perfectly willing to admit the establishment of a Greater Serbia on part of the Adriatic littoral, and whilst she has always shown much less desire to annex Albania than have Austria, Serbia, or Greece, Italy cannot consent to the establishment of an Adriatic régime which now or in the future would be unfavourable for her. This accounts for her early occupation of the town and bay of Valona—the only port on the Albanian coast where landings can be undertaken with comparative safety, and the point which can and must be defended, cost what it may in sacrifices to Italy.

Mr. Woods then turns to Corfu, and refers briefly to events which are taking place there and at other points of the Adriatic coast:—

Even were Greece not bound to Serbia by her treaty obligations—obligations upon the maintenance of which the Allies

MESOPOTAMIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

MRS. MARLING'S FUND

For Providing Comforts for Troops Serving in Mesopotamia.

Hitherto the subscriptions in this country to the above Fund, which subscriptions now amount to £1,583 10s., have been collected privately among those more particularly associated with the Persian Gulf.

In view, however, of the large augmentation of troops now operating in that theatre of war, and of the greatly increased difficulties of the task which they are called upon to perform, Mrs. Marling desires to extend the scope of the Fund by making an appeal to the general public, whose assistance in such a worthy cause will, it is hoped, be readily given.

Mrs. Marling, when making her appeal, wrote as follows:—

"There are many people who have personal experience who will realize how terribly trying to troops the carrying out of military operations in Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf must be at this season. The following paragraph, taken from the 'Near East,' quoting a letter from a soldier serving with our forces in those parts, brings home to us that the brave men fighting under such exhausting climatic conditions are not benefiting by the many organizations formed at home for the purpose of giving small comforts to our Armies abroad:—

"'The People of England seem to have forgotten us' is the pathetic cry of a soldier serving with the British Expeditionary Force at the head of the Persian Gulf; we have not had so much as a box of matches from England."

All money collected is being remitted to the credit of Colonel Sir Percy Z. Cox, K.C.S.I., Senior Political Officer to the Expeditionary Force, who is employing it in the purchase of comforts for the troops suitable to the local conditions.

All donations should be sent to:—

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and cheques should be crossed and made payable to "Mrs. Marling's Fund."

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would have had every right to insist—the occupation of Corfu by the Allies is fully justified by a Hellenic breach in the arrangement made in 1863, when the Ionian Islands were incorporated in the Hellenic Kingdom. According to that agreement, those islands were to form part of a *Constitutional* State, they were to enjoy the advantages of perpetual neutrality, and no armed force, either naval or military, was at any time to be stationed upon the territory or in the waters of those islands. Greece can hardly still be called a *Constitutional* country, and even before the outbreak of the present war it might have been possible to point to occasions when the neutrality of Corfu had not been held as sacred by that country.

Further to the north the recent and present positions are far from clear. But whether the Montenegrins were or were not compelled to surrender, Italy alone cannot be held responsible for the fall of the Lovtchen position, and for the various disasters which followed it. . . .

In conclusion, it may be well to repeat that those in this country who are inclined to criticise the policy of Italy should remember that she is far less responsible for the maintenance of the conditions which rendered possible the Austro-Germanic-Bulgarian invasion of Serbia last October than are some of the Allies who have been at war since the beginning of hostilities.

Articles to Note.

"Matha of Kremna, A Serbian Seer." By Count Cheddo Meyatovich in the *Occult Review* (January).

"The Fight for Bagdad. A true story from an officer who lost his life in Mesopotamia." Edited by Lewis R. Freeman in the *London Magazine* (February).

"Transylvanian Oil-Fields," in the *Morning Post* (February 9).

"Diplomatic History of 1915." By Dr. E. J. Dillon in the *Daily Telegraph* (February 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8).

SERBIA'S GRATITUDE TO VICTORIA.

Sir Peter McBride, Agent-General for Victoria, has received the following letter from the Serbian Minister in London: "It was with great gratitude that I received a further donation from Victoria of £4,000. We have received through you, up to now, £19,300. Through this sum, may I tell you, Victoria has saved many thousands of Serbians, of sick and desperate ones condemned to starvation by our merciless enemies. The Serbian people know very well how many sacrifices Victoria and Australia have made for the common cause of the Allies. It is for the cause of justice and true civilisation. Moreover, Serbia will always remember how the people of our Allies helped her in the darkest hours of her history. Serbia is a country which fights for the elementary human rights and liberty. In helping Serbia, Australia, be sure, helped one who is akin to her, akin in love of liberty and of rights for all the nations, big or small, living upon the earth. By their donations to stricken Serbia the Australians promoted not only the Allied cause, but also the cause of ideal brotherhood of men and nations. In the name of all the Serbians, suffering people whom your fine country helped so very gallantly, I express to you, and through you to all the benevolent donors in Victoria, my deepest and most grateful thanks."

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Mr. H. Chester Wood's lecture on Monday, a detailed summary of which is reproduced elsewhere, is useful inasmuch as it gives a cursory survey of the means of penetration from the sea-coast into the interior of the Balkan Peninsula. These means are three in number: by river, by rail, and by road. As regards the first-named, the Danube is the only reliable waterway. It is the Thames, the Nile, or the Rhine of the Balkans, and truly a great river. Between Peterwardein and Cernavoda no bridge spans it, and in places it is almost a mile wide. Apart from its military significance—foreign to these notes—it is a great commercial highway. Its international status has been guaranteed by the Powers, a circumstance which, at the present moment, gives food for thought, as can be easily gathered from the following: the upper navigable reaches of the Danube are in Austria, and, to a smaller extent, in Germany; hence the international value of the lower reaches of the Danube and their control by an international board can only favour Germany and Austria. In other words, we have been guaranteeing, for the past many years, the inviolability of the mouth of the Danube, in order to further the expansion towards the East of German and Austrian river-borne trade.

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We must remedy this error, and it seems to me that when the day of reckoning with the enemy comes, we should see to it that the control of the Danube from Turnu-Severin (at least) to Galatz, Braila and Sulina should be in the hands of a Power friendly to us; that is to say, that both banks of the river, from Serbia to the sea, should be controlled by one State, that State to be preferably Roumania—if she proves our friend. As for Austro-German shipping in the Lower Danube, it will not be difficult to penalise it properly, if the Allies decide to do so. A few years ago—I believe it was in 1913—the Germans, under the auspices of the Deutsche Band and the Hamburg-Amerika (the same egregious company which recently acquired a controlling interest in shipping on the Rhine), floated a gigantic Deutsch Danube steamship company, to be called the Bavarian Lloyd. The Roumanians will, I am sure, if given both banks of the Danube, as far west as the Serbian frontier, and a free hand, make short shift of the enemy steamship company. As it is, Roumania has a river fleet of her own, and is developing it extremely well.

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The second part of Mr. Wood's lecture deals with railways in the Balkans, and by far the most interesting reference is to the linking up of the Roumanian and Bulgarian lines in the Dobruja. Between Belgrade and the mouth of the Danube there is only one bridge across the river, and consequently only one possible route for the linking-up of the Roumanian and Bulgarian lines. The bridge in question is situate at Cernavoda, and is really a marvel of engineering skill. From here a line runs to Constantza on the Black Sea, and a second line to the Dobruja, the newly acquired territory on the Black Sea, has just been completed meeting the Bulgarian branch line at the frontier station of Oborishte. "With a total length of ninety miles, about seventy of which are in Roumania, this line is now highly important, not only from a commercial, but also from a strategic point of view. Indeed, whilst it enables passengers and goods to be conveyed from Bucharest to Sofia, or *vice versa*, without the necessity for any transhipment on the banks of the Danube, it also greatly facilitates a Roumanian and a Bulgarian military concentration just within the frontiers of these countries." The natural question to be asked in this connection is whether both systems, the Roumanian and the Bulgarian, are of the same gauge. I have every reason to believe that they are, considering that the Orient Express to Constantinople passes indifferently through both countries, and that neither State is likely to have altered the gauge of its Dobruja line. At any rate, this line is likely to loom large in the immediate future if Roumania decides that her future lies in the Allied, rather than the enemy, camp.

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The third question touched on by the lecturer is that of roads, and principal interest will, of course, attach to his reference to the state of roads in Albania. The best road, we learn, is that inland from Santi Quaranta, which is adaptable to wheeled traffic. Doubtless our generals have not overlooked this fact. From Valona, it would appear that no efficient road leads into the interior, and the reason may be found in the marshes, which, according to the *Morning Post* Budapest correspondent, surround the town on the land side. As for the Via Egnatia, the great historical trade route between the Danube and the Adriatic, it is little better than a bridle-path. From which it would seem that the easiest route to be turned into a motor-road for military purposes would be the Santi Quaranta-Monastir road. At the same time it must not be forgotten that the enemy doubtless are quite as well aware of this fact as we are.

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We publish elsewhere two messages from our Bucharest correspondent on the recent British purchase of wheat in Roumania. The details of the contract will be found interesting. Incidentally, reference can be made here to a message published by *The Times* from its correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula, now in Bucharest, on Friday last. He said: "I understand that an arrangement has practically been concluded with an Austro-German syndicate for the sale of 1,000,000 tons of maize, 350,000 tons of wheat, 150,000 tons of barley, and 100,000 tons of oats. The price of the wheat is the same as that fixed at the recent sale to the British Government. The whole amount of Roumanian cereals available for exportation has now been disposed of."

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The message has not been confirmed. Supposing it to be true (and to represent 160,000 wagons, at the rate of ten tons per wagon) the total reported sales of Roumanian corn since December would be 290,000 wagons, of which 210,000 wagons would have gone to the Central Powers, and 80,000 wagons held by us in the country. It is impossible to estimate the stocks of corn held in Roumania, and even the proportion of the whole stock allowed to be exported has been variously reported, varying from 200,000 to 600,000 wagons. The latter figure, it will be remembered, was given to our Bucharest correspondent on December 20 (published in THE NEAR EAST on January 3) by M. Demetre Greceano, President of the Union of Agricultural Syndicates. Therefore, if these latter figures are accurate, and unless further sales abroad have taken place about which nothing has transpired here, we must conclude that Roumania still holds considerable stocks of grain for export.

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Several extensions of the Canal-Cairo lines are being carried out for the defence of the Suez Canal in the event of a Turkish attack—says the Cairo correspondent of the *Railway News*. The doubling of the line between Zagazig and Ismailia, which was commenced some time ago, and on which several thousand native labourers have been busily working, is now practically completed, and is already taking light traffic. In addition, several new branches are being constructed in the Canal zone. The line from Zagazig to Saihla (a branch of the Zagazig-Mansura line) is being continued to Kantara, which is on the Canal about half-way between Ismailia and Port Said. In addition, lines are being made from Salhia to Tel-el-Kebir and Ismailia. Thus practically the whole of the Canal zone will be in direct communication, and the transport of troops from any one point to another will be both easy and rapid.

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The following quotation from the *South Wales Daily News*, anent enemy trading in Egypt, is outspoken:—"The control exercised over enemy traders is of the most perfunctory and ludicrous character, and their presence is giving great offence. It is certainly anomalous that even now, after eighteen months of war, and in spite of the fact that Egypt has become a British Protectorate, there are enemy firms in that country doing business in exactly the same way as in pre-war days. Not only so, but one of their chief customers is the Government itself, which for some mysterious reason ignores both British and Allied firms that could equally well supply its demands. The only possible excuse which the Government could have for dealing with these enemy firms, or for permitting them to exist at all, would be the securing of some distinct material or moral advantage not otherwise obtainable. But according to all accounts no such excuse exists. The importance of putting an end to the anomaly is seen in the facts that Egypt occupies the most important strategic position in the world, and that in no part of the Empire is it therefore more essential that German commerce should be swept away than it is in that country. Ever since the outbreak of hostilities there have been the most convincing proofs that German trade in Egypt is but a part of German policy and strategy. Yet the Government allows these German firms to make profits out of contracts for the provisioning of the British Army. It is obvious then that if this sort of thing continues there will be at least one part of the Empire in which the policy of ousting German trade after the war will not be operative.

COMMENTATOR.

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Egypt's Trade in 1915.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 23.

The Egyptian Customs Administration last evening published its returns for December, which give us the figures for the entire year ending the 31st of that month. Imports during the year amounted to £E19,328,903 and exports to £E27,046,872, as against £E21,724,606 and £E24,091,796 respectively in 1914. There has therefore been a decrease of £E2,395,613 in the former and an increase of £E2,955,076 in the latter, the total volume of trade done being to all intents and purposes the same—1915 is in fact a little over 1 per cent. to the good.

It is customary to compare one year's figures with those of the twelvemonth just preceding. I do not, however, propose to do this with those under review for the simple reason that the year 1914 was abnormal, including as it did five months of war conditions, and that a comparison with it will give no proper indication of the progress—or the reverse—that the country may have made. The year 1913 was the last complete normal one preceding the outbreak of war with its abnormal conditions, and in this note I shall confine myself to an analysis of the results of the past year as compared with those of 1913.

The following table shows the position at the end of those years—

	1915.	1913.	Difference in favour of 1915.
Imports	£E.19,328,993	£E.27,865,195	—£E. 8,536,202
Exports	27,046,872	31,662,065	— 4,615,193
Total ..	£E.46,375,865	£E.59,527,260	—£E.13,151,395

From this table it can be seen that there has been a shrinkage of 30 per cent. in imports and one of 14 per cent. in exports; in other words, a decline of 22 per cent. in total trade during 1915 as compared with 1913. It is interesting to note that in 1914 the decline in total trade was 23 per cent.—22 per cent. in imports and 24 per cent in exports. Considering that 1915 was a complete year of trading under war conditions and that at the date (July 31), when the present war broke out, the trade of the country was already showing an improvement as compared with the corresponding period of 1913, the deduction that one may, I think, reasonably make, is that Egypt is fast recovering the leeway that she lost in the early days of the war. Certainly it is satisfactory to note that the balance of trade is swinging more and more in favour of the country, £E7,717,879 as compared with £E2,367,190 in 1914, and £E3,796,870 in 1913.

Imports.

Under imports the chief items that showed a diminution—the comparison is, as already stated, with 1913—were: Live stock from £E476,082 to £E26,074—the Sudan is now meeting Egypt's requirements to a great extent; skins and tanned goods from £E385,198 to £E199,321, cereals from £E3,448,203 to £E1,055,172, sugar (imported solely for refinery purposes) from £E379,500 to £E349,948, construction wood from £E1,381,537 to £E27,550, furniture from £E227,566 to £E52,186, building material from £E280,676 to £E115,911, textiles from £E5,763,376 to £E4,740,761, worked iron and steel from £E1,685,660 to £E567,428, machinery from £E1,088,859 to £E89,214, tobacco from £E1,082,386 to £E854,895, artificial indigo from £E68,381 to £E7,878, ready-made clothing from £E870,290 to £E537,961, and tarbrushes from £E33,676 to £E4,646. On the other hand, the following heads showed increases: Frozen meat from £E124,077 to £E639,109, tea from £E67,637 to £E165,834, beer from £E80,956 to £E153,749, coffee from £E377,038 to £E450,089, pepper from £E46,459 to £E74,258, sacks from £E335,318 to £E406,062—all these undoubtedly due to the large military forces maintained in Egypt during the past year and a half, natural indigo from £E19,775 to £E29,947, coal from £E2,011,527 to £E2,373,698, matches from £E82,800 to £E135,322, petroleum from £E572,069 to £E590,990, benzine and liquid fuel from £E117,378 to £E151,587.

En passant it is interesting to note that although the imports of coal have increased by £E262,171, the quantity has fallen off by no less than 714,341 tons. This has been due to the scarcity of bottoms and the high rate of freights ruling, and, as a result, the local retail price has risen from about 35s. before the war to 120s. per ton to-day.

IMPORTS.

Country.	1913.	1915.	Difference in favour of 1915.
Great Britain	8,436,483	8,738,598	+ 302,115
British Possessions	1,985,477	2,187,862	+ 202,385
United States	525,160	1,248,859	+ 723,699
Brazil	265,872	385,126	+ 119,254
Belgium	1,177,998	24,936	— 1,153,062
Spain	63,384	99,813	+ 36,429
France	2,513,108	983,500	— 1,529,608
Greece	528,195	1,114,046	+ 585,851
Holland	141,895	150,510	+ 8,615
Italy	1,473,033	1,614,210	+ 141,177
Morocco	17,539	10,125	— 7,414
Japan	70,704	124,740	+ 54,036
Roumania	1,091,507	3,833	— 1,087,674
Russia	890,866	41,368	— 849,498
Sweden	350,994	159,102	— 191,892
Switzerland	149,852	218,323	+ 68,471
Persia	48,144	27,858	— 20,286
Norway	22,110	38,598	+ 16,488
Germany	1,608,881	28,893	— 1,579,988
Austria	1,940,512	7,686	— 1,932,826
Turkey	2,723,898	171,031	— 2,552,867

Exports.

Turning to the exports we find, as might be expected, that the decline is entirely due to cotton, for the value of the textile exported has fallen by £E6,367,465, whilst that of cottonseed has decreased by £E942,126. It is to be noted that the quantity has in each case been less than that exported in 1913—73,564 cantars less of cotton and 573,933 ardebs less of seed. The only commodities connected with the cotton industry that have improved are the two by-products, cotton-cake and cotton seed oil, which have increased by £E200,303 and £E39,476 respectively.

The situation created by the low prices ruling in the cotton market early in the year and by the restriction of the cotton area in 1915 would have been exceedingly serious for the country had its other products not come to the rescue. Thus eggs increased by £E233,974 to £E485,931, cereals by £E1,059,285 to £E1,388,315, onions by £E73,293 to £E348,783, sugar by £E494,547 to £E573,615, wool by £E118,534 to £E255,273, and skins and tanned goods by £E66,726 to £E303,848. Natural phosphates fell by £E32,328, cotton tissues by £E24,021, and henna by £E12,437, whilst benzine and liquid fuel rose from nothing to £E79,284, and gold and silver bar by £E564,276 to £E715,495. The cigarette trade decreased by 37 per cent., £E145,037 less in value, and 182 tons less in weight.

To all intents and purposes, as the above figures clearly indicate, Egypt has made herself felt on the world's markets for sugar and cereals. In the case of the first-named product she has been able to compete because she has now an annually increasing area under cane, and the shutting off of the German beef supply has eliminated a very serious competitor. As regards cereals she was able to dispose of a large quantity just at the time when the world's supply was short. Whilst it is, perhaps, too much to expect in the future a repetition of these favourable conditions, insofar as foreign supplies on the world's markets are concerned; nevertheless, there is no reason why Egypt should not continue to compete within certain limits in those markets.

So much for a detailed analysis of the trade of the country during the past year. It may now be of interest to study the share taken by the various countries in that trade as compared with that before the war. The following table will assist in this study:—

EXPORTS.

Country.	1913.	1915.	Difference in favour of 1915.
Great Britain	13,648,479	13,935,625	+ 287,146
British Possessions	122,455	537,509	+ 415,054
United States	2,484,905	4,961,531	+ 2,476,626
Brazil	—	145	+ 145
Belgium	115,979	117	— 115,862
Spain	586,358	509,894	— 76,464
France	2,787,243	1,506,055	— 1,281,188
Greece	53,758	337,343	+ 283,585
Holland	125,523	31,464	— 94,059
Italy	1,012,594	1,788,013	+ 775,419
Morocco	559	209,679	+ 209,120
Japan	719,201	525,202	— 193,999
Roumania	18,302	3,717	— 14,585
Russia	2,241,701	1,078,386	— 1,163,315
Sweden	13,073	14,190	+ 1,117
Switzerland	1,012,217	1,247,170	+ 234,953
Persia	11,248	20,071	+ 8,823
Norway	12,464	12,238	— 226
Germany	4,066,287	—	— 4,066,287
Austria	1,756,993	—	— 1,756,993
Turkey	664,214	50,413	— 613,801

From this table we find, as was to be expected, that the trade of the Central Empires has dwindled down to nil, for the amounts which appear against their names as having entered the country in reality represent goods that have lain in bond ever since the outbreak of war and that have been cleared during the year, whilst the amount recorded as having been sent to Turkey went, as a matter of fact, to the Holy Places. Trade with Roumania has, of course, stopped, and that with Russia and France has, for obvious reasons, decreased considerably. The small amount done with Belgium represents goods in bond since that country fell into the hands of the Boches. The rise in imports from Brazil is due to large purchases of coffee, and that in exports to Morocco and Persia to increased sales of sugar. Greece, it is to be noted, has doubled her sales to this country; of the increase £E208,235 represents tobacco. he has, on the other hand, taken six times the usual quantity of goods from this country; for the most part these consist of livestock and cereals. Italy has managed to improve her commercial relations with Egypt, despite the fact that she is at war, the increase in her shipments being in stationery, cotton tissues, and stone and glassware. She has also purchased 75 per cent. more from Egypt, cereals and cotton bulking largely in the total. The United States have done uncommonly well out of the commercial crisis, for they have not only increased sales by 136 per cent., but they have also doubled their purchases. The chief imports from the States were petroleum, entirely replacing the Roumanian supply, cut off by the closing of the Dardanelles, coal, benzine, and flour, whilst cotton represented 97 per cent. of the exports across the Atlantic.

Of the suspect countries, Holland has reduced her purchases from Egypt by 75 per cent., and her sales have increased slightly; Sweden has reduced her sales by over 50 per cent., and her purchases are negligible; Norway, on the other hand, has increased her exports to Egypt by 80 per cent. Spain, who was suspected of acting as a transit house for Germany in the matter of cotton, has also reduced her purchases. With regard to Switzerland—the other highly suspected channel—it is to be noted that at the end of 1914 her purchases from this country had increased by £E192,950 by comparison with 1913, and that during 1915 a further increase of £E42,000 had been recorded, making a total increase of nearly 25 per cent.

And, finally, we come to the share taken by Great Britain and her Possessions. In every respect the year has been satisfactory for the relations between the Empire and its latest entrant. Whereas at the end of 1914 its sales to and purchases from Egypt showed a marked falling off by comparison with 1913, during 1915 they recovered all the leeway lost—so much so that they are very much to the good even when compared with a normal year like the one in question. The principal categories in which the Empire increased its trade with this country were under imports—frozen meat, cereals, tea, Beeré coal, natural indigo, drugs, sacks, and, under exports, eggs, cotton seed, cereals, sugar, and gold and silver bar. What is, however, most satisfactory is that the Empire is now entering more into its own, for its share of the foreign trade of Egypt has under imports risen from 37 per cent. to 56 per cent., and under exports from 45 per cent. to 53 per cent.

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Communications in the Balkans.

On Monday Mr. H. Charles Woods lectured on the above subject at the Royal Geographical Society. The following is a cursory summary of the lecture. The speaker's object, he said, was "to examine a few of the geographical and semi-geographical problems which have influenced and do influence the situation is the Balkan Peninsula, and in particular to enumerate some of the more important lines of communication which of necessity govern the operations in that area." The first of these lines of communication is the Danube.

The Danube.

It may be interesting to remember that at Belgrade the Danube is nearly one mile wide, and that with certain exceptions its general width between Vienna and the Iron Gates is from 650 to 2,000 yards at low river. From the Iron Gates, where the channel is only about 80 yards broad, the river widens out, and throughout its course to Braila its average breadth, when the water is low, is about half a mile On the Upper Danube, that is on the part above the Iron Gates, traffic is maintained by barges and by special river steamers drawing, I believe, up to 5 or 6 feet of water. So far as one is able to ascertain such vessels can now navigate the stretch between Vienna and Turnu Severin at practically all times except when the river is stopped by the presence of ice. Below Turnu Severin and between there and Braila there are about 12 feet of water, and small sea-going vessels can therefore pass up and down. Between Braila and the Black Sea, by way of the Sulina branch, there is a minimum depth of about 18 feet of water. This last-named section of the river is under the control of the Danubian Commission.

The above details are sufficient to prove the enormous importance of the Danube, not only as a thoroughfare for traffic, but also as an obstable to through communication between the north and south. No bridges span the river between Petervarad—a Hungarian town situated about 40 miles to the northwest of Belgrade—and Cernavoda in Roumania, that is for a distance of nearly 600 miles. This means that the greater part of Roumania is separated from the Balkan States by a natural barrier, the width of which is in many places much greater than that of either the Bosphorus or the Dardanelles. Thus whilst eight more or less independent Roumanian railways run down to the northern bank of the Danube at seven different places, and whilst six Bulgarian lines approach its southern bank near five different towns, connection between these Roumanian and Bulgarian termini, which are for the most part situated almost opposite to one another, is maintained solely by ferry boats which do not carry trains. Indeed, the only route by which the railway systems of the two countries are actually connected is by way of a new line through the Dobruja.

Cernavoda is on the main line from Bucharest to Constantza. Here a great viaduct, or more correctly, a series of viaducts, cross the river and the lower ground and marshes which border upon it. In addition to the supplementary sections, which have a length of nearly two miles, the bridge over the river alone is not only more than 800 yards long, but the roadway is 100 feet above the level of the water. Built by Roumanian engineers at a cost of about £1,400,000, and opened in September, 1895, it constitutes a possession of which the Roumanians may be justly proud. Indeed, its existence, as also that of the port of Constantza, which is now one of the most important on the Black Sea, are the fundamental causes for which the Roumanians desired to secure a properly defensible frontier on the south of the Dobruja, and therefore one of the most important reasons for which they insisted upon the acquisition of the areas which they obtained during and as a result of the two Balkan wars.

The international status of the Danube depends upon various treaties and arrangements which date as far as 1814 and 1815. This brings us to a point at which it is necessary to consider under more or less separate headings the work which has been and still is carried out by the Danubian Commission, and the larger political position of the Danube. This international Commission was created with the special object of executing the works necessary to put the lower part of the river and its mouths into the best possible state for navigation. The Commission is possessed of extra-territorial powers, and it is not in any way under the control of the Roumanian Government. It has the right to levy tolls, to carry out public works, and to institute regulations for the navigation on the part of the river which it controls. By the Treaty of Berlin it was determined that all the fortifications on the river between its mouth and the Iron Gates should be razed and that no new ones should be created. At the same time it was settled that no vessel of war, with the exception of those light ones in the service of the river police and of the "Stationnaires" of the Powers, which were to be allowed to ascend as far as Galati, should navigate this stretch of the river. These regulations, and especially those connected with the presence of war vessels, have not been carried out to their letter, for Roumania certainly possesses river monitors which can hardly be necessary for police work.

International Railways.

By far the most important railway in the Balkan Peninsula is that which connects Belgrade with Constantinople. It constitutes the Balkan section of the great trunk route from West to East. Of its total length of 659 miles, 212 miles are in Serbia, 271 miles are in Bulgaria, and the remaining 176 miles are still in the Ottoman Empire. The line, which has no kilometric guarantee, was built during the period between 1869 and 1888, when it was opened to through traffic. . . . . There remains one other railway of very considerable importance. It leaves the main Belgrade-Constantinople route at Kuleli Burgas—a junction situated on the right bank of the river Maritza, and lying at a distance of about eighteen miles to the south of Adrianople. This line forms the connecting link between the Constantinople-Adrianople Railway and Salonika. The first section—that part between Kuleli Burgas and Dedeagatch, which runs down the valley of the Maritza—was originally constructed and worked with and by the Oriental railways. Its length is approximately sixty miles. The second section, that is the part between Dedeagatch and Salonika, was built and exploited up to the time of the Balkan wars by a French company. With a very large kilometric guarantee—the highest guarantee ever given for a railway built on this system—this line, including two short branches, has a length of about 265 miles. Of these some ninety miles are now in Bulgaria, and the remainder is in Greece. The main line from Dedeagatch to Salonika runs practically parallel to, and at an average distance of, some fifteen miles from the Ægean coast, and it traverses the plain which lies between that coast and the Rhodope Balkans. Passing Gumuljina in Bulgaria and Drama, Seres and Demirhisar in Greece, it approaches within a distance of about twenty miles of Kavalla, but it touches the sea-coast only at Dedeagatch and near Porto Lagos. As the geographical position of this railway may soon become one of extreme importance it is advisable to remember that a loop or branch line connects the Maritza Valley Railway with the line to Salonika without passing through Dedeagatch, and that big ships cannot enter the arm of the sea which lies to the north of Porto Lagos. The loop at Dedeagatch has its strategical significance, for instead of absolutely approaching the coast, it follows a route which lies behind the hills and at a distance of nearly nine miles from the shore.

National Railways.

For some years, and particularly since the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 1908, the Serbian Government has been devoting large sums of money to railway construction. All the railways in Serbia, except two, really constitute branches of or feeders to the main trunk line from Belgrade to Constantinople. One is a line which leaves the eastern highway at Mladanovatz and goes to Valjevo—a distance of nearly sixty miles. This line has an important branch which connects it with Obrenovatz and Zabrej on the southern bank of the Save, and opens up a district of Serbia hitherto not accessible by railway. Although of the narrow gauge these lines have been and are of very considerable importance, because they jut out towards and form a means of communication with Austro-Hungarian territory.

Important is the normal-gauge line which actually does, or soon will, connect Prahovo on the Danube with Nish. This line, which is certainly open as far as Zaichar, and, I think, as far as Kniajevatz, if not by now to Nish, was constructed with the object of forming part of the Serbian section of the Great Danube-Adriatic Railway. Following the valley of the river Timok, which for a large part of its course forms the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier, this line, which is now open for an approximate length of about 55 miles, was very easy of attack by the Bulgarians. The second line, running in an easterly direction from the trunk route, is that which connects Parachin with Zaichar. Of the narrow gauge its length is approximately eighty miles.

Turning to Bulgaria, we have the Balkan country in which by far the greatest amount of attention has been paid to the construction of railways and roads. Whilst some of them are so important that they can hardly be considered as branches of the main line, it is convenient for the present purposes to consider the railways of Bulgaria as feeders of the great trunk route from Belgrade to Constantinople. A line runs from Sofia up the gorge-like valley of the Isker and then across the plains of Northern Bulgaria to Varna on the Black Sea. This line, which has a length of 336 miles, was only opened to through traffic in the year 1899. In its turn it has what may be called five distinct branches which approach the Danube at five different places, opposite to most of which there are Roumanian railway towns from which connection is made with the interior of that country. (1) The line from Miezdra to Vidin, on the Danube, and opposite to Calafat in Roumania (2) A line from near Plevna to Somovit, with a length of approximately twenty-two miles, approaches the right or southern bank of the Danube at a point situated about halfway between the Roumanian railway towns of Corabia and Turnu Magurele. (3) A line from near Levski to Sistov, with a length of about thirty miles, approaches the Danube at a point situated immediately opposite to Zimnicea on the Roumanian railway system. (4) A line from Gorna-Orjahovica to Ruschuk, which has a length of seventy-two miles, is the railway by which traffic usually passes between Sofia and Bucharest, for a through connection is made by means of a ferry service. (5) A line from Kaspichan to Ruschuk. With a length of about ninety miles this railway provides a means of communication between Varna and Bucharest.

Although far too important really to be classed as a branch, it is convenient here to study the details of the only railway (except the trunk line passing through Belgrade) by which through communication exists between the Balkan Peninsula and the remainder of Europe. I refer to the Bulgarian and Roumanian lines which now meet at Oborishte on the now common Dobruja frontier of these two countries. Part of this railway, namely, the section from Devnja (on or near the Varna line) to Dobrich was planned and under construction as a Bulgarian line before the Balkan wars. After those wars and only during the last few months, the Roumanians completed their section and prolonged it to Medgidia, on the railway between Cernavoda and Constantza. With a total length of ninety miles, about seventy of which are in Roumania, this line is now highly important, not only from a commercial, but also from a strategic point of view. Indeed, whilst it enables passengers and goods to be conveyed from Bucharest to Sofia, or *vice versâ*, without the necessity for any transhipment on the banks of the Danube, it also greatly facilitates a Roumanian and a Bulgarian military concentration just within the frontier of these countries.

The Sofia-Varna line is connected with the Phillippopolis-Burgas railway, by one which

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traverses the Balkan Range. This line, which is obviously of the greatest importance, was only opened quite recently. With a length of just over sixty miles it connects Gorna-Orjahovica in Northern Bulgaria with Stara Zagora in Eastern Rumelia. The use of this line enables merchandise or troops to be rapidly conveyed by railway from Northern to Southern Bulgaria, or *vice versâ*, without being compelled, as formerly, to pass through Sofia. As a matter of fact it played a considerable *rôle* even before the entry of Bulgaria into the war, for it was by it that munitions destined for Turkey were for the most part forwarded from the Danube to the Ottoman frontier.

For many years there have been two more or less rival schemes for uniting the Danube with the Adriatic. First a Great Slav railway, to run through Serbia and either Montenegro or Albania; and, second, a line through Bulgaria and thence through Serbia and Albania to the sea coast. In view of the present political and military situations, it is impossible to discuss the considerations which may influence the ultimate construction of one or both of these lines. Sufficient, therefore, be it to say that the Serbian scheme is by no means a new one. It would provide connection with Roumania by a bridge across the Danube somewhere near Negotin, and it would run, via Nish and Mitrovitza, probably to San Giovanni di Medua or to Antivari. The Bulgarian scheme for railway construction has always been to establish through communication from Roumania to Salonika or to the Adriatic by way of Sofia. The construction of a bridge across the Danube has been proposed at Vidin, Sistovo, or Ruschuk. The missing links are therefore the section from Gyueshevo to Kumanovo, and from Uskub or Monastir to the Adriatic.

Roads.

In approaching a discussion of the communications between the lower part of the Adriatic coast—and the lower part is the only one which seems to concern the Allies at the present time—it will be convenient to classify the existing routes into sections devoted respectively to descriptions of the roads running through Montenegro alone, through Albania and Montenegro, and through Albania alone.

To advance through Montenegro alone would mean the use of the port of Antivari and of the Antivari-Virbazar railway—a short stretch of narrow-gauge line which, with the port of Antivari, was constructed by an Italian company. In Montenegro an excellent road connects the Austrian port of Cattaro—on the Bocche di Cattaro—with Cettinje, Podgoritsa, and Nikshich. As branches of this main route, there are roads from Riyeka to Virbazar and thence to Antivari, and from Podgoritza to Plavnitza, a port on Lake Scutari. As things stand at present a road actually exists from Podgoritza to Andrijevitza. It is finished and fit for motor traffic, but in the month of December last some of the bridges and part of the roadway had been washed away by the heavy rains. From Andrijevitza to Ipek, the road which passes over the mountains is not completed, and a great deal of engineering work will have to be carried out before it is passable to wheeled traffic. From Ipek to Rudnik on the frontier there is a good road, but no work has been done upon the Serbian side. The most direct and easy route to be followed by a possible future railway is that by way of Andrijevitza, Berane, and thence to Novipazar and up the valley of the river Ibar to the railway town of Kralyevo in Serbia. Further to the north there is a Serbian road from Ujitze—a railway terminus—by way of Priboy to Plevlje on the Montenegrin frontier. This route is passable for wheeled traffic and even for strong motors. Some work has been carried out between Pleylje and Nikshich, but the road could not be completed in less than about two years.

In order to use routes for passing through Albania and Montenegro one would land at San Giovanni di Medua, and go from there to Scutari by road, or else go up the river Bojana to the capital of Northern Albania. The port of San Giovanni di Medua consists of a few houses located on the northern side of a small bay. That bay is more or less sheltered, but no facilities exist for the disembarkation or embarkation of men or war material. The road to Scutari, which was passable for wheeled traffic some two years ago, was considerably improved during the summer of the year 1914, when the new bridge over the river Drinitza and near Scutari was opened, and the road was then fit for at least a limited amount of motor traffic. To use the Bojana, men and goods would have to be transhipped to small steamers at San Giovanni di Medua or at the mouth of the river. As already stated, they would have to be again transhipped at Oboti. From Scutari Lake boats would be used as far as Virpazar, Riyeka, or Plavnitza in Montenegro.

Albanian Roads.

Through Albania alone there are three possible general lines of communication between the coast and the interior. The first follows the above-mentioned route to Scutari, and from there, after running up the Drin Valley for some miles, crosses the mountains to Prizren. This route, which continues to Ferisovich on the Uskub-Mitrovitza railway, was used by the Serbian Government and by the French Aeroplane Mission for their recent journey to Scutari. Its surface has been somewhat improved, and, therefore, though it is still impassable for wheeled traffic, it can be utilised for mule traffic, I believe, at all times except when there has been a heavy fall of snow.

The second route runs into the interior from Durazzo. This city is located on the northern shore of a commodious bay in which it is almost always safe for ships to lie. Landings are effected in rowing or sailing boats, which can generally make the trip from ships to the small jetty even in bad weather. The city is almost entirely surrounded by rocks and by the sea, except on the side where the promontory on which it is built is joined to the mainland. The road from Durazzo into the interior follows the line of the celebrated Via Egnatia for about 125 miles, reaching the head of the Salonika-Monastir railway at the last-named place. Of these 125 miles not more than the section from Monastir to Struga—that is about 45 miles—is passable for wheeled traffic. The remainder of the road consists of nothing better than an extremely bad and ill-kept path, and unless improved it could not be utilised by a European force made up of all arms and accompanied by the big guns and by the transport required in modern warfare.

The third and most southerly route through

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Albania is by far the best road in that country. Throughout its length it is passable for wheeled traffic, and it must now have been greatly improved by the Greeks who are in occupation of the greater part or all of it as a result of their re-entry into Southern Albania after the outbreak of the war. It is now certainly fit for motor traffic, and I believe that a Greek postal motor-service has been inaugurated by it since the Balkan wars. The road, which starts from Santi Quaranta—a port situated almost immediately opposite to the northern end of the Island of Corfu—connects that place with Korche and with Monastir. The total distance from Santi Quaranta by way of Delvino, Leskovik, and Korche to Monastir is roughly 115 miles, and an alternative route from Korche approaches the Monastir-Salonika railway at Florina.

Bulgarian Roads.

Regarding the routes leading into the heart of Bulgaria from the south and south-west, it may be said that there are three principal lines, none of which is followed by a railway, and all of which are practicable for wheeled traffic. The first or most easterly of these routes is that which connects Gumuljina on the Dedeagach line with Haskovo in Old Bulgaria. The greater part of the road, which now lies wholly in Bulgaria, was constructed by the Turks for military purposes during the closing years of the reign of Abdul Hamid. After the Balkan wars it was greatly improved by the Bulgarians, who foresaw its enormous importance as a means of communication with the coast should they not have secured possession of the whole of the railway between Adrianople and Dedeagach. Always well engineered and laid out, this road is certainly now practicable for motor traffic, for before the entry of Bulgaria into the war it was easy to make the whole journey in a day.

After running across the narrow plain which separates the Rhodopes from the sea, the road soon begins to wind its way into the heart of the mountains. At the entrance to the Segudlu Valley a road branches off to the east and thus provides a means of communication with Demotika and Adrianople. Following the banks of the Seugudlu River, which runs in a northerly direction across the Mastanli Plain, the main road subsequently enters the Arda Valley at a point situated a few miles to the east of Kirjali. From that town the road ascends the northern branch of the Eastern Rhodopes, and after a journey of roughly sixty-five miles the traveller finds himself in the town of Haskovo, and eight miles further to the north he reaches the station of Haskovo on the main trunk line from Sofia to Adrianople.

If we ignore the road which leads into but not right across the Rhodopes from Drama, and which runs up the Mesta Valley, the next route by which it is possible to advance right into the interior is that which takes the valley of the Struma, and therefore hugs the banks of the river that name. This line constitutes the natural outlet for Bulgaria towards the Ægean, and particularly by way of the port of Kavalla. It is for this reason that the Government of Sofia was particularly anxious to obtain possession of that port, and to secure a frontier which gave to Bulgaria the whole Struma Valley.

A good and thoroughly passable Struma Valley road, about 110 miles in length, connects Demirhisar on the Salonika-Dedeagach railway with Radomir—a town on the Bulgarian line from Sofia to Kustendil. About fifteen miles of this road are in Greek, whilst the remainder are in Bulgarian territory. Branching at Dupnitza another road runs to Sofia by way of Samakov. During the period which intervened between the two Balkan wars this route was followed by postal motor diligences, and in peace time it is the one chosen by those possessed of motor-cars who desire to travel rapidly from Salonika to Sofia without the inconvenience of a long railway journey by way of Nish.

As the means of communication between the valleys of the Vardar and of the Struma are bad, the only other route into Bulgaria which is worthy of consideration here is that which connects Kumanovo on the Uskub-Nish railway with Gyuveshevo, the Bulgarian frontier terminus. The road, about forty-six miles in length, is certainly passable for wheeled traffic, and it is probable that ere now it has been rendered practicable for motors.

Engineering Notes.

Water-hammer.

"Water-hammer" is the name applied to that sudden sharp knock, as from a hammer, which is heard inside a water-pipe when a tap, connected to it, is suddenly turned off. The danger attached to this "hammering" is not generally known, and, occurring in a water-main, the effect may be very serious. It may cause the bursting of the main, followed by an explosion, which often tears up and floods the roadway. A proportionately similar effect may be produced in other water-pipes. With reference to this, Mr. W. Ransom has made a communication to the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers pointing out that if a cock is suddenly closed the pressure in the pipe immediately behind the cock may rise to as high as 550 lb. per square inch, the normal pressure in the main being 125 lb., and only 20 lb. at the tap when water is flowing. Furthermore, the pressure in the main is affected, as well as that of the water immediatey behind the tap, this rising to 220 lb. Mr. Ransom maintains, as a general precaution against water-ram, that all valves should be closed slowly, so that the flow of water will not be suddenly impeded; and that relief valves should be provided, which, upon any sudden increase of pressure, will permit the escape of a small quantity of water to relieve the pipes from concussion. It would be expedient if Mr. Ransom's suggestions were studied by municipal engineers in the Near East, where, as a rule, inferior water-pipes of Continental origin are used, and bursting of mains is not an unusual occurrence.

Flexible Multiple Ploughs.

The very restricted use of double or treble furrow horse-drawn ploughs in the East is generally attributed to the inefficiency of the native draught animals, which are small and weaker than those employed in the West. But the same restriction is observed even in districts where powerful buffaloes and strong mules or horses are available; moreover, while the economic advantages and labour-saving qualities of the double or treble furrow ploughs are recognised and fully appreciated by the average Oriental farmer, the single-furrow plough is still his favourite implement; and on being asked why, if he recognises the good qualities of the former, he does not make more use of it, his invariable answer is that "it is somewhat difficult to handle." The same difficulty is evidently experienced by farmers in this country, where, like in the East, the multiple ploughs are apparently not very popular. The reason given recently by an agriculturist is very practical and convincing. He attributes their unpopularity to their rigidity. The great fault of the rigid-frame, rigid-breast multiple ploughs as made is, he asserts, that they cannot adapt themselves to the inequalities of the surface of the soil, and it is pointed out that when setting-in a plough at the ends of a field on hard ground the share point will often skid yards before it enters. It does not enter until it strikes a softer patch, which allows it to be drawn in; and then once down in softer ground it may be kept there. It is difficult on a hard ground to find two soft places where two shares will enter at once; if one would enter its purchase on the ground would drag the other in, but the hard ground keeps the other out; the one over the soft patch is pulled out by the one on the hard piece. It is merely a matter of getting one in deep enough to drag the other in; but whilst there is rigid resistance at both points there is no chance for the other to enter deeply enough to give a holding purchase. If one is made with play so that it can yield to allow the other to be drawn in, it also, when it reaches to the limit of its give, will be drawn in. The difficulty, therefore, which the Oriental farmer declares he meets in handling a double or treble furrow plough is well explained and better realised when the inequalities of the surface of the soil and the dry condition of the ground upon which he has to work is considered. The above-mentioned agriculturist asserts that there is no reason why rigid plough breasts should be adhered to, and recommends the construction of flexible multiple ploughs; a suggestion which, if taken up by British manufacturers, may find an excellent market in the East.

Repairing the Vardar Railway.

The Times correspondent at Salonika states (February 3) that enemy deserters who arrive at Salonika report that the Germans are still busy repairing the big bridge over the Vardar at Hudovo, near Strumnitza Station, and the tunnel at Demir Kapu which was destroyed by General Sarrail during his retreat They say that this work will take another fortnight, after which railway communication will be re-established.

Storm Damage to Egyptian Railways.

During the early part of January, says the Cairo correspondent of the *Railway News*, very severe storms were experienced in Northern Egypt, and considerable damage was done to the western railways. This was especially the case on the Mariout and Rosetta lines, and on the former there was a wash-out, and considerable damage was done between the Hawaria and Beheg stations. The Rosetta line was damaged near Dahria Station, and though repaired at once was damaged again the following night. Since then the weather has improved, and the lines have been repaired.

The Greek Railway System.

Referring in his recent lecture before the Royal Geographical Society to the linking up of the Greek with the European railway system through New Greece, Mr. H. Charles Wood said:—"For years two more or less rival schemes, each destined to accomplish this object, have been under consideration. The Turkish (pre-war) proposal was for the construction of a line to join Larissa in Greece with Verria on the Salonika-Monastir line. This line would have run parallel to, but well away from, the coast. The Greeks, on the other hand, favoured the provision of a line extending almost along the shore of the Gulf of Salonika from Karate Derven—their terminus—to Gidia on the above-mentioned line. As a matter of fact, in January, 1914, a contract was signed between the Hellenic Government and a French company for the building of a line to follow this, the original Greek route. The length of this new section will be just under fifty-eight miles, and, as there are no serious engineering difficulties, it must now actually be open, or if not it will very shortly be available at least for military traffic."

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TRADE NOTES.

Egypt.

The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of equipment, clothing, material, paraffin, milk in tins, etc., necessary for Central Stores for one year from April 1, 1916. Date, March 20.

The Ports and Lights Administration, Alexandria, invite tenders for the supply of petroleum and benzine required for the financial year 1916-1917. Specification may be seen, and all information obtained, at the above office, on any day, Sundays and official holidays excepted, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Date, March 20.

Tenders are invited by the Egyptian Ministry of Public Instruction for the supply to the Government School of Arts and Crafts of (*a*) wood; (*b*) iron, steel, copper and brass piping, bolts, screws, etc.; (*c*) painters' materials; (*d*) hardware; (*e*) building materials; and (*f*) miscellaneous articles; required during the financial year 1916-17. Copies of the conditions of tender, together with lists of the articles required, may be obtained, at the School of Arts and Crafts, Cairo, where also samples may be seen. Sealed tenders on the proper forms will be received, up to noon on February 29, at the Ministry of Public Instruction, Cairo, and must be accompanied by a receipt for a deposit of £2 in respect of each tender.

Tenders will be received at the office of the London agent of the Egyptian Government (Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G.) for the supply and delivery to the Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs Department, of 20,000 oak sleepers, for normal gauge track; 180,000 pine sleepers, for normal gauge track; and 1,300 pine sleepers for turnouts. The sleepers must be of very good quality wood, and preferably of one of the following species: European and Japanese oak, Montenegrin, Swedish and Norwegian and Baltic red pine, or any other species of oak or pine of equal quality. In default, tenders for sleepers of any other quality of wood coming from Japan, America, India or Australia would be taken into consideration. Further particulars may be obtained on application to the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Public Works for the supply of 50 tons of natural asphalt required during the financial year 1916-1917. Samples shall be deposited at the Roads Service Depot, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, before noon, on February 29.

Tenders are invited by the Director, Technical Schools, Cairo, for the supply of raw materials required for 1916-1917, such as wood, hardware, paints, oils, cement, bricks, building stones, sand, quicklime, etc. Date, February 29.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Public Works for the supply of 320 tons of "extra hard pitch" required during the financial year 1916-17. Samples shall be submitted at the Roads Service Depot, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, before noon, on March 1.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Public Works for the supply of sundry materials, such as lime, homra, sand and cement tiles, required during the financial year 1916-1917. Samples shall be deposited at the Roads Service Depot, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, before noon, on March 4.

The Secrétaire Général des Domaines de l'Etat (Service Technique), Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of accessories for workshops, etc. Lists, samples, etc., can be seen at the head offices in Cairo. Date, March 1.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-18). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Date, March 1.

Sudan.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on February 29, for the supply of timber required by the above Department in 1916.

Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W., and from the Agent, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria.

Tenders will be received at the offices of the Assistant Financial Secretary, E. A., Khartoum, and the Governors, Dongola and Berber, up to 12 noon, on March 7, 1916, for the supply of 8,000 straw hats to the War Department, Khartoum North.

Persons wishing to tender for the above can obtain full particulars from either of the above-mentioned offices, any day between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., except Fridays and general holidays.

Malta.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies notify that sealed tenders (in duplicate) will be received by the Treasury, Valletta, Malta, for the supply of stationery for the Government of Malta. Forms of tender and specifications may be obtained and samples of stationery may be inspected at the office of the Crown Agents for the Colonies (Pattern Room), Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W. Date, March 2.

Cyprus.

Tenders are invited by the Public Works Department and the Royal Engineers at Limassol for the supply of materials, etc., for the year 1916-17, delivered at the Depot, Limassol, as in Lists numbered I., II., and III., obtainable from the Director of Public Works. Tenders may be made for any one, two, or all three lists at the option of the person tendering. All tenders should be sealed, and should be addressed to the President of the Tender Board, the Office of the Treasurer, Nicosia. Tenders should be marked "Tender for Materials, Limassol," in the left hand top corner of the envelope, and should reach the Office of the Treasurer not later than 11 a.m. on February 18. All details regarding the articles to be supplied can be obtained from the Office of the Divisional Engineer, Limassol.

Tenders are invited by the Public Works Department, Nicosia, for the supply of materials, etc., for the year 1916-17, as per the Lists numbered I. to VII., to be obtained at the P.W.D. Office. Tenders may be made for any or all of the seven lists at the option of the person tendering. All tenders should be sealed, and should be addressed to the President of the Tender Board, the Office of the Treasurer, Nicosia. Tenders should be marked "Tender for Materials, Nicosia," in the left hand top corner of the envelope, and should reach the Office of the Treasurer, not later than 11 a.m. on February 18, 1916.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

EGYPTIAN DATURA LEAVES.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture issues the following:—

A sample of about 2 lb. of dried Datura leaves was sent to the Imperial Institute, London, in order to determine the value of it for medicinal purposes. The Director of the Institute remarks that, in order to obtain a sale for the product, a consignment of at least 2 cwt. in tightly packed bales should be sent. This is now being done, and the result will be published in due course.

The report of the small samples was, however, favourable, and the manufacturing druggists in London, to whom it was submitted, mentioned that they doubted whether leaves could be supplied in such good condition on a commercial scale. The firm mentioned that the present price of Datura leaves was rather high, French supplies selling at 67s. per cwt., and Italian at 57s. 6d. per cwt., whereas the normal price was 30/40 per cwt.

The sample sent was described as consisting of leaves varying in colour from light to brownish green, and measuring from 6 by 3½ inches to 9½ by 7 inches. The leaves were in excellent condition, but a few had been attacked by insects, and some showed signs of mould.

The chemical analysis showed that they contained 28 per cent. total alkaloid, equivalent to 32 per cent. of the dry material. The alkaloid was principally hyoscyamine, and in this respect they agreed with Datura leaves from other sources. The amount of alkaloid was, however, lower, than that recorded from India, Europe, and South Africa. It was stated that Datura leaves might possibly be used as a substitute for those of belladonna, owing to the present scarcity of the latter.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants. LONDON, February 10.

The market has been very strong this past week, with good business passing in all available grades at advanced prices; while the possibility of the currants being included in the list of restricted articles led to some speculation. The same activity prevails in the Liverpool market. The stocks of currants in London on January 31 was 7,241 tons against 6,691 tons last year.

Sultanas.

There has been a good demand, with business passing at full prices. The stocks of sultanas in London on January 31 was 2,048 tons against 1,865 tons last year.

Dates.

The demand is good, with business passing in Egyptian at 35s. to 38s., and Persian 15s. to 30s.

Seeds.

Linseed is steady in tone, and prices are well maintained. London-Calcutta, spot and near, 83s., and for shipment 82s. to 82s. 6d. La Plata to Hull, 76s. is asked. Feb.-Mar. and Mar.-April, 75s. 6d. Cotton seed is dull and neglected in the absence of a market for the oil. Egyptian to London £14 10s., same is asked for Bombay to Hull. Rape seed is slow. Toria, Mar., Hull, is quoted 74s.

Oils.

Linseed oil is steady, but inactive at late rates. May-August £45 2s. 6d. is asked, and £44 15s. offered. Cotton oil is dull and in buyers' favour. Crude, spot, pipes £43, soap-making refined £48. Rapeseed is quiet, ordinary brown naked, spot, nominally quoted £52, and English refined barrels £56.

DATES.

SPHINX BRAND.

PRODUCE OF BASRAH.

Selected from the famous Gardens.
Only superior qualities of
Hallawees, Khudrawees, Sayers and Zehdi
are packed.
In cartons of one to four pounds, small boxes, ordinary cases, baskets, tins, and skins.
SPHINX competes with all other brands in quality, packing, and is guaranteed to be clean, sound, fresh, and free from disease.
Sole Proprietor:
BAHJET S. FORAGE, BASRAH.

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Roumania's Corn Deals.

Further Details and Impressions.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, January 11.
(Delayed in transmission.)

Readers of this morning's papers were electrified by the news that England was purchasing Roumania's available stock of grain. It forms the chief topic of conversation, and has produced an excellent impression, which is not to be wondered at, when it is remembered that the existence of nearly all classes in this country depends directly or indirectly upon the quality of the harvest and its sale.

German Pressure.

I have insisted frequently in these columns on the political pressure which Germany, as the sole purchaser of Roumanian agricultural produce, was able to exert. Even after the agriculturists had formed a syndicate with a monopoly for the sale of cereals, thereby curtailing the individual efforts on the part of German agents. The sale of 50,000 truck loads of grain, and the prospect of further sales, naturally influenced public opinion. The wise, but tardy, action of the British Government irrevocably sweeps away the last traces of economic pressure that Germany can bring to bear upon this country.

To insist on the political aspects of the transaction, other than those associated with the exclusion of German economic influence, is unnecessary. The excitement which the rumoured sale produced in German circles, together with the subsequent depression in those circles, have given rise to a touch of malicious satisfaction on the part of the public. The prospect of further sales to Germany created an unpleasant feeling that the Government might be hampered in its foreign policy.

January 18.

The Anglo-Roumanian agreement, whereby Great Britain purchases 80,000 truck loads of Roumanian corn, has been signed on the part of Roumania by three delegates named by the Central Commission for Export, and on the part of Great Britain by Sir George Barclay, British Minister in Bucharest. The rumour has been persistenly spread that the wheat is being bought by a British syndicate, but this has been officially denied in a communication emanating from the British Legation to the effect that the purchase is being made by the British Government.

Details of Purchase.

The wheat, the object of this deal, is part of the 1915 harvest, and represents the bulk of what is left over from the sale to Germany. The contract has not yet been published, but we understand that the following particulars are substantially accurate:—

The price fixed is nominally 3,200 lei (£128) per truck load, with small variations according to quality, the total, therefore, amounting to ten million sterling. Payment has to be made in Roumanian lei, the rate of exchange being in the neighbourhood of 26 lei per £ sterling; export taxes, payable in gold, are to be met by the buyer, and amount to £20 per truckload. The terms of the contract stipulate that the sale is to be concluded within six months, payment being made immediately. The goods are to be stored in the country until such time as the Dardanelles become navigable.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

Further Loan to Government.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, January 11.

On the basis of a convention entered into on December 1, between the Ministry of Finance and the National Bank of Roumania, the State has contracted a new loan of £4,000,000 at the rate of 2½ per cent. The loans made by the National Bank to the State amount since the beginning of the war to a total of £16,000,000.

Reuter reports from Amsterdam (February 5) that a telegram from Bucharest announces that on February 4 the Minister of Finance introduced a Bill into Parliament authorising a supplementary military credit of 200,000,000 lei (£8,000,000). He also submitted another Bill sanctioning the military expenditure incurred during the Parliamentary recess. The total war credits up to the present amount to 600,000,000 lei (£24,000,000).

BULGARIAN FINANCES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, January 20.

The Sobranje has voted a new credit of 530,000,000 levas, to be apportioned as follows:—450,000,000 levas for war expenses; 35,000,000 levas for construction and upkeep of roads; 15,000,000 levas for railways and rolling-stock; 30,000,000 levas for pensions and allowances.

EGYPTIAN LAND ACTION.

In October, 1914, the Egyptian Government published a Decree restricting the area to be cultivated under cotton during last year. Previous to the Decree, certain cultivators had rented land with the special condition they should be allowed to cultivate cotton on half area.

Messrs. Selim and Amin Massad, of Cairo, who rented land on this stipulation, lately brought an action against their landlords, claiming damages for the profit they had been deprived of owing to the restrictive Decree. The case came before the Cairo Mixed Court, which refused to grant any damages, arguing that the Decree benefited both landlord and tenant.

This decision has now, however, been reversed on appeal. The Appeal Court points out that the rent was adjusted to the amount of cotton expected to be derived from the land and that a lower rent would have been agreed upon had the restrictions then been in force. The Court, therefore, ordered the landlords to indemnify the tenants in respect of their reduced profits.

COMPANY NOTES.

Egyptian and Foreign Trust.

In their report, to be submitted to the forthcoming meeting of shareholders, the directors of the above company state that the year's working has resulted in a net profit of £942 18s., which has been carried to credit of profit and loss account, reducing the debit balance (after making sundry adjustments amounting to £2 18s. 2d.) from £3,977 3s. 3d. to £3,037 3s. 5d. Owing to the continuance of the war, reliable data from which the directors could make a valuation of the company's securities are still lacking, and a valuation therefore has not been made. Major B. A. H. Goldie retires from office as a director, and being eligible, offers himself for re-election. Meeting on February 18 at Dashwood House, E.C.

Alexandria-Ramleh Tramway Company.

Although to meet the increased traffic the company has considerably increased the number of cars on the Ramleh line, while the service has also been augmented, it is probable, says the Cairo correspondent of *Railway News*, that in the near future the company will have to reduce its services considerably owing to the lack of liquid fuel. No liquid fuel can now reach Egypt from Burma or America, as all the tank steamers have been requisitioned by the Admiralty, and the Diesel engines, which generate the electric power for the tramways, are worked by liquid fuel. There are reserve engines at Karmous, a suburb of Alexandria, but these are only sufficient to cope with about half of the present service on the Ramleh line.

The Eastern Bank.

In its annual banking review, the *Financier* devotes the following paragraph to the Eastern Bank:—

"This young and promising institution was founded in 1909, and the first report was issued for 1910, when there was a profit of £4,760, out of which £3,585 was applied to the writing off of the whole of the preliminary expenses and the balance carried forward. The accounts of the bank are made up annually to December 31, and the report submitted in March. Having started on sound lines during the great rubber boom, the company was able in the following year to pay a dividend of 4 per cent. This was increased in 1912 to 5 per cent., and in 1913 to 6 per cent. The profits in 1913 available for distribution totalled £47,150, out of which, after paying a dividend of 6 per cent., the directors placed £15,000 to reserve and carried forward £8,150. The dividend for 1914 was 5 per cent. In June, 1914, 50,000 new shares were created, and the subscribed capital of the company now stands at £1,500,000 (of which £600,000, or £4 per share, is called up), in shares of £10 each. Of the balance £900,000 is reserved liability. The 50,000 shares already referred to were issued at a premium of 15s. per share, and these ranked for 5 per cent. per annum till the end of 1914, since which date all the shares have ranked equally. The reserve stands at £55,000 and the carry-forward is £6,477."

It is reported that Austria has sent 1,500 (?) wagons to Constantinople to facilitate transport on the Berlin-Constantinople line.

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. **RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.**

Head Office: ATHENS.

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BULGARO-GERMAN SOCIETY.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, January 20.

M. Mandelbaum, the Belgian Consul at Berlin, and author of the work "Bulgaria, her Present and Future," has been at Sofia for some time. He is trying to found a Bulgaro-German Society to develop economic and financial relations between the two countries.

On the Bulgarian side, Prince Cyril, with the consent of King Ferdinand, has condescended to become patron of the society.

In Germany the exalted position has been offered to Prince Johann Albert of Mecklenburg.

MONTENEGRIN FINANCES.

Commenting on the financial situation of Montenegro, the *Lokalanzeiger* says it will be difficult to set the country on its legs again. During the war Montenegro concluded an internal loan for 9,000,000 marks., and this debt has swollen to 100,000,000 marks. Since the Austrian offensive and the retreat of the Montenegrin army the financial department has remained without a head. A good many bank notes were issued which were very badly printed, and for this reason they had to be withdrawn. After the flight of the army, however, they were again put into circulation, though they had no more value than waste paper. The *Lokalanzeiger* claims to have received this information from the former Minister of Finance, M. Zergovic, who is now at Cettinje.—Central News.

THE WARDAN COMPANY.

By order of the Mixed Courts, Cairo, in consequence of a judgment in favour of the National Bank of Egypt, a part of the estates of the Wardan Company are to be sold by public auction. The total land to be thus disposed of amounts to 1,398 feddans of agricultural land at the villages of Beni Salama, Ghiza Province, and Khatatbeh, Behera Province. The upset price of all the lots is £E12,070.

The Wardan Company was formed with the object of purchasing, for the purpose of developing and dealing with the same, the Khatatbeh Estate and Wardan Lease, which latter was granted by the Egyptian Government to Mr. John W. Williamson for a period of forty years from January 1, 1903, and which carried with it an option to purchase the lands so leased after certain conditions have been fulfilled at the fixed price of £E5 per feddan. These lands, whose area is exactly 7,528 feddans, 22 kirats, and 12 sahmes, are a sandy tract about 23 kilometres long and of an average width of about 1,800 metres, situated twenty-five miles from Cairo, and running parallel with the railway and the Behera Canal. The land is a coarse desert sand overlying the ordinary black soil of the Nile Valley. The effect of the muddy water of the Nile flood was said to be magical on such land, and a large canal of 43 kilometres was constructed to flood the land with red water during flood time. The planting of 1,000 feddans with trees or fibre plants was obligatory by the terms of the Government lease before the option to purchase could arise.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Production for the past week:—Gemsah, 34 tons; Hurghada, 341 tons, against 460 tons. Hurghada Well No. 7 ceased flowing on February 2.

Bank of Egypt (in Liquidation).—The Senior Official Receiver is about to make a fifth return of £1 per share to the shareholders, making, with the previous payments, a total return of £8 per share. The payment will be made on the 21st inst., and the warrants will be issued on the 19th inst. to all shareholders whose shares are now fully paid.

Egyptian and Foreign Trust.—The twelfth ordinary general meeting of shareholders will be held at Dashwood House, E.C., on February 18, at 2 p.m.

Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields.—Production for week ending January 29, 690 tons.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Mr. E. W. P. Foster, C.M.G., and Mr. A. Harter have accepted seats on the board of the Egyptian Agricultural Company.

The Secrétaire Général des Domaines de l'Etat, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 6,000 kilogrammes of axle grease. Date, February 16.

Messrs. John Day and Co. were recently the successful tenderers to the Egyptian State Railways for the supply of sacks.

With reference to a previous notice to a call for tenders for the construction of a lighthouse at Cape Tres Forcas, H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier (Mr. H. E. White, C.M.G.) reports that as no tenders have been submitted the work will be carried out by private contract.

The Central News reports from Cairo under Tuesday's date that a proclamation now permits the export of ginned and unginned cotton to Switzerland if consigned to the Société de Surveillance Suisse. Hitherto the Egyptian Government has endeavoured to prevent cotton from reaching Germany under the strict supervision of the Customs and Swiss consignees.

An industry worth cultivating, says *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review*, is the collection and grinding of the musenna bark in Sudan. The director of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Government at Khartoum states that upon application by interested persons the Department will endeavour to arrange for supplies of the bark.

It is predicted in Alexandria, says the same journal, that the new crop of onions will be of very inferior quality. It is expected that the crop will amount to about 950,000 bales of 500 lb. each.

According to information from an authoritative source (says Reuter's Athens correspondent), out of three million frs. (£120,000) worth of goods destroyed by the recent Zeppelin raid, only 100,000 frs. (£4,000) worth was insured. Several British insurance companies have telegraphed to their agents in Salonika to accept insurances on goods against all war risks. The agents have, as a result, effected insurrances in two days to the amount of over £200,000.

Reuter reported from Athens on Tuesday that the question of the importation of petroleum into Greece had been satisfactorily settled. An agreement was signed on Monday between the British Minister and M. Koffinas, head of the Department of Direct Taxation, in virtue of which vessels carrying petroleum to Greece will be allowed to pass unmolested provided that timely notice is given of each voyage. The agreement also applies to the transport of petroleum from one Greek port to another.

At the monthly meeting of the British Cotton Growing Association, held on the 1st inst., it was stated that reports had been received from the experimental stations in the Sudan up to the middle of December. At all the stations the temperature had been very low during December, and it was not anticipated that the crop will show any increase over last year.

The Asiatic Petroleum Company were recently the successful tenderers to the Coastguards Administration for the supply of petroleum and benzine.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of January 14 states that H.E. the High Commissioner has granted to the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company, Limited, an extension of the permission to increase the maximum passenger and freight rates specified in the Articles of Agreement by an amount not exceeding 25 per cent., for a further period of three months commencing from January 1, 1916, and ending March 31, 1916.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	76
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	67
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	65
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	54
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	41½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	52
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	57½xd
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	75
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £50p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	80½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	70
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3⅝
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	70
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9⅝
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1⅝
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅝	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅜
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piraeus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¾	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¾	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	6
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	¾	—	20/-
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Invcs.	9/-	—	7/1½
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	94½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅞
" " Founders	¾	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	75
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	5/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅝
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	1⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	15/9
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	—	16/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	£1/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Feb. 9.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	7/9
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	18/6
European Oilfields	4/9	2/6
Roumanian	20/-	13/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Feb. 8.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	390
Canal de Suez	4050	3895
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	600
Turkish Unified 4%	59.95	58
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	84
Serbian, 1895	—	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 250.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The capture of Erzeroum after a five days' bombardment is a feat of which the Grand Duke Nicholas and his army may well be proud. It comes at a moment when its moral effect cannot be overestimated, for it will hearten the Allies at the opening of a new campaigning season, and it must necessarily cause misgivings to the Turks. The outstanding features of the Russian success are the months of careful preparation under the new Commander-in-Chief in the Caucasus and the rapidity with which the blow was delivered in spite of physical obstacles and the terrible weather conditions. From the enemy's efforts to explain away his failure to withstand the Russian advance in its early stages we may infer that he has been demoralized as much by the wonderful fighting capacity of the Russian soldier in the most adverse circumstances as by the Russian guns.

With the fall of the capital the importance of the Russian operations in Armenia manifestly extends beyond the small front over which their advance has been taking place. The danger of an unbroken spell of success for the Turks from Gallipoli to Persia was not restricted to the possible effects on restless Arab tribes. German agents, knowing the ground and the material they had to work with, were well able to turn the Turkish achievements to good use throughout Persia right up to the frontiers of India, and it was probably on the strength of what they had already accomplished that a more formal expedition into Persia was planned and taken as far as Kermanshah. Our Allies have now spoilt the harmony of this picture by a vigorous thrust from a quarter in which the offensive was least expected. The Russians have little to gain for themselves by advancing from the Caucasus. On the other hand, they can exercise a potent influence on the whole course of operations in the Middle East by threatening the enemy's lines of communications.

It is still early days to predict the tangible results that will follow the capture of Erzeroum by the Russians. The first effect must be to shake the complacency of the Turco-German authorities in Constantinople and to disorganize their present plans. The Turks are as little likely to lend themselves to co-operation in Germany's European schemes, if there is a prospect of their Asiatic Empire becoming disrupted, as the Germans are to spare fresh drafts for Turkey's support at a time when the whole complexion of the Near Eastern campaign may suddenly be changed by the appearance of Roumania in the field on the side of the Entente Powers. The distances to be covered before Russia can link up her successes in Armenia with her own operations in Persia and the British campaign in Mesopotamia are still great, and the best chance of profiting by the favourable turn of events on the Erzeroum front would seem to lie in a vigorous offensive against the Turkish lines of communication in Europe. The fate of Baghdad, the collapse of Turco-German intrigues in Persia, and the dissipation of the "Army of Egypt," if even the nucleus of it remains in being—all these can be more effectually hastened by cutting off the Turks from their German supports than by isolated actions in Asia Minor itself.

A profound sense of relief will have been experienced as a result of the information regarding the situation at Kut given in Parliament on the opening day of the session. For the first time it was announced that General Townshend "has sufficient supplies at his disposal to maintain his force for a considerable period." Mr. Asquith was more communicative than Lord Kitchener. The course of the campaign in Mesopotamia, he admitted, had given rise from time to time to not a little anxiety, but he considered that the situation had "distinctly improved," and that there is every ground for hope "that the two forces may unite, and that anything in the nature of a serious British check may be averted." Not the least satisfactory part of Mr. Asquith's remarks was the statement that General Aylmer's reinforcements "ought to have completely reached him by this time." The weather that has proved such a serious obstacle to operations is said to have cleared, and it should now be possible to discover whether in the period of inaction, which has lasted four weeks, since General Aylmer tried to force the Turkish position at Fehahieh, fresh accessions of strength have enabled the enemy to maintain his superiority in numbers over the British force.

An announcement made by the War Office regarding a reconnaisance despatched from Nasriyah up the Shatt

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el Hai reports that, failing to find any sign of a Turkish advance in this direction, the detachment on the 7th instant commenced its return to Nasriyah. Thereupon it was closely followed by a force of hostile Arabs, who endeavoured to turn its flanks, and was "also attacked by numbers of other Arabs, hitherto believed friendly, who issued from villages along the route." Our total casualties amounted to 373, while "those of the enemy amounted in killed alone to considerably over 300." A later report, forwarded from Busreh, puts the enemy's losses in killed at 636, so that the free-lances paid dearly for their temerity and their treachery. The Turkish official reports, which, as usual, exhibit a combination of Oriental exaggeration and Teutonic untruthfulness, magnify the affair into an operation of some importance, and contain much "corroborative detail, intended to give artistic verisimilitude to a bald and unconvincing narrative." The British reply to this imaginative effort is a cold, but satisfactory, announcement that "the correct account of the incident is contained in the War Office *communiqué*.

An interesting feature of the incident is that it serves to show that the Arabs of Irak still remain as fickle and utterly unreliable as they have been ever since the days when they intrigued with Zubeir and Talha against Ali. History records how, accepting Ali's leadership after the Battle of the Camel, they deserted him shamelessly at Siffin, and finally assassinated him at Kufa. It records, too, how, having invited Hussein, the son of Ali, to become their ruler, they fell away from him at the first sign of danger, and left him and his little band of devoted friends and followers to be butchered by Yezid's brutal officer, Shamir; and how later, having persuaded yet another descendant of Ali, Zaid, to lead them in revolt against the Omayyad Khalif, they let him and a hundred followers be cut down by the Khalif's troops at the very door of the mosque in which a thousand of them had taken refuge—too fearful to strike a blow for honour and that liberty which they professed to hold so dear. To-day those who know them best tell us that these Arabs of Lower Mesopotamia are still ever ready to fall back before an advancing force, and as ready to close in on one which is—or appears to be—retreating. They have indeed all the vices of the Bedouin, with none of their virtues; and though we may make allowances for the fact that they have long suffered under Turkish misrule of the most exasperating kind, which is calculated to bring out all that is worst in the Arab character, it would appear that henceforth the leaders of our Mesopotamian expeditionary forces would be well advised to be chary of placing too much reliance on their "friendliness."

The vigorous pursuit of the enemy in Persia appears to have forced the bulk of the Turco-German agents and their supporters to concentrate in the neighbourhood of Kermanshah. Here alone is it probable that any determined resistance will be offered to the Russian sweeping movements. Irregular bands are still to be met with in other parts of the country, but they display unwillingness to risk an encounter with the Russians. The capture of Assim Bey, the Turkish Ambasador to Persia, and the Austrian Military Attaché will deprive the insurrectionaries of at least one figurehead and possibly of a useful leader. That these two men, together with two Austrians who had been made prisoners of war by the Russians and had escaped to Persia, should have been discovered by a patrol of Cossacks, points to a break-up of the enemy's organization in the country. The Russian forces are relying largely on mechanical transport, which enabled the Union Government to crush the rebellion in South Africa so rapidly. British co-operation in the good work our Allies are doing in Persia might take the form of increasing their supply of suitable motor vehicles.

Albania is still the centre of such military operations as are taking place at the moment in the Near East. Austrian and Bulgarian forces continue to advance on Durazzo, and an enemy report speaks of an engagement west of Tirana. The Italians, it is alleged, attempted to capture a height in the possession of the Austrians, but their attacks were repulsed. The statement, whether accurate in its details or not, confirms the report in the *Morning Post* from its Budapest correspondent that the Italians had already concentrated "large numbers of troops" in Albania. Tirana is not much more than a score of miles due east of Durazzo, while Elbasan, already in Bulgarian hands, is twice that distance away to the south-east. An attack on the Austrian position at the former town might, therefore, only be intended to check the enemy's advance, and not form part of an Italian offensive in Albania. The time for that will come when the other factors in a combined general movement are ready.

The information that we published last week that an understanding on the subject of Roumania's participation in the war had been reached between the Government and the majority of the Opposition is confirmed in a message, dated February 12, from *The Times'* correspondent at Bucharest. The followers of M. Take Jonescu and M. Filipescu, he states, have agreed to abstain from any action calculated to embarrass the Government. In other words, the Government has been able to satisfy the Interventionists that it is at one with them in support of the Allies' cause, which is also Roumania's cause, and that its delay in participating in the war is due solely to military considerations. For a long time we have urged such an understanding between the chief Roumanian parties, and it may now be welcomed as heralding the approach of the time when Roumania will be in a position to take her legitimate place in the world-struggle. It must not be overlooked, however, that there is a Germanophil party in the country, largely recruited from the landowners, who have formed until recent years the all-powerful oligarchy which has directed Roumanian affairs. M. Marghiloman and M. Carp are indefatigable in their efforts to push German interests, and it is not difficult to imagine the nature of the support they derive from the Central Powers. The Allies have no need to imitate German methods in Roumania, but in their dealings with the Roumanian Government they need to adapt themselves to local conditions, which are in many respects different from those to be met with in a Great Power.

In their dealings with Roumania the Central Powers have had the advantage of established interests in the country. The fact that the commercial centre of Bucharest should derive its name from a German town is only one indication of the economic dependence of the Roumanians on Germany and Austria-Hungary. Germans occupy the premier position in the oil industry, and with Austrians are naturally more frequent visitors to the country than the subjects of the Allied Powers. Roumania's intellectual ties, however, are with France, and French among the upper classes is as favourite, if not as common, a medium of conversation as Roumanian. When the war is over Roumania will have the right to expect, as a reward for her co-operation, that her Allies will take definite steps to rescue her from a too exclusive economic dependence upon the Central Powers.

The proceedings in the Greek Chamber place the seal of public approval on the Government's policy. Greece hugs to herself her neutrality, and gives no thought to the future political reformation of the Balkans. Her position in the Peninsula is her own affair, but her friends, especially the Powers of the Triple Entente, regret to see her reserving for herself contentedly the lowest seat in the Near Eastern Council Chamber. Her attitude, however, ought not to be allowed to influence the details of the settlement which, it is hoped, will finally regulate the Balkan question. That problem has to be treated as a whole, and on lines which offer the best chance of a permanent solution. The present eclipse of Greece, of her own volition, does not affect the principle of that solution, but we fear that it will affect the prestige of Greece among the virile communities of the Near East. The war, however, has yet many months to run, and in spite of the one-sided judgment of a one-party Chamber there are faint signs that a reconsidera-

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tion of the national policy has not been irrevocably excluded. Cogent reasons, M. Gounaris declared, prevented him from explaining why the army could not yet be demobilized; nor did he hesitate to admit that he had contemplated during his Premiership the possibility of Greece emerging from her neutrality.

The Italian version of the incident in regard to the renewal of the mandate of the Mixed Courts in Egypt places it in a somewhat different light from that in which it appeared in the Egyptian version. The trouble, it is stated, arose through the appointment of a French barrister practising in Cairo to fill one of the places left vacant by the absence of six German and Austrian representatives on the bench. It was understood by Italians that the places would be filled by the subjects of the smaller Powers, and the choice of a Frenchman gave four representatives to France as against three to Italy. In the circumstances an Italian protest was inevitable according to the unwritten law of international diplomacy, which, owing to a physical inability to climb mountains, loves to crow shrilly from the top of molehills. In view of the war and the fact that the Mixed Court system will eventually come up for regulation in keeping with the new status of Egypt, the incident would have seemed unfortunate, if it had been more important. As things are, there should be no difficulty in meeting Italian susceptibilities.

"No change" is becoming the stereotyped form of bulletin on the situation at Salonika. To cover their inaction, the enemy circulate a number of versions of what they intend to do, and reports of great activities preparatory to the promised attack. One point, however, emerges plainly from the general uncertainty: both the Germans and Bulgarians are devoting more attention to Roumania than they did a few weeks ago. The declaration of Rustchuk as a war zone is only one of many indications. The expulsion of the Greek and Roumanian Consuls from Monastir may ostensibly rest on some technical ground—it is stated that their respective Governments had failed to provide them with new *exequaturs*—but it probably reflects a mistrust on the part of the Bulgarians of at least one of the two countries, and a desire to be rid of foreign representatives in Monastir. As for the Allies, they are without doubt adopting the right course in accumulating men and supplies at Salonika. The rumoured movement of a French force across the Vardar has since been reduced to the modest proportions of a cavalry reconnaissance. But in the meantime the enemy's positions are being subjected to bombardment by aircraft, and in this theatre of the war the dread of an attack must be on their side rather than on the Allies'.

The question of Jugoslav aspirations is dealt with on another page. It is one that ought to engage the careful consideration of the Allied Governments. Jugoslavs who have found refuge outside Austria-Hungary fear lest the concessions which it is alleged that the Allies are prepared to make to Italy may give such offence to their compatriots that their enthusiasm for the Allied cause will grow lukewarm. The position in any case is one which the Austro-Hungarian Government will try to exploit. As a sign of the times, it is recorded that, whereas formerly the Slav names of towns, such as Zadar, did not appear on postmarks, and then, since the outbreak of the war, figured as an alternative name, now they have pride of place, and the German or Magyar name is given in brackets. There is much to be said for a frank discussion of the Jugoslav question among the Allied Powers.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, January 31.

Convalescents at Polemidia Camp.

Our convalescents at the camp near Limassol are well looked after. Captain Williamson, at one time District Medical Officer at Larnaca, is in medical charge, as he was at Troödos, and his services are most valuable. Welcome comforts reach the camp from generous hands in many parts of the island. Its proximity to Limassol adds not a little to the social life of the town community, besides being of benefit to local trade.

Mails and Train Services.

No mails have reached the island for a fortnight (January 31). There is now always the prospect of outgoing mails being delayed in Egypt. The weekly service will probably continue to be irregular under present and newly threatening circumstances.

The railway service has been curtailed. Owing to shortage of coal only one train instead of two runs daily each way between Nicosia and Famagusta. High freights and increasing cost of living continue to be depressing features. A sudden rise in the price of potatoes has been causing some anxiety, but the Government regulations providing for the supply of local dealers should meet the situation. The Khedivial S.S. Company is said to have fixed limits for the quantities of goods that can be shipped weekly at some ports, *e.g.*, as regards oranges and potatoes.

Progress at Limassol.

Limassol maintains its lead as the most go-ahead place in Cyprus. The appearance of the town is being greatly improved by works on the sea front. The latest addition to the town institutions is a newly opened and an excellent poorhouse. It was much needed, and it puts an end to various forms of begging which prevailed. The foundation is largely due to the generosity of a well-known citizen of Limassol, Mr. Stephanos Laniti. Great credit is also due to the Mayor, Mr. Spiros Araousos, who in this, as in all matters, has shown great zeal and energy. He has been one of the ablest members of the Legislative Council, and is a member of the Executive Council. The Bishop of Kition, the Hellenic Consul, and British officials were present at the opening ceremony. This poorhouse may serve as a model for others. It is probable that one will be opened at Larnaca shortly owing again to the liberality of a family—that of Mr. I. Pierides.

The Islanders and the War.

The Greek newspapers, while devoting much space to the war, regard with deep anxiety the outlook for Greece, which is "not mistress in her own house." They discuss the policy and attitude of the King, the spirit of the Greek Army, the bitter prospects of an invasion of Hellenic territory by the hated Bulgarians, or by Turks, the inexpediency of neutrality, and the designs of the Central Powers. Greeks who live outside their mother country have for the most part, if not unanimously, declared their strong disapproval of the country's present and recent policy, and bitterly lament lost opportunities as defined by M. Venizelos.

LIFE IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

In a letter dated January 26, an Englishman formerly resident in Turkey, and now residing at Athens, writes:—Communications with Constantinople are becoming more difficult, travellers now taking about fifteen to twenty days on the journey. It will interest your readers, especially those from Constantinople, to know that the service held at the Crimean Memorial Church on Christmas Day brought a full congregation. The old well-known hymns were sung, the whole congregation joining in; and a correspondent writes, "The service, especially the sermon, did us all good, and afforded us great comfort."

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 1.

The Situation on the Frontiers

All is quiet on the Canal, and on the western frontier the Bedouin have had administered to them the worst defeat they have suffered since they started their hostilities. It is reported that they are returning to their homes fast, and that is quite possible, for they have lost pretty heavily in men and cattle—the possession or the reverse of the latter counts for much with such folk. But although these losses and the failure to secure booty may quite possibly have disheartened them, it would be rash to declare that the trouble in the west, such as it is, is now on the wane. The country in which, or on the border of which, all the fighting has taken place, is by no means desert. It is what might be called "steppe," dry and stony, but with some extensive "pockets" of good soil, in which barley is cultivated during the rainy season (November-March). There is altogether quite a fair amount of vegetation at all times, and the heavy rains that have fallen of late will certainly have assisted this, and will, indeed, have had a good effect on the harvest further to the west. It is quite on the cards that if, as is expected, the harvest is good, the Bedouin will return to the fray, and we may be sure that the Turkish emissaries will do all they can to encourage them. Our military arrangements on the west have all been made in anticipation of the possibility of further aggressive tactics later on on the part of the Tripolitan and other Bedouin.

The Mixed Courts.

Yesterday a decree was promulgated extending, as foreshadowed in my letter of November 16 last, the mandate of the Mixed Tribunals for another year from to-day. The last quinquennial period, it may be remembered, expired on January 31, 1915, and by a decree published on January 26 a further year's extension was granted to this very necessary section of the Egyptian judicial organisation. From the present decree it appears that Italy has not yet signified her assent to the new extension, and, consequently, it is decreed that until that assent is received Italian subjects cannot benefit from the services of the Courts. Since by the extension the mandates of the judges themselves are automatically renewed, it follows that the Italian judges on the Mixed Bench, who are two in number, one in Appeal and one in First Instance, will not be able to sit until their Government comes into line with the other Allied and neutral Powers concerned. No political significance is, however, attached to the non-receipt of the adhesion of Italy to the proposal to extend the mandate of these courts, the necessity of which is admitted by everyone, and it is highly probable that the assent, which has undoubtedly been delayed unintentionally, will very soon be received from Rome.

The Fuel Question.

The great question of the hour is the supply of coal and petroleum. Coal has gone up enormously in price —£8 a ton, as compared with £3 a few months ago, and 30s. before the war—and very little is coming in. The situation is serious, not so much from the point of view of the town-liver as from that of the agricultural population, which depends in a great measure on coal for driving the pumps irrigating the land. It is understood that the main difficulty is the shortage of shipping, and that the authorities are in communication with the Home Government. No time should be lost in coming to a satisfactory agreement, however, as the period is approaching when the great demand will be made in the provinces, and any further delay may unduly put forward the date of arrival of the new stocks destined to relieve the situation. There is no doubt that stocks should never have been allowed to get so low, and that steps should have been taken much earlier to remedy the matter, for the present price is an exceedingly serious thing for the fellah, for whom it has reached an almost prohibitive level.

The question of petroleum is also in an acute stage. Somehow—it is impossible to fix the authorship, though one has one's suspicions—the rumour got about that there was a shortage of petroleum. It spread like wildfire, and at once the oil-carts going their usual rounds were besieged by panic-stricken natives and Levantines, who prevented the better-class districts being served, and then, when the oil-carts were taken off the streets, transferred their attention to the oil stores. The two companies who have the monoply in the local market—the Vacuum Oil Company and the Asiatic Petroleum Company (Worms and Co.)—declared that they had sufficient supplies in hand and on the way to meet the country's requirements, but the panic continued. The maximum price fixed by the tariff was at that time P.T.20¾ per tin of four gallons, tin included. The Vacuum, who sell only American petroleum, adhered to this price; Worms and Co., who sell for the most part Egyptian oil and oil from the East refined at Suez, demanded P.T.16¾ per tin. (In each case P.T.3½ was deducted if the oil was taken without the tin.)

Naturally, there was a greater run on Worms and Co. than on the Vacuum, owing, in spite of the alleged inferiority in quality, to the marked difference in price. Especially was this so when the Vacuum a week ago forced the hand of the Government, and insisted on raising the maximum tariff price to P.T.22¾, and Worms and Co. were so besieged at their depot out at Gamrah that they could not dispose of the consignments which had arrived, while the Vacuum went on delivering oil at the new maximum. The Government was appealed to for protection and support, but the situation got so serious that it was evident that no ordinary measures would suffice. A special meeting took place between the Council of Ministers and the managers of the two oil companies, and it was arranged that the retail sale should be carried out through the caracols (police-stations), to which the companies would deliver oil in bulk, the police guaranteeing protection to the carts, and no one being allowed to purchase more than one tin-full at a time—this to prevent any cornering by merchants.

Police Offices as Oil-stores!

So far so good, but the only effect of the new arrangement has been to transfer the pressure to the caracols, where crowds congregate all day, fighting for permission to purchase oil, and the time of the police officers is taken up in superintending operations. As it is, although no one is allowed to take more than one tin, a very large portion of the consumers has to go without, as an absurdly small quantity is retailed at the caracols every day. The oil is sold at the maximum tariff price without the tin, no distinction being made between that of the Vacuum and that of the Asiatic Petroleum Company. The latter, on inquiry, declare that their stock of *Egyptian* oil is exhausted, and that they have had to stock American oil, which they are now supplying to the caracols. One has, of course, to take their word for this, however surprised one may feel at the sudden disappearance of the stock of Egyptian oil that was available the day the new arrangement as to sales was made with the Government. But one may, I think, reasonably ask what is being done with the oil supply which the Asiatic Petroleum Company regularly receives from Gemsah and Suez. Since we have not heard that the mines and refinery have stopped work, it is to be assumed that supplies are coming and will come from the Red Sea and the East as usual. Is Egyptian and Eastern oil going to be kept out of the local market, and the latter to be left at the mercy of the American variety? If not, is the Asiatic going to be allowed to make an extra profit of P.T.6 per four gallons over and above that which its previous price gave it, and with which it was quite content? These are questions that are exercising the minds of the general public, which is far from satisfied

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with the present position, for it must be borne in mind that the worst hardship falls on the lower European classes and the fellaheen. Had all this occurred in the early stages of the war one could have understood it, but we are now in the second year of the war, when a situation like the present one should not have arisen. The whole circumstances of this crisis do not tend to inspire confidence in the future. One has the unpleasant feeling that the oil companies have obtained control of the situation, and that Egypt, an oil-producing and oil-refining country, is, notwithstanding all the past efforts made to avoid this eventuality, after all going to have the local prices for her oil entirely regulated by foreign combines. This deduction may, of course, be wrong, but the events of the next week or so will prove its accuracy or the reverse.

GERMAN PLOTS IN EGYPT.

A correspondent writes:—Some interesting observations from the pen of "Corsair" in THE NEAR EAST of last week relative to one Baron Max von Oppenheim may be supplemented by a few facts concerning that extremely active German propagandist, whose methods out-Teutoned the Teutons for sheer audacity and unscrupulousness. In the month of December, 1905, the Jewish Baron von Oppenheim occupied the post of Councillor at Cairo with Ministerial rank. He had practically sole control of the German Agency from 1905 to late in 1909. Between 1905 and 1908, when Prince Hatzfeldt was appointed German Agent *pro tem.*, the baron corresponded with his Imperial master in Berlin over the indignant heads of his official chiefs. From the Kaiser he certainly received signal marks of favour, culminating in an invitation to a "*lunch intime*" at Potsdam, to which even his then chief, Count Bernstorff, in Berlin, was not invited. The Baron speaks Arabic fluently, but with a bad accent—like so many Germans—and he has always maintained the best possible relations with Egyptian journalists, both respectable and disreputable. Baron Max quitted Cairo in 1909, and in 1910 he passed through Constantinople on an enigmatical journey to the Khabur River and the Urfa region. His pretended object was to exhume the statue of a Hittite goddess on the banks of the Khabur; but according to more trustworthy authorities the real aim of his travels thither was to purchase the support of Arab and Kurdish tribal chiefs of the Khabur region for the Baghdad Railway Company. Just before he left Egypt the Baron made a hurried trip to the Sudan, visiting Port Sudan; in 1908 three Germans—an ex-admiral, a general, and a doctor—also visited that port and stayed there for several days.

But it was only after the Baron Max von Oppenheim had left the Near East that the German intrigues both in Egypt and the Sudan assumed a more vigorous and unrestrained form. Herr Ruecker-Jenisch, another prominent German official, was not in favour of the subterranean methods of his colleagues, and even Count Bernstorff at that time seemed disinclined to countenance the innumerable plots and conspiracies proceeding under the régime of the ex-Khedive Hilmi Pasha. It was left to Prince Hatzfeldt and his Oriental Secretary, Dr. Pruefer—mentioned by the correspondent, Mr. Ignatius Phayre, and quoted by "Corsair"—to inaugurate the systematic anti-British propaganda in Egypt to which, as to similar propaganda in French Africa, much interesting reference is made in the most-recently issued Yellow Book of the French Government.

Prince Hatzfeldt succeeded Count Bernstorff as German Agent in Cairo in 1908; he lost no time in establishing relations with the Egyptian Nationalists of the Extremist fashion, generally known in Egypt as the "Hisb el Watani." The leaders of the Extremists were, as mentioned by Mr. Phayre, Sheikh Shawish and Mohammed Farid, with whom Prince Hatzfeldt kept up the most intimate connection. Both were constantly in and out of the German Agency, and Dr. Pruefer continued to be the moving spirit of the whole affair. Dr. Pruefer left Cairo in 1914, and after disappearing from view for months suddenly reappeared in the pages of the White Paper relating to the rupture of this country with Turkey, and wherein are given particulars of the trial of the German Agent, Lieutenant Mors, and his suddenly arrested activities in the Sudan.

Speaking at a meeting of the Egyptian Exploration Society in the rooms of the Royal Society last Tuesday, Mr. A. M. Blackman said that the ancient Egyptians believed that the personality of man did not perish with the body, but survived, and offerings of food and drink were made to the dead man, who, it was believed, was nourished by the immaterial essence of the things offered. The remarkably preservative effect of the desert sand apparently led to a belief that to attain immortality the body must be preserved. Afterwards statues of wood or stone were made, and it was believed that the soul could reincarnate itself in these as well as in the crumbling mummy. Pictures took the place of the actual offerings, and it was thought that these not perishing were a source of perpetual nourishment; while spells were painted on the walls of the tomb for the dead man to use in his adventurous journeying in the spiritual world. Later still came sun worship and the Osiris legend, which in various forms was common to all the primitive peoples around the Mediterranean. Here for the first time is to be found an ethical idea as to the hereafter, for the soul is weighed, and the result of this test decides its fate. In the course of the various changes which their religion underwent the ancient Egyptians never entirely abandoned an old idea, but always grafted on the new ones. The result was an inextricable jumble.

SUDAN NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Department of Finance.

Colonel E. E. Bernard, C.M.G., upon whom the Sultan of Egypt has recently conferred the Order of the Nile, Second Class, will shortly have completed sixteen years' service with the Administration of the Sudan. As head of the important Department of Finance, he has rendered invaluable aid in bringing out the finances of the country from a condition of something like chaos into one of order and progressive prosperity. Colonel Bernard Pasha has shown himself a careful and shrewd custodian of the country's resources. The problems confronting a Government greatly dependent upon revenues closely affected by natural causes, and which have to be collected from a people scattered over an enormous area of country like that of the Sudan, are exceptionally difficult to solve, and need the services of a particularly able man to solve them.

Perhaps at no time in the history of this African Protectorate can its economic conditions have occasioned more anxiety to the Administration; indeed, but for the fact that they are in the capable hands of the self-same Financial Secretary who has guided them *ab initio* there might even be reason to take a gloomy view of the prevailing position. But Colonel Bernard has had some strenuous times to face upon other occasions, and he has faced them both boldly and skilfully. There is little reason to anticipate any other than a successful issue of the present situation.

It must always be borne in mind that the Sudan, unlike most countries, is not susceptible to sudden or irregular increases in the form of raised revenues from imposts. The very nature of the people's pursuits prevents any fresh taxation at the present time. Therefore the only resource open to the Government is that of still further curtailing expenditure. That the application of the pruning knife has been both drastic and general is proved by the fact that even official salaries have been laid under tribute, inasmuch as certain legitimate advancements have been temporarily arrested.

Relations with Abyssinia.

The Civil Secretary's Department of the Sudan Government—the Dakhlia—is one of the most heavily worked as well as the most capably handled at the present time. The fact that the head of the department, Colonel O. F. Stack, C.M.G., should have been selected by the Sultan of Egypt for special honour can be readily appreciated. The Civil Secretary is supported by two Assistant Civil Secretaries and one Deputy Assistant, as well as one Commercial Agent at Cairo and another at Gambeila, on the Abyssinian frontier. Of late both Commercial Agents have been performing extra and special duty, the first as temporary British Consul for North-West Abyssinia, and the second as H.B.M. Consul for Western Abyssinia.

Notwithstanding constant attention and the skilful manner in which the Sudan relations with Abyssinia have been and still are being handled, but little improvement can be reported in the unsatisfactory state of affairs on the frontier. Here the burden of the preservation of public security continues to rest almost entirely on the Sudan Government. While the presence of the police and military posts which have been established have done much to restrict the operations in the Sudan of the various hunters and raiding parties from Abyssinia, it has not been found possible to extend the administration to the north and south of the Sobat river; and it is here that the traffic in arms and ammunition continues to prove a serious menace. The one remarkable thing is that, notwithstanding these admittedly bad conditions, trade continues to flourish. Much of the success that has attended the actions of the Sudan Government in maintaining the peace, and even in bringing about a certain amount of improvement, has been due to the services of Mr. C. H. Armbruster, H.B.M. Consul for North-West Abyssinia, and Mr. Walker, Consul for S.W. Abyssinia, located at Gambeila. Special mention may be made of the opening of the branch of the Bank of Abyssinia at that station between March and November,

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, January 28.

Bulgarian Pretensions.

The claims put forward by Bulgaria to Germany regarding compensation for her participation in the campaign against the Franco-British forces at Salonika —which Germany cannot prosecute by herself—give rise to lively feelings of uneasiness here. Moreover, M. Radoslavoff has declared to the journal *Mir:*—"All (the territory) that we have occupied will remain ours. Just as we have occupied Kumanovo by force of arms, so shall we by ourselves solve the question of Salonika." These declarations have naturally increased the uneasiness felt here. The *Patris*, sounding the alarm, reminds the Government of the grave responsibility it will incur if it allows the Bulgarians to enter Salonika. For even if Germany has guaranteed Greece's territorial integrity, it must be asked how she could fulfil her guarantee if, as a result of a defeat, she should be compelled to withdraw from the Balkan peninsula, when, should Bulgaria be treacherous, she would be isolated. Those questions are difficult to answer. Greece, in fact, has only one guarantee regarding Salonika—the presence of the Allied troops, as M. Venizelos has always said.

The Death of M. Theotokis.

The Governmental Press has taken advantage of the feelings of sympathy naturally aroused by the death of M. Theotokis to depreciate to some extent the achievements of M. Venizelos, by exalting the work done by M. Theotokis in organising the army, and by attributing the successes of the two Balkan wars to the supplies of guns and munitions provided by M. Theotokis, without even mentioning the name of M. Venizelos. One Ministerial journal has not scrupled to declare that in the moments of his delirium M. Theotokis railed against those who wish to abandon neutrality and qualified them as traitors to their country!

Position of the Government.

In spite of declarations made by the Government regarding the good understanding existing between its members, it seems that on the death of M. Theotokis, who by his authority imposed some unity upon his colleagues, the dissensions which are known to exist amongst them will certainly break out with fresh intensity. Already there is talk of a difference between M. Gounaris and M. Rallis, who does not wish to accept the candidate proposed by M. Gounaris for the Presidency of the Chamber.

It seems that the Theotokist party, consisting of thirty-six deputies, wishes to maintain its independence and its unity, and is going to elect a leader. The Liberal party is well pleased to see the reconstitution of this party, which maintains all the good constitutional traditions of Trikoupis, hoping that it may replace the new Gounarist party. There is talk of the formation of a new party, composed of three score deputies from the new provinces, but this seems to be premature.

Another Interview with King Constantine.

King Constantine informed the correspondent of the *Novoe Vremya* that, "if his Government should propose the step to him, he would not hesitate to put the country under martial law, for he could not permit Greek papers, abusing the liberty of the Press, to express themselves in a manner wounding to Hellenic sentiment, and to appeal to foreign countries, encouraging them to interfere with the sovereign rights of the country." These declarations have been strongly commented on by the Venizelist journals. The *Hestia*, considering that these expressions were put into the mouth of the King by the Government, retorts that the Liberal Press, which represents the policy that still enjoys the support of the greater part of the nation, has only made appeals on behalf of Greece and of Hellenism, and that the Government ought not to use the King to make declarations which, quite naturally, expose the Crown to criticism and comment.

A Manifesto at Salonika.

According to telegrams received the day before yesterday from Salonika, placards have been posted up in the town, addressed to the King, and signed "Your People and your Army." These placards express the fidelity of the army, its eagerness to bear every fatigue and privation, and its inability to tolerate the invasion of Greek soil by Bulgarian and Turkish soldiers. The Venizelist journals confirm the fact without comment. The Ministerial organs announce that the officers have indignantly repudiated these misleading manœuvres, that the soldiers have torn down the placards, and that an inquiry has been instituted with a view to finding out who is responsible.

M. Theotokis' Policy.

M. Theotokis died at the age of seventy-two, succumbing to a severe attack of pneumonia, which he apparently contracted on the night of the occupation of Corfu by the French, when he had to leave his bed and spend the night in conference with his colleagues.

He directed the affairs of Greece for nearly ten years —1899-1909. Having regard to the difficulties, internal and external, through which the country had to pass after the unhappy war of 1897, it can hardly be said that he was entirely fitted to fill the position to which he was called on the death of M. Trikoupis; though amongst the leading men of the Trikoupis party he was the best choice. His energy and political courage, however, sometimes failed him. Thus, having undertaken the reorganization of the army mapped out by the present King, to whom he confided the supreme command, he was only able to carry out a small part of the programme, because he hesitated to provide the necessary funds by increasing taxation. It was necessary at that time slightly to increase the duty on imported wool, in order to provide the amount required for this army reorganization, but it was M. Rallis who, having succeeded him, actually imposed this increased duty. The delay thus caused in creating an army of from 120,000 to 150,000 men, as planned by Prince Constantine as early as 1905, debarred Greece from welcoming deputies from Crete to the Greek Chamber after the deposition of Abdul Hamid, for she was unable with her small army to defend her frontiers against a Turkish invasion. The situation resulting from these circumstances and from the humiliations to which Greece was exposed at the hands of Turkey, together with the economic troubles caused by growing taxation without benefit to the country, caused the feeling of irritation in the army and amongst the working classes which led up to the revolution of August, 1909.

For the rest, both as regards the external policy and the internal policy of the country, M. Theotokis rendered great services to Greece, pursuing faithfully the programme of reform of his great predecessor; and under other conditions it is certain that, with his great qualities, he would have done much more for his country. But he was faced by a task of great difficulty. Political corruption was at its height; he was called upon to combat it, and to overcome it he ought to have got into close touch with the people and have gained their confidence, as M. Venizelos has done. This popularity was denied to M. Theotokis, as it was to M. Trikoupis, and they both had to adapt themselves to the situation and work in a vicious circle, coming to terms with the deputies in order to maintain their Parliamentary position. M. Venizelos, on the other hand, as soon as he arrived in Greece, got into close touch with the people, and, so to say, entered into an arrangement with them, afterwards fulfilling faithfully the promises he made to them. Thus he made a clean sweep of all those middlemen who exploited both the people and the Government. He no longer needed them, since their influence was gone; on the other hand, it was the politicians who had need of his help to become deputies. In this way M. Venizelos was able to free himself from the yoke that galled his predecessors; but now that he is no longer in power the old methods are once more cropping up afresh to the great harm of the country. It must be recorded, however, in fairness to M. Theotokis, that by legislative measures he did much to reduce the pernicious influence of parliamentarism. He also introduced many other reforms which have greatly benefited the country. Therefore he leaves a good reputation behind him, and the Greek people are sincere in their expressions of regret for his death. As to the Germanophil tendencies which he showed since the visit of the Kaiser to Corfu in 1908, it were better to say nothing about them.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, January 25.

A Critical Moment.

Roumania's position between the different belligerent groups appears to be a critical one at the present moment. Germany is aware that she will never find an opportunity more convenient than the present one for urging Roumania either to abandon her neutrality in favour of the Central group, or to adopt an attitude of *permanent* neutrality favourable to the latter; for Roumania cannot be succoured at this juncture by the Russian army, which is marking time in Bukovina, nor can she count on the Allied forces which have been landed at Salonika provoking a diversion, since they are not as yet in sufficient strength to undertake an offensive action. As a pretext, Germany seizes upon the fact that the Opposition have presented as candidates at the by-election two Roumanians of Transylvania who are still Austro-Hungarian subjects, and also upon the sale of wheat to Great Britain, which is to be paid for without being exported, and which can therefore be interpreted as a political rather than an economic transaction.

Von Bussche's Bluff—

Herr von dem Bussche, cutting short his stay in Berlin, has returned, apparently in haste, to Bucharest. He is said to have telegraphed from Berlin a request for immediate audiences with King Ferdinand and M. Bratiano, and these have been granted. The German Minister is said to have informed M. Bratiano that Roumania's sale of wheat to Britain had created a disastrous impression in Berlin, since she thereby supports the policy of starvation directed against Germany. This is interesting, but need trouble no one outside Germany. What is of graver import is that von dem Bussche is said to have insisted at the same time that Roumania should commit herself by treaty to a policy of definite neutrality, demanding in addition that the troops in the Carpathians should be disbanded.

—Rebuffed.

I have it on good authority that King Ferdinand much resented von dem Bussche's somewhat cavalier procedure. Further, that His Majesty, as well as his Prime Minister, replied to the blustering Minister's demands in a manner calculated to convey absolute conviction that Roumania, considering as an affront all attempted interference in her internal affairs, would place the maintenance of her dignity as a sovereign State above all other considerations.

Once Bitten.

Submission to the alleged demands would be a complete renunciation on Roumania's part of her sovereign rights as a free nation. It is scarce twelve months since she threw off the yoke imposed upon her by Austria thirty and more years ago, at a moment when she was not free to choose. She will not easily be prevailed upon to resume the burden. Platonic arguments being unacceptable, there would remain nothing but menace, which, to be effective, would have to be backed up by an army of at least a million men.

The Coburg Fox.

The step said to have been taken by the German Minister may be the outcome of an understanding arrived at between the Kaiser and Ferdinand of Bulgaria on the occasion of their meeting at Nish, the question of the sale serving merely as a pretext. The report that territorial concessions have been granted to Bulgaria at the expense of Austria seems plausible enough; for the participation of the Bulgarian army in an eventual attack directed against Salonika is a *sine quâ non* if it is to be undertaken by the enemy with any hope of success. That Bulgaria should in addition ask for guarantees ensuring in this event immunity from attack on the part of Roumania is eminently reasonable from her point of view. That some preoccupation exists on this score is indicated by the increasing number of Bulgarian troops which are being massed upon the Dobrujan frontier.

The King to His Army.

On the occasion of the Roumanian New Year, King Ferdinand addressed the following message to his armies:—

Soldiers,—It is with deep joy that, on the threshold of a new year, we testify our lively satisfaction with the zeal which you have shown in the accomplishment of your military duties. The passing year has demanded from you labours of a particularly arduous nature, in view of a better preparation for war.

You have submitted as usual to the exigencies imposed by the general welfare with the devotion which yesterday was your glory and to-morrow will be your pride. The country and Ourself are proud of you, and extend to you our confidence and love.

With all our heart we wish you a long and prosperous life.—Ferdinand.

In His Majesty's reply to addresses delivered by the President of the Council and the Metropolitan Primate, the following sentences occur:—

God grant that the prayers which find their source in the ardent patriotism which unites us in these difficult times may be answered in the course of the year which is now beginning.

God grant that all Roumanians may strengthen their confidence in the future, and along this path I will be to them a guide, loving his country and his nation.

Regard these lines in what light one may, they cannot be interpreted as a commonplace official greeting. They are patriotic, pregnant with promise, and full of significance for the great mass of the Roumanian peoples.

New Form of Propaganda.

An enormous paper balloon landed in the department of Dorohoi on January 20. It had apparently been constructed and let loose in Austria, as it contained manifestoes in Russian and Polish inciting the Russian soldiers to lay down their arms, on the ground that the Central Powers were victorious all along the line. They further warn the troops that Japan is conspiring against Russia.

Contraband Cattle.

The price of meat is rising in Roumania, and it is causing some anxiety, for one naturally connects it with the loss of cattle due to contraband. I have explained in a former number of The Near East how cleverly this had been organised in Bukovina. It was hoped that the authorities would find a means of putting an end to this illegal traffic, but the smugglers still seem to have it all their own way. Up to the present some 120,000 head of cattle are said to have found their way over the frontier.

An Englishman resident in Athens writes, under date of January 26:—

A good many of the people here criticise and severely blame the correspondents who have interviewed the King and been led away by his statements, which may possibly also mislead the British public. I understand that correspondents of French newspapers have refused to ask for an interview, although they had received the hint to do so.

The King's declaration to the correspondent of the Associated Press of America that only 20 per cent. of the people are in favour of the Entente Powers is not correct; it would be more correct to say that 80, if not 90, per cent. of the people are Anglo-Francophiles. At the same time, notwithstanding his Germanophile tendencies, the masses love the King, but it is really only the legend attaching to his name (Constantine) and the fact that he brought them out victorious in the Balkan War which keep the population loyal, for they do not approve of the King's unconstitutional policy.

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, January 20.

Captured Serbian Rolling Stock.

Of the 3,000 railway wagons taken from the Serbians by the Bulgarians during the invasion, 2,000 are reported to be in a good state of repair, but the remainder are practically useless. The hundred locomotives captured will all have to undergo repairs of one sort or another before they are fit for use.

Interview with General Teodoroff.

A few days ago the editor of the *Mir* (a Bulgarian journal) and a correspondent of the *Az Est* (Hungarian) were accorded an interview by General Teodoroff, commanding the Second Bulgarian Army. Among other things he said to the pressmen: "A complete understanding has been arrived at between General Mackensen and ourselves. We have drawn up a complete programme, and the army waits orders to advance to fresh exploits. As you know, the Greeks have ceded to the Anglo-French only a strip running north and south from the frontier to the sea, while their own troops have retired east and west to Karaferia and Nigritza. The Franco-British front is only 50 kilometres long. It is hardly likely that in the event of an attack on our part the French and English will be able to maintain themselves long in this position. They will rather prefer to fall back on the very strongly fortified camp which they have prepared at Salonika. If our troops were not compelled by political considerations to halt before the frontier of neutral Greece, the Anglo-French would be driven into the sea"!

Questioned regarding the Franco-British troops, the General replied that they were "serious adversaries," and that the fight with them had been a sanguinary one, first by reason of their high qualities, and second on account of the special conditions in Macedonia. He emphasized especially the fine qualities of the French soldiers, who were highly disciplined and profoundly conscious of their duty.

Famine Fears in Sofia.

Ever since the famous joining up of the German and the Bulgarian armies the spectre of hunger has haunted the more imaginative of the population of Sofia. A *communiqué* issued by the Committee of Public Safety, and appearing in the Bulgarian journals, tends to confirm these fears, though it aims at dispelling them by means of fair promises. Measures are being taken, it says, which will ensure that Sofia shall not be left without flour for even a short period; and to this end the Committee has distributed 700 sacks of flour of 75 kilos each. This is, however, an entirely inadequate quantity for a population of 150,000 inhabitants.

BALKAN MEGALOMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, January 18.

"In what Sense do the Balkan States Exist?" is the title of a lecture recently delivered by the great Roumanian historian, Professor Iorga. He pointed out that the Roumanian people, whose hopes and ambitions draw them towards the West, would thereby approach the Adriatic, with which they have associations of ancient date. Nevertheless, to whatever degree the Roumanian people may become Westernized, their connection with the Balkans cannot lose its importance. Even without possessing any large extent of territory, the Roumanians could succeed in playing a great part in the Balkans, on the principle that "a square mile in Belgium is worth more than one in Siberia, and one of ours of greater value than those taken from the Bulgarians." One characteristic there is which all the Balkan peoples have in common, namely, megalomania. The Greeks, after 1821, thought themselves the legal heirs of the Byzantine Empire. The Serbians, influenced by their dreams, also elaborated a theory according to which the whole of the Balkans was their due. The Bulgarians, brought into existence in 1877, demand to-day the whole of the Balkans and three seas. Nothing but harm has resulted from this state of affairs. All the crimes and all the bloodshed that have reddened the face of the Balkans are the direct consequence of this megalomania. It was desirable that each nation should spread in the direction indicated by its geographical position. The Serbs must find an outlet on the Adriatic, the Bulgarians and Roumanians on the Black Sea, the Greeks on the Archipelago. To-day the Bulgars are drunk with the successes gained in common with their powerful allies, and demand three seas!

MAGYARS AND ROUMANIANS.

(From Our Bucharest Correspondent.)

Ever since the defeat of Austria at Sadowa in 1867, and the establishment of Austro-Hungarian Dualism, the Roumanian population of Transylvania has been at the mercy of the Magyars, and the latter have carried out a campaign of denationalization which, in spite of scant success, has been continued up to the present day with a tenacity that is only less than the resistance opposed by the Roumanians. Their most persistent efforts have been directed towards suppression of the use of the Roumanian tongue. They have founded, with this end in view, thousands of elementary schools of the "kindergarten" type, attendance at which is compulsory, and in which the Hungarian language is enforced to the exclusion of all others. Up to 1900 the Roumanians, poor as they are, had built no less than 3,279 primary schools. Many hundreds of these have been closed by the Hungarian authorities, no less than 200 in the last two years alone. But the Magyar Chauvinists have not been satisfied with such pacific proceedings. They have interfered in the most revolting manner with the liberty of the Press; have prohibited the formation of literary and scientific societies among the Roumanians; have prevented at the point of the bayonet the election of Roumanian representatives to Parliament (there are five for a population of nearly four millions); have, in short, perpetrated every form of persecution upon a people that has been exceptionally tried in the course of its career, which has been one unending struggle for bare existence, with scarce a hope of anything better.

And now hark to Count Tisza's perorations!—"The national state of Hungary is not founded upon oppression of other races, but on a complete equality before the law, upon wide privileges as regards the language and culture of individual nationalities, and upon the principle of true brotherhood." And again: "The national policy of Hungary, such as I understand it, has always recognized as its basis the necessity of uniting the different nationalities with that of the Hungarian nation, so as to form one harmonious whole; of drawing them towards us, of keeping them near us, in all our struggles, in all our dangers."

These words can only have been intended for British ears, for their author can have hoped to deceive neither the peoples that groan beneath the heel of the Habsburgs nor the parent nations from which they spring. Hungary has for long enjoyed in England an unmerited popularity, due in part to personal connections established by members of the Hungarian aristocracy, and then, as M. Take Jonescu said in his recent speech: "Hungarians have traditions in the countries of the West, they have the reputation of being the sole people in Eastern Europe possessing liberal institutions." This tradition undoubtedly has a foundation, but few people in England realize how little the non-Magyar elements profit by these "liberal institutions." There is nothing in common between the free peoples of the West, who have so generously responded to the cry of the small nations, and the dominating races of the Habsburg monarchy.

It may be permissible to remind the reader that there was a time (not so very long ago for those who dare to remember) when no one ventured to raise a warning voice against the Bulgarians, or to utter a word of doubt regarding the purity of their intentions, for fear of being given the lie direct, or, at least, secretly taxed with calumny.

SERBIAN OFFICERS' FAMILIES.

In connection with a scheme for assisting Serbian officers' families, a meeting was held on Monday afternoon at 35, Grosvenor Square, by permission of the Duchess of Somerset, at which an interesting account of the Serbian retreat and the Serbian nation in exile was given by Mme. Slavko Grouitch, wife of the Serbian Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. She explained that there are upwards of 2,000 families of the upper social classes of Serbians, chiefly officers' wives and children, who had lost all they possessed, and were badly needing aid. The civilian population remaining in Serbia were in a starving condition, and it was hoped that something would be done for them through neutral countries; but just as the military assistance came too late so it was feared friends would be too late to prevent many thousands dying from starvation. Many of the officers' families were staying at Athens and a few at Corfu in order to be near their husbands, and to them help was being sent under this new scheme through the courtesy of the Greek Embassy. The Duchess of Somerset said the response made to the appeal on behalf of the Serbian officers' families had already been considerable and very gratifying.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

IN MEMORY OF GORDON.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Having followed with much interest the recent correspondence in your paper regarding the "Gordon Boys' Home" and certain other institutions in England bearing Gordon's name, may I ask for space in your columns to make it quite clear that the "National Memorial to General Gordon, the Gordon Boys' Home," situated near Woking, of which His Majesty the King is the patron, has no connection whatsoever with institutions elsewhere, nor has it even any branches. Those institutions of various kinds that also bear Gordon's name, and are in existence, I believe, at Bournemouth, Dover, Nottingham, Brighton, Southampton, and other places, fulfil, no doubt, some very useful purpose locally, but their aims and methods, so far as I know, are not at all identical with those of the "National Memorial," which probably is in its way unique. It aims at meeting the needs of the boy requiring a helping hand at that very important period from 13½ to 17, an age when many establishments have discharged their lads. Supported to a great extent by the voluntary effort of its generous friends, it provides entirely for the 250 boys which the Home can accommodate at a time, bringing them up not only accustomed to military discipline, whether they be destined eventually for one or other of the Services or for ordinary civil life, but giving them, as far as possible, both a sound general education and a technical training as well. Thus the lad who might otherwise have drifted into such nondescript employment as newsvending is started instead, whenever practicable, in a more or less skilled career, and this system of training, while adding fresh laurels to the name of Charles Gordon, has produced, as shown in your issue of January 21, many scores of young citizens who, particularly of late, have deserved right well of their country.—I am, etc.,

E. G. MARKHAM
(Secretary, Gordon Boys' Home).

London Office, 5, York Street, St. James's, S.W.,
February 15, 1916.

THE TRAGEDY OF ARMENIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—A shock of horror and indignation has pulsated through all civilised communities at the ruthless killing of her Christian subjects by Turkey. It was recently estimated by Lord Bryce that 800,000 Armenians had been cruelly done to death, while only a week or two ago the news reached him that 1,500 had been forced to abandon the shelter of the mountains, and had been massacred by their persecutors.

One feels stunned and helpless in the face of this monstrous wrong, and for these victims there is nothing to be done; they are in their Father's hands, and at rest for ever.

But the survivors claim our pity and help. Nearly a quarter of a million—by Lord Bryce's estimate—escaped into the Caucasus, destitute and starving; many fell by the way, others reached their destination only to die of disease and exhaustion. America has sent a Relief Commission to aid these refugees in the Caucasus; two members of the Commission are well known to us, as for many years they have been almoners of our funds in Turkey, and they are entirely devoted to the interests of the poor people among whom they have lived for so long. At Port Said there are over 4,000 refugees who were rescued in a remarkable manner from the Syrian mountains. These people are living in tents provided by the British authorities, but it is necessary that they should become self-supporting, and our chief aim in helping them is to provide materials for starting industrial work among them, and helpers to organise the work. To this end we have sent out a lady of great experience, formerly a worker in Syria, and we hope that two other workers will shortly follow her, sent out under our auspices to give the assistance so greatly needed. But for even partial help for all these thousands of unhappy people money is needed and more and more money! In the Caucasus winter accommodation is required, fuel in large quantities is needed. Warm clothing and an ample supply of foodstuffs, medicines, medical appliances, and disinfectants are of paramount necessity, and although these cannot be sent to the Caucasus until the Port of Archangel re-opens, about the middle of April, funds will enable us to prepare them. We have recently forwarded £1,000 to Urumia, for the help of the Armenians and Nestorians there, and we plead for further adequate assistance, to keep alive this remnant of a nation. We know the many demands on the charitable at this time—demands which must be heeded, but this, surely, is as urgent as any can be! Which among the nations has suffered as this nation has suffered? The majority of the refugees consist of women and children—little tender things, many of whom are suffering from bronchitis and other ills brought about by want and exposure.

We ask all who can to help relieve this tragedy of sorrow—to make some sacrifice for these men, women, and children of grief, misery, and bereavement.

Remittances in aid of our fund should be addressed to E. Wright Brooks, Esq., Hon. Treasurer, Friends of Armenia, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W. Cheques and postal orders should be crossed "London County and Westminster Bank," and Treasury notes registered.—I am, etc.,

MARY HICKSON
(Hon. Secretary, Friends of Armenia).

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord Kitchener's Statement. February 16.

The MARQUIS of CREWE, in the course of replying for the Government in the debate on the Address, referred to the German control of all warlike operations—and of her Allies. The will and power of Austria and Hungary, he said, appear to have ceased altogether in the present war, and he added: "Bulgaria is the washpot of Prussia, and over Turkey Prussia has cast her shoe."

Earl KITCHENER, in reviewing the military situation, sketched the events in the Balkans, and remarked that the enemy's chief objective in undertaking recent operations against Serbia was no doubt to secure direct communication with Constantinople. This accomplished, the Turkish Army, reinforced by German supplies, was able to organise a movement of troops either against Egypt or to strengthen their forces in Mesopotamia, and at the same time were able to bring a far more powerful artillery attack to bear on our positions in Gallipoli. It was therefore decided to withdraw our troops from the peninsula to reinforce Salonika and Egypt. "During the last week of December," he continued, "our positions at Anzac and Suvla were evacuated with practically no loss. This military achievement was only surpassed by the later strategic withdrawal from Cape Helles. Although when on the spot I had formed the opinion that this withdrawal could be accomplished with less loss than had been originally anticipated, the method of its execution by the naval and military officers in charge exceeded my most sanguine expectation. The Franco-British Forces operating in Macedonia were gradually concentrated in a strongly entrenched position surrounding the town of Salonika. Its line of defence was completed and occupied before the end of the year, and, in order to emphasise the principle of unity amongst the Allies, the supreme command of the forces at Salonika, both British and French, was placed in the hands of the French Commander-in-Chief, General Sarrail."

Turning to Egypt, Lord KITCHENER said: "It will be remembered that during last winter an abortive attempt on the Suez Canal was easily brushed aside by a small British force operating in that neighbourhood. But as a more serious attempt has been threatened by the Turks to invade Egypt from the East adequate preparations have been made to defend the Canal. The Turco-German influence with the religious Chief of the Senussi, on the western flank of Egypt, has succeeded in inducing the Arabs of Cyrenaica and Tripoli to assume a hostile attitude towards us in Egypt. The first attempts made by the tribes have resulted in complete failure and disaster to them, and though this movement in the western desert still causes a certain feeling of unrest, the admirable loyalty of the people of Egypt forms an effective barrier to any penetration by these raiders into the cultivated areas."

Of the operations in Mesopotamia, Lord KITCHENER said: "Our forces at the end of September, advancing up the river Tigris, defeated the Turks at Kut-el-Amarah, and were at the beginning of November threatening the city of Baghdad. The Turkish forces driven back had, however, received considerable reinforcements, and at the action of Ctesiphon, on November 22, showed themselves to be in such strength as to outnumber our Expeditionary Force. A retirement from our advanced position, therefore, became necessary, and this was carried out under General Townshend's direction as far as Kut-el-Amarah, a strategical point which he decided to hold until the arrival of fresh troops which were being pushed up the river under the command of General Aylmer. General Aylmer and his forces drove back small parties of Turkish troops, and reached a point twenty-three miles below Kut-el-Amarah, where the Turks had entrenched themselves. The Turkish position was attacked on January 27, but proved too strong to be forced, and General Aylmer, who has been joined by General Lake, is now awaiting further reinforcements before renewing his forward movement to effect a junction with General Townshend's forces. The behaviour of the British and Indian troops in Mesopotamia has been one of the traditions of our Army, and the operations, which have been hampered by the worst possible weather, will, it is hoped, before long reach a satisfactory stage. General Townshend has sufficient supplies at his disposal to maintain his force for a considerable period. The operations in Mesopotamia, which have hitherto been controlled from India, will now come under the direction of the War Office."

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Statement by the Prime Minister. February 15.

Mr. ASQUITH, in the course of his speech in the debate on the Address, said that "he thought we might recall with satisfaction the fact that, largely owing to the zealous and well-organised assistance of our Italian Allies, the Serbian Army, which a month or two ago was in a very precarious position, has been safely evacuated from Albania to the number of about 100,000—a number which in the course of a week or two will be a good deal more—and is now being reconstituted and refitted, and will, we believe, form an effective factor in the future conduct of the war." Turning, later in his speech, to Mesopotamia, he declared that the situation there, which had from time to time given rise to not a little anxiety, has distinctly improved. "General Townshend," added Mr. Asquith, "is holding his own, and has supplies which ought to last still a considerable time. General Aylmer's reinforcements ought all to have reached him by now. Notwithstanding the abnormal and most unfavourable climatic conditions prevailing during the past few weeks, I think there is every ground for hope that the two forces may unite, and that anything in the nature of a serious British check may be averted."

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The tragic end of Prince Yussuf Izzedin naturally recalled the mystery surrounding the end of his father, the Sultan Abdul Aziz, who died in 1876. Officially, Abdul Aziz "committed suicide," opening the veins in his arm with a pair of scissors; but there has always been a great deal of doubt whether it was a case of *felo de se* or of assassination. A few days ago I received a letter from a valued correspondent who, on first going to Constantinople, met two of the doctors (one of them an Englishman) who were among the medical men asked to report on the suicide. My correspondent writes:—"They were simply given the opportunity of passing by the Sultan as he lay in his coffin and were expected to sign a certificate that he committed suicide without having any opportunity of examining the body." That seems to me to be fairly conclusive evidence—but not of the kind that was sought for at the time. The circumstances surrounding Prince Yussuf Izzedin's death and the "report" of the doctors thereon would lead one to suppose that the same procedure was followed in his case.

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According to that usually well-informed paper of Cairo, *El Mokattam*, Jemal Pasha is not behaving at all nicely to his dear former friends and monitors in Turkey. It is a curious thing, but it seems to be nevertheless true, that after several months of association with the Huns he still retains his soul. In regard to the proposed expedition to Egypt, for instance, Jemal refuses point blank to lay further lives upon the reeking altar of German ambition. If the expedition is to be undertaken, he argues, let the Allies march side by side to the conquest of Egypt, let Teuton and Turk be in at the death together. But, having regard to the probable protagonists in the death scene, the Hun does not approve of this scheme. It's all very well for a few thousand Turks to add their bones to those of their fellows in last year's enterprise; German lives are a different thing. If Jemal continues to show such an ungentlemanly spirit of obstinacy, he will probably be sent to join the late Crown Prince of Turkey—another Turk who had the intrepidity to think.

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If recent reports are to be relied upon, Sheikh Mohammed Mustapha, Grand Kadi of the Sudan, is responsible for a change that will make his name famous in history and beloved of the Suffragists for all time. At one stroke he has revolutionised the divorce laws of his people by the introduction of a code which enables a woman to divorce her husband either for desertion or maltreatment. According to the old law, the power of divorce was in the hands of the husband alone, and it will be interesting to see how the male Sudani will regard this astonishing change. He will probably receive it in the spirit of philosophy that is characteristic of the East; but, in any case, the act of the Grand Kadi is one of extraordinary importance. How far it will affect the Moslem world in general I cannot say; but a committee, composed of the Mufti of Egypt and the leading Ulema in that country, is now debating the subject of divorce, and a recasting of its laws is anticipated. Not without reason has the Sudan been regarded as a country of exceptional promise. A few hundred miles up-river from Khartoum a decent wife may still be purchased for four cows; from Khartoum comes this astonishing change, the thin end of the wedge that, driven between woman and utter dependency, will ultimately set her free.

***

Mr. Edmund Candler, the British Press representative with our Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, is not an entire stranger to Irak Arabi, though he is perhaps better known for his work further East. In 1898 he visited Baghdad and made a rather adventurous little journey from that city to Damascus, travelling with the camel post across the desert, and falling in with Bedouin robbers on the way. The journey is not exactly a dangerous one to anyone acquainted with Arab character, as Mr. Candler's own account of his experiences goes to prove, but it is certainly trying; for one has to travel almost incessantly, day and night, with little to eat and less to drink. Moreover, camel riding for any distance is a nerve- and body-racking business for anyone who has not accustomed himself to it by degrees, and Mr. Candler was not in hard condition when he was in Baghdad. In fact, when I met him, a day, or perhaps two days, before he set out on the overland trip, he was suffering from fever, picked up in Burmah, I think, and I felt sure he would have to abandon his project. However, he carried it through, and was able afterwards to write an interesting, if not very enlightening, account of his experiences. This time I hope he will have the good luck to see Baghdad under happier conditions. In any case, I congratulate him on his good fortune in being attached to the expedition, and I shall look forward to a first-rate account of its doings from his pen as soon as he is allowed to give us one.

***

Ever since I read his fascinating "Dar-ul-Islam" I have been a warm admirer of Sir Mark Sykes, and always look out for his speeches in the Parliamentary Reports, in which they appear as refreshing oases in a desert of dreary talk. His contribution to the debate on Tuesday seems to me to have been one of the best speeches that has been made in the House of Commons for a long time; it was full of ideas and practical suggestions, and was lightened by touches of true humour. In case it is not reported in "The Near East in Parliament" I venture to give a couple of extracts, which serve to show how Sir Mark turns to account his intimate knowledge of the Near East and of Oriental history. The first is an illustration of the circumlocution that has so hampered our men of action in this war:—

> "I will give an imaginary case which shows how the factor works. I will suppose that a great Imperial decision is to be made—I will say at Aden, to select a place which will show that this is merely an illustration. What would happen? Aden has to consult Bombay, Bombay has to consult Delhi, Delhi to consult the India Office, the India Office would consult the War Office and the Foreign Office, the War Office and the Foreign Office would have to lay the matter before the War Committee, and the War Committee would eventually refer the matter to the High Commissioner in Egypt. From there it would go back to the Foreign Office, thence to the War Committee, and then to the Cabinet. The Cabinet decision would be sent to the India Office, from the India Office to Bombay, and then to Aden. If nobody was ill and if no Sundays intervened this would cost £250 in telegrams, and might be done in sixteen days with extraordinary luck."

This reminds me of a paragraph I wrote in these columns in the early days of the war on the subject of the roundabout way "news" reached us. The second Oriental touch in the speech occurred when Sir Mark was advocating a Cabinet of four, when he said:—"The Khalif Omar, when he wished to appoint a committee for the selection of his successor, chose four men, and said that if there was one in a minority he should have his head cut off, and that if there should be an equal division the members were all to have their heads cut off." The speaker was careful to add that he did not urge the decapitation hinted at. But why not?

CORSAIR.

MESOPOTAMIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

MRS. MARLING'S FUND

For Providing Comforts for Troops Serving in Mesopotamia.

Hitherto the subscriptions in this country to the above Fund, which subscriptions now amount to £1,583 10s., have been collected privately among those more particularly associated with the Persian Gulf.

In view, however, of the large augmentation of troops now operating in that theatre of war, and of the greatly increased difficulties of the task which they are called upon to perform, Mrs. Marling desires to extend the scope of the Fund by making an appeal to the general public, whose assistance in such a worthy cause will, it is hoped, be readily given.

Mrs. Marling, when making her appeal wrote as follows:—

> "There are many people who have personal experience who will realize how terribly trying to troops the carrying out of military operations in Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf must be at this season. The following paragraph, taken from the 'Near East,' quoting a letter from a soldier serving with our forces in those parts, brings home to us that the brave men fighting under such exhausting climatic conditions are not benefiting by the many organizations formed at home for the purpose of giving small comforts to our Armies abroad:—
>
> "'The People of England seem to have forgotten us' is the pathetic cry of a soldier serving with the British Expeditionary Force at the head of the Persian Gulf; 'we have not had so much as a box of matches from England.'"

All money collected is being remitted to the credit of Colonel Sir Percy Z. Cox, K.C.S.I., Senior Political Officer to the Expeditionary Force, who is employing it in the purchase of comforts for the troops suitable to the local conditions.

All donations should be sent to:—

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA,

25, ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.,

and cheques should be crossed and made payable to "Mrs. Marling's Fund."

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE ETERNAL EAST.*

Although the book which Miss Sykes has just written deals with India, the Arabian Nights atmosphere which lingers about all Eastern history, near or far, brings it sufficiently within our province to justify a notice in this paper. Primarily written to meet the requirements, and to whet the interest of young students in India, the appeal of this book will be immeasurably wider now, when, as the author puts it, "the stirring deeds of her brave men fighting side by side with ours . . . have brought India so much nearer to all our hearts." Were it not, indeed, for two things, we would predict for this little work a place high among the popular books of the day. Neither of these really affect it at all, but we fear that they may both mitigate against real popularity. The first is the title. It savours too much of the class-room, and the average reader will scarcely give the book a second thought when he sees it on the bookstall. The second thing is the practice which Miss Sykes has adopted of capitalizing all proper nouns. It is an excellent thing for the student, it exactly fits the purpose which the author had in her mind when she passed the book through the press, but it will not appeal to the ordinary reader. Were the work of less general interest, these things would not matter one way or another. It would find its way to the class-rooms where it was most needed, and it would take its place among the educational works on India in the ordinary way, its title and its form would be quite immaterial. But this is not an ordinary schoolbook; it breathes the romance of Eastern history, and we would wish for it a wide publicity.

The present volume, Part I., deals with Indian history from Vedic times to the coming of the English, and it is to be followed by another in which the coming and influence of the Western races will be described. The first volume is of especial interest now when our enemies are striving to force their way through the East, as Alexander the Great strove in the early days of history. Miss Sykes describes this campaign well. Apart from the desire for conquest, there is of course no comparison to make between the *Boche* of civilized to-day and the Alexander of "barbaric" times. Miss Sykes quotes the following declaration of Alexander with reference to his treatment of conquered Persia:—

The possession of what we got by the sword is not very lasting, but the duty of good deeds is eternal. If we have a mind to keep Asia, and not simply pass through it, our compassion must extend to them also, and their fidelity will make our Empire everlasting.

We can find nothing in German declarations to correspond with this. In the tracing of the legendary history of India the author works with sympathy and knowledge, and it is a fascinating subject. While it must be remembered that she wrote first of all for "boys and girls," and her work is entirely devoid of literary embroidery, we can confidently recommend Miss Sykes' volume to all who are interested in the East. The book is profusely illustrated, many of the reproductions being of rare and hitherto unpublished pictures.

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Black's announcements include "The Seven Churches of Asia," by Dr. Christopher N. Johnston, Procurator of the Church of Scotland, containing a short illustrated account of each of the seven churches, based on the results of recent archæological research.

Among Messrs. Chatto and Windus's announcements is "In Seven Lands," by E. A. Vizetelly, forming the third volume of the author's reminiscences of his earlier years.

Mr. John Lane is publishing to-day "Domestic Life in Roumania," by Dorothea Kirke.

A new book from the pen of Mr. Douglas Sladen, author of "Egypt and the English," "The Tragedy of the Pyramids," and other works on Egypt, is shortly to be published by Messrs. Hutchinson and Co. Mr. Sladen's new work is entitled "The Douglas Romance," the central figure of which is the twenty-fifth Earl of Douglas. This title can be inherited by a woman, and when his only child, the late Lord Avondale, was killed near Givenchy, in August, 1915, the heir was discovered to be a leading lady in musical comedy, whose romantic secret marriage led to many strange developments.

The Cambridge University Press will issue shortly a third and enlarged edition of the "Companion to Greek Studies," edited by Mr. Leonard Whibley. One of the topics dealt with for the first time is the prehistoric house, which is discussed by Mr. A. J. B. Wace—a subject treated at greater length in a separate monograph shortly to be published by the Cambridge University Press under the title "The Greek House: Its History and Development from the Neolithic Period to the Hellenistic Age," by Dr. Bertha Carr Rider.

A GREAT ARABIC SCHOLAR.

The *Birmingham Daily Post* of February 15 contains a fine appreciation of "John Payne: Poet and Translator," from which we take the following passages:—"One hesitates to talk about Payne's crowning glory—his translation of the 'Arabian Nights.' Whatever is said one knows that the surviving kinsmen of Richard Burton and John Lane may swoop down and reopen the miserable business again. This is no place to relate the story of 'The Nights.' . . . 'The Book of the Thousand Nights and One Night,' translated by John Payne, was published in nine volumes between 1882 and 1884, the work having been commenced in 1877. Only 500 copies were printed for subscribers. In his preface Payne wrote that there were three printed editions, more or less complete, of the Arabic text of the 'Nights'—namely, the Breslau ('horribly corrupt'); the Boulac (Cairo), very incomplete, and added to by 'a learned Egyptian'; and the Calcutta edition, which he used in conjunction with the other editions for additions and corrections. In 1884 he added three other volumes, 'Tales from the Arabic,' and in the following year he translated the story of 'Alaeddin and the Enchanted Lamp,' and two other tales from an Arabic text discovered by M. Zotenberg, Keeper of Oriental MSS. in the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris. The translation of those thirteen volumes was a great undertaking, and a wonderful example of hard work and scholarship. Not only were they a rendering into English, but every word was, as far as possible, given the exact English equivalent. The result is that for the ordinary reader the style appears rather clumsy, but from the point of view of scholarship the versions are not to be surpassed.

"When Burton heard that Payne was bringing out his edition of the 'Nights,' he wrote and told him that he had a translation in course of preparation; but Mr. Wright, in his 'Life of Sir Richard Burton,' makes out a good case to show that it was not even begun. Mr. Payne, however, offered to collaborate, but Burton refused. It was in 1885 that Burton published the first volume of his edition of the 'Nights,' and the tenth volume, with the notorious 'Terminal Essay,' was issued to the subscribers the following year; the six supplemental volumes being sent out between 1886 and 1888. In the introduction to his translation of Omar Kheyyam (1898), Mr. Payne, 'with much reluctance,' broke the silence with regard to Burton's 'Nights,' and stated that Burton 'again and again borrowed whole pages in difficult passages,' while two stories where 'he was obliged to rely upon his own resources, unaided by any translation,' contained 'five hundred blunders of the most unqualified description.'"

Of Payne's translation from the Persian of "The Quatrains of Omar Kheyyam of Nishapour," with a biographical and critical introduction, the writer says: "Payne greatly appreciated the beauty of FitzGerald's 'Omar,' but showed that although it was a charming poem, it gave practically no idea of the original; and, indeed, it was but a very free paraphrase of about a sixteenth part of the whole poem. Payne consulted many editions and manuscripts, but his translation is mainly taken from the Lucknow autograph, and contains 845 verses. This was issued by the Villon Society in 1898."

* "Readings from Indian History" (Part I.). By Ethel R. Sykes. With 79 Illustrations and Maps. (London: C.L.S.I.)

Any Books mentioned on this page, or any other Publication, can be obtained at the published price, plus 3d. postage in the United Kingdom, or 6d. abroad, from
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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Feb.	1916. Feb.		1334. Rebi II.	5676. Adar.
18	5	Friday	13	14
19	6	Saturday.....	14	15
20	7	Sunday	15	16
21	8	Monday	16	17
22	9	Tuesday	17	18
23	10	Wednesday	18	19
24	11	Thursday	19	20

To-day President Raymond Poincaré enters upon the fourth year of office as head of the French Government.

Wednesday is the birthday of Princess Vera, second daughter and fourth child of Prince Mirko of Montenegro, who was born at Rieka, February 10, 1887 (O.S.).

The Queen, who was accompanied by Princess Mary, performed the ceremony of unveiling a memorial tablet to Florence Nightingale in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral on Monday afternoon.

Lord Kitchener had the honour of being received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace on Monday.

General Sir Julian Byng arrived at Marseilles on Tuesday.

The Greek Minister had a prolonged interview with Sir Edward Grey at the Foreign Office on Tuesday afternoon.

Madame Grouitch, the wife of the Serbian Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, is leaving London this week for America.

Lieutenant R. C. Cumberbatch, 7th Battalion Rifle Brigade, has been promoted to the rank of captain.

Second Lieutenant H. D. Cumberbatch, 6th Battalion of "The Buffs," has been promoted first lieutenant.

Miss Florence Chaplin, daughter of Mr. Henry Chaplin, M.P., who had been for some time engaged in nursing at the Red Cross Hospital at Vranja Banye, in Serbia, and was recently reported to be a prisoner in the hands of the Austrians, has returned safely to this country.

On the 10th inst., at Assiut, Egypt, the wife of Mr. W. D. Roberts, of the Egyptian Public Works Department, gave birth to a daughter.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Commander W. G. A. Kennedy, R.N., fifth son of the late Myles Kennedy, of Stone Cross, Ulverston, and Feodora, daughter of Commander Lund, of Hjortnes, Christiania, Norway.

A marriage is arranged and will shortly take place in Cairo, between Captain Ernest O'Farrell, Royal Irish Fusiliers, only son of the late Sir George O'Farrell and Lady O'Farrell, the Croft, Oxshott, and Ina Geraldine, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Partridge, 38, First Avenue, Hove.

The special correspondent of the *Matin* at Athens telegraphs, under date of the 15th inst., that General Sarrail is coming to Athens to pay a visit to the King of Greece.

MRS. FRANK BARKER wishes to recommend MANOLI CORBETTI, 22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street, W., to anyone wishing to purchase YAOURT, HALVA, TOMATO PASTE, BLACK OLIVES, ORIENTAL JAMS, or CIGARETTES, all of which he gets direct from Salonika and other parts of Greece.—[Advt.]

The *Matin* Corfu correspondent states that the glorious generalissimo of the Serbian army, the Voivode Putnik, is with his family in Corfu.

A message from Constantinople states that Rifaat Bey, commander of the Hamidieh, has been appointed Chief of the Turkish Naval Headquarters Staff.

Colonel Charles Owen Hore, C.M.G., late of the 2nd Battalion Royal Garrison Regiment, died on Monday in London in London aged fifty-five. He entered the Army in 1878 and was with the Egyptian Expedition in 1882. He took part in the actions at El Magfar, Tel-el-Mahuta, Mahsameh, Kassassin, and Tel-el-Kebir, and in the forced march to and the occupation of Cairo. He also served with the Sudan and Nile Expeditions.

The death took place on January 26 in Alexandria of M. Victor Nourisson, Director-General of the Municipal Library.

The death is announced as having taken place at Oak Grange, Pangbourne, of Colonel B. L. Reilly, late of the Indian Army. He saw active service in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, as well as in the Afghan War of '78-80, the Zhob Valley Expedition of '84, and the Tirah campaign ('97-98). He was sixty-six years old.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (January 22):—

M. Arion, Secretary of the Roumanian Legation at Petrograd, has arrived in Bucharest on leave.

M. P. P. Carp, whose philo-German views are well known, has left for Vienna. In German circles his visit is interpreted as indicative of an impending rapprochement between Roumania and the Central Powers.

Herr von dem Bussche, German Minister in Bucharest, has returned to his post, his leave having apparently been cut short.

M. Tresnea Greceano, Minister Plenipotentiary and "Directeur du Protocole" at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, has returned to Bucharest from Vienna.

M. Jean Rallett, Professor at the University of Jassy, has died. Roumania loses in him one of her best mathematicians.

I have regretfully to announce the death also of General Benjesco-Dabija on January 26 at Bucharest. He was known as a dramatic author.

Winter sport at Sinaia claims its usual toll of victims. Prince Démètre Ghica is afflicted with a broken thigh, resulting from a bobsleigh accident, from which Lady Kennard, daughter of Sir George Barclay, also derived slight injury. Happily the latter is now completely restored to health.

Dr. Stoicesco, the brilliant surgeon who was looked upon as Professor Heresco's successor, put an end to his days on January 13 by shooting himself with a revolver. His death is ascribed to neurasthenia, the result of overwork. The death of these two specialists in the same surgical branch leaves a gap which it will be difficult to fill.

Major Th. Demetresco, Roumanian military attaché in Serbia, has arrived in Roumania after an eventful journey extending over two months. After the fall of Nish he followed the Serbian Army in its retreat towards Albania. From here he reached Italy, and has now returned by way of Switzerland and Austria.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of January 21 reports: The American Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General, Mr. Olney Arnold, has suddenly resigned, and he left Cairo on Saturday last on his way to the United States. Mr. Olney Arnold has held the post of Diplomatic Agent at Cairo since October, 1913. It is announced that he has had to retire on the grounds of ill-health owing to excessive strain of the work entailed in looking after the interests of the Swiss, Austro-Hungarian, and German subjects since the war broke out, as well as the superintendence of the relief work in Palestine and Syria. The American Government has instructed the U.S. cruiser Des Moines to convey Mr. Arnold to Naples. He will sail to-day and on arriving in Naples will proceed direct to Florence, where he proposes to stay with his wife and daughter, the Marchese Strozzi, for a week or ten days before proceeding to America. Mr. P. Knabenshue has taken over the duties of American Diplomatic Agent in Cairo.

Recent subscriptions to the Prince of Wales's Fund include a sum of £148 1s. 4d. from the Cairo Committee of the Prince of Wales's Fund, Egypt (making a total of £11,148 1s. 4d.); and a sum of £76 15s. from the staffs of certain stations of the Eastern Telegraph Company (Ltd.).

A Cyprus correspondent writes (January 31):—The health of the Greek Archbishop, Kyrillos, continues to give trouble. His Eminence was unable to hold his usual reception on the occasion of his name-day.

At a Congregation held at Cambridge on Saturday, the degree of B.A. was conferred on Mr. R. W. Jackson, a lieutenant in the Serbian Army.

Miss E. Simmons, of Constantinople, has joined the staff of the Royal Herberts' Hospital, Woolwich.

The Chairman of the Serbian Relief Fund on Monday received a telegram from Zurich stating that thirty-one members of the Second British Farmers' Unit (which was sent to Serbia by the Relief Fund Committee) had arrived at Zurich on the way home after having been interned at Vernyalchka Banja. They expected to leave Zurich on Tuesday and to reach London on Thursday.

Mrs. Wilson Noble, of Park Place, Henley-on-Thames, recently arranged a Serbian Gift Day in aid of the Serbian Women's and Children's Fund. About 2,200 articles, including tinned foods, clothes, and drugs, were contributed, and her efforts proved most successful. Nurse Collins, who has recently returned from Mrs. St. Clair Stobart's unit in Serbia, gave an interesting account of her work.

Two parties of Scottish nurses, members of the Scottish Women's Hospital Units which went to Serbia, who had been imprisoned in Serbia and Austria for more than two months, arrived in London on Sunday. The first unit included Miss Bowhill (matron), of Perth; Dr. Davidson, of Edinburgh; Dr. McDougall, of Islay and Edinburgh; Sisters Fletcher (Edinburgh), Brown (London), Scorgie and Skae (Royal Infirmary, Manchester), Mortimer (Diss), Hiney, Gibson, Pettigrew, Smith, Jones, and Lamb; Miss Madden (chauffeur), Miss Duke (X-ray operator), Misses Gregory, Hare, and Lees (Volunteer Aid Detachment).

The second unit had been sent out nine months ago to Serbia under the charge of Dr. Alice Hutchison, who returned with the party. The unit had been stationed at Valievo, but removed to Vrinzi, where they were located at the time of the Austrian occupation. The party comprised Doctors Alice Hutchison, Laura Hope, Sybil Lewis, Agnes Procter, and Charles Hope; administrator, Miss Jack; matron, Miss Philp; sanitary inspector, Miss Gordon; Nurses Bayne, Carter, Caton, Donovan, Dew, Duguid, Ellis, Evans, Gordon, Hall, Hamer, Hart, Kilty, Oldfield, Pinder, Richards, Saunders, Walmsley, Williams, and Wilson; orderlies, Misses Nicholls, Kerr, M. Fraser, A. Fraser, and Tebbutt.

The British Farmers' Red Cross Fund has sent a further cheque for £40,000 to the British Red Cross Society. Of this cheque £20,000 is to be used for hospital work in connection with the sick and wounded of our Expeditionary Force in the Persian Gulf. Further help for the fund is urgently wanted, and offers of assistance will be gratefully received by the Secretary, Room 5, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Shad Thames, Bermondsey, S.E.

Professor Alexander van Millingen, Rusthall, Kent, formerly Professor of History in Robert College, Constantinople, son of Dr. Julius van Millingen, who was associated with Lord Byron in the War of Greek Independence, and who was subsequently Court Physician to four Sultans, left property valued at £5,195.

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Probate has been granted of the will of Sir Henry Drummond-Wolff, of 28, Cadogan Place, S.W., formerly Minister to Persia and Roumania, and Ambassador at Madrid, 1892-1900, who died on October 11, 1908. He left property of the gross value of £22,414, and bequeathed everything of which he might die possessed to his wife.

Mr. W. G. Middleton Edwards has written a most interesting letter to *The Times* on the subject of the escape of the Goeben and the Breslau in August, 1914. It appeared in yesterday's issue.

The Lord Mayor's Committee for the Relief of Armenian Refugees held a meeting at the House of Commons on Wednesday, at which they considered a report from the American committee which is working in the same field. The American committee painted the situation in very dark colours. They reported that the Russians were harbouring no fewer than 310,000 refugees, and that destitution and disease were widespread. The Lord Mayor's Committee agreed to send out at once £2,000 to the American committee and £1,000 to the British Consul at Tabriz for distribution among the refugees. Altogether the committee have collected over £37,000.

The Rev. James Blakie, F.R.A.S., delivered a lecture entitled "Knossos and Mycenae : The Story of a Forgotten Civilisation," under the auspices of the Egyptian Research Students' Association, in Edinburgh last week.

An urgent appeal is made by the Duchess of Somerset, Adeline Duchess of Bedford, Lady Ermyntrude Malet, and Lady Olga Egerton on behalf of Serbian refugees—those of the upper social classes, upon whom the loss of all their personal belongings in the terrible retreat has fallen most heavily. The signatories to the appeal are undertaking to send out a certain amount of suitable clothing as gifts to the ladies and children who lost all their possessions, and these will be distributed by the direction of Madame Slavko Grouitch, the wife of the Serbian Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Gifts in money and kind, and also gifts of materials for making bandages and hospital garments for their own soldiers, are welcomed. Cheques should be made out to the Duchess of Somerset for "Serbian Officers' Families," and addressed in the same way to 35, Grosvenor Square, S.W., where all other gifts and parcels should also be sent similarly marked.

The programmes of the special concert to be given at the Haymarket Theatre on Sunday evening, the 20th inst., on behalf of the funds of the Wounded Allies Relief Committee, of Sardinia House, Kingsway, will be sold by well-known actresses. The concert will begin at eight o'clock. The artists who have kindly promised their services include Madame Ada Crossley, Madame Gleeson-White, Miss Phyllis Lett, Miss Caroline Hatchard, Mr. Walter Hyde, Mr. Robert Radford, Mr. Leonard Borwick, Mr. Henry Ainley, and Mr. Nelson Keys.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

Our Bucharest Correspondent reports (January 18) :—

Mr. Alexander Adams, Vice-Consul at the port of Sulina, has been transferred provisionally to Constantza. Mr. G. Marshall has meanwhile taken charge of the Vice-Consulate at Sulina.

M. Bileiuresco, Roumanian Consul-General at Budapest, who had been in Roumania, has returned to his post.

The Roumanian Government has given its assent to the appointment of a United States military attaché at Bucharest.

The King has been pleased to grant authority to Major Edward Abadie Plunkett, Lincolnshire Regiment, late British Military Attaché with the Serbian Army, to wear the Insignia of Third Class of the Order of the White Eagle, which decoration has been conferred upon him by his Majesty the King of Serbia, in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

The King has been pleased to grant authority to Temporary Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Patrick Bird Harrison, late British Military Attaché with the Serbian Army, to wear the Insignia of Third Class of the Order of the White Eagle, which decoration has been conferred upon him by his Majesty the King of Serbia, in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

The Egyptian War Office Gazette announces that El Kaimakam C. E. Cox Bey, Assistant Director of Supplies, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army, with effect from December 24, 1915.

OBITUARY.

SIR H. WYNDHAM, K.C.M.G,

Sir Hugh Wyndham, K.C.M.G., C.B., died at his residence, Rogate Lodge, Sussex, on Thursday last week, at the age of seventy-nine. The eldest son of Colonel C. Wyndham, he was educated at Harrow and Oxford, and entered the Diplomatic Service in 1857. After holding minor appointments in Berlin, Warsaw, Brussels, and Paris, he became Secretary of Legation at Athens in September, 1875, and was Acting Chargé d'Affaires there from June to October in the following year, and again for shorter periods in 1877 and 1878. He next went to Madrid and then to St. Petersburg. In August, 1881, he was transferred to Constantinople, where he remained until 1885, during which period he several times acted as Chargé d'Affaires. He was next promoted to be Minister Resident to the King of Serbia (February, 1885), and in the following year became Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. In 1888 he went to Brazil, as Envoy Extraordinary, first to the Emperor and then to the United States of Brazil. In 1894 he returned to the Near East, being transferred to Bucharest, and in 1897 he retired from the service. He was made a C.B. in 1878, and a K.C.M.G. in 1894.

MR. J. PAYNE.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. John Payne, the Arabic scholar and poet, which took place on the 11th inst. at his residence, 28, The Boltons. Mr. Payne was born on August 23, 1842, was educated privately, and was a solicitor by profession. He enjoyed a high and well-deserved reputation as a translator of French, Italian, Persian, and Arabic works. His translation of the "Thousand Nights and a Night," which was published in 1884 for the Villon Society, is at least as accurate as that of Burton, though not perhaps as racy; and it is maintained by many people that Burton owed much to Payne's work. Amongst other books Mr. Payne was the author of "The Mosque of Shadows, and Other Poems," "Tales from the Arabic," "The Quatrains of Omar Kheyyam of Nishepour," "The Poems of Shemseddin Mohammed Hafiz of Shiraz"; and early in 1914 the Villon Society announced that there were in preparation two important translations : "The Marvellous History of Seif ben Dhi Yezn : King of Yemen : A Romance-Cycle from the Ancient Arabic," in from four to six volumes, and "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," from the newly discovered Arabic text.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The charge for Announcements under this Heading is 2s. for three lines and 1s. per line afterwards. Minimum charge, 3s. All announcements must be authenticated with the name and address of sender.

BIRTHS.

CARVER.—On January 30, at Oasis, Ramleh, Egypt, to Mr. and Mrs. S. R. P. Carver, a son.

SETON-WATSON.—On the 15th inst., at Corner House, Buckingham Street, S.W., the wife of R. W. Seton-Watson, of Ayton, Abernethy, Perthshire, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

AINSLIE—STEWART-WILSON.—On 14th inst., quietly, at Yateley Parish Church, by the Rev. J. Beardall, Vicar of Yateley, assisted by Rev. H. M. Piercy, Captain John Archibald Ainslie, King's Own Scottish Borderers, eldest son of Archibald Ainslie, Esq., and Mrs. Ainslie, of Dolphinton, Launceston, Tasmania, to Jean Blanche, only child of Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, K.C.I.E., and Lady Stewart-Wilson, The Manor House, Yateley, Hants.

DEATH.

SMEED.—At Beni-Suef, Egypt, on January 23, Constance Violet, aged six years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Smeed.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1916.

THE GOAL IN THE NEAR EAST.

In face of the grim issues involved in the struggle now convulsing Europe there is a danger that the need for a separate settlement of the Near Eastern problem will be overlooked. That problem before the war was part of the European question. It remains so in some respects, for there can be no permanent peace on the Continent unless a final settlement is reached in the Near East. But as a result of the division of Europe into two hostile camps it will rest with the victors in the war to determine the main lines on which the problem is to find its solution, and any Peace Conference that may assemble on the suspension of hostilities should be called upon to take note only of the settlement, not to discuss its terms. It is as essential to the future peace of Europe that harmony should reign among the Balkan States as that Prussian militarism should be broken. The more doubtful the prospects of the separate States achieving good relations among themselves of their own free will, the more urgent the need that some authority superior to them all should remove the main causes of antagonism between them and impose upon them the observance of peace. In these circumstances the present situation in the Balkans has comparatively little bearing on the final settlement. The immediate concern of the Allies must be the elimination of Bulgaria as a factor in the war, and when this has been achieved they will have advanced a notable distance on the way to victory over the Central Powers. But in the meantime they will do well to keep clearly in view the goal they have set before themselves in the Near East. They desire the establishment of a durable peace, based on the recognition of the principle of nationality. With this object in view the Allies can afford to place all their cards upon the table, and by so doing they may materially shorten the military operations south of the Drave and Danube. Among those in arms against us are Jugoslavs and a number of Bulgarians who at heart are equally on the side of the Entente Powers. If all uncertainty regarding the future could be removed from the minds of both of these, their action must in due time have its effect on the course of the war. But the subject is one that calls for firm handling, inspired by knowledge and conviction. The lead among the Entente Powers can only be taken by Great Britain, and there must be no equivocal attitude towards either Allies or neutral States.

Let us take first the case of the Jugoslavs. Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes alike are heart and soul with the Entente Powers. For the time being the greater part of the male population within Austro-Hungarian jurisdiction is serving with the colours, but these no less than others who have found refuge abroad look to the present war to bring about the union of all their peoples and territories into one independent State. Their interests are inseparably linked with those of the Allied Powers, for such a State would form a permanent obstacle to the expansion of German Imperialism to the East. To what extent the war has been brought about by the anxiety of the Central Powers to crush for all time the Jugoslav aspirations we need not stop to inquire, but it is noticeable that recent events south of the Danube prompted the *Frankfurter Zeitung* to write as follows:

"The political reformation of the Balkans, which is to be one of the most important consequences of the war, has progressed during the last few days, inasmuch as the main resistance has been completely overwhelmed in the conquest of Serbia. Under the attacks of the Central Powers *another Jugoslav State* in the Balkans is collapsing." Community of interests should prompt the Allied Powers to make the Jugoslav cause their own, not only with a view to a permanent settlement in South-Eastern Europe, but also for the immediate purposes of the war. At any moment an opportunity may present itself to the Jugoslavs in the Austro-Hungarian army to detach themselves from a hated allegiance; but before they could contemplate such a step they must be sure of what the future has in store for them. There is reason to believe that they would hesitate to throw in their lot unreservedly with the Allies, because they suspect that the latter are capable of what they consider to be treachery to the Jugoslav idea. They make no secret of their fears, which have found expression in a number of resolutions and in published documents. It is supposed that the Allies are prepared in the event of a victory over the Central Powers to allow the Dalmatian coast to be handed over to Italy. Rightly or wrongly, the Jugoslavs believe that any partition of their national territory, and, above all, the cession of any part to a foreign Power, would not only check the development of Jugoslav unity, but would perpetuate the system now obtaining in Austria-Hungary, with all its consequent struggles and unrest. It is for the Allies to decide how far these fears are justifiable, and whether it is worth while to allay them. Until the Jugoslav population in Austria-Hungary has been reassured, we can reckon on little or no assistance from it in the struggle against the Central Powers. The Allies must, moreover, take note of their warning of a heritage of unrest which an inadequate solution of the Jugoslav question would bequeath to the new Europe, and, if they choose to ignore it, they will do well to state their reasons, in order that the Jugoslavs may learn the other side of the question.

There is an adage dear to grandmotherly minds which deprecates an attempt to divide the bear's skin before the animal is killed. If the moral has any practical application, it is for those who would spoil their chances of killing the bear by quarrelling amongst themselves. Neither proverbs nor commonsense discourage foresight and provision for the future in the event of certain happenings, and the principle has already been admitted in the solemn undertakings given to Belgium. *Consules videant ne quid respublica detrimenti capiat.* The formula applied to a state of war, and the Allied countries have the right to expect that their Governments will lose no opportunity of curtailing this war by adding to the resources on which they must rely for the final defeat of the enemy. If there is reason to suppose that a large Jugoslav force, whose interests are bound up with those of the Allies, is waiting to throw in its lot with them, the Entente Governments incur a grave responsibility, in allowing the opportunity to pass without sufficient justification. Promises made to Italy on incomplete knowledge cannot be allowed to prejudice the whole Allied cause. The Italians could be brought to realize that they will gain more by surrendering what they may have come to regard as theirs than by insisting upon the letter of an unwise agreement. The goal that the Allies have before them in the Near East includes also a permanent settlement of the differences between Bulgaria and her neighbours. As things are, that settlement must needs be an arbitrary one in the sense of being imposed from without; but it should not be artificial. A settlement can be found which will have been inspired by justice and due observance of the principle of nationality. It may entail compulsory migration here or there under proper safeguards and with full compensation; it must entail some sacrifice for the good of the Balkan Peninsula as a whole. Now is the time to thresh out that settlement in consultation (within clearly defined limits) with those concerned, in order that when the Bulgarians realize the certainty of their ultimate defeat, they may know what is the alternative to the prolongation of a hopeless struggle. No Government can well plead the stress of other preoccupations as an excuse for losing sight of one of the main objects of the war.

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THE EGYPTIAN ARMY.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

The calling up of the Egyptian *redifs* (reserves) for service with the camel transport that is being organised in connection with the Canal defences brings into prominence the Egyptian Army, and a short account of its constitution and its mode of recruiting may not be out of place at the present juncture, when the topic of universal service is so much to the fore.

Like all Continental countries, Egypt lives under the régime of conscription; but on the banks of the Nile compulsory service is enforced under very easy conditions and with the minimum of hardship to the people. According to the recruiting law of November 4, 1902, which laid down the conditions under which military service could be exacted—at a time, of course, when this country was still part of the Ottoman Empire—and which, with some slight modifications, holds good to-day, all males who are Ottoman subjects, born in Egypt of parents ordinarily resident there, and who have not become habitually resident in another portion of the Ottoman Empire; or who, being Ottoman subjects, have, or whose parents have, ordinarily resided in Egypt during the fifteen years prior to their attaining the age of nineteen or to their inscription on the recruiting lists while still under twenty-four years of age, or whose place of origin is in the Sudan, but who are ordinarily resident in Egypt, and have not been recognised as being of foreign nationality, are liable to compulsory military service.

Such liability commences with the age of nineteen, calculated according to the Gregorian calendar; but if a man has not been called up by the time he reaches the age of twenty-seven, he becomes exempt for life. Exemption can be purchased, as in the Ottoman dominions, by the payment of a sum—in Egypt £E20—made before the conscript's name comes on to the list of eligible men. It is also granted in certain specified cases. Thus, permanent Government officials and those serving on probation, Omdas and Sheikhs performing certain duties, sanitary barbers appointed by the Government, and N.C.O.'s and men voluntarily serving in the police or the coastguard on a ten years' contract, are exempt. So also are Ulema and Sheikhs of El Azhar and other mosques, including those of Sid El Bedawi and Said Ibrahim El Dessuki, recognised heads of religious corporations in Cairo, Sheikhs of Takias, certain employés attached to mosques and Fikis, who know the Koran by heart, provided they have no other regular occupation, priests and similar officials belonging to recognised religious communities, Christian and Jewish, students devoted to religious studies to the exclusion of secular occupations, and those in the personal service of the Sovereign. Persons of Bedouin extraction in the male line of descent, under certain limitations, are also entitled to exemption; so also are students at the various professional colleges during their training and provided they obtain their diplomas. In addition, exemption is granted to those whose fathers have held commissions in the army or have died from wounds or illnesses contracted during such service, and to those who are the only support of their parents or who have brothers serving under certain conditions. There are various other cases of exemption, but the foregoing are the more important.

Recruiting is carried out annually by commissions in each district, and the order in which persons liable for service are called up is determined by an annual ballot, those figuring thereon being taken as and when the needs of the army require. Conscripts called up may provide substitutes, who must be under twenty-four years of age and be already exempted; but they are held responsible for their substitutes during their service, which is in every respect the same as for ordinary recruits, and must take their place in the event of their substitutes deserting.

As the list shows, exemptions are granted on a very liberal scale. This is rendered possible by the fact that, although the country has a local male population of at least five millions, its standing army cannot exceed 18,000 men. Perhaps I should say "could not," for that limit was fixed by the Ottoman firmans which conferred the title of Khedive on the ruler of Egypt and laid down the powers that he could exercise as the vassal of Turkey. Now that the country has been emancipated from the yoke of Othman, this limitation no longer holds good.

So far, however, no advantage has been taken of the change in status to increase the Egyptian Army, the strength of which, as a matter of fact, is at the present moment about 15,000 men. These are enrolled in two squadrons of cavalry, three companies of mounted infantry, five batteries of artillery, three companies of garrison artillery, seventeen infantry battalions (eight Fellaheen, seven Sudanese, one Arab, and one Equatorial), with the addition of a camel corps, a reserve battalion of Sudanese, and a company recruited from the Nuba tribes.

Service in the army is for five years, after which the men remain for a like period in what is known as the *redif*, unless they are recruited on their release from the regular army for service in the police or the coastguard. Volunteers for ordinary service with the colours are accepted, provided they are of military age, or, if not, provided they have the consent of their legal guardians. Men discharged from the regular army may re-enlist for the five years which they have to serve in the reserve; but, although there is no limit, except age, to the time for which a man may remain with the colours, ten years is the maximum that he can be forced to spend in military service. The reserves may be called up for training annually for a period not exceeding thirty days. In practice, Egyptian reservists do no training, but the Sudanese put in fifteen days every year. The reserves may also be called up to assist in time of disturbance, or in carrying out sanitary regulations in time of epidemic. They can be likewise called out for military service in time of war or of national emergency, and it is in virtue of this clause in the recruiting law that the present summons has been issued. The last known occasion when the *redifs* were called out was during the Sudan campaign, when they were used in connection with the laying of the railway line, which played such a great part in the success of that campaign. Discharges take place every six months, and the number of men on the reserve list is always about 15,000—i.e., equivalent to the strength of the regular army. Those called out to-day are only the Fellaheen *redifs*, and the number concerned is, consequently, only 10,000, roughly, and not 15,000, as at first stated.

The Egyptian Army of to-day is organised on the lines laid down by Sir Evelyn Wood when he undertook the task of reorganisation, after the events of 1882 had brought about its disbandment. Since the day when, with his small band of twenty-six assistants, the great Field-Marshal, in the teeth of the most pessimistic opinion, put his hand to the plough and boldly set himself to retrieve the military reputation of Egypt, the Egyptian Army has not looked back. By good treatment and administration, and by efficient training, he succeeded in an incredibly short space of time in converting the Fellaheen from an undisciplined, cowardly, and incapable horde into a fighting force of real value, and the traditions which he inaugurated have been manfully carried on by those who succeeded him and his subordinates, amongst whom stand out prominently Lords Grenfell and Kitchener, the president Sirdar, Sir Reginald Wingate, and the present G.O.C. in Egypt, General Sir John Maxwell. Since the reconquest of the Sudan, in which the Egyptian Army took a highly creditable part, it has assisted in keeping the peace in that vast territory, and in subjugating the various tribes that resisted the central authority; and it has never failed to respond to all the calls made upon it by its officers, who, it may be mentioned, are selected from the best material that the British Empire can produce. It was very much to the regret of the Egyptian Army that the British Government decided that Egypt should not bear the burden of protecting her frontiers against the Turkish and German invader; but during the past eighteen months the troops have been afforded several opportunities of showing of what they are made, notably at Toussoum, at Tor, and at Abu-Zeneima. On all these occasions the units engaged acquitted themselves in a manner that fully came up to the expectations of those best qualified to know, and that reflected as much credit on the Egyptian Army as it did on the handful of British officers who, notwithstanding that they are debarred from seeking alongside their countrymen the laurels that they would most certainly earn, are assuredly doing just as valuable work for the Empire by remaining at the head of their Egyptian regiments.

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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

THE FALL OF ERZEROUM.

The fall of Erzeroum is the salient feature of the week's military operations, and though, strictly speaking, the great Russian gain in Asia Minor does not concern these columns, nevertheless the disastrous defeat of the Turks in Armenia will doubtless find an echo in the Balkan theatre of the war. As is pointed out in our "Notes of the Week," "the best chance of profiting by the favourable turn of events on the Erzeroum front would seem to lie in a vigorous offensive against the Turkish lines of communication in Europe. "The fate of Baghdad, the collapse of Turco-German intrigues in Persia, and the dissipation of the 'army of Egypt'—if even the nucleus of it remains in being—all these can be more effectually hastened by cutting off the Turks from their German supports than by isolated actions in Asia Minor itself."

The Balkan Theatre.

In the Balkan theatre, properly speaking, no developments have taken place during the past week, but we see no reason to alter our opinions as expressed last week. We are on the eve of far-reaching events, and the fall of Erzeroum is likely to be the first link in a chain of events in the Near and Middle East which will bind Germany to that same thraldom which she endeavoured to impose on Oriental peoples. On the Salonika front nothing of importance has transpired, and it is even believed, *vide* the daily Press, that the Germans have practically retired from Macedonia, leaving the Bulgars in charge of opposing our front. Needless to say, Germany, as spring is approaching, needs her men on other fronts which, to her, are of more immediate consequence. In Albania, on the other hand, the Austro-Bulgars are more or less active, and this stage continues to attract the immediate attention of the military world. The capture of Elbassan by the Bulgars is confirmed, and they are even reported at Fieri, about thirteen miles from Valona. The Serbian army, together with such refugees from Montenegro as are still available, have abandoned the Durazzo district—which has been strengthened by Italian troops—and are re-forming into a highly acceptable army in Corfu; their numbers will not be far short of 100,000 well-equipped troops. Incidentally, Reuter's reported from Paris yesterday that according to a Rome message to the *Petit Journal*, the possibility of important events taking place shortly in Albania is foreshadowed. "Austria," says the message, "will probably try to get hold of Valona with her available troops, but any surprise in that quarter has been foreseen, and Italy has taken every measure to paralyze an Austrian offensive." In our opinion, however, fighting in Albania will continue to be desultory (such as the recent Austro-Italian action at Tirana, east of Durazzo) until such time as the enemy is in a position to advance simultaneously against the two extremes (Salonika and Valona) of the Greco-Macedonian frontier held by the Allies. This, as previously asserted, cannot take place until the Roumanian riddle—a riddle as far as the enemy is concerned—has been solved. In the meantime, we have not been idle at Salonika. According to a rumour current in Paris last Friday, but as yet unconfirmed, General Sarrail has moved French troops across the Vardar, to the west of Salonika, with the purpose of occupying positions beyond the river from which the enemy's heavy artillery, if advantageously placed, could eventually have commanded the Allies' defences on the left bank. Air raids, likewise, have signalized the past eight days, but for every enemy machine which has hovered over our lines, at least five of ours have visited the Bulgar lines on the Strumna.

Roumania.

The fact that, as was emphasised last week, the key to the Balkan situation lies in Bucharest is borne out by diplomatic events in the capital of Roumania during the past week. The Böches have been doing their best to get Roumania on their side, and, by way of a bribe, have not only offered gold but munitions as well. This proves conclusively to what an extent any future Balkan campaign undertaken by the already exhausted Central Powers depends on the attitude of Roumania. Until Roumania has declared herself, no general strategic enemy attack against our front can be attempted, and fighting will continue to be desultory unless (*a*) we take the offensive, or (*b*) the enemy, rendered desperate, decides to stake all on a last throw, in the hope that he will break through our defence. He will be sorely disappointed.

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THE BRITISH IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

A correspondent kindly sends us the following extracts from a letter written from Constantinople about December 29 :—

. . . . Messrs. Farley Leete, Ashover, and a couple of others were sent into the interior; they are well, we hear. Mr. Lee (?), who was caretaker of the Haidar Pasha cemetery, has returned from the interior. As to the Douch family, if you hear any inquiries about them you can assure any one who asks that they are all well and comfortable, in spite of their having been sent away from their home at St. Stefano. They are now living in the apartments occupied by Hayden, a dry goods and clothing establishment, whose shop is in Pera.

It may interest you to know that Mr. Guest, of the Co-operative Stores, is still here, and both he and his wife are well. Mr. Harry Hoare was sent to the interior with the other men whom I mentioned, and they are located near Konia. They are heard from frequently, and are all doing well, and are comfortable, with the exception of Mr. Leete, and it is reported that he is suffering from dysentery. The Mr. Hoare that I mentioned was one of the men who were sent at one time to Gallipoli.

Mr. and Mrs. Sykes are both well and attend Mr. Frew's church in Pera on Sundays. The many reports you hear about this place are false. I have had no trouble with the people, and never think of being stopped or bothered at any time. . . . We have had one cold spell. And that lasted about a week, and on account of the shortage of coal and fuel of every kind you can imagine the suffering. . . .

The electric light, plant, trams, and lighting system are still in operation. Kerosene (petroleum) is very scarce, and when it can be bought it costs 1½ to 2 liras Turkish for a tin of five gallons.

IMPORTANT TO SUBSCRIBERS.

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

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Hungary's War Feeling.

To the *Morning Post* (February 16) "A Hungarian Deputy" contributes an interesting article on the above topic. The greater part of the article is devoted to a consideration of Hungarian relations with the nations prior to the war. When war was declared all the natural affections and antipathies of the people were submerged in consequence of the statement that it is "a fight for the nation's life and death against Russian Panslavism, which threatens the independence and liberty of Hungary." The writer looks for a dreadful awakening, and continues:—

Some months ago the enthusiasm of the population was roused with the promise of Egypt, Suez, the Pyramids, and India. The way of this dream was the conquest of Serbia, the union of the Austro-Hungarian-German Armies with the Bulgarian one; and, after a triumphant entrance into Constantinople, the humiliation of England and the Empire of the world. Everything was prepared for this programme, and the idea of crushing Serbia, who, at the beginning of the war, resisted with such great energy the Austro-Hungarian attack, was not unpopular. But the realisation of the Oriental dream did not give the expected satisfaction, and had to be placed into line with the other evaporated hopes, like Paris, Calais, Petrograd, the apotheosis of Stambul, and all the Balkan States at the knees of the Central Powers. The Serbian territory has been occupied, but a part of the Serbian Army exists. Gallipoli remained in the hands of the Turks, but the doors of the Balkan States are guarded by an unexpected concentration of the Allies at Salonika. There is no doubt that the keys to the doors of the Balkan States are still in the hands of Great Britain and France. It was promised that the Allies, after a short fight, would be thrown into the sea; and now more than two months are passed, and the invincible armies of the Central Powers have not even begun to attack them. . . .

The population of Austro-Hungary begins to understand that, whatever may be the result of the Balkan move, this war cannot be won in Belgrade. England and France cannot be crushed in Constantinople or in the Balkans, and the final victory of the greatest war that history has ever known can only be obtained in the occupied northern departments of France and in Belgium. This conception finds every day more and more adherents; but if it is true, then all the other plans and programmes which during the last year were presented to the population of the Central Powers as absolute trumps to assure the triumph and final victory were false. Why, then, should not the presumption that the war will be quickly terminated to the full satisfaction of the Central Powers be also false?

German Aims in the Adriatic.

The *Manchester Guardian* published yesterday (February 17) an article entitled "The Abandonment of Montenegro," from the pen of Sir Arthur Evans, which constitutes a vigorous indictment of the policy of the Allies in the Near East. We quote the opening passages:—

The abandonment of Montenegro to her fate, the gradual process of destitution—nay, of actual starvation—that led up to it, the capture by the Austrians of the dominating height of Lovtchen, and the consequent consolidation of Austro-German naval power in the Southern Adriatic—these are tragic developments indeed, equally damaging to the Allies in the moral as in the material sphere.

Why was no helping hand held out? By what strange aberration of our foreign policy were such assets and so lethal a weapon freely placed in the enemy's hands? For we are not a disinterested Power in the Adriatic region. The splendid land-locked harbours of the eastern coast and the protected sea passage afforded by its parallel lines of islands afford it a whole chain of naval bases, from Pola to Sebenico and from Sebenico to Gravosa and the Bocche di Cattaro, such as cannot be found elsewhere in the whole Mediterranean basin. Its offensive development, directly or indirectly, under German hands is probably the most serious of all potential menaces to our future maritime connections with the East. Already it has become a hive of submarines.

So thoroughly was this realised at Berlin that for years every effort has been made by financial and other agencies, with willing help from Vienna, to strengthen the German hold on Dalmatia. One of the principal causes of the present war on the part of the German Powers was to secure their future naval development on the Adriatic by crushing once for all the independent Serbian States who were the natural champions of the South Slavonic movement towards union. It was clearly realised that the formation between the Drave and the Adriatic of a united South Slavonic State, in accordance with the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the population, was the greatest danger that threatened these ambitious schemes. So Serbia has been crushed; a reign of terror holds down the Slovene and Serbo-Croat provinces of the Monarchy, and now it has been the turn of Montenegro.

Lack of space debars us from quoting further, but we commend the article to the attention of our readers.

The Crisis for Roumania.

The *Observer* (February 13) this week devotes the greater part of its notes on the war to a consideration of problems of administration, and so on, at home. The following references, are, however, made to the attitude of Roumania, which was attracting considerable attention in the London Press last week:—

It would be difficult to say how much now depends upon the action of Roumania. At Bucharest the Central Empires are using every means of inducement and pressure to secure an agreement in their favour. They offer not only Bessarabia, but the great Russian port of Odessa. This is done with the object of sowing a deadly and eternal enmity between Roumania and the Tsar's Empire.

On the other hand, unless Bucharest gives guarantees for a continuance of rigid neutrality, or even for benevolent facilities permitting the Germans and Austrians to march through Roumanian territory, there may be an attack on two sides. The interest of the Central Empire is to make sure one way or the other before the Western Allies are able to make any strong move in the Balkans. We will only point out once more that the decision will turn upon estimates of relative military strength.

The Allies, when the Serbs are fully re-equipped, should have between 300,000 and 400,000 men in that region. We repeat our belief that if the number were raised to over half a million Roumania would come in with an army of the same size, and her entry would be a turning point in the Allies' fortunes. No persuasions of diplomacy on our side will make up for a paucity of effectives on the spot. In all probability Roumania's decision must in any case be taken during the next seven weeks, but it may be precipitated by events, and it is impossible to overestimate its importance

The Epic of the Dardanelles.

The most interesting article on the Dardanelles that we have yet read is one entitled "Six Months in the Dardanelles," by "Zachabona," which appears in *Blackwood's* (February). No quotation or series of quotations can give an adequate idea of the material with which this article is stocked; we have chosen the following because detailed descriptions of battles are few and far between in these days of strict censorship:—

Every man who survives the Dardanelles carries in his mind the only epitaph there can ever be for our dead lying there between the fatal hill and the sea: "They never hesitated." One instance will suffice. It was the night after a big attack, when the clear-eyed heavens looked down on simmering passions in that corner of the earth. The battle was not over; that much, at least, we could rely on. Any enemy movement, real or suspected, was enough to stir the embers of a bloody yesternight. It was real, as it happened—a pretty determined counter-stroke, heralded by vehement invocation of "Allah! Allah!" It was delivered in a part of the line which was badly consolidated, but held stubbornly by the Manchesters. For neighbours, a little to the rear, the latter had the 5th Royal Scots, under Colonel Wilson, and when at length the onslaught by tremendously superior numbers drove the Manchesters back a little, no single minute did the Scots allow the advantage to stand. They were up out of their trenches with a yell that nearly the whole line heard, charging like furies; nor did they breathe easy again till they had cleared every Turk out of our trench, which the enemy was just beginning to find very useful for bombing purposes. Another time it was the Worcesters, I think, who did a similar service for the Senegalese. And so one could multiply, "They never hesitated."

The Bulgarian Attitude.

The following quotation is taken from the beginning of a leading article in the *Times* (February 16):—

The increasing numbers of deserters who continue to arrive at Salonika are sufficient proof that the plight of the Bulgarian troops on the frontier is by no means enviable. All repeat the same tale of starvation. It is repeated this morning in our Bukarest telegram. With the approach of spring the discontent of the Bulgarian peasant soldiers is likely to grow. Their desire to return to their fields will become stronger, and with it the anxiety of their chiefs. Yet it would be folly to anticipate substantial results from Bulgarian discontent until military disaster have overtaken either Bulgaria herself or her confederates; and it would be worse than foolish in present circumstances to credit rumours of Bulgarian readiness to come to terms with the Allies. We can have no dealings with Bulgaria or with her Tsar-traitor, even should he, as is highly improbable, seriously wish to have dealings with us.

We quote below from the telegram referred to in the above paragraph:—

Much discontent is reported to prevail in Bulgaria owing to the increasing dearness of almost all commodities. Butter now costs 4s., olive oil 3s., meat 2s., coffee 4s. 10d. per lb. Bread is not

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dear, but it is made in three qualities. The quality made entirely of wheat is difficult to obtain; the third quality, which is black, is unpalatable. The exportation of cereals to Germany and Austria continues, but must soon come to an end.

All expressions of popular feeling are rigidly suppressed. The Press censorship is exercised with the utmost rigour.

The leading article concludes:—

The restoration of Serbia to her rightful territory and her union with her Southern Slav kindred must, indeed, be essential objects of the Allies. These objects preclude any truck with Ferdinand of Coburg, or with his people unless they dissociate themselves from him. Even William of Hohenzollern, with all his crimes, is a more reputable Sovereign.

The Greeks in England.

We take the following paragraph from *Truth* (February 10), which prefaces its remarks upon the attitude of the Greeks in England with a reference to Dr. Ronald Burrow's article in the *Contemporary Review*, from which we quoted last week:—

The Greek community in London profess their devotion to M. Venizelos, and show it by deserting him. They have not raised so much as a little finger to help him. A public protest from the Greeks in London and Manchester against the unconstitutional usurpation of power by a revolutionary Government of placemen would have had an enormous effect in Athens; but it was not made. A league, or association, or something of the kind, has been formed in London to promote the cause of Hellenism, but all its members do is to talk. A private message of academical sympathy has been sent to M. Venizelos, but what he wants just now is not sympathy, but support, and he has not had it.

The Lesson of Gallipoli.

In an editorial note, the *United Empire* (February) deals very severely with our bungling of the Dardanelles enterprise, which is alluded to as having been "conceived in ignorance, and elaborated without conviction":—

Two factors, however, redeem the campaign from the opprobrium otherwise attaching to a venture for which, as must now be generally admitted, the subordination of military knowledge to the gambling instincts of politicians was responsible—the heroism of the troops who took part in it, and the unexplained success which attended their ultimate withdrawal. The nation is living in a glass house, and no stones must be thrown. The proposal that an attempt should be made to reach Constantinople through the Dardanelles was the subject of two or three months' cogitation on the part of the British Government and its advisers. They arrived at a decision which ran counter to Japanese experience and the long-considered views of the military experts of a minor Power. The scheme was put to the test and resulted in a costly failure. It is, perhaps, well that the nation should not overlook the failure in the satisfaction derived from the success of the final retirement. The Dardanelles operations are but an incident in the Near Eastern theatre of the war, and the campaign is not yet over. So far it has not been attended with any more success than that which marked the effort on the right flank of this Southern front. It remains full of difficulties and pitfalls, which can only be surmounted by the careful weighing of expert advice. If the lesson of the Dardanelles be taken to heart, the Allies will yet win through in the Balkans, and all will be well. But from the evil of a luckless adventure a still more permanent good may come, for nothing is more calculated to weld the Empire into a homogeneous unit than the memory of the heroism with which the supreme sacrifice was made by our fighting men from home and overseas on Gallipoli.

The Fate of Belgrade.

The *Fortnightly Review* (February) contains an interesting article by a Serbian officer on the fate of Serbia's capital. The first portion of this article deals with events prior to the Bulgarian invasion, but the most interesting part is that which narrates the actual happenings in the city at the time of the attack. This writer confirms the report that the fire of the Huns was directed upon the main road by which the hapless women and children were trying to escape. The following paragraph refers to the first German prisoners who were captured on their arrival:—

It gave me a curious sensation to set eyes on these fellows after having read so much about them, and seen so many pictures of them in the English papers. I spoke to several of them—some were Berliners, some Hamburgers, and it was astonishing how cool they kept when I told them they were the biggest swine on God's earth. I told one of them to take off his dirty helmet, which he did after being induced to hurry up about it by a kick on the latter end. I tore off the khaki cover and took the eagle with its inscription, "Mit Gott für König und Vaterland," which I shall preserve as a souvenir of the first Reichsdeutschers captured on Serbian soil. They have managed to crush Serbia for the moment by dint of overwhelming numbers and unlimited artillery, but this eagle will remind me that we kept them at bay as long as was humanly possible.

The Future of Serbia.

Under the above heading M. Pavlé Popovic, Professor of Literature, Belgrade University, contributes an article to a recent number of the *Morning Post*. The first portion of his article deals with what Serbia has done; our extracts are from the latter portion:—

I wish especially to emphasise that England . . . has every interest in assisting my country in her aspirations. England has not realised till now the importance of Serbia. She needed the whole Serbian tragedy to be enacted before her eyes for her to comprehend that, at the decisive moment, Serbia alone of all the Balkan States is ready to fight at her side, no matter what the cost. Serbia must needs drain the cup of poison to its dregs for this country to understand that it is she who holds the gate of Britain's Eastern Empire. For she is indeed the holder of that gate, and it was not till she had fallen that England began to see that Egypt was threatened from that quarter. It has been said that the first German guns fired across the Danube were aimed not at Serbia but at Egypt, and the saying is the bare truth.

No one knows what will be the extent of victory. If the Allies enter Berlin as conquerors they can dismember Germany at their leisure. If, however, they merely expel the foe from the countries he is now occupying, their greatest object will be to prevent Germany from being a permanent danger to them. And wherein lies this danger: for England especially? It is one that threatens the British Eastern possessions, and them alone. Germany is forcing open the gateway to the East that she may threaten the British Empire. Let you, then, close that gate with strong steel bars, and as for Serbia, who holds the key, make her so strong that she can successfully resist any German aggression in the future. In doing that you will be performing an act of justice. You will also be saving your prestige, which has been—am I allowed to say it?—badly shaken in the Balkans, where it was hoped you would have acted with greater energy. You will also safeguard your vast interests.

The writer says that it is to England that his country looks for the greatest support in its aspirations. Our last quotation is of the sentences which conclude the article:—

While Serbia bars the road to the East against the Germans, Bulgaria throws it open. All that Serbia strives to do for England, Bulgaria destroys. Bulgaria is England's only inveterate enemy in the Balkans, as Serbia is her only faithful friend. And as England's paramount interest is to close the gateway to the East, it is likewise her interest not only to strengthen Serbia, but also to weaken Bulgaria. Never again commit the error of demanding Macedonia for Bulgaria, but force Bulgaria to restore to Serbia all that of which she has so treacherously robbed her. It is your duty to make Bulgaria powerless to work evil on England and on the Allies. If you cannot be sure of entering Berlin, you can be absolutely sure of entering Sofia and crushing Bulgaria. This also must be the first objective of the Allies' armies.

M. Venizelos.

Mr. Martin H. Donohoe, cabling from Athens to the *Daily Chronicle* (February 14), says that the newspapers are busily discussing the probability of the return to political life of M. Venizelos. Mr. Donohoe continues:—

M. Venezelos, whom I saw to-day, assured me that he has no intention at the present moment of departing from the policy of aloofness which he decided upon a couple of months ago. The Nationalists at that time agreed upon a certain line of action. They had abstained from going to the polls, and the electors abstained from voting. The deadlock was to be continued until the Nationalists decided otherwise.

Their leader said that he took so little interest in the doings of the present assembly that he did not even trouble to read the published reports of its deliberations.

The financial question is again troubling Greece. The Government, after long deliberation, is casting about for new means of raising the financial wind.

Rigorous economy is to be practised in the public service by the suppression of a number of posts. It has been decided to tax war profits on the system adopted by England.

Articles to Note.

"Montenegrin Characteristics and Curiosities." By J. K. Carrington (illustrated), in the *Badminton Magazine* (February).

"The Coming Campaign." By Colonel F. N. Maude, C.B., in the *Sunday Times* (February 13).

"John Payne," in the *Birmingham Daily Post* (February 15).

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of the "NEAR EAST" to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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DR. REEVES ON THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE.

On February 7, at the London School of Economics, the Hon. W. Pember Reeves, Ph.D., commenced a course of addresses dealing with the origin and development of the Balkan States. His Excellency the Greek Minister was in the chair.

Dr. Reeves said he was going to tell the story of one of the longest, darkest and most lamentable tragedies in the history of the human race, to tell how peoples not behindhand in intellect, industry or manly qualities, comprising some of the most gifted members of the human race, members of a State the largest, most powerful, most highly civilised, and most prosperous in the world gradually fell from their high estate. They were broken down, he thought, not mainly through crimes of their own, but because they were worn out by centuries of incessant conflict with their barbarous enemies. They fell under the control of another great Power, not without its good qualities; but just as the Byzantine Empire was essentially civilised, Christian and European, so the Turkish Empire was essentially Oriental, barbaric and corrupt.

Dr. Reeves showed by a map the extent of the Byzantine Empire in the year 1030 A.D., when it covered what are now the Balkan States, Asia Minor, and the extreme south-east of Italy; Crete and Cyprus being included, but not the island of Sicily. He said the territory that Constantinople then ruled over either directly or as vassal States had an area of about 600,000 square miles. It was the strongest and most civilised, or, judged by a modern standard, the least poor, least barbaric and least unhappy State of those days. It had a remarkably good army, mostly composed of native soldiers, and the one good navy of the Middle Ages. It had the one well-organised civil service of those days. Its legal system is still the admiration of jurists. Throughout the Middle Ages the merchant, contractor, property owner, or ordinary simple citizen could on the whole rely on getting something like justice in the courts of Byzantium. As a centre of trade Constantinople is still important; but in those days when Vikings had driven commerce from the Atlantic and the Barbary corsairs had driven it from the Western Mediterranean, it was quite unrivalled. There were important manufactures of silk and other articles in various cities. The arts were developed to a very high degree, the greatest being architecture. The best architects of Western Europe do not to-day disdain to copy Byzantine models.

Among the causes of internal decay that Dr. Reeves enumerated as assisting the enemy from without were the ravages of plagues, which swept away sometimes a third of the population, and the tendency for the land of the country to fall into the hands of great families. Thus the rural population, from whom the army and navy were recruited, decayed, whilst the quarrels and ambitions of the great families were frequently the cause of civil war. Religious differences also were a common cause of dissension. One of these, the great iconoclast controversy, led to great hostility to the Byzantine Empire on the part of the Roman Catholic Church.

The chairman, in moving a vote of thanks to the lecturer, took the occasion to add some remarks. His Excellency said that the bitterness of the Popes was really because the Eastern Church would not acknowledge their domination. Constantinople would probably not have fallen to the Turks had it not been for the weakening effect produced by the Crusaders, who went to the Holy Land, traversing the Byzantine Empire, plundering and dstroying on their way. Their effort culminated in the so-called Fourth Crusade. On this occasion mercenaries hired by Venice never went to the Holy Land at all, but they attacked and took Constantinople, and there they remained. It was the greatest buccaneering expedition known to history. They did not remain more than sixty years, but the devastation they caused was so great that the Byzantine Empire never entirely recovered.

Dr. Reeves delivered his second lecture on Monday last, telling of the various invasions of Russians, Bulgars, Serbs, Normans and, finally, Turks. He said that among the chief causes that had brought about the Empire's downfall was the fact that it was a despotism. Whenever the Government was in incapable hands the country seemed to be paralysed; but, curiously enough, although there were revolts of the people and civil wars among rival pretenders to the throne, it did not seem to occur to anybody to change the form of government. The rivalry of Venice and Genoa with Constantinople was another factor that contributed to the downfall of the empire. Long before the Turks took Constantinople the empire had been reduced to the mere shadow of its former self. There was only a small patch of territory around Constantinople and a strip in the centre and south of what is now Greece that still acknowledged the emperor's authority, altogether about 12,000 square miles. Besides this there was an independent Christian community in Armenia. All the rest of the empire had fallen under the Turk, or was ruled by Serb or other non-Greek races. For about a hundred years nothing but the strength of the Constantinople fortifications prevented the city from falling into the hands of the Turks. Certain critical historians had expanded that fact into a theory that nothing but the military strength of Constantinople enabled the Byzantine empire to exist for eight or nine hundred years; but during almost the whole of that time the empire, though paralytic at moments when an incapable sovereign was on the throne, was never lacking in virility, but kept up its existence by hard fighting. The empire owed much of its undeserved repute for effeminacy to the fact that instead of going out in a blaze of glory it had been its fate to linger on.

EXCAVATIONS AT KNOSSOS.

On Thursday of last week, at University College, Dr. R. M. Burrows delivered a lecture on "Recent Discoveries in Crete." At the outset, Dr. Burrows remarked that he was present to take the place of Dr. Ernest Gardner, who was doing valuable work in the Near East. The war, he said, had practically put a stop to excavations in Crete during the last two years; he would deal with discoveries made within the last four or five years in the Palace of Knossos, under the direction of Sir Arthur Evans and the British School at Athens. The restorations made in the stairways of the Palace had been quite successful, but he could hardly say that about the way in which the frescoes had been restored. The crystalline slabs were very soft, and had been covered with plaster to protect them from the Cretan storms, which from the days of St. Paul to our own time had been noted for their violence. In the recent excavations the plaster had had to be cut off.

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DIRECTORY

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Roumania continues to be regarded in Germany as a "party to be suborned." What a mistake the Boches are making! Elsewhere our Bucharest Correspondent gives some particulars anent the German grain deal. It will be remembered that the enemy bought (*sic*) 50,000 trucks of cereals, two of the conditions being that the conclusion of the sale should take place within five months, and that the Boches should supply the empty trucks for transport purposes. The latter condition was wisely imposed by Roumania because if her trucks had been sent over the frontier they would simply have been commandeered by the robbers.

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Now, 50,000 trucks in five months means 10,000 trucks per month, or, roughly, 300 trucks per day. Up to the end of January only 600 trucks had been exported, instead of, roughly, 6,000 trucks, at which rate the Roumanian agriculturist is doomed to keep his grain for years before it is paid. This is one instance of German bluff and insincerity, because never for a moment must it be supposed that Germany really intended to fulfil her part of the contract. She merely wished to create a good impression in Roumania.

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In the meantime we bought and *paid for* 30,000 trucks of cereals in Roumania. This seems to have upset the Boches considerably. By offering to pay bigger prices for the cereals already sold to us, they hoped to get the Roumanian seller to cancel his contract and re-sell to Germany. But the Roumanian is not to be caught napping. "A bird in the hand," quoth he, and he pointed to Germany's purchase of 600 trucks in lieu of 6,000 in January according to contract terms. Not disheartened, the German Government created a bogus syndicate which was to buy grain heavily immediately, and at wonderful prices throughout Roumania —100,000 trucks of this and 100,000 trucks of that indiscriminately. Fortunately for Roumania, the trick was discovered by the authorities, and satisfactorily quashed, as our Correspondent shows, by forbidding the sale of cereals except through the Central Commission for Export.

***

Nothing daunted, the Germans seem to have persisted, according to a *Times* telegram from Bucharest. They immediately proceeded to make an attempt to bribe the Central Commission (£60,000 was to be the price) to annul the British contract, which, of course, was scornfully rejected. Now, according to a Copenhagen message to the *Morning Post*, "the Duke of Mecklenburg has left Berlin by the Orient express, travelling as the German Emperor's envoy to Bucharest. His special mission is to offer Roumania a loan of £12,000,000." In other words, another bribe, and one likely to be as sterile of results as the previous clumsy attempts to corrupt a nation which has, and will continue to have, a hearty contempt for the underhand tricks of Potsdam suborners.

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"W. J. C." has contributed to *Blackwood's Magazine* a most instructive article on "Germany in Asia Minor," to which copious references has been made elsewhere. I wish, however, to emphasise one or two points in these columns.

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In the first place, the author comes to the conclusion that, owing in a great measure to lack of transport, the Boches will not be able to obtain those supplies of cotton, grain, and copper from Asia Minor which they speculated on. Admittedly, the three articles in question are present in considerable quantities in Asiatic Turkey, but there are few roads and fewer railways. Besides, and as regards cotton, the writer of the article suspects that, although greater quantities of cotton are grown than is generally known, a great deal of this will be hoarded by growers in order to escape Government requisitioning —a possibility which, to put it mildly, is highly probable. However, the writer's conclusions that Germany will not be able to import large quantities of supplies from Asia Minor are not admitted by many who have had experience of the country, and in this connection I draw my readers' attention to a letter from Sir William Willcocks which appeared in *The Times* a few days ago, dated from Cairo. "We have telegrams from London," he writes, "telling us that German experts do not expect much cotton from Turkey, but look upon Bulgaria as a better field. This is one of those misleading statements of which hundreds emanate from Germany. Turkey is capable of supplying a great part of the cotton, some of the copper, and large quantities of meat; and no doubt Germany would like to see us sleeping over Turkey and wasting our energies attacking Bulgaria. The Allies should devote every energy they possess to put it out of the power of Turkey to fill up the gap in the blockade of the Central Powers."

***

Secondly, we have the question of the Baghdad Railway. In view of the fact that Erzerum has fallen, "W. J. C.'s" remarks on the subject acquire a startling significance. He argues that the *tracé* of the Baghdad Railway, if it had followed the natural inclinations of the Turks and not been determined by Pan-Germans bent on furthering their own aims in Egypt, would have followed the northern route from Eskishehr, viâ Angora and Sivas, with a branch to Erzeroum, and not the southern route, which was chosen by the Germans with ulterior motives inimical to the true interests of the Turkish Empire. The result of this dastardly intrigue on the part of the Bôches at Constantinople is that Erzeroum, hundreds of miles from the nearest railhead (at Angora) has been lost to Turkey. Not for a single moment do I regret it, but I should like to point out to all level-headed Turks that when the day of reckoning comes, and they are in a position to settle accounts with their tyrant oppressors, Enver, Goltz, and Company, they must not forget to charge them with having intentionally betrayed the Empire with a view to serve their own miserable ends.

***

Another point in connection with the Baghdad Railway is the question as to how much of the line, to the west of Adana through the Taurus and to the east through the Amanus Mountains, has been completed. How is work proceeding in the two big tunnels? According to the writer under review, they should be nearing completion. A writer in the *Engineer* ("The Baghdad Railway," February 4, 1916) takes a different view. "It is claimed," he says, "that the great tunnel (Bagtche, in the Amanus Mountains) has been completely pierced, but there is reason to believe that the statement is untrue, and is destined to remain unfulfilled for some time yet. . . . It is certain that shortly before the war broke out there was a very considerable amount of work remaining to be done. . . . At that period the Karapounar-Dorak section, one of the shortest, barely more than 34 kiloms. in length, was just on the point of completion, and this comprised only one out of the four tunnels (between Bagtche Station and Islahieh). It is this section of the line which offers the most serious engineering difficulties, necessitating great patience and enormous outlays of labour and capital. At this time of the year, moreover, the whole region of the country in which work is being carried out is subject to devastating storms, heavy rainfalls, mountain torrents and avalanches, landslides and heavy falls of rock. Thus the report of 'rapid progress' even now may be very seriously discounted." We have here two varying opinions. As regards the big tunnel through the Taurus, the writer in the *Engineer* expresses no opinion.

***

In last week's reference in these columns to Mr. H. Charles Woods' lecture before the Royal Geographical Society, the lecturer's name was inadvertently given as H. Chester Woods—a printer's slip which I feel sure was noticed by most of my readers. While on this subject, I may mention that the belief I expressed as regards the similar gauge of the Roumanian and Bulgarian sections of the Dobruja Railway is supported by the lecturer, who tells me that he has every reason to believe that they are "of the same—the normal Continental—gauge."

***

Last week Reuter's Cairo correspondent cabled through a remarkably short, but thoroughly reassuring, message to the effect that the Egyptian Government was actively pursuing the liquidation of enemy firms. After nineteen months of hesitation! Nevertheless, to judge by our Cairo Correspondent, Weinrich and Company, almost next door to the thoroughly British Turf Club, continues to sell Austro-German goods, and to display a signboard informing the effendis that he is a purveyor to the dethroned rebel, Abbas Hilmi.

***

A Cairo telegram states that an exhaustive inquiry into the fire which occurred on January 5 at Messrs. Cook's yard, and in which three tourist steamers were burned, has resulted in the outbreak being attributed to accidental causes. The loss is estimated at £44,000.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Truth About Asia Minor.

German Intrigues, Schemes, and Pretensions.

The current issue of *Blackwood's Magazine* contains an exceptionally well-informed article on "Germany in Asia Minor," by "W. J. C.," of which the following is a summary :—

In the introductory paragraph the author emphasises Germany's present dearth of grain, cotton, copper, and men, and states that the authorities are holding out hopes to the deluded public that, by reason of direct railway communication between Berlin and Constantinople, these commodities (including men, which are only "fodder for cannon") will be placed at the disposal of the Fatherland. The writer analyses the extent to which Germany is justified in expecting to obtain the above raw produce from Asia Minor, and enumerates the products of Asia Minor — vines, oranges, tobacco, rice, sugar-canes. "But," he says, "it is more especially a country of grain crops—of maize and wheat and barley of the best."

Wheat.

"Most of the wheat is the planting of small peasant farmers, who merely scratch the ground with a wooden plough. They know little about manuring. Their rotation of crops is generally the alternation of barley and wheat. They sow broadcast from a wooden bowl, and call 'four fold' a good return. They grow for their own consumption and to pay their annual tax. The tax-farmer takes his portion of the crop, and it is this tithe, or a part of it, which finds its way to the towns and cities and reaches the coast for shipment. With proper cultivation the country would be a granary." Nevertheless, he argues, "one does not see how Germany is to secure any wheat at present from Asia Minor. Wheat is there, but she cannot get it. Samsoun on the Black Sea, 400 miles from Constantinople, is a great wheat port, but is blockaded by the Russians. The grain must go by sea or not at all, for there is no railway within 200 miles. If the Goeben and Breslau had succeeded in controlling the Black Sea, as was intended, more wheat might have been available in Constantinople than now."

Cotton.

Cotton is, however, the crop of Asia Minor at which Germany looks with chief interest. "Perhaps we are inclined to underestimate the amount of cotton grown. The quantity exported before the war is no indication of the quantity grown, for the reason that Asia Minor is a cotton-using country in a peculiar way. Raw cotton is the poor man's wool, which he uses for many purposes. . . . It is cultivated along all the southern and south-western coast for a distance exceeding 800 miles. Most is produced, I believe, on the Cilician plain, where cotton-growing, cleaning, and spinning are the chief industries of the district. Large towns like Adana and Tarsus live by cotton. It is grown also round about Adalia. And when you reach the Ægean coast you are in a country that has long traditions of cotton-growing and prosperity derived therefrom. The valley of the Meander, of the Cayster, Hermus, and Cacus, thickly set with sites bearing famous names, have cotton-growing lands never yet used to the extent they might be. Cotton is grown also on the south side of the Sea of Marmora, but in a half-hearted fashion. The full cotton-growing capacity of Asia Minor is, in fact, much greater than the quantity now produced would cause one to suppose. . . . It is likely that the crop has been commandeered at a normal price. In this way the crops of the larger growers would be secured; but the price would rise to the native consumer, and there would be cotton hiding and smuggling at once. . . .

"Considering these difficulties, and that the cotton area is only partially used, and that much of it is in small scattered districts—some of them not served by rail—the present supply would not be great. It would be no substantial proportion for German requirements for explosives."

Copper.

When it comes to acquiring copper in Asia Minor, "the immediate difficulties are of the same order as for grain and cotton, but even worse. There is much copper in the country, though not exactly available. The mines are widely scattered over the country. On a large map of Asia Minor one sees various places with 'Maden' or 'Madenli' as second name—'mine' or 'place of mines.' They are the sites of lead, silver, or copper mines, these being the minerals best understood in this land. Many of the old mines have been abandoned; seldom, however, from the ore giving out. Water may have come in beyond the power of primitive pumping apparatus to keep down, though as the mines are generally driven into mountain sides this cause is infrequent. More often the royalty payable to the State has been advanced till the margin of profit disappeared. For royalties are not of necessity strictly proportioned to the value of mineral obtained over a long period; they are based rather on the principle of getting as much as possible from the miners. A royalty of a tenth soon becomes one of a seventh if the miners do well. If they still show prosperity, it goes up again till only the equivalent of a bare wage is left them. The most usual cause, however, of a mine being abandoned is the disappearance of forest, for wood is the fuel used in smelting. A large, rich mine long worked clears the country of trees over a wide surrounding area."

The largest copper mine in Asia Minor is that at Arghana, in the east, near to Kharput. "There is another large one twenty or thirty miles inland from Imeboli on the Black Sea, on the way to Kastamouni. There is yet another somewhere behind Trebizond. Scattered over the country, worked, unworked, or only fitfully worked, are many smaller ones. Copper is produced by these mines in driblets, though Arghana might be one of the greatest mines in the world. It is the truth to speak of Asia Minor as a country rich in this mineral. The quantity now produced is only a fraction of that which capital and scientific mining would extract from existing workings; and one often hears of new copper lodes being found.

"'Copper? Yes,' said a mining expert who had just returned from the arduous journey needed to examine one of these deposits. 'But who is to build a hundred miles of mountain road, and a dozen bridges, and drive a couple of tunnels to get it to the coast?'

"That commentary applies to most of the country's agricultural and mineral products at the present time. Both sorts exist; both might be vastly increased. But neither could be moved in any quantity to a railway, and the sea-routes are closed.

Transport.

"For, after all, distances in the fertile territory of Turkey in Asia are respectable. As the crow flies, it is 700 miles from Constantinople to the nearest part of the Russian frontier, and 900 to the Persian. In the same direct way Baghdad is distant from the capital 1,000 miles, and the Persian Gulf 1,500. From the Black Sea to the Mediterranean is a flight of 400 miles. Putting aside Arabia and Syria, the fertile remainder of Turkey in Asia is a great solid block of territory broken by no deep gulfs, and traversed by no navigable river except the Tigris. The Sihon and Jihun, in Cilicia, might be made navigable, but are not. The Kizil Irmak, or Halys, greatest river of Asia Minor, has a precarious boat traffic on its lower seventy miles, but that is all downward.

"It is not generally realized how serious for Turkey, and therefore also for German interests, is Russian control of the Black Sea . . . . . Hostile military descent close to the capital becomes a possibility; the easiest routes for supplying Turkish armies against the Caucasian frontier are barred; large sources of food supply are cut off entirely. . . . . With the Black Sea closed to Turkish supply-ships and transports, Erzeroum becomes extremely inaccessible. The best other route is by rail from Constantinople to Angora, followed by six hundred miles of road. Supplementary routes are served by the Baghdad Railway—such as from Eregli (on the northern slope of Taurus) through Kaisariyeh and Sivas, which involves the same length of road; and from Adana and Aleppo, each giving about a hundred miles less of footwork, but over worse roads and through some frightful country. Beginning somewhere west of Kastamouni, a wide belt of coastal country in Northern Asia Minor, growing deeper as it passes eastward through Sivas, depends entirely upon the sea for sending its products west.

Roads.

Passing on to the question of roads, the writer refers to a peculiarity of the country, namely, that considerable ports and towns "whose annual imports and exports are valued at millions of pounds sterling" are "not only without a yard of railway line, but with only one highway to bring in and take away merchandize." Moreover, "you find also great trade routes from east and west and north and south conveying on a single pass, and making it the only passage between areas of territory great as considerable countries. Such a pass is that of the Cilician Gates, the highway through the Taurus Mountains, and only trade route between east and west and sea and interior for two hundred miles.

"The roads of Asia Minor are seldom metalled. The Baghdad road is paved or metalled from Samsoun to beyond Sirvas, a distance of 300 miles, but that is the greatest length of formed road in the country. The Cilician Gates road is also well graded and metalled where passing through the mountains, but only indifferently so when clear of them. For a few miles out of cities and large towns there is usually an attempt to provide a hard surface of some kind on the main roads; once clear of these stretches, however, the way is merely the track taken by traffic. It turns aside to take fresh ground; it spreads in lines of wheel-ruts for hundreds of yards in width. It is a bog in winter in which vehicles are sometimes left; it is a ploughed-up field in summer whose surface is ground to dust. Efforts have been made lately to improve some of the chief roads, especially in the south, by remaking and rolling with steam-roller. Around Aleppo are long stretches of highway that would be creditable even to Europe.

"Most of the country's merchandize is carried on the backs of camels, horses, and donkeys, which need no road. One of the busy trade routes of the country goes north from the Cilician Gates towards Kaisariyeh by a mere narrow bridle-track no vehicle could follow, yet within sight you may sometimes count three or four hundred loaded animals . . . . They carry grain and flour and paraffin thus as well as silk and carpets. Agricultural produce and minerals cannot be carried far for export when the freight for four days' journey by ox-cart is one pound sterling per ton. . . . There will be no great exportation of grain or anything else until many more railways have been constructed than at present."

Railways.

Apart from its bad roads and bridle paths, Asia Minor possesses about 4,000 miles of railway, the various lines being linked together—or about to be linked together—to form a continuous system. They form an interesting feature. "Not only have the lines of later construction been laid out to serve the political rather than the commercial purposes of the State, but veiled under these purely Turkish aims is something else. These later railways are designed to serve the political ambitions of a foreign State. . . . In one way or another . . . they have been designed to serve pan-German ambitions." In other words, they are German, and not Turkish, strategic lines aimed at Great Britain, as the following examination clearly proves.

"Looking at the earlier railways of the country," says the writer, "motives entirely Turkish are apparent in their construction; they are, indeed, well laid out in every interest of the Turkish Empire. With Haidar Pasha on the Bosphorus as terminus, a main trunk line goes eastward along the northern

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shore of the Gulf of Ismid, and then turns south to Eskishehr, 150 miles from Constantinople. At this point it divides, and one trunk line, aiming for the Russian frontier in Caucasia, goes due east, and the other continues southward to tap rich districts of the west and south and south-east. The eastward trunk line was taken to Angora, another 150 miles; and there railhead has remained ever since, in spite of good intentions to carry it forward 250 miles to Sivas. The other trunk line, however, had better fortune, and in continuation became the Baghdad Railway. It was first, however, carried still farther south to Afium Karahissar, and there linked with the considerable railway system which has Smyrna for its centre. With lines built and owned by English and French companies, the Smyrna district has long had the best and most extensive railways in the country—commercial railways in every sense. . . .

"In earlier plans for the Baghdad Railway the southern trunk line passing through Afium Karahissar was not intended to be part of the scheme at all. The railway to Baghdad was planned as a continuation of the Angora trunk line. It was to pass through Sivas and Kharput, and thus give comparatively close approach to the Russian frontier. But the Kharput route was not the German route. It lay 250 miles north of the German route, which aimed to pass through Cilicia on the southern coast, and Aleppo, thus holding out a hand to the Syrian railways, and a railway to the Egyptian frontier and Messa. And this southern route, with all its possibilities, was the one eventually adopted.

"So now the Baghdad Railway goes from Constantinople through Konia, the old Seljuk capital, to the Taurus Mountains, and there passes down the historic gorge which has seen the march of so many conquerors and armies. It leaves the Cilician Gates—the narrow cleft followed by the highroad between two precipices, from which the pass takes its name—eight or ten miles upon its right and seeks the Cilician plain by a great tunnel, still incomplete. Then for a hundred miles it traverses this rich plain, passing Adana on the way, and linking with a branch railway to the port of Mersina. At Baghtche it leaves the plain by another great tunnel—likewise incomplete at this time. Thenceforward its way to Baghdad is free of obstructions. The Euphrates is already bridged, and long stretches of the line are completed beyond the river. At Aleppo it connects with the Syrian railways, and so with the line which goes down to the Egyptian frontier near Akaba on the Red Sea, and thence to Medina. The scheme of unbroken communication between Constantinople and Baghdad and the Egyptian frontier is not very far from completion; and yet the work would seem to have fallen much behind the date intended. One can scarcely doubt that for certain of its inner purposes it was to have been ready a year ago.

"Just how much German influence had to do with originating the railway from Damascus to the Holy Cities of Arabia is not easy to guess. The cost of construction was defrayed largely by subscription among Moslems. The line was, however, laid out and the construction supervised by German engineers—to that extent German influence is apparent. It goes east of Jordan and the Dead Sea, as if avoiding Palestine and the Mediterranean coast. Of this railway, the best that can be said is that it is a pilgrim way. It opens up no country of agricultural or mineral value, joins no great cities on the way, and does not even help Palestine.

"The Baghdad line, however, is of another sort. Unquestionably it follows the best and natural route between Constantinople and Baghdad. But for a Turkey not under German influence, cherishing no fantastic ambitions, intending peace with all its might yet keeping a watchful eye upon its hereditary enemy on the Caucasus frontier, the Baghdad Railway would have gone the northern way through Kharput and opened the rich grain country between Angora and Sivas.

Cilician Plain.

"As it is, with the railway passing through the Cilician plain, that district has become the chief field for German capital and industry in the country. Perhaps it holds out more opportunities for the investment of capital than any other area of equal size in Asia Minor. It is extremely fertile, and grows everything from wheat to cotton, and yet is only partially cultivated. . . . Adana stands in the middle of the plain, thirty miles from the sea and fifty from its port, Mersina, to which a branch railway runs that once was English, but now has been acquired by the Baghdad Railway Company.

"The Cilician section of the Baghdad Railway is the most vulnerable to attack of any between Constantinople and Baghdad or Constantinople and Akaba. For fifty miles it runs comparatively near to the sea, across level, open country. At Adana it is only thirty miles from the coast, and the large bridge by which it crosses the Sihon or Sarus is open to aerial attack from the sea. So also is the considerable bridge by which the Jihun or Pyramus is crossed near Missis, twenty miles beyond Adana. And this bridge cannot be more than fifteen or sixteen miles from the head of the Gulf of Alexandretta, with the low hills of Jebul Nur intervening. In fact, the railway for thirty-five miles beyond Missis runs nearer still to the sea, and is only ten or twelve miles from it at Toprak Kale, due north from the Gulf of Alexandretta." A branch line links up Toprak Kale with the port of Alexandretta.

From the foregoing it can easily be concluded that the whole of the Cilician section of the Baghdad Railway must be the scene of much German activity just now. "Not only is it exposed to attack, but the two incomplete tunnels—of the Taurus, and Arslanli Bel, under the Amanus Mountains, a hundred miles east of Adana—are the only gaps in direct communication between Constantinople and Syria, and far on towards Baghdad. The Taurus tunnel had not been begun four years ago. Its course had been decided, and boring was about to begin, when the discovery of rich mineral lodes near by caused a deviation to be made, that they might come within railway land—that, at least, was the local story. At the same time the Amanus tunnel was said to have advanced half a mile from each end. Much tunnelling can be done in four years; and at worst the tunnel is not more than five miles in length. Both tunnels, one thinks, must be very near completion by this time. But while still unfinished, each is turned by a good road, especially that through the Cilician Gates pass in the Taurus. The road distance is considerable, however—as much, perhaps, as forty miles. The road over Arslanli Bel is almost direct, and the break here—if it exists—cannot be more than a dozen miles; and the pass is a low one.

"For present German purposes the whole value of the Baghdad and Syrian railways hangs upon this sensitive length of line between the Taurus and Amanus Mountains—the hundred miles across the Cilician plain. And not only the railway passes through this neck of a bottle. Following the same course is the highway between Asia Minor and Mesopotamia and Syria. The natural features of the country are such that the only alternative road-route lies through Kaisariyeh, a hundred and fifty miles to the north, and thence eastward and southward through the wild mountains of Albistan. Turco-German armies in Mesopotamia and Syria have risks and difficulties behind them as well as in front."

"Cannon Fodder."

The German expectation to draw armies from Asia Minor to bleed to death in the service of the Kaiser is thoroughly examined by "W. J. C.," who comes to the conclusion that "one does not well see how even a million Ottoman troops are to be furnished at this stage. It can be done only by including boys and old men, as well as Greeks and Armenians of doubtful value. It would be no army of the sort hoped for in Germany. It would be, moreover, an army at heart as hostile to its German allies as to the enemy; perhaps more so."

Conclusion.

"Altogether," says the writer, in conclusion, "it is certain that German prospects in Turkey in Asia, whether of aggrandisement, or of gaining immediate supplies, or of finding armies, have not the promise of their outward appearance. Not under such conditions as the present was the political straddle from Berlin to Baghdad to be made. It has to be attempted before its time."

TRADE NOTES.

Egypt.

The Secretary of the Direction Générale des Douanes Egyptiennes, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 250 pairs of boots. Date, March 8.

The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of equipment, clothing, material, paraffin, milk in tins, etc., necessary for Central Stores for one year from April 1, 1916. Date, March 20.

The Ports and Lights Administration, Alexandria, invite tenders for the supply of petroleum and benzine required for the financial year 1916-1917. Specification may be seen, and all information obtained, at the above office, on any day, Sundays and official holidays excepted, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Date, March 20.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Public Works for the supply of 320 tons of "extra hard pitch" required during the financial year 1916-17. Samples shall be submitted at the Roads Service Depot, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, before noon on March 1.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Public Works for the supply of 50 tons of natural asphalt required during the financial year 1916-1917. Samples shall be deposited at the Roads Service Depot, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, before noon on February 29.

Tenders are invited by the Director, Technical Schools, Cairo, for the supply of raw materials required for 1916-1917, such as wood, hardware, paints, oils, cement, bricks, building stones, sand, quicklime, etc. Date, February 29.

Sudan.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on February 29, for the supply of timber required by the above Department in 1916.

Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W., and from the Agent, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria.

Malta.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies notify that sealed tenders (in duplicate) will be received by the Treasury, Valletta, Malta, for the supply of stationery for the Government of Malta. Forms of tender and specifications may be obtained and samples of stationery may be inspected at the office of the Crown Agents for the Colonies (Pattern Room), Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W. Date, March 2.

Greece.

The attention of the Board of Trade has been called to a practice on the part of shippers of consigning their goods to his Majesty's Consular officers in Greece and sending to them bills of lading and invoices, for delivery to third parties, and even requesting them to make arrangements for transhipment where necessary. It is impossible for his Majesty's Consular officers, who are already overburdened with other duties, to undertake work of this character; and shippers are accordingly warned not to consign their goods to his Majesty's Consular officers in Greece unless expressly so authorised or directed by his Majesty's Government.

H.M. Consul at Piræus reports that the Greek Government *Gazette* of December 23/January 5, contains a call for tenders by the Harbour Board of Piræus for the construction of works generally in the port of Piræus at the estimated cost of 3,500,000 drachmae (about £140,000 at par).

The "cahier des charges" and all other documents and plans can be inspected at the office of the Harbour Board at Piræus, at which address tenders will be received up to February 21/March 5.

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Engineering Notes.

Balkan Rivers.

In addition to his reference to the Danube in the lecture before the Royal Geographical Society on the 7th inst., Mr. H. Charles Woods passed some general remarks on Balkan rivers in general, and said that partly owing to the great difference between the amount of water in most of the rivers after the melting of the snows, and after the dry season, and partly owing to the lack of public works, the rivers of the Balkan Peninsula, except the Danube, the Sava and the Bojana, are not systematically navigated. The Bojana, which constitutes an outlet for Lake Scutari, flows into the Adriatic between the towns of Dulcigno and San Giovanni di Medua. When the river is full, and when there is enough water to get over the bar at its mouth, the river is navigable for small vessels as far as Oboti. Thence to the port of Scutari, there is only sufficient water for small stern-wheeled vessels, or for boats whose owners make their livelihoods by conveying passengers from lake and river vessels to the quay. Small barges or flat-bottomed boats may be seen drifting down the lower reaches of the Maritza, and the rivers of the Rhodope Balkans are utilised for floating logs and trees to the plain which skirts the Ægean Sea; but the rivers have not really been used for the furtherance of trade.

Combined Reaping and Threshing Machine.

Hesiod in his didactic poems on agriculture, from which much of our knowledge of farming operations in ancient times is derived, exhorts his never-do-well brother to "strip to plough, strip to sow, and strip to reap" promptly, and in the proper time, for he warns him that the farmer who neglects to do so "will have to sit or stoop to reap" (meaning, on account of the lowness of the ears, from neglected cultivation). Modern agricultural machines do not require the farmer to strip, for he can now plough and sow and reap by sitting comfortably on a seat, from which by handling a couple of small levers he controls the whole operation. Yet some of the implements described by Hesiod (850 B.C.) are still to be seen in extensive use throughout the East, while farming methods as prescribed in his "Work and Days" are adhered to with only slight alterations. From this it might be inferred that the people are averse to modern methods. Yet that is not the case, for there is ample evidence that they are more eager to adopt new mechanical methods than many people in the West. It is only a natural feeling of incredulity which discourages them, and that feeling American and German manufacturers succeeded in destroying (with good results for themselves) by placing implements and machinery on the spot and demonstrating their operation in a way that won even the most incredulous buyer. Proof of this is the great number of ploughing, sowing, reaping, threshing, and other agricultural machines which are annually imported from America, and, before the war, from Germany and Austria. Reaping and threshing machines are much appreciated by the Oriental agriculturists and farmers, but a machine that could do both operations at the same time would appeal to every farmer and landowner. Such a machine exists, and works, apparently, with great success. It is a combined reaping and threshing machine which also bags the grain. It is made in five sizes, all of which are drawn by horses, but an oil motor can be

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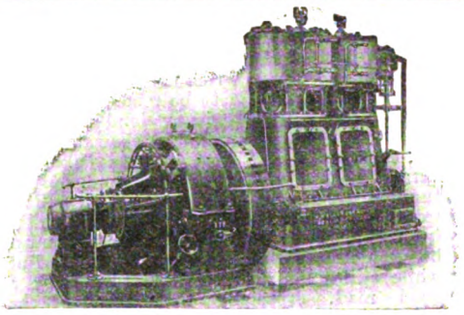

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fitted in any size for supplying the power to drive all the mechanism of the machine, and in that case only half of the number of horses are required; that is to say, merely for the purpose of pulling the machine through the standing corn. When the machine is in motion, the heads of grain are guided, by a comb fitted at the front, to the beaters, which strip them off (leaving the straw standing) and throw them partly threshed on a broad elevator, which carries them to a threshing drum. The grain and chaff fall from the drum on to riddles; the blast from a fan blows over the chaff, whilst the grain passes through the riddles to elevators, which carry it to a rotary screen. Herein small grain, weed seeds, etc., are separated from the plump grain, each being delivered into distinct boxes, from which they are transferred into bags. In spite of the number of operations involved, one man can drive the team and control all the operations of the machine. The average capacity of the machine is estimated at 2½ acres per foot of comb width per day—that is to say, a 5-ft. machine will harvest 12½ acres (or about 50 stremmata) per day; while a 9-ft. machine will deal with nearly double that acreage. The comb can be raised or lowered to suit the height of the crop that has to be reaped, and it is noteworthy that the driver of the machine sits in a position from which he can watch the whole progress of the grain, from the comb to the grain-box. To an Oriental farmer, the possibility of having his grain reaped and threshed at the same time is of great financial importance, and such a machine will appeal to him.

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GERMANY'S ROUMANIAN BLUFF.

More Facts About the Grain Deal.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, January 25.

The Roumanian agriculturist is beginning to see clearly in the matter of the sale of the 50,000 truckloads of grain to Germany.

Shortage of Trucks.

It will be remembered that the terms of the contract stipulated that Germany should send 250 empty trucks per day into the country for the transport of the cereals, commencing January 1. Accordingly some 4,000 trucks should have entered and left the country up to the present, whereas in reality the number of empty trucks that have arrived has barely reached 600.

Of course, military happenings in the Bukovina may account for some of the shortage, considering that of the 250 daily trucks 80 were to enter Roumania by way of Burdujeni. It is a matter, however, that Germany should have foreseen, and doubtless would have foreseen if she had been really anxious to acquire grain in Roumania. Thus, for instance, she might have insisted on exports viâ the Danube.

But, after all, the *bona-fide* purchase of Roumanian grain, as such, was not, perhaps, the leading motive of Germany's deal. As a matter of fact, two particular motives explain the purchase on the part of Germany. Firstly, the German public were to be reassured by the news that their Government was procuring food for them, small as the amount might be, because it showed that their wants were not being ignored or neglected. Secondly, the news would satisfy the Roumanian agriculturist for the time being, and, until such time as the sale had been completed, would to some degree act as a factor favouring neutrality.

What, on the other hand, was Great Britain's offer? Money down and delivery at leisure. The contrast between the two transactions needs no comment, nor need one insist on the general effect which the sale to England has produced in the country.

Bôche Agents Active.

Now, Austro-German agents are warning agriculturists not to be too hasty in offering their stock of grain to the Central Commission for sale to England, the reason given being that Germany will, without a doubt, shortly offer considerably better prices. Moreover, the Kaiser's agents are going even further. Without wasting any time, they have begun to buy directly from landowner and merchant, offering higher prices. They hope, in this way, to prevent Roumania from carrying out her part of the bargain with Great Britain.

These manœuvres show how hard Germany has been hit. They are ingenious bluff, but the Roumanian Government will never tolerate practices tending to prevent an official institution—such as the Central Commission for the export of grain—a party to a contract, from carrying out the terms of that contract.

The Council of Ministers has, therefore, passed a resolution whereby holders of grain which has not been placed at the disposal of the Central Commission cannot dispose of it except through the Commission in question.

January 24.

(Delayed in transmission.)

Austrian Schemers.

A few days ago it was reported that three Austrians, including the mayor, had been arrested at Ytzcani, on the charge of exporting gold into Roumania. Obtaining from the Wiener Bank Verein large amounts of gold for the alleged purpose of paying the export taxes of grain bought in Roumania (which are payable only in gold), these men introduced the same into this country, changed it into Roumanian *lei*—gaining, of course, by the exchange—and with the *lei* purchased Austrian *kronen*, which stand very low—thus realizing a double profit.

The good faith of the Wiener Bank Verein seems rather remarkable, for purchases of grain can only be effected in Germany (and presumably in Austria, where the German authorities seem to be all-powerful) through a special commisssion possessing a monopoly for this purpose, and presumably payments in gold can in consequence only be made on the authority of this commission.

The accounts given by persons arriving yesterday from Cernowitz indicate that the affair had assumed the proportions of a widespread organization, for they report the arrest of sixty persons in different towns of Bukovina. A banker from Suceava named Binder, reputed to be a multi-millionaire, shot himself when he was on the point of being arrested. Through the frontier ports of Ytzcani and Suceava alone, three million crowns are said to have been exported, the total sum of gold exported amounting to 18 million crowns.

COMMERCE IN TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, February 3.

The first through train from Berlin arrived at Constantinople on January 17, and left two days later on the return journey. The railway station at Stamboul was decorated for the occasion, and there was a band of music and much rejoicing and bluster. A special delegation was sent to Tchekmedjeh to meet the train, and Talaat and many others awaited its arrival at Stamboul.

The fact of a through train having arrived from Berlin seems to have created the impression amongst the Turks that Constantinople will no longer be deprived of the many necessaries of life, the want of which is being so badly felt. It is highly improbable that the single line through the Balkans will be able to do much more than provide the military with their own requirements. There is evidently some intention of importing coal into Constantinople from Germany, as Parliament has voted a law exempting duty on coal imported from Germany during the war.

Latest reports from Constantinople state that coal stocks had run very low, and very few trains were running on the Anatolian line, but, according to other reports, several vessels laden with coal had succeeded in reaching the Bosphorus from Zunguldak, convoyed by the Goeben and Breslau.

Far from Turkey being able to obtain provisions from the Central Powers as anticipated, the effect of the direct railway communication is more likely to deprive the capital of many things required there. Meat has doubled in price already owing to quantities of beef slightly salted having been exported from Constantinople. What available accommodation the railway can provide will undoubtedly be taken for Germany to suit her own purposes.

Produce Report.

Germany continues to buy mohair, and the price has touched 40 piastres the oke. Austria and Germany are credited with having bought about 60,000 bales during the past twelve months. The demand for this article has enabled the holders of stocks, and others, to reap handsome profits, and even higher prices are likely to be seen, considering that only about 15,000 bales are left in Turkey, and the new clip next May is likely to be below the average.

Canaryseed has also risen in price, and 60 paras per oke is obtainable in Constantinople, but purchases are doubtless being made by speculators with the view of holding stocks until exportation is possible, as this year's crop will evidently be very small, if there is any at all.

Opium is not in much demand, but the price has advanced to 250 piastres per oke. There is a great demand for valonea for Germany, and very high prices are being paid, but owing to difficulty of transport in Asia Minor, and as all traffic in the Marmora is paralysed through fear of submarines, very little valonea finds its way to Constantinople.

Bread has again been scarce in the capital, and is of very inferior quality, and there is evidently some difficulty in keeping the city supplied with the requisite quantity of wheat. Flour is selling at 10 piastres the oke.

Galata Tunnel.

The tunnel train between Galata and Pera has been running for some time with only a single car, owing to the weakness of the cables, but the *Hilal* announces that new cables have now arrived.

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Near East Markets.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, January 31.

There has been more rain, accompanied by heavy falls of snow in the hills, which have not only covered the heights, but also many of the lower spurs, reaching villages where it seldom lies. Winds blowing from the heights and from the Great Taurus range on the opposite coast have caused intense cold, which has even had fatal consequences. An unfortunate villager of the Kyrenia district, a mason by trade, who had been working in another part of the island, while returning to his village fell a victim in the early morning to the bitter cold, both he and the donkey he was riding being found dead in the road. There have, however, been plenty of fine sunny days. Wheat sowing has practically ended, and other crops are being put in. The Agricultural Department is encouraging, as far as means permit, the planting of trees and improved methods of grafting.

SUDAN NOTES.

The *Monthly Journal* of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce for January gives the following particulars concerning some of the Sudan's most important export articles:—

Ivory.

There is little business doing, arrivals are small, and the demand is only for large tusks, with prices from £E35 to £E42 for good soft sound tusks.

Cattle.

Market very dull, because of great difficulty in obtaining tonnage and lack of enquiries from Egypt.

Skins and Hides.

Prices for fresh slaughtered skins and hides are very high, and the demand very keen. Fresh sheepskins stand at P.T. 14 per piece and hides at P.T. 4.2 to P.T. 4.5 per oke. Arrivals from the White and Blue Nile of flint dry hides were plentiful and owing to the absence of any enquiry from Italy, and shipping difficulties the prices dropped P.T. 8 per oke unsorted. These qualities are neglected at present, and if any larger arrivals take place, the prices will drop further.

COTTON MARKET.

Liverpool. Thursday Night.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson telegraph:—

Egyptian Spot.—There has been a good demand this week, chiefly for export, and a large business has resulted. A big proportion of the bales for export consisted of Uppers, about fully good fair in quality. Quotations are advanced 55 points for Sakellarides and Abassi, 50 points for Upper, and 45 points for other descriptions. Estimated sales, including 170 bales London, are 7,800 bales.

Manchester.

There has been a slightly better demand this week, although the turnover has been unevenly distributed.

THE COTTON PEST.

Greek Expert's Claims.

On January 29, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, Mr. Nicholas Parachimonas, the well-known agricultural expert, read a paper before the Greek scientific society, the Ptolemys, of Alexandria, on the subject of the cotton-worm, all measures so far devised to combat which have proved a failure, and he made the important announcement that he had been successful in producing new varieties of

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cotton which ripen before they are liable to be attacked by the pest. Mr. Parachimonas stated that his experiments had extended over many years, and their results had entirely satisfied other experts to whom they had been submitted.

He has given to two of the new varieties of cotton in question the names of Zagora and Pelion, respectively, these being the names of the districts to which some of the most famous Egyptian cotton cultivators—Messrs. Canava, Cartali, Voltos, Zaphirios and Parachimonas—originally belong.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants. LONDON, February 17.

The market continues very active, and prices are slightly higher than last week. Large business passed during this past week in all qualities. Pyrgos, 40s. to 42s.; Amalias, 43s. to 44s.; Patras, 43s. to 46s.; Gulph, 47s. to 48s.; Vostizza, 45s. to 50s.; Zante, 41s. to 45s.; and Smalls, 43s. to 50s.

Sultanas.

The demand continues steadily for all available kinds at full prices.

Figs.

There has been a better demand during the week, and prices continue firm.

Dates.

There is a good demand, with prices quoted dearer than last week.

Seeds.

Linseed is very quiet again, and owing to the action of re-sellers slightly cheaper all round. Calcutta to London in any position forward can be had in second-hands at 82s. 6d. February-March is quoted 83s., March-April sold at 83s. La Plata to Hull offered at 77s. Rapeseed, Toria, March to Hull is quoted 74s. Cottonseed, in the absence of offer, is only nominally quoted. Canary seed is quoted 86s. to 110s. per 464 lb.; Lentils 23s. to 26s. 6d. per 100 lb.; mustard 21s. to 26s. cwt; split peas 93s. to 110s. per 504 lb.

Oils.

Linseed oil has been quiet, and business was done at slightly lower prices. Spot pipes £43 5s., month £44, March-April £45 15s., May-August, £45 12s. 6d. Rape oil continues quiet at late quotations.

Oil Cakes.

Linseed cakes.—The market has been very dull this week, with only small business passing for consumptive use. Best London made are still quoted £13 to £13 15s. per ton. Cotton cakes.—Egyptian landed are very scarce, selling at £10 7s. 6d. to £10 10s., while February shipments are offered at £10 2s 6d. to £10 5s. ex ship, at which price a fair amount of business was done. English makes are at £10 5s. to £10 7s. 6d.; and Bombay at £10 per ton.

Greek shippers have been informed by the Minister of Marine that the Straits of Corfu have been closed by two barriers, access to which is prohibited to all boats which are not first inspected by the French guardship, which is distinguished by two large balls in the day time and red lights at night. Navigation by night to the east of the island is forbidden.

ENEMY FIRMS IN EGYPT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, February 1.

The campaign with regard to enemy firms in Egypt is being carried on in the local British Press, and there are signs of a hastening up of the liquidation of some of the concerns complained of. One firm, to which reference has been made in my previous notes—Bochme and Anderer—has now advertised the sale of all its plant and stock-in-trade, which latter, by the way, includes a supply of Letts' Diaries for 1916. An English liquidator was yesterday appointed to Hackh's and the Vulcan Coaling Company, and it is to be presumed that other similar appointments will follow suit, including a liquidator for Weinrich and Co., who still display coats of arms announcing to the effendi that they are under the patronage of H.H. the Khedive and H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught!

*** On January 31 the Egyptian *Official Journal* published the following proclamation:—

"All persons of enemy nationality and all Egyptians who are forbidden to return to or reside in Egypt are hereby disqualified from participating in any municipal election either as electors or as candidates."

On January 27, the following notice appeared in the *Official Journal*:—

The Licensing Officer directs the particular attention of all manufacturers and traders concerned to the need for scrupulous care in the transaction of their business abroad, in view of the fact that some traders in some neutral countries are making themselves agents for the supply of goods to and from enemy countries. Especial care should be taken in opening new accounts in neutral countries, and in relation to any orders or inquiries of an abnormal character. In any case of doubt as to particular firms abroad, business should be suspended pending reference to the Office of the Licensing Officer, Ministry of Finance, Cairo.

The proclamations relating to trading with the enemy cover indirect trading with the enemy through neutral agents, and carelessness in transacting neutral business may involve traders in the severe penalties attaching to trading with the enemy.

On February 2, the *Egyptian Gazette* published the following:—

Hugo Hackh.

The licence granted to the firm of Messrs. Hugo Hackh of Cairo and Alexandria, hitherto under the management of Mr. J. Calderon, has been cancelled, and Mr. F. H. Russell, of Gresham House, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo, has been appointed under Arts. 9 and 10 of the Proclamation of January 25, 1915, receiver of the business of the firm, with power to liquidate its affairs.

Vulcan Coal Company.

Mr. E. L. Bristow, manager of the British Coaling Depot, Port Said, and Mr. Richard Prioleau, Barrister-at-Law, Port Said, have been appointed under Arts. 9 and 10 of the Proclamation of January 25, 1915, as joint receivers of the business of the Vulcan Coaling Company at Port Said, with power to take all such measures as may be necessary to liquidate the business of that company in Egypt.

REOPENING THE BOURSES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, February 1.

A step nearer the return to a normal state of affairs was registered yesterday, when the Cairo Bourse reopened for the transaction of business on a cash basis. The reopening of the Alexandria Bourse has been delayed, owing to local interested parties declining to agree to the Government's scheme for a resumption of business without any restrictions, safeguards, etc. These folk have enjoyed a moratorium, so to speak, in so far as stock and share transactions are concerned, since the war broke out. That is to say, the banks and financial establishments have not been able to liquidate the dossiers they held for account of these parties; and, not content with that, the latter are standing out for guarantees of postponement of liquidation and what not, if the Alexandria Bourse is allowed to reopen. Their attitude is in the highest degree unreasonable, and there is reason to believe that the Government will very soon find means to bring them to their senses and to ensure the free resumption of business in Alexandria. That there is little to fear from the point of view of a wholesale unloading of shares is proved by the state of affairs in Cairo, where the reopening took place under most promising conditions, buyers being prominent and prices demonstrating a tendency to harden—in many cases the closing prices were higher than those recorded prior to the outbreak of war.

EGYPT'S FINANCES IN NOVEMBER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

CAIRO, January 28.

The State accounts for November, published in last night's official journal, show a continuation of the improvement manifested in previous months of the current financial year. The revenue at the end of November amounted to £E11,432,390, and the expenditure to £E10,968,134, as against £E10,464,716 and £E12,527,177 at the same date in 1915. There is thus a surplus of £E464,256 as compared with a deficit of £E2,062,461 at the end of November last year. This has been brought about by an almost all-round improvement in the revenue and a strict exercise of economy in the expenditure, though during the month in question the outlay in certain administrations has undergone a small increase on what has been expended on average during the previous months.

By comparison with 1914 at the end of November, Land and House Tax was up by £E676,024, Customs by £E71,291; Tobacco Dues by £E51,120, Legal Dues by £E29,846, Railway Receipts by £E129,972, Telegraph Receipts by £E18,387, Rent of Government Land by £E27,107, Domains Receipts by £E297,236, but Port Dues were down by £E122,729, Investment of Funds by £E18,811, Military Exemption by £E22,580, and Divers Receipts by £E132,065. During the month Land and House Tax improved by £E141,918, Customs by £E75,398, Tobacco Dues by £E27,966, Legal Dues by £E26,436, Railway Receipts by £E71,834, Domains Receipts by £E82,621, and the only serious decreases were registered under Port Dues £E13,064, and Investment of Funds £E22,597. This is com-

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pared with November, 1914, so it can be seen that the country is fast recovering from the set-back which it suffered at that date.

The chief items of expenditure during November were National Printing Press £E33,097, Public Health £E38,005, Irrigation Service £E58,997, Railways £E224,189, War Office £E54,500, Public Debt £E1,121,289, Provincial Services £E62,195, Police £E46,016, and Pensions £E52,996.

It is to be noted that the balance to the credit of the Government at the end of November was £E12,640,179, and the amount in the hands of the Public Debt Commission £E2,120,417 (in cash and stock), as compared with £E9,146,053 and £E3,112,293 at the same date in 1914.

An idea of the effect which the war has had on the revenues of the country may be obtained from the following table, which gives the position at the end of November, 1914 and 1915, by comparison with the figures at the same date in 1913.

—	1914.	1915.	Recovery.
	£E.	£E.	£E.
Land and House Tax..	−511,407	+164,617	+676,024
Customs	−382,847	−311,556	+ 71,291
Tobacco dues.....	+ 15,117	+ 66,237	+ 51,120
Port dues.....	− 56,294	−179,023	- 122,729
Legal dues	−140,072	−110,226	+ 29,846
Railway receipts	−482,370	−352,398	+129,972
Telegraph receipts	− 7,629	+ 10,758	+ 18,387
Post Office	− 19,359	− 20,833	− 1,474
Domains receipts.....	− 21,635	+275,601	+297,236
Extraordinary receipts	+109,749	+ 11,751	− 97,998
Rent of Govt. land	− 26,727	+ 380	+ 27,107
Sales of Govt. land	+ 25,899	+ 4,797	—
Investment funds.....	+113,249	− 5,562	− 18,811

From this it can be seen that with the exception of Port Dues, caused by reduction in shipping entering and leaving Egyptian ports, Post Office, Extraordinary Receipts, Sales of Land and Investment of Funds, practically every head of revenue has undergone improvement, in some cases very considerable improvement. An explanation for the increase in the Land Tax collections may perhaps be found in the fact that landowners are in many cases paying in advance, and that last year, i.e., 1914, part of the November instalment was postponed until December and January. The falling-off in Customs and Railway Receipts, though less than in 1914, has the same cause as the continued decrease in Port Dues, viz., trade depression and shortage in freights. The improvement in the Domains Receipts is due to the sale of the cotton carried over from the previous campaign, and that in Tobacco Receipts to the raising of the tariff. The general tone of the accounts goes to prove that that country is in a very much better condition financially and economically than it was a twelvemonth ago.

EGYPT-SUDAN TRADE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Cairo, February 1.

During 1915 there was a total trade turnover between Egypt and the Sudan of £E1,397,016. According to the figures given in the last report of the Sudan Economic Board—the Egyptian Customs only started to publish figures in January, 1915—the turnover in 1913 was £E1,449,834, so that the war has not affected the relations between the two countries very much.

Imports from the Sudan into Egypt, which amounted to £E519,243, included cattle £E142,663, skins and tanned goods £E22,112, ivory £E5,282, maize £E43,249, sesame £E63,266, gum £E19,126, senna £E10,204, cotton £E87,932, and charcoal £E12,969. Exports from Egypt to the Sudan came to £E877,773, and included boots £E10,974, wheat £E13,252, flour £E21,780, sugar £E190,997, coffee £E38,705, cotton tissues £E210,640, sacks £E25,047, common soap £E20,827, and petroleum £E7,834.

The Secretary of the Imperial Merchant Service Guild has received a communication from Captain V. E. Lazzolo, late of the steamer City of Khios, now interned at the Magnesie Camp, Turkey. He states that he has had a communication from Lieutenant-Commander A. D. Cochrane, R.N., mentioning that he and eighteen other officers were well.

ROUMANIA'S EXPORT TAXES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, January 25.

The payment of all export taxes in gold, upon which M. Costinesco, Minister of Finance, has insisted with so much firmness, is beginning to show excellent results, permitting the issue of considerable amounts of paper money on the part of the National Bank of Roumania. From April 1 to December 31, 1915, these taxes have brought in over thirty million francs in gold. This sum will be largely added to by the gold derived from the recent wheat sales.

THE GREEK BUDGET.

Reuter reports from Athens that an important Cabinet Council was held on Friday last, the financial situation forming the subject of lengthy deliberations. The principal measures proposed by the Minister of Finance with a view to the equilibrium of the Budget for 1916 include the taxation of extraordinary war profits made by the merchant marine, the suppression of certain posts of doubtful utility, and the reduction by 10 per cent. of official salaries exceeding 200 frs. (£8). The last measure was opposed by other Ministers on the ground that it was unfair to reduce already meagre salaries at the moment when life was so difficult. A decision on this question was postponed. An agreement was reached regarding the taxation of war profits. It is probable that the system employed in England will be applied.

The Cabinet also dealt with foreign policy. The indications of a change of attitude by Roumania are also seriously pre-occupying the Government.

THE TURKISH BUDGET.

Reuter reports from Amsterdam that, according to a telegram from Constantinople, the financial report which Talaat Bey, Minister of Finance, submitted to the Turkish Chamber states that the Budget for the coming financial year presents a deficit of some 14 million Turkish pounds, or 5½ millions more than the deficit in the current financial year. The estimates for the Army and Navy remain almost unchanged. A sum of £1,460,000 is set aside for harbour and railway buildings on account of the Army Administration. Regarding the results in the current financial year, the Minister states that the total expenditure amounts to 62 millions, while the revenue for the first half of the year was about 11 millions. The advances from Austria-Hungary and Germany against the issue of Exchequer bonds realised 14½ millions. With this stock of money the Exchequer could cover war expenditure, and, as far as possible, the cost of the civil administration. The income for the second half-year is estimated at about 12 millions. With this and advances amounting to 20 millions from Germany, which have been authorised by the Chamber, the Exchequer will have sufficient funds to cover all ordinary and extraordinary expenses in the current financial year ending March 13.

*** On Wednesday the Central News reported from Amsterdam that the Budget Committee of the Turkish Chamber announces that since the beginning of the war the Turkish Government has negotiated advances from the Central Powers amounting to £T21,613,816. Within a short period the Government will receive from Germany a further sum of £T21,240,000.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for week 28 tons (last week 34 tons); Hurgada production for week 325 tons (last week 341 tons).

Egyptian Guaranteed Three per Cent. Loan.—The dividend due on March 1 next will be paid by Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons on that day, and on each succeeding day between the hours of eleven and two.

European Oilfields.—Week ended 6th inst., 82,900 poods.

Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields.—Production for January, 3,310 tons; production for week ended February 5, 748 tons.

Suez Canal Receipts.—Receipts for the 12th and 13th inst. amounted to 580,000 frs., against 510,000 frs. for the corresponding days last year.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	85	77½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	78	67
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	65
Do. 4½% State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5%, 1881	57	52	54
Do. 5%, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45½
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	40	42
Do. 5%, 1890	56	52	51
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	57½xd
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76½
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	—	78
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	69
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4%, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	3⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6⅜
Do. 3½% Bonds Red.	80	—	70
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9½
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1⅛
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	6	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	10⅝
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5⅜
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½% Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅞
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	—
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	1/16
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	5¾
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/6
Do. Def.	⅞	—	⅞
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/3
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	2/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅜
" " Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5% Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6½
Do. 4½% 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	75
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	3/3
Sidi Salem Co.	1/16	—	1/8
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	—
Do. 4½% 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	—	23/-
Do do. 5% Debs. Red.	99⅜	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	—	15/9
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	3/8
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3⅛
Do. do. 4½% 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Feb. 16.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅜	7/9
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	18/6
European Oilfields	4/9	2/6
Roumanian	20/-	12/9

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Feb. 15.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	402
Canal de Suez	4050	3895
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	592
Turkish Unified 4%	59.95	58
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	85.75
Serbian, 1895	—	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 251.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Russians are following up their success at Erzeroum by a general advance of their whole line from the Black Sea to Lake Van. Columns advancing in the coastal region appear, from the brief official reports, to have no difficulty in driving the enemy before them, with the result that they are already threatening Rizeh. Just as the first thrust of the Russians over the Caucasus frontier so completely demoralized the Turks that Erzeroum was not strong enough to provide them with a rallying point, so now the onward sweep of the Grand Duke's army is likely to force them a long way to the west before they can bring themselves to make a fresh stand. It is reported that preparations for the evacuation of Trebizond are in progress; but whether this implies the removal of the civilian population with a view to placing the town in a better state of defence, or the complete abandonment of the town to the Russians, remains to be seen. Farther south the pursuit of the Turks continues, and the hope seems to be entertained in some quarters that the enemy's retreat will be cut off mainly by the columns operating from Mush. The whole of this region is mountainous, and the general direction of the ranges is east and west. Consequently, while there is little to stop the Russians from pursuing the Turks along the routes they must follow, and in many instances overtaking them, it is a difficult matter to carry out a movement for rounding up the fugitive columns owing to the mountainous barriers guarding the valleys along which they are retreating.

No definite news has been received for some time from Persia. The last reports placed Turks and Russians in the Khangevar district, but did not indicate that there had been any real trial of strength between the opposing forces. If the Turco-German authorities in Baghdad have reason to be alarmed by the Russian advance in the north, and have to detach a force to protect the Baghdad Railway route, they will be anxious to achieve some success before withdrawing from their positions east of Kermanshah and in the neighbourhood of Kut. Whatever may have been the object of the Turkish expedition into Persia, it is certain that it will not feel tempted to advance much further from its Baghdad base until the situation in Armenia has improved for the Turks. Its arrest in the Kermanshah region would in all probability give the *coup de grâce* to German propaganda in Persia, which has already been severely hit by the rapid movements of the Russian troops. But Russia and Great Britain cannot rely on moral effect alone to counteract the lawlessness which Turco-German agents have fostered throughout the country. Where the Russian columns have advanced there will have been no difficulty in restoring order and possibly Persian authority in some guise or another. In the south, however, the part of the country in which Great Britain is primarily interested, no Russian and no British columns are operating. On the other hand, British subjects, including Consular officials, are prisoners in the hands of insurrectionaries, and as far as is known no steps are being taken to effect their release.

There may be cogent reasons preventing British military operations in the south as the counterpart of what the Russians are doing in the north. It will be remembered that the occupation of Bushire last year by British troops was of short duration, and that since that time no attempt has been made to support the Persian authorities in these regions against the increasing lawlessness of the tribes. No doubt there is more important work to be done elsewhere. But the course of events both in Southern Persia and in Mesopotamia indicates that the British authorities have not maintained the close touch with the tribesmen of these parts that has been the basis of their successful relations with the peoples of the East. The present war has deprived the Government of the invaluable services of the late Captain Shakespear. Some of his work remains, and the Mesopotamian Expedition has benefited from it. But he stood out almost alone in this part of the world. Men of his type are born rather than made. When, however, they are not forthcoming spontaneously, efforts should be made to create them. In the meantime there are others who know their Middle East, even if their names are not household words among the Arabs; but their services are not always utilised, and when they are employed by the Government it is more likely to be in some other sphere than in the Middle East.

Two incidents during the past week have directed attention to the attitude of Greece to the war. The first is the publication in the *Temps* of a letter written by

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Prince Nicholas of Greece, the other the visit of General Sarrail, the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied forces at Salonika, to Athens, where he was received in audience by King Constantine. Prince Nicholas points out that, while Greece has remained neutral, she has not declared that she would never at any price depart from her neutrality. Whether this statement is historically accurate it is difficult to say, because we do not know the authority to whom Prince Nicholas refers in the term "Greece." In the pronouncements of Greece's views and intentions which the King of the Hellenes has given to the world through the medium of correspondents we seem to remember an emphatic declaration to the effect that Greece would never abandon her neutrality. But foreign correspondents, although indispensable to every progressive Government nowadays, can be repudiated, if necessary. The actual words used by Prince Nicholas, however, are not so important as the main purpose of his letter, which was clearly to hold out an olive branch from Greece to the Allied Powers.

Whatever may be the political result of General Sarrail's visit to Athens, it provided a fresh occasion for a demonstration of the sympathy of the Greek public with the Allies' cause. In regard to his audience at the Palace, King Constantine is reported to have expressed himself as being delighted with the result of the conference, which, he was thoroughly confident, was the first step towards clearing up the differences between Greece and the Entente. He added that many causes of friction will have been smoothed away. The visit in itself is of the best possible augury, and taken in conjunction with Prince Nicholas' letter must be a matter of satisfaction to the Entente Powers. It is to their interests to maintain good relations with Greece, in order that their military operations should not be hampered by constant friction.

So long as King Constantine was proclaiming to every newspaper correspondent in Athens in turn that the Allies' conduct towards Greece was outrageous, and that they were every whit as bad as the Germans in their treatment of small States, it was manifestly difficult for the Entente to show much regard for Greek feelings. They were prepared to explain the military exigencies which compelled them to act as they did; but the Greek Government would not listen. In the meantime some water has flowed down the Vardar. Greek military experts have been impressed by the strength of the Salonika position in the Allies' hands, the successes of the Central Powers over Serbia and Montenegro have come to an end without carrying them either to the Ægean or to Egypt, Erzeroum has fallen, and the Russian front in Europe can hardly be regarded as broken or even to-day as weakened. There is every reason why Greece should reconsider her position, and the two incidents to which reference has been made are a sign that this process is now taking place.

If Greece should come to a wiser appreciation of her own interests, she will find the Entente Powers ready to welcome her new frame of mind. King Peter of Serbia correctly interpreted their attitude when, in the course of an interview with an American correspondent, he said, speaking for the Serbians: "As for our Ally, Greece, she has understood differently from us her interests in the Balkans; but, apart from her refusal to participate in the war shoulder to shoulder with us, she has in other respects fulfilled the duties of friend and neighbour. To-day we are the guests of the Greek people, and we are grateful for their hospitality." In other words, the betrayal of the Alliance cannot be altogether expunged from the memory, but from now on the best complexion will be placed on all the overtures from Greece, and even the compulsory billeting of the Serbians upon an unwilling country is to be regarded as the acceptance on their part of proffered hospitality. The interest of the Allied Powers in the Balkans remains the same. They wish to see the Peninsula united for peaceful development, and know that, to achieve this end, they must exercise salutary influence upon all the States. If Serbia, conscious that she has stooped to conquer, harbours no ill-will against Greece, the Allies are not likely to be more vindictive. That Greece has recognised that the first move must come from her is all to the good. She is likely to find more difficulty in readjusting her domestic affairs to her altered views on foreign policy than in persuading the Entente Governments to meet her half-way.

The domestic aspect of any change of views that Greece may be contemplating was emphasized in the presentation of an address to King Constantine by the Vice-President of the Chamber. After thanking the King "for having, within the limits of his prerogative, by his intervention in so critical a period of their existence, avoided the imminent danger of Greece being plunged into the European conflagration," the address continued: "Your Majesty, in full harmony with the other constituted authorities of the State, will say when the hour strikes to use the national resources in the national interests. The whole nation once more stands round your Majesty, ready to make any sacrifice; but until the momentous hour arrives it is firmly resolved, in spite of unjustifiable pressure from the Powers, to keep to the path which it is at present following." It is to be feared that this document bears the stamp of the politician rather than of the statesman. The minnows declare their readiness to do anything they are told to do, even to eating their words and reversing their own policy, provided only King Constantine will keep the trout away. It remains to be seen whether King Constantine, after taking counsel with the Entente Powers, will still be of opinion that minnows can quite well perform the trout's work.

A grim report from Bulgaria is published in *Le Journal des Balkans*, a newspaper established in 1913 with the object of promoting the harmony of the Peninsula. Its sympathies are with the Entente Powers, but it has not lost sight of the desirability of reconciling the various interests of the Balkan States. The statement to which the Bucharest organ gives publicity is to the effect that not only have British prisoners in Bulgaria been publicly insulted and exhibited in chains, but after the engagement at Doiran the Bulgarians "were so exasperated by the heavy losses inflicted by the British artillery that they ordered all the British prisoners to be massacred." We cannot invite any credence for these statements until they are confirmed. The Balkans produce an abundant crop of rumours all the year round, most of which are false, many palpably improbable. But the standing of *Le Journal des Balkans* justifies an investigation into the accuracy of the report both in the interests of the British prisoners in Bulgarian hands and in the interests of the Bulgarians. If another report be true, that the Bulgarian Government has prohibited the despatch of any comforts to British prisoners of war from Roumania, it can hardly wonder that sinister reports of the Bulgarian treatment of their prisoners should be current.

On the day that THE NEAR EAST went to press last week a trenchant article from the pen of Sir Arthur Evans on "The Abandonment of Montenegro" appeared in the *Manchester Guardian*. Owing to exigencies of time and space it was only possible to publish a brief extract in these pages. The subject, however, had already been dealt with in the leading article, and we hope that Sir Arthur Evans's criticisms will be widely read in their entirety. They confirm, with the whole weight of his authority, reports already current, and add many uncomfortable details. The criticism, however, is not merely destructive. Unless the facts of the situation are known, unless some attempt is made in governing circles to acquire some knowledge of the inwardness of Near Eastern affairs, there can be no satisfactory solution of the Balkan question after the war. Such a prospect is literally too terrible to be contemplated with equanimity in this country.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 8.

The "Threatened" Canal.

Once again there is nothing to report from the Canal zone. It was not so this time last year, for this was the week in which the attack—which, I suppose, will go down to history as the battle of the Suez Canal—took place, and the unfortunate troops, whom Colonel von Kressenstein and Jemal Pasha had driven across the Sinai, were beaten back to such good purpose that no further attempt was made to follow up what many held to have been intended as merely a reconnaissance in force. Whether the Turkish attack of February 2-4, 1915, was a "dress rehearsal" or not, the fact remains that this was the one and only occasion that the Turks and their Bedouin levies made any real effort to come to close quarters with the defenders of the Canal. They have now allowed the anniversary of their maiden effort to pass by without any attempt to celebrate the occasion in any way whatsoever. True, we really never expected them to do anything of the sort. Yet, considering the fanfarronade with which the German higher command hailed the opening of the way from Belgrade to Constantinople as the prelude to the great venture against Egypt and the Canal, one might have expected that, even if it had not actually got into touch with the defending force, something would by this time have been heard of the approach of the "Army of Egypt," the future exploits of which have been bruited abroad with characteristic Teuton bombast and assurance. It is true that climatic conditions in the Sinai are this year even more favourable than they were last winter, and that, thanks to the transport arrangements, with which Meissner and his staff are reported to have been occupied during the past twelve months, the water question will be less difficult of solution. But although in these circumstances the attack might take place at a somewhat later date, it is noteworthy that there is at present no indication of the materialization of the "redoubtable" army of Egypt. If an attack on this country were really meditated, there would ere this have been some signs of activity in Syria, and the opinion is steadily gaining ground here that nothing will come this year of the invasion of Egypt; that the "advertisement" of the decision to undertake it was made with the object of bluffing us into preparing for it, and once again immobilizing a large force in Egypt; and that even if there had been any serious intention to challenge us on the Canal, the reverses in the Caucasus and the menace in Mesopotamia have forced the German higher command to change their plans. It will probably end in our having to go out to meet the Turkish forces, and I should not be at all surprised to hear soon that we had taken the offensive thus far as concerns the isolated garrisons, such as they are, left by the Turks in the Peninsula.

The Training College for Kadis.

Following in the footsteps of the Law School, the Training College for Kadis is about to be attached to the Ministry of Justice. This college is comparatively a modern institution, having been established in October, 1907. It is said that the idea of giving special instruction to Moslem students to fit them to officiate as Kadis and act as lawyers in the Mahkema Sharia originated with that enlightened Grand Mufti, the late Sheikh Mohammed Abdou. He did not, however, live to put it into execution, and it was left to his great friend Saad Pasha Zaghloul to take up the question, and in spite of the opposition of the ex-Khedive to get promulgated while he was Minister of Education a decree constituting the new college. The latter was placed under the management of a committee on which the Sheikh-el-Azhar, the Grand Mufti, and two representatives of the Ministry of Education sat; and it had accommodation for 200 students, who received instruction in all the subjects taught at Al Azhar and in correlated legal subjects, literature, mathematics, and physical science.

Until 1910 the college remained attached to the Ministry of Education, but in that year, owing to the complaints of the Azharites, that graduates from the college received preference over themselves when appointments came to be made to the Mahkema Sharia, it was detached from the Ministry and made an autonomous section of the University. It has now been decided, as stated, to attach the college to the Ministry of Justice. The decision has aroused the opposition of the Azharites, who see in it an attempt to deprive them of their share of the vacancies in the religious courts. In the course of an interview accorded to the editor of *Al Mokattam*, H.H. the Sultan has explained the situation, and has publicly affirmed that there is no intention of interfering with the privileges of the great University. The college is to be attached to the Ministry of Justice because the latter controls the Mahkema Sharia, and so is better able to direct the course of instruction followed in the college so that it meets the requirements of the courts and gives to the students the style of training best qualifying them for the posts that await them. The college will still nominally form a section of Al Azhar, and will continue to have the Rector as president of its managing committee. And finally, what is of more importance than anything else to the Azharites, the Government has declared that in the matter of appointment of Kadis to the Mahkama Sharia graduates of the Training College and of Al Azhar will receive like treatment. His Highness's statement has been well received by those concerned, and it is not expected that after this clear exposition of policy any further opposition will be offered to the execution of this very sensible reform.

AN HISTORIC BATTLEFIELD.

Often as in the course of centuries the vilayet of Erzeroum has been the scene of memorable battle, it recalls and records none of more interest to the historical student than that which fourteen hundred years ago induced the then Emperor of the East, Theodosius the Younger, to erect there a lasting memorial of one of the very few victories in the field of which his reign could boast. A singularly weak monarch, he fails to arouse wonder that under his feeble rule his empire steadily crumbled into decay. In truth there is no more doubt of his unfitness for the Imperial throne than of his zeal for the true faith. Almost to the end of his reign he was under petticoat government, being subject to the sway of his elder sister, Pulcheria, on whom the proud title of Augusta had with general approval been conferred. She not only managed for him the business of his vast empire, but even the affairs of his own heart; for she chose for him his imperial consort, a maiden of relatively low degree and some years his senior. At first, in the transports of connubial bliss, the royal lover became so careless of State affairs that he signed whatever documents his sister put before him, and at last one which delivered to her care and control the Empress Eudocia herself.

So notorious was his neglect of public business that when the long and sanguinary contest between the Eastern Empire and Persia for supremacy in Armenia ended in favour of the former, and the terms of peace were being discussed between the belligerents, the Roman general solemnly warned the Persians not to awake the slumbering wrath of the great Emperor who, in his palace at Constantinople, remained ignorant that such a struggle as they were then ending had taken place in that distant part of his dominions. But as soon as Theodosius heard of the victory, he was keen to celebrate and consolidate it; and so on the heights hard by the source of the Euphrates, some miles to the east from the site of the present Erzeroum, but overlooking and commanding it, he built a strong fortified city and, becoming its godfather, conferred on it the lustre of his own name, christening it Theodosiopolis.

His romantic love affair and his involuntary surrender of his adored consort to the custody of Pulcheria form the subject of one among the best of Massinger's plays, "The Emperor of the East," wherein the story is told with much of the extravagance and inaccuracy characteristic of the Elizabethan dramatists, yet with less than their wonted disregard of historical fact.

Marshall Steele.

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PORT SAID NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Port Said, February 16.

The Situation on the Suez Canal.

The New Year has brought with it a period of general activity in Egypt, and particularly in the Suez Canal zone, which is not without influence on the life of the residents of Port Said and Suez.

A general and steady increase in the price of all comestibles has taken place owing to the extra demands on the country's resources, the increase in the import duty, and the ever-rising freight rates. Despite the heavy carriage charges, imports have increased to such an extent that the Port Said Customs House is badly congested and the bonded stores full to overflowing. It takes several days to get goods landed at the quays into the Customs sheds, and frequently several more to clear them and get them away.

The line to Cairo is groaning under the weight of heavily laden trains, and merchants in the capital, with their stocks rapidly diminishing, frequently have difficulty in keeping pace with the ever-increasing demand, while the urgent appeals to Port Said for the goods they know have arrived, and to London for further supplies, are too frequently met with a double *non possumus*, from the former on account of congestion and from the latter through lack of space in outward steamers.

Coal at over £6 a ton is an unheard-of luxury, and is only used where a substitute is not available, while bunkers for steamers in Port Said have risen with the freight market to the neighbourhood of £5 5s. a ton. As this means for a mail steamer a bill of some four to five thousand pounds, it is not surprising that there will be no reduced rates to England for Anglo-Egyptians this year. The phenomenal increase mentioned may be put down entirely to the freight rates, which for cargoes of coal have risen from 9s. per ton before the war to about 90s., at which collier steamers are now chartered.

Shortage of Paraffin.

There has recently been a temporary shortage of paraffin, which at first caused a minor panic amongst the natives. The usual itinerant street tanks were almost entirely withdrawn, and the few that were available were quickly surrounded by a crowd of natives with their bottles and tins, who in their anxiety to obtain some of the precious fluid were not over-careful in pushing their neighbour and treading on his toes, and the police had frequently to interfere in the inevitable dispute that followed.

Thereafter paraffin was doled out under the surveillance of two earnest, conscientious *showeesh*, and Port Said was treated to the novel sight of a procession consisting of a petroleum tank drawn by a philosophic donkey with a trail of excited cooks and *suffragis* armed with tins and bottles. Arrived at a certain spot, the procession would come to a halt, and the group round the tank would be swelled by servants from neighbouring houses. Minimum quantities and fixed prices were rigidly enforced by the worthy officials, and all would go away (including the donkey drawing the supply tank) quite satisfied. Happily the shortage was only temporary.

Travel Permits.

The recent regulation which necessitates a military permit for all civilians entering or leaving the Canal zone is working smoothly. The permit is not difficult to obtain by those who have a legitimate use for it. The wives of officers who are stationed on the Canal have left, mostly for Cairo, and no ladies are now allowed to disembark permanently here without a Foreign Office permit, which is not easily obtained. Some cases of hardship are certain to occur; it has happened that a lady, whose home and family have been in Egypt for many years, and who had been staying in Switzerland, was not able to embark at Marseilles to return.

Nothing out of the ordinary is happening on the Canal. British carriers predominate, and their passages are performed as in normal times.

A SUDAN KNIGHT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, January 31.

An interesting ceremony took place at Khartoum on January 29, when H.E. the Governor-General and Sirdar, by order of H.M. the King, formally presented to Sir Sayed Ali Morghani the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. The members of the Governor-General's Council, the Chief Justice and the Adjutant, supported H.E. in the presentation, which took place in the Ballroom of the Palace before a considerable company of officers and officials, the "ulema," and a few native notables. Upon the introduction of Sir Said Ali into the Ballroom H.E. made an address, and then presented him with the insignia. The address was as follows:—

Sir Sayed Ali El Morghani,

As circumstances have prevented you from being personally invested by his Majesty George the Fifth, King of Great Britain and Ireland, Emperor of India, and Sovereign of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, with the Order of Honorary Knight Commander of the said Most Distinguished Order, I am commanded by his Majesty to deliver to you, in an official and ceremonial manner, the Badge and Insignia of Knight Commander, which the King has been most graciously pleased to confer upon you in recognition of the good and faithful services you have rendered.

In 1885, owing to the disturbance in the country consequent on the Mahdist revolt, you accompanied your revered father, the late El Sayed Mohammed Osman, from the Khatmieh and home of your family at Kassala to Suakin. In this latter town and subsequently in Egypt you were carefully educated under efficient teachers; and when the Sudan was reconquered by Lord Kitchener in 1898 you were able to take up your residence at Khartoum, where you continued to render notable service in connection with many of the reforms which the Government found it necessary to introduce into the administration of this country in order to repair the ill-effects of the misgovernment and anarchy which prevailed there formerly.

Throughout this long period, your family has been distinguished by its firm loyalty to the Government; and your own good name and fame are known throughout the length and breadth of the Sudan.

In the year 1900 it was my pleasant duty to bring your name to the notice of Lord Cromer, who was commanded by the King to present to you the Badge of a Companion of the same Most Distinguished Order in which your continuous valuable service —especially during the present war—has now gained you promotion to the high grade of Knight Commander.

In now obeying the King's Command, I offer you, on behalf of myself, of the Sudan Government, and of all those assembled here to-night in honour of the occasion, most cordial congratulations on becoming the recipient of this high mark of his Majesty's gracious favour; and I trust that you may long be spared to wear this Most Distinguished Decoration, which reflects credit not only on yourself and on the honourable family to which you belong, but also on the whole of the Moslem community in the Sudan, where you are held in universal esteem and regard.

Sir Sayed Ali Morghani is the head of the Moslem sect known as the Khatmia or Maghrania. It is very widely distributed and the most influential sect in the Sudan. It started contemporaneously with the Idrisi sect in Asia and the Sennussi sect in Tripoli, and by the personal efforts of Sir Sayed Ali its activities have been directed in support of the Government, whilst his personal advice and assistance have always been at the disposal of officials needing it.

The decoration has been accepted by the natives of the Sudan with great enthusiasm as an appreciation of their loyalty to the British Government.

In reference to the Exchange telegram from Cairo which we published on February 11, regarding the funeral of Sheikh El Morghani, we learn from the *Sudan Times* that the deceased notable was Sheikh Abdallah En Nur, the maternal uncle of Sir Sayed Ali El Morghani. The deceased, who was one of the leading religious sheikhs in the Sudan, was about fifty-five years of age, and used to be in continual attendance upon Sir Seyid Ali, whom he had accompanied to Kassala upon his last visit there.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of the "NEAR EAST" to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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THE SUDAN IN 1915.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, January 31.

The year 1915 in the Sudan has shown outwardly little effect of the war. The people remain unmoved by stories of a vague but cruel opponent who shares too much the habits and customs of the worst period of the Khalifa to engage their sympathy.

In the northern half of the Sudan the history of 1915 consists of a continued battle against a series of pests. Cerebro-spinal meningitis appeared in almost every province, and exacted a severe toll, whilst the repeated attacks of locusts from the desert destroyed crop after crop, and also seriously damaged the wild-growing shrubs that form the grazing ground of the camels herded by the nomad Arabs. Cattle disease also reappeared in places.

Notwithstanding these adverse conditions, the returns of various forms of trade chiefly affecting the northern provinces (*i.e.*, north of lat. 12°) show results by no means to be disregarded. Gum heads the list of exports with a total of £312,297 for 11,577 tons, as compared with £312,697 for 12,266 tons in the previous year. In effect the harvest was good and the price better, and this notwithstanding the fact that in the past the gum trade had been largely in the hands of German agents and directed towards Hamburg. It appears, however, that these agents were in the habit of manipulating the market and turning over other people's money to their own advantage in a manner that led to instability in the gum market, which their absence has prevented, and thus enabled the European buyers to obtain their gum and the native to sell it at a price acceptable to both. In cattle, too, the Sudan can show a remarkable increase, the more so that at one time the Sudan was competing at Salonika for the trade which from Salonika had competed with the Sudan in Egypt. The figures show a total of 23,758 cattle and 87,818 sheep exported from the Sudan. The increase amounts to no less than 12,950 cattle. In sheep the figure is approximately the same. Of these cattle some seven thousand were exported to Malta.

The durra trade has also prospered to a very remarkable degree. This is no doubt due to the dearth in the Red Sea ports, and it has enabled those provinces that depend upon the cultivation of durra to recover almost entirely from a succession of bad years. In Dongola, it is true, the locusts ate down the young crops with reiterating persistency, but elsewhere, notwithstanding a serious loss from a noxious form of grasshopper, besides those locusts that managed to escape observation by hiding in the remote desert, a fair average crop has been obtained, which enabled the native to sell his surplus with a calm mind.

In the southern provinces, where trade is still in its primitive stages, there has been, as usual, a number of small incidents of no political significance, but liable to magnification in times when a world war is progressing. These incidents are, or have been, dealt with as they arose in the ordinary course of affairs; and though it is always annoying to the Government to have to deal with such matters, the general tendency is towards a firmer grip, a greater confidence between the native and the Administration, and a surer hold of the future.

The Sudan has also contributed its quota to the service of the Empire, and the record is one of which it may be proud. To speak only of the most recent, the services of Colonel N. M. Smyth, V.C., have been rewarded with a C.B. as Brigadier-General of the Anzacs at Gallipoli. A constant stream of officers and officials has been employed on military anl political work in Egypt, Gallipoli, and the Red Sea, notwithstanding the serious drain from sickness and other casualties that service in such a climate involves.

The various irrigation schemes have inevitably suffered from the occurrence of the war. Still, work is progressing, and wider schemes are afoot to ensure certainty of water for that huge area which some day, cultivated under cotton, will prove the Eldorado of the Sudan.

TURKEY AND THE LEBANON.

(From a Lebanese Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 10.

Arabic papers of New York, which have been received here by the last mail, reproduce the full text of a speech delivered by the new Turkish Governor of the Lebanon, on the occasion of the reading of the Firman announcing his appointment and the denunciation by the Turkish Government of the Organic Law, in so far, at least, as the approval and sanction of such appointment by the Six Protecting Powers is concerned. The declarations made therein have sufficient importance to warrant translation *in extenso*. The new Governor, Ali Munif Bey, after declaring that the Turkish Government had put an end to all foreign interference in the affairs of the Lebanon, went on to say:—

You might infer from the denunciation of the Protocol and the foreign privileges that the Ottoman Government has abolished the prerogatives granted to the Lebanese. Such, however, is not the case, as the Government has no intention to depart in any way from the policy of generosity which it has been conferring on the Lebanese for centuries, without foreign intervention.

The Government does not contemplate the abolition of the privileges directly concerning the inhabitants. For instance, it does not contemplate any addition to the fixed taxes that have hitherto been levied in lieu of the tithes, the *verghu* on property, the *temettu*, etc.; nor the abolition of the arrangement hitherto obtaining in regard to the exemption of the Lebanese from military service. It will, moreover, continue to respect sectarian privileges and traditions.

I presume, however, that the Government will have eventually to introduce certain necessary modifications in the system of administration of The Mountain, with the view of reforming the administrative and judicial departments and the gendarmerie in such a manner as will ensure the security and welfare of its inhabitants, and, by an equitable dispensation of justice, safeguard their rights and liberties within the limits of the Constitution.

The appointment of governors and officials will be made according to personal merit, the Lebanese enjoying, of course, the right of priority.

The Government will furthermore consider new schemes in regard to education, which, so far, has been almost exclusively directed by foreigners, and will devote special attention also to the development of agriculture and industry, and the devising of such means as will tend to the increase of the population's wealth by works of public utility.

Special grants will be made by the Imperial Treasury to cover such deficit as the local budget may present.

And, whoever may be at the helm, whether it be myself or any of the *Mutessarifs*, my successors, it behoves the Lebanese to co-operate with him for the better fulfilment of his duties, with a view to their happiness, and to work hand in hand with the Government for the better attainment of their ends.

It is a matter of deep satisfaction and relief to see in this speech an official confirmation of the reports, repeatedly mentioned in previous correspondence, that the Lebanese have not been, and are not to be, called up for military service. Indeed, the speech strikes a friendly and conciliatory note that was little expected. On the other hand, to those who are familiar with Turkish diplomatic phraseology, and who can read between the lines, some significant deductions may be made. Behind the veil of reassuring declarations the door is left open for the eventual introduction of such changes as may lead to the conversion of the Lebanon into a Turkish province administered on purely Turkish lines; but, as the future of Turkey may be foreseen, whatever the final issue of this war may be, such tactics may be regarded with little apprehension. We cannot, however, but smile at the promises dangled before the eyes of the Lebanese in regard to the reforms with which The Mountain is to be blessed when we contemplate the financial and administrative chaos that has always reigned in Turkey.

THE PUBLISHER

would be obliged if Readers would inform him if they experience any difficulty in obtaining copies of the paper.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, January 30.

Scene in the Harbour.

It is difficult for any vessel to enter the port of Salonika at the present time. Steamers have to thread their way under the guidance of special pilots through the maze of warships, transports, hospital ships, and other craft. The scene from the deck of the incoming vessel is imposing, and awakens in the heart of every Briton a feeling of pride and assurance that Britannia still rules the waves.

What Tommy Thinks of Salonika.

I have been asked by friends at home to tell them what Tommy thinks of this place. Although he has told me over and over again in language that is plain, I hesitate to repeat what he really says, for two reasons: in the first place, the English language as usually found in the dictionary is totally inadequate to express what he thinks and says; and in the second place, even if I did commit to paper those sulphurous words, the editor or the censor would probably cut them out or represent them by a series of meaningless asterisks. What satisfaction would it give to friends in England to know that Private John Brown considered Salonika to be the * * * * * * place he ever struck, and that he wished all the Bulgars were in—well, far, far away? No, all I dare tell you is that he is sick of Salonika, its slush and mud, and its swindling crowds of shopkeepers, cafékeepers, and itinerant vendors. He would much rather go back to France, or even to the Dardanelles. This long and wearisome wait, too, for an enemy that has not the courage to "come on" and fight it out gets on his nerves. But by the time this reaches you it is very probable that fighting will have taken place, as I learn to-night from a high authority that Bulgarians have already crossed the frontier.

A Topographical Menu.

A few nights ago a small party of Englishmen resident in Salonika gave an informal dinner, at which Mr. Wratislaw, the British Consul-General, was the principal guest. One of the most interesting features of this dinner was the original and suggestive wording of the menu, which I reproduce below for the benefit of those who are familiar with local place-names as well as localities of military interest in other theatres of the war:—

Menu.

Potage à la Vardar.
Bar à la Strouma.
Agneau de lait renvoyé de Topsin.
Choux-fleur au gratin Gorizia.
Dindonneau roti à la Bass(é)a-cour.
Salade Russe.
Glace à la Dvina.
Fruits de Macedoine.
Café.

Sunday in Salonika.

Saturday is Sunday in Salonika. As nearly all the shopkeepers are Jews, and as they strictly follow their usual religious observances, they all close their places of business on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, and nothing will induce any of them to remain open on that day, although the temptation is at present very strong. A walk through the principal streets therefore on the seventh day of the week constantly suggests to the stranger that it must really be the first, and when the Christian Sunday does come round and he finds all the shops open, with even more than the accustomed activity in the streets, he can scarcely realise that it is the Lord's Day. The Mohammedans, of course, regard Friday as their day of rest, but they never do rest on that day. If they are in business, they continue open every day in the week. The only difference is that on Friday (in Turkish, "Juma'a giun"—that is, Assembly Day) Mohammedans usually pay a visit to the mosque in the morning to say their prayers.

"English as she is Wrote."

I have referred in previous letters to the decidedly original English of the cinematograph programmes at Salonika, but I may be permitted, for the benefit of your Scotch readers in particular, to give one more sample. Recently I witnessed a film described in the French section of the programme as "En famille: scène réaliste en 6 longues parties," by Hector Malot. This was translated as "A dram in 6 parts from Hector Malot"! Considering that a Scotsman's "**dram**" consists of only one wee glass of whisky, he would certainly refuse to accept it in six parts, even "from Hector Malot."

FIGHTING IN EGYPT.

The *Morning Post* (February 22) publishes a most interesting account of an Egyptian frontier fight, from the pen of an officer in the Egyptian Frontier Expeditionary Force. The enemy was estimated to be six thousand strong—mainly composed of troops of Senussi led by German and Turkish officers. Our own forces, about six thousand, included a battalion of South Africans. "And a reliable force it looked, with its lithe Indians, brawny New Zealanders, war-seasoned South Africans, dogged Tommies, care-free Australians, and capable Sudanese camel-drivers. A taut and trim outfit, ready for any old brawl that should happen along." We quote a passage descriptive of the fighting which ensued:—

At 9.30 we were within a few miles of the enemy's camp, and the opposing force could be seen hastily disposing itself to contest our advance. The artillery opened fire at four thousand yards, but despite the accuracy of the artillery fire the enemy refused to be shaken, and could be seen digging himself in. Half an hour later rifle and machine-gun fire was opened upon our cavalry screen. The Sikhs extended and formed a firing line. The South Africans in support suffered rather severely from bullets intended for their dusky comrades in front. A movement towards the right by the enemy was followed by the Springboks, extending on the right of the Sikhs, with the New Zealand boys temporarily in support. The artillery were now in full blast, making splendid practice. Despite their losses the enemy contested the day with the utmost determination. For four hours there was a struggle for supremacy in rifle fire which rivalled in rattle the old Gallipoli days. These native troops carried as many machine-guns as we did, and under German (two of them naval men) and Turkish officers worked them with valour and precision.

MESOPOTAMIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

MRS. MARLING'S FUND

For Providing Comforts for Troops Serving in Mesopotamia.

Hitherto the subscriptions in this country to the above Fund, which subscriptions now amount to £1,583 10s., have been collected privately among those more particularly associated with the Persian Gulf.

In view, however, of the large augmentation of troops now operating in that theatre of war, and of the greatly increased difficulties of the task which they are called upon to perform, Mrs. Marling desires to extend the scope of the Fund by making an appeal to the general public, whose assistance in such a worthy cause will, it is hoped, be readily given.

Mrs. Marling, when making her appeal wrote as follows:—

"There are many people who have personal experience who will realize how terribly trying to troops the carrying out of military operations in Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf must be at this season. The following paragraph, taken from the 'Near East,' quoting a letter from a soldier serving with our forces in those parts, brings home to us that the brave men fighting under such exhausting climatic conditions are not benefiting by the many organizations formed at home for the purpose of giving small comforts to our Armies abroad:—

"'The People of England seem to have forgotten us' is the pathetic cry of a soldier serving with the British Expeditionary Force at the head of the Persian Gulf; 'we have not had so much as a box of matches from England.'"

All money collected is being remitted to the credit of Colonel Sir Percy Z. Cox, K.C.S.I., Senior Political Officer to the Expeditionary Force, who is employing it in the purchase of comforts for the troops suitable to the local conditions.

All donations should be sent to:—

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA,
25, ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.,

and cheques should be crossed and made payable to "Mrs. Marling's Fund."

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, February 1.

Extravagance in Bucharest.

Bucharest has always been a showy city, in which few people live according to their means. I suppose there are few capitals whose inhabitants have developed to an equal degree the science of living luxuriously on nothing. Those who have no incomes are dressed in the height of fashion, and others whose means barely admit of a homely, middle-class existence drive to the races in their own motor-cars. In the present circumstances, and in view of the uncertainty of the future, simple folk foresaw some reduction of everyday extravagance, from motives of prudence if not from a sense of decency; and this is exactly what has happened in the old Roumanian families. The change was appreciable last winter, and economy seems to be the dominant note this year in the social life of the aristocracy. In spite of this, there is a marked difference observable in the general life around one between this year and the last, which is due to the development of a certain class—that of the middle-man—which has been called into existence by the unusual opportunities that have arisen for the acquisition of wealth with a minimum output of individual effort.

On the one hand we note that people bearing historical names, possessed of a full share of the good things of life, remain in the country until midwinter, as a means of reducing their expenses; others go about their business on foot, their motors unused, and seek recreation in the homely satisfactions of the family circle. And what do we observe on the other hand? A horde of *nouveaux-riches*, with fortunes built up in a night by means their children will never know; people unaccustomed to the possession of wealth who know not how to use it, and have never heard that it involves responsibilities; loud, uncouth creatures, indulging in extravagances whose vulgarity conveys an impression of debauch.

Too Much Sentimentality.

As in other neutral countries, the German Legation in Bucharest has taken measures for reducing the number of foreigners entering Germany. Every newcomer represents another mouth which has to be fed, and, what is perhaps of greater gravity, he has eyes to see things to which it would be better not to give too much publicity outside the confines of the German Empire. So important, however, is the "extra mouth" question that even in Austria passports for Germany are obtained with difficulty. In connection with this subject the following anecdote is worth relating, for it not only complies with the essential requirement of the anecdote—that of being *ben trovato*—but has the subsidiary merit of being authentic. An Austrian presented himself to the German authorities in Vienna, and asked for a passport enabling him to travel to Berlin. This was first refused, but as he persisted in his object he was asked what reasons he had for wishing to undertake the journey. On his replying that he wished to visit his daughter whom he had not seen for over a year, his interlocutor, becoming purple with indignation, burst out with the rebuke, "Aber mein guter Herr, solche sentimentalität muss man sich doch in kriegszeiten abgewöhnen!"—"My dear sir, how can you indulge in such sentimentality in time of war!"

February 8.

The Reopening of Parliament.

The Roumanian Chambers were reopened on February 2, after an unusually long Christmas recess. During the autumn session the Government had suffered unremitting onslaughts on the part of the Opposition, so it really cannot be blamed for seeking a prolonged respite. As it is, there has been no rest for M. Bratiano, for he has been more than usually harassed by cares of an international character, which have been referred to previously. Without being in possession of definite facts, I am strongly under the impression that the country has recently passed through moments fraught with peril.

The first duty of the Chamber was to establish the validity of the recently elected members. Some interest attaches to the case of one member in particular, whose right to occupy a seat in Parliament was warmly contested on the ground that he did not enjoy Roumanian citizenship. Evidence was produced that he was the natural son of a Roumanian woman, his father being a Bulgarian from Macedonia. This fact alone would confer Roumanian citizenship, the child in such a case taking after the nationality of the mother; but it was argued that the subsequent legal marriage of the parents, whereby, according to Roumanian law, the child was legitimized, had invalidated his claim to Roumanian citizenship. The question being put to the vote, the perplexed member had the satisfaction of seeing his election confirmed by the majority.

The Imperial Spy.

On his return from Nish the Kaiser visited several Danubian ports on the gunboat "Radetzki." Descending the river past Virciorova and Turnu-Severin, the Kaiser, accompanied by the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne and Generals von Falkenheyn and von Helsen, examined minutely with field-glasses the Roumanian positions at Palota and the strategic works erected there.

Escaped Russian Prisoners.

Thirteen Siberian soldiers who had been made prisoners by the Germans and sent to Bulgaria have contrived to effect their escape by crossing the Danube at Lom Palanka, whence they reached Calafat. They were dressed in German uniforms. They relate that the Bulgarian population suffers indescribable misery, and that all the Danubian ports are powerfully fortified and garrisoned with German troops.

The Death of Prince Yussuf Izzeddin.

The death of Yussuf Izzeddin Effendi is vividly discussed here, the theory of suicide being received with much scepticism. The Sofia correspondent of the *Nationalul* relates that the theory of assassination finds credence there. He adds that it is perfectly established that Prince Yussuf Izzeddin could not have committed suicide in his palace on February 1, as announced, since he had left his residence on the previous day. Further, that, whereas he is reported to have taken his life at 7.30 in the morning, he actually passed through Sofia that same evening in the Balkan express on his way to Berlin. This was confirmed by all the Bulgarian papers. In view of the severe censorship exercised in Bulgaria, we may assume the statement to be accurate, in which case the hypothesis of suicide collapses. The alternative explanation suggested by the correspondent of the *Nationalul* is that Yussuf Izzeddin was assassinated in the train which was bearing him towards Berlin, and that the Ottoman Government has trumped up the theory of a suicide for purposes of its own.

The Earthquake.

A more than usually severe earthquake occurred on January 28, which attained its maximum effect at Curtea-del-Argesh and Campulung. In these and other regions many houses and churches suffered damage. In the town of Campulung the public baths were partially destroyed. A woman died from terror, and numerous panics took place, but beyond this there was no loss of life. Slight repetitions have recurred since, especially in the district of Curtea-del-Argesh.

Reciprocal Compliments.

From Sofia it is announced that the Government is preparing a Bill for making compulsory in the Bulgarian schools instruction in the German language. The German Government has undertaken to supply the necessary number of teachers. We know that measures have been taken in Germany with a view to popularizing the Turkish tongue. Will they return the delicate compliment by making the study of Bulgarian compulsory in Germany?

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, February 1.

The Sobranje.

It seems that the Sobranje will not be convoked until the middle of March. This decision is probably accounted for by the spirit of dissatisfaction which reigns amid the Parliamentary Opposition. The latter have, it is true, promised to refrain from adding to the difficulties of the Government; but they have resolved at the same time to abstain from all Parliamentary activity, attesting by this means their disapproval of the policy adopted, and repudiating all share in the responsibility it involves. The prorogation of Parliament is looked upon as a precautionary measure against the Opposition "turning nasty" in the event of Bulgaria's successes meeting with a check.

Bulgaria and Her Allies.

In spite of the clamour evoked by their glorious "victories," the grandiloquent speeches and superlative compliments addressed to each other by Kaiser and "Tzar" Ferdinand, it is not conceivable that the former's visit should be the outcome of a simple impulse to embrace his glorious ally. Misunderstandings between Bulgaria and Austria, and perhaps reluctance to participate in the attack on Salonika, probably account for the Imperial visit. With the occupation of Macedonia Bulgaria has attained the object for which she mobilized, and the people consider that their national claims have been satisfied. Having delivered the "coup de pied de l'âne" to the Serbian lion, she hesitates to compromise her present situation by, so to speak, running her head against a wall.

According to a report emanating from Sofia, Bulgaria has, as price of the bargain by which she obtains territorial concessions in Serbia at the expense of Austria, declared null and void that clause of her treaty with the Central Powers which limited her military action to the attack on Serbia. This implies that her military resources are to be placed at the disposal of the Central Powers, and probably that they will be made to play a leading part in the attack on Salonika, Austro-German troops apparently not being available in large numbers for this purpose. Bulgaria has thus placed herself in a position of servitude with regard to Germany. The latter accentuates this relationship by establishing her military headquarters at Sofia and by sprinkling the country with German troops. The latter are especially numerous along the southern bank of the Danube, where they have been placed for the alleged purpose of defending the country against an eventual attack coming from this direction. Bulgarian troops have here been replaced almost entirely by German.

Reports regarding the bad relations existing between Bulgarians and Germans seem to be well founded. Cases of "insubordination" on the part of Bulgarians are frequent, and are due to the excesses of their unwelcome guests. They are summarily dealt with—according to methods with which we have become familiar. Deserters crossing into Roumania state that the native population is simply being terrorized.

Berlin-Constantinople Communications.

The direct train between Berlin and Constantinople now circulates regularly. The distance is 2,421 kilometres, and it is covered in fifty-eight hours. There are two trains a week running each way. They leave Berlin on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and Constantinople on Mondays and Fridays. Numerous formalities have to be satisfied before a would-be passenger can book his ticket, and the number of seats is strictly limited. The cars are said to have been specially made, and are provided with considerable comfort.

The *Balkanska Tribouna* reports the arrival in Sofia of sixty-five deserters from the Roumanian army, all of them being Bulgarians from the Dobruja. Taking advantage of their Christmas leave, they escaped over the frontier, declaring their intention of serving in the Bulgarian army.

A GREAT ROUMANIAN ANNIVERSARY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, February 5.

February 5 is the greatest anniversary in the history of Roumania, for on that day of the year 1859 the peoples of Moldavia and Wallachia, running counter to the resolutions of the Great Powers, boldly repudiated the restrictions imposed by the Paris Convention by electing as their common ruler Prince Alexander Cuza, achieving thereby the union of the two principalities.

There is no effect without cause. The sudden change in the régime then existing can only be explained by the assumption that the forces of evolution had been silently at work with this end in view. A child, duly warned by the grown-up people about it, may hesitate long before deciding to place its foot upon the nethermost rung of the forbidden ladder. But the taking of this step is the outward and visible sign of forces that have been unconsciously at work, and is the inevitable resultant of their action. The year 1859 represents to the Roumanian State the first rung in the ladder of its visible evolution. In its further course it has met with many a set-back and risked more than one fatal fall. Up to this moment it has, however, maintained a more or less firm hold. Will it find the helping hand to guide it through the exigencies of the present situation? Can it count on its own strength if the helping hand is not extended? Is that partial union of 1859 but a precursor of a movement that is shortly to unite into a harmonious whole the straggling fragments of the race?

Such are a few of the questions that are uppermost in the public mind on this 5th day of February. Roumania's national question is, after all, only a fragment of a greater problem, for which the enlightened nations of the West must make it their duty to find a solution. The subject cannot be viewed from a standpoint too lofty. All spirit of vindictiveness will have to be quelled. The weeds of superstition and prejudice must be uncompromisingly uprooted if a solution is to be found for what we may call the Great Problem of the Little Nations, with which the future of the Great Nations is intimately bound up, in spite of their more than self-sufficient air of independence.

BULGARIAN CRUELTY TO BRITISH.

Our Bucharest Correspondent forwards us the following extract from the *Journal des Balkans*:—

From Sofia it is reported that the hatred manifested by the Bulgarians towards the English surpasses even that which they entertain for the Serbians. The English prisoners taken to Sofia and Philippopolis were exhibited in public, covered with chains as though they were criminals, and were grossly insulted by the population, which often went so far as to strike them. During the engagements which took place near Doiran the Bulgarian chiefs were so exasperated by the heavy losses inflicted by the British artillery that they ordered all English prisoners to be massacred. They likewise slew all the British wounded. These sentiments of hatred are carefully nurtured by the German officers.

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BAGHDAD: THE STORY OF A GREAT RETREAT.

By J. C. ROOME.

It is a curious coincidence that the British force operating against Baghdad finds itself in the same predicament as the army of the great Khwarazmian Emperor, who nearly seven hundred years ago led an expedition against the capital of the Khalif. In the case of the Khwarazmian army, a very heavy snowfall hampered the operations of the attacking force; in the case of the British Expeditionary Force, rain has made the roads, or what pass for roads, in Lower Mesopotamia, impassable.

The Khwarazmian monarch, Mohammed, was forced, by bad weather, to beat a hasty retreat, and it was with great difficulty that he reached Nishapur with the remnant of his large army. It was as a direct result of this expedition that the Abbaside Khalif, Nasir, then reigning in Baghdad, entered into negotiations with the terrible Chenghiz Khan, "the White Khan of the Mongols," and instigated him to lay waste the fair cities of the Khwarazmian Empire, Bokhara, the Noble, and Samarkand.

The Khalif regarded with envy the growth in power of the Khwarazmian Shah, and while openly profuse in his professions of goodwill towards Mohammed, set about plotting his overthrow. The influence of the Khalif was at the time on the wane, his authority did not extend beyond the confines of Mesopotamia, and even his spiritual power was not acknowledged by many among the Moslems of the day. The Khwarazmian Empire, on the other hand, extended from Irak to the heart of Central Asia, and its cities were busy and prosperous centres of trade in Asia.

The Khalif Nasir fondly believed that he had only to remove Mohammed out of his way to assert once more his spiritual authority over the subjects of the Shah and to make the vast Khwarazmian Empire an appanage of the Khalifate. Nasir, however, knew that it was impossible for him, with his badly equipped and small army, to take the field openly against Mohammed. He decided, therefore, to set the wheels of diplomacy in motion against his rival, and made overtures to Ghias-ud-Din, the Ghori King of Ghazni, to attack the Khwarazmian Empire; but the Ghori, for some reason or other, refused to entertain the suggestion seriously. In his successor, however, the Khalif found a pliant tool. Shahabu'd-Din, the son of Ghias-ud-Din, who succeeded his father on the throne of Ghazni, was led away by the mischievous advice of the Khalif into attacking the powerful Mohammed, with the result that the Khwarazmian army found itself master of Ghazni; and in the archives of that city the Shah found ample evidence of the machinations of the Khalif of Baghdad.

So enraged was Mohammed at the treachery of the Khalif that he vowed to lead an expedition against Baghdad in person, and to divest Nasir of the dignity of the Khalifate. In spite, however, of the wrangle of the sects in Islam, Nasir was not without his supporters, and Mohammed realised that in order to achieve his end it was advisable not to wound the sentimental susceptibilities of his co-religionists. He had given no hint to the Khalif of the discovery of the incriminating documents at Ghazni; but he proposed to leave the Khalif under no misapprehension as to the future relations between Baghdad and Bokhara. On his return from Ghazni, Mohammed made preparations for creating a large army of invasion, and selected Nishapur as the base. Within a short time, an army of thirty thousand men was ready to march against Baghdad.

The Shah then dispatched an envoy to the Khalif, demanding the title of Sultan, and the privilege of appointing his own representative as governor of Baghdad. The envoy had also instructions to ask the Khalif to issue a decree substituting Mohammed's name in place of his own in public prayers in the mosques. As the Shah had foreseen, the Khalif sent back the Khwarazmian envoy unceremoniously, with a curt refusal to all the demands of the Shah.

Mohammed retorted by arraigning the Khalif before the tribunal of the Ulema, the interpreters of Moslem law, on a charge of dereliction of duty as a Khalif. He promulgated a *fetva*, a question of religious law, among the Ulema: "May a monarch whose entire glory consists in exalting God's word and destroying the foes of the true faith, depose a recalcitrant Khalif and replace him by one who is deserving, if the Khalifate belongs by right to the descendants of Ali, and if the Abbasides have usurped it, and if besides they have always omitted one among the first duties, the duty of protecting the boundaries of Islam and waging sacred wars to bring unbelievers to the true faith, or, if they will not accept the true faith, to pay tribute?"

The Ulema returned a verdict in the affirmative, and the Shah published it broadcast, at the same time accusing Nasir of having neglected his duty as Khalif, and undertaking to find a successor to the Khalifate. The successor was found in a descendant of Ali, and Mohammed issued a proclamation erasing the name of Nasir from public prayers.

Steps were taken simultaneously to deprive Nasir of his territorial possessions. Ogalmash, a Turkish general, raised the standard of revolt in Persian Irak. Nasir, on his side, was also not idle. He won over the "Assassins" of Persia to his cause, and they proved powerful allies. They murdered Ogalmash.

On hearing of the outrage, Mohammed hastened his preparations for attacking Baghdad, and in early autumn set out with an army of thirty thousand men towards Helvan. The army met with little or no resistance, and the Shah was so confident of victory that he began granting deeds of assignment of the territories of the Khalif to his generals. Nasir waited for the army of invasion at Baghdad, but he instigated the Turks and the Kurds to harass Mohammed's army whenever possible. These savage warriors were not willing to draw upon themselves the wrath of the Khwarazmian monarch, and did not directly attack the invading force, but they indirectly did everything possible to impede its progress. The Khwarazmian army was, however, held together by discipline, and the advance guard soon found itself at Helvan.

The fall of Baghdad seemed only a question of days, when the army of invasion was called upon to face a foe worse than the bloodthirsty Kurds. Mohammed had planned his expedition for autumn, in order to avoid the rigours of bad weather; but, contrary to all meteorological calculations, his army found itself weather-bound. The vagaries of Nature unexpectedly turned the scales against the Khwarazmian king. Historians record that there was a heavy snowfall for twenty days in succession. The Khwarazmian army found it impossible to advance, and the Turks and the Kurds, who had been waiting for an opportunity to fall upon the invaders, played havoc with the army as it began its retreat. Small bands of the retreating force were ruthlessly cut up, and in cases where the Turks and Kurds acted as guides, they led the soldiers of the Shah into ambuscades and plundered them. It was with only a fraction of his large force that Mohammed found himself at last at Nishapur.

There he also heard of the approach of the Mongols. The first envoys from Chenghiz Khan presented their credentials to him at Bokhara shortly after, offering him in the name of their master a vassalage in the empire of the White Khan. Weakened as was the Khwarazmian Empire by the disastrous Baghdad expedition, Mohammed refused to acknowledge the Mongol as his suzerain, but entered into a treaty with him, which, however, the wily Mongol later turned to account in finding a pretext for attacking and laying waste all the cities of the Khwarazmian Empire. It was then that powerful bands of Mongols overran Russia and penetrated Europe as far as Poland, leaving scenes of desolation in their wake. It was then that the litany in Eastern churches embodied the prayer: "From the fury of the Mongols, good Lord deliver us."

TURKEY AND THE POWERS.

Oliver Bainbridge, lecturing before the Philosophical Institution of Edinburgh last week on "Turkey and the Turks," said: "I taxed Enver Pasha with being pro-German, and he said: 'Well, it is the fault of England and France. I asked them to assume the administration of Turkey, and they refused, so I had no alternative but to appeal to Germany, who promised to assist us, but did not wish to assume the administration *all at once*.'

"I was rather doubtful about this story, and wrote to Sir Edward Grey, asking him if there was any truth in it, and in reply he said: 'There is no foundation for the statement that the Young Turkish Party at any time requested Great Britain to assume the administration of the Ottoman Empire.' I then wrote to the Foreign Minister in France, who said: 'France has never received, directly or indirectly, any proposal of assuming the adminstration of Turkey.' A story was circulated also to the effect that the Turks had been willing to accept an English dictator—Viscount Milner was one of those mentioned—but that was refused. This I found to be another Eastern fable, for Viscount Milner has assured me that he was never, directly or indirectly, approached on the subject by the Turkish authorities."

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

AN APPLE OF DISCORD.*

The natural canals which link the Black Sea with the Mediterranean have been a source of international strife for thirty centuries. To neglect the economic interpretation of history is to plunge into an ocean of turbid rhetoric, and most authorities are now agreed that warfare has its roots in a struggle for food or wealth. Thus the siege of Troy was due to the action of a Greek colony, planted on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles, in intercepting sea-borne traffic; and the hostile coalition which Trojan tyranny provoked has had many parallels in subsequent history. A glance at the map of Europe reveals the transcendent importance of those straits, athwart which Constantinople stands with a footing on two continents. They are the kernel of the Eastern question, which has perplexed the Old World for centuries, and is apparently as far as ever from solution.

M. Dascovici has wandered far afield in attempting to trace their chequered fortunes. His bulky volume, indeed, reminds one of Martial's epigram on a Roman advocate who surveyed the annals of the imperial city in pleading the cause of a client deprived of his he-goat. It is a nebulous history of south-eastern Europe, rather than an account of secular struggles for access from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean. But we are inclined to pardon many divagations when we find our author rescuing from oblivion an episode which has great significance at the present crisis. During the fifteenth century Francis I. forgot that he was the "Very Christian King" in his fierce rivalry with the Emperor Charles V., and shocked Europe by concluding an alliance with "infidel" Turkey. His policy was vindicated by a report which the French ambassador at Constantinople sent to Charles IX. in 1579, and which contains the following passage:—

> That which interests us in the East is to find a Power capable of counter-balancing the excessive greatness of Germany; and this not only in order to regain our rights, but that we may arrest the expansion of an Empire which threatens to dominate Europe.

M. Dascovici's main contention is that the stupendous *lusus naturæ* which serves as an outlet for the commerce of six European States has always been an apple of discord, and will continue to prove a source of unrest so long as it remains under the dominion of a single Power. As a patriotic Roumanian he protests against the theory that the Bosphorus and Dardanelles should be relegated to Russian control. His country's exports, consisting of cereals, petroleum, salt, and timber—in other words, of bulky commodities, cannot be carried by rail to any market without ruinous loss. Moreover, in normal times Russia exports but 20 per cent. of her agricultural products, as compared with 55 per cent. sent abroad by Roumania. The latter country is, therefore, nearly thrice as deeply interested in securing freedom of navigation as Russia, which, unlike Roumania, has many outlets for her sea-borne commerce.

M. Dascovici's dread of a Russia ensconced in the Straits is based on her action in tearing up certain clauses of the Treaty of Paris (1856), as she virtually did during the throes of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-1. His view is of some importance because it evidently reflects that of many Rumanian politicians, and perhaps explains King Ferdinand's hesitation to join in what our author styles the "dance of death." But M. Dascovici has not followed the evolution of modern Russia. Her sovereign's morality stands on a far higher plane than that of his grandfather Alexander II., just as M. Sazonoff's diplomacy is superior to that of Prince Gorchakoff. A new Russia will emerge triumphant from the fearful ordeal through which she is passing—a Russia imbued with the sense of human brotherhood which has realised that, all nations being interdependent, any action injurious to others must, sooner or later, recoil on its perpetrator. "The mills of the gods grind slowly, but grind exceeding small," and retribution awaits the brutal selfishness of Germany. Throughout the Tsar's dominions this lesson has sunk deeply into hearts prepared to receive it by the ethical standards of Christianity. Nor would Great Britain, which drew her sword for Belgium, consent to an arrangement injurious to another of those "little nations" for whose rights M. Dascovici is unduly apprehensive. He may rest assured that Rumanian interests will be effectually safeguarded by the re-settlement of Europe, which must follow the return of peace.

F. H. SKRINE.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

On Mahdis and Mahdiism. By D. S. Margoliouth. Reprinted from the Proceedings of the British Academy, Vol. VII., and published for the Academy. (Humphrey Milford. 1s. net.)

Domestic Life in Rumania. By Dorothea Kirke. Illustrated. (The Bodley Head. 5s. net.)

* "La Question du Bosphore et des Dardanelles." By N. Dascovici. Geneva, Georg and Cie, Libraires de l'Université, 1915.

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Sidgwick and Jackson have issued a second edition of J. C. Stobart's "The Glory that was Greece." It is well illustrated, and has a useful glossary and index The price is 7s. 6d. net.

Mr. Eveleigh Nash has published "Pleasures and Palaces," by the Princess Lazarovich-Hrebelianovich. The author, before she married the Serbian statesman, was Miss Eleanor Calhoun, and this volume contains her reminiscences of society during her stage days.

The Rev. F. N. Heazell, M.A., organising secretary of the Archbishop's Assyrian Mission, has contributed a Foreword to a pamphlet entitled "Massacres of Syrian (Nestorian) Christians," which Mr. Paul Shimmon, of Urmi, Persia, has written and Messrs. Wells Gardner, Darton and Co. have published. The pamphlet deals with a subject which is only too familiar to our readers, but the horrors it describes cannot be too widely known, and we trust that the appeal of the author for help for his suffering fellows will meet with a generous response in this country.

"SALON'IKA" OR "SALONI'KI?"

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Your versatile contributor "Corsair," whose piratical craft follows such a delightfully erratic course from "Tangier to Teheran," unhindered by German submarines, by Turkish obstructions in the Straits, or even by the solid stretches of *terra firma* beyond the Black Sea and the Caspian, appears to have recently touched at this busy port, and he and his crew—according to your issue of January 7—are in difficulties about the name of this town. As this seems to come within my sphere of influence (but what does a corsair care about other people's interests?) I had better tell him, and them, that they are all right—or all wrong—according to the point of view taken. If you are a Greek you will call it "Thessaloni'ki," if a Turk "Sela'nik," if a Frenchman "Saloni'que," if an American "Saloniki," but if you are an Englishman—or a Scotchman or Irishman, for the matter of that—you will call it "Salon'ika," or, as some people write it, "Salon'ica."

The pronunciation of place-names is entirely a matter of usage. In English we call the French capital Pa'ris, the Germans call it Pari's, and the French themselves Pari' (the "s" being silent). To sum up, I hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the vast majority of Britishers here and elsewhere call the place Salon'ika—and it is usually safest to follow the majority. Now, Mr. Corsair, you may continue your course, and tackle the Turkish names from Sedd-ul-Bahr to Kavak.—I am, etc.,

YOUR SALONIKA CORRESPONDENT.

Salonika, January 30, 1916.

ORIENTAL PAINTER-ILLUSTRATORS.

Lovers of Oriental art have their special grievance against Germany. Part of the valuable manuscript of Rashid-ud-Din's "Universal History," enriched with the work of Persian artist-illustrators, was sent to Leipzig in 1914 to the Book Exhibition, and there it still remains. Other important and precious manuscripts illustrated by Persian artists of the early Middle Ages have been removed from their usual places in the British Museum to others more safe, but beyond the reach of lovers of this art. When Dr. T. W. Arnold was asked if he would arrange a personally conducted tour of interested hearers who had attended his lecture on "The Persian Paintings of Bihzad and his Predecessors" (given before the National Indian Association on February 10) to see the originals, he replied, "After the war!" He pointed out that the Persian art which survived the Mongol invasion was influenced by Byzantine, Egyptian, and Chinese art, but eventually freed itself from outside influences. The sons of Timur, he said, were the most cultivated princes who ever ruled in Persia. They were patrons of art and encouraged science and learning. The romantic poems of Nizami were favourites among the artists, who devoted their skill to illustrating them. Bihzad was a Court painter of the fifteenth century and the creator of Persian miniature painting; he was a great colourist and draughtsman. Mirut followed in his steps, and became one of the most famous of Persian painters. The illustrations of the works of these artists, shown by lantern slides, aroused the desire on the part of the audience to see the originals—a desire which much be cherished with patience "until after the war."

Colonel T. Holbein Hendley, whose interest in Mogul paintings is so well known, proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Arnold, which was heartily carried.

Any Books mentioned on this page, or any other Publication, can be obtained at the published price, plus 3d. postage in the United Kingdom, or 6d. abroad, from

THE NEAR EAST (Book Department),

16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Feb.	1916. Feb.		1334. Rabi II.	5676. Adar.
25	12	Friday	20	21
26	13	Saturday.....	21	22
27	14	Sunday	22	23
28	15	Monday	23	24
29	16	Tuesday	24	25
Mar. 1	17	Wednesday	25	26
2	18	Thursday	26	27

To-day is the birthday of Princess Alice, wife of Prince Andrew of Greece, who before her marriage was Princess Alice of Battenberg, and who was born in 1885.

To-morrow is the birthday of Ferdinand, King of Bulgaria, who was born in Vienna in 1861.

Lord Edward Cecil, Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, has arrived in London on a special mission.

Lord Loughborough recently returned to Cairo on leave from active service to Shepheard's Hotel, where Lady Loughborough is staying. Her ladyship arrived from Luxor a few days earlier.

Sir Ralph Paget, British Commissioner for Serbia, and Mrs. Carrington Wilde, a member of the Serbian Relief Fund Committee, left London on Wednesday for Paris.

The Archbishop of Belgrade arrived in Paris from Nish at the beginning of the week.

Madame Grouitch was prevented from leaving London for New York as she intended last week, but she left on Wednesday.

H.E. the Serbian Minister was one of the diplomatic callers at the Foreign Office on Tuesday.

Dr. A. Ninchitch, the Serbian Minister of Finance, has arrived in London from Paris.

On receipt of the news of the fall of Erzeroum, the King despatched the following telegram to the Emperor of Russia:—"My heartiest congratulations upon the splendid achievement of your gallant troops in the capture of Erzeroum, after such hard fighting, which I trust will have far-reaching effects." Sir E. Grey also sent a telegram of cordial congratulation to M. Sazonoff on the fall of the fortress.

The following telegrams have passed between Earl Kitchener and the Grand Duke Nicholas:—

Lord Kitchener to his Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Nicholas: "I beg your Imperial Highness to accept the heartiest congratulations of the British Army and myself upon the brilliant feat of arms of our Russian comrades at Erzeroum."

His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Nicholas to Lord Kitchener: "I beg you, Sir, to accept from me and also kindly to transmit to the brilliant British Army the warmest thanks for the congratulations of our brother comrades."

The death is announced of his Highness the Sultan of Perak, Sir Idris bin Iskander. Raja Idris, who became Sultan in 1888, was a strong ruler and an intelligent advocate of British methods of administration. Upon the outbreak of war he sent an assurance through the Colonial Office to his Majesty King George of his adherence to Great Britain, and added that there would be no trouble in Perak because there was a state of war with Turkey. His Highness was created a K.C.M.G. (Hon.) in 1892, a G.C.M.G. (Hon.) in 1901, and G.C.V.O. (Hon.) in 1913.

In Sir Ian Hamilton's despatch of December 11, which was published on January 29, the name of Major-General the Hon. H. A. Laurence is again mentioned.

Under date of February 16, Reuter's Cairo correspondent reports:—A telegram has been received by the American diplomatic agency in Cairo from the American Minister in Athens stating that the Cree, Whitley, Jones and Bryant families, of Baghdad, are at present at Mosul, all well.

General Sarrail left Athens on Tuesday, on his return to Salonika. He expressed himself as highly satisfied with his audience with King Constantine. He had an interview with M. Skouloudis, the Greek Premier, and paid visits to M. Venizelos and M. Zaimis. He also left cards on the Princes of the Royal Family, and received the members of the French colony in Athens.

Lieutenant-General Sir H. Sclater, K.C.B., who has been appointed General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, the Southern Command, served in Egypt from 1884 to 1890. He took part as a staff officer in the Nile Expedition (1884-85), and was afterwards D.A.A.G. at headquarters. He had been Adjutant-General since April, 1914; and in recognition of his services the King has been pleased to confer upon him the Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath.

Lieutenant-General Sir Pitcairn Campbell, K.C.B., who hands over the Southern Command to Sir Henry Sclater, and is transferred to the Chester command, saw service in the Sudan in 1884-85, when he took part in the Battle of Abu Klea. He also served in the South African War.

A Turkish news agency states that Essad Pasha, "who, without authorisation, undertook the provisional government of Albania and joined the enemy forces," has been deprived of his rank and removed from the army by Imperial Iradeh.

The *Egyptian Mail* reports that by the kindness of Prince Fuad, the Sultan's brother, some 800 wounded and convalescent soldiers and a party of nurses were recently enabled to see, at the Sultania Opera House, a performance similar to that given the previous evening in aid of the International First Aid Society. Prince Fuad had also generously provided tea for them, while on leaving each man was presented with a packet of cigarettes. At the close of the entertainment, General Maxwell stepped on to the stage, and in a short speech mentioned how much the British wounded in Egypt were indebted to his Highness the Sultan, and to his brother, Prince Fuad; the former, said the General, had displayed the greatest interest in the welfare of the wounded, and had visited all the hospitals in Alexandria and Cairo. He would ask the men to give three cheers, first for the Sultan, and then for Prince Fuad. Needless to say, the cheers were most heartily given.

Writing on February 8, our Bucharest Correspondent reports:—M. Victor Antonesco, Minister of Justice, has returned to Bucharest from abroad. The official announcement that a further extension of his leave had been accorded by Royal decree has given rise to speculation regarding the direction and object of his journey, especially since it has been noted that the date of the second announcement coincides with that of his return. It is rumoured that he has been to Paris on business connected with the new loan, and also, perhaps, that his recent journey may have some connection with a somewhat unfriendly attitude recently adopted by a portion of the French Press with respect to Roumania.

The marriage arranged between Captain Robin Otter, Norfolk Regiment (Temporary Major, attached to 26th Royal Fusiliers), and Miss Mary Troubridge, eldest daughter of Rear-Admiral Troubridge, C.B., C.M.G., will take place to-morrow at Christ Church, Chelsea, at half past two o'clock. There will be no reception, but friends are invited to the church.

As a glance at our Roll of Honour will show, Dr. Frank Mackinnon and his three sons are all serving their King and country in the great war, the father as a captain in the R.A.M.C., one son as a captain in the K.A.R., in British East Africa, and the two others as first lieutenants. Mrs. Mackinnon is also engaged in helping in the great struggle, working at Waverley Station, Edinburgh, in connection with the "Hospitality to Soldiers and Sailors" movement. Thus, we have at least one entire family from the Near East doing its best for the good cause in a most practical manner.

We regret to learn that Miss N. Griffiths, who has been editing the Cairo *Sphinx* this winter, is lying seriously ill at the Anglo-American Hospital.

Mr. Norman Brookes, the celebrated Australian lawn-tennis player, now acting as the Australian Red Cross Commissioner in Cairo, is staying at Shepheard's Hotel with his family.

The *London Gazette* announces that Second Lieutenant H. N. Lyster, Royal Fusiliers, has been graded for pay as Staff Lieutenant, Second Class. Lieutenant Lyster is the son of Mr. A. J. Lyster, of Constantinople.

Sergent-Pilote Guynemer, of the French Army, who has been awarded the Médaille Militaire and the Légion d'Honneur, is a member of the Paris office of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

The death is announced, as taking place at Ealing, of Colonel Augustus Le Mesurier, R.E., who served with the Abyssinian Expedition of 1868.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Frederick Dodd, one of the oldest Anglo-Egyptians of Alexandria, which occurred in Egypt on the 10th inst. Mr. Dodd, who was the son of Mr. John Dodd, of Bagley, Salop, was in his eighty-first year.

We regret to have to report that Mr. George Alfred Williams, general manager of Messrs. Julius Liepmann and Co.'s Successors, died in Cairo on the 5th inst., age 67 years.

We learn that M. Pierre Nomico, formerly of the Stamboul office of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, was killed in action at Zagora on December 10.

In view of his attitude towards the war, the Central Hackney Liberal Association have passed a resolution stating that they can no longer support Mr. Charles Roden Buxton as the prospective Liberal candidate for the division.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces that among the recent arrivals in Egypt in the Australian Imperial Forces is J. J. Kelly, the famous wicket-keeper, who kept wicket for Australia regularly between 1896 and 1905. Another Test match player now in Egypt is C. Kelleway, who made a couple of centuries against South Africa in the triangular tournament. He holds a commission in an infantry regiment.

As a result of the Serbian bazaar and entertainment organised by the Women's Volunteer Reserve, at the Portman Rooms, on January 27, a sum of £200 has been handed over to the Serbian Relief Fund, with medical stores to the value of nearly £400, and a large quantity of clothing which is being sent direct to Corfu with a hospital unit.

MRS. FRANK BARKER wishes to recommend MANOLI CORBETTI, 22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street, W., to anyone wishing to purchase YAOURT, HALVA, TOMATO PASTE, BLACK OLIVES, ORIENTAL JAMS, or CIGARETTES, all of which he gets direct from Salonika and other parts of Greece.—[Advt.]

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The marriage of Miss Irene Earle McMahon, younger daughter of Sir Henry and Lady McMahon, and Captain Kenmore Evans Gordon, only son of Colonel Evans Gordon and Mrs. Evans Gordon of Wigan Croft, Northwood, Middlesex, which took place at St. Mary's Church, Cairo, recently, was, in the absence of the Bishop in Jerusalem, conducted by the Rev. C. T. Horan in the presence of a large and distinguished congregation.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces that there has recently been formed in Cairo, under the direct patronage of the High Commissioner, Lady McMahon, General Maxwell, and Lady Maxwell, an organization known as the "Convalescent Outings" Society, which has for its object the promotion of excursions to the various beauty spots and show-places of Cairo and the neighbourhood, for the benefit of sick and wounded soldiers. The list of patrons includes Bishop MacInnes, Sir Milne and Lady Cheetham, Lord Edward and Lady Cecil, Sir Malcolm and Lady McIlwraith, Sir Ronald and the Hon. Mrs. Graham, Sir Murdoch and Lady MacDonald, Douglas Dunlop, Esq., Surgeon General Ford, C.B., D.S.O., and Mrs. Ford, Sir George Macaulay, K.C.M.G., Judge Halton, Sir David Semple, K.C.M.G., Dr. H. P. Keatinge, C.M.G., Colonel V. C. M. Sellhem, C.B., of the Australian Imperial Forces, Colonel Etherington, of the Canadian Forces, Colonel Parkes, with the New Zealand Contingent, and the joint Commissioners of the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society, namely, Mr. Adrian Knox and Mr. Norman E. Brookes.

A correspondent writes:—Napier of Magdala, Roberts of Khandahar, Kitchener of Khartoum, Beresford of Metemmeh. Why not? It is true that history has but little to say of the new peer's association with the Berber town, and few may even remember that it at one time played an important part in the history of the Sudan. Contemporary historians, such as Knight, Burleigh, Steevens, and Villiers may have had little to record in pen or pencil of Lord Charles Beresford's connection with Metemmeh, though a good deal to say about that place itself. Spelled variously, "Metemmeh," "Metemmah," and "Metemma," the town—or what is left of it—lies upon the right bank of the Nile, about four miles from Shendi. In 1884 the place was prominently concerned in the abortive British expeditionary operations in the Sudan. Here were collected the five steamers that had been sent from Khartoum by the anxiously awaiting Gordon in order to bring up the long-expected but most dilatory British force despatched months before to relieve him. The distance is about 290 miles by water from Khartoum, and it was not until the last day of the year (December 31, 1884) that the troops were pronounced ready to start for Metemmeh, upon their errand of succour, across the Bayuda desert, a marching distance of at least 170 miles. When Metemmeh was finally reached, Major-General Sir Herbert Stewart, in command of the relief force consisting of only 1,100 men, spent so much time in establishing a fort and in going back to Korti, in conformity with the instructions of Lord Wolseley, that the whole object of the expedition was frustrated. As a fact, nothing was done to oust the Dervishes until 1885, when the place was made the object of a reconnaissance by the British troops. Later on, the town was the scene of a terrible massacre of Jaalins, some 2,000 of whom were slain by the Dervishes under the bloodthirsty Mahmoud, who was himself taken prisoner several years afterwards at the Battle of the Atbara. The ruins of the once thickly populated town of Metemmeh are still visible. The whole surrounding district consists of depressing desert, a fitting environment of the terrible tragedy which took place there. The fact that Lord Charles Beresford should have chosen its name as part of his title is difficult to appreciate.

The body of Captain Cecil E. H. Morton, Royal Marine Light Infantry, who died on May 18 last at the Deaconess's Hospital, Alexandria, of wounds received in action in Gallipoli, will arrive shortly in England. The interment will take place in Lexden Churchyard, near Colchester.

According to a Reuter's telegram, the Marseilles correspondent of the *Echo de Paris* states that the Serbian Colonel Ungrinovitch has died in the hospital in Marseilles from illness contracted on active service. He was sent in 1913 by King Peter to take charge of the operations against Adrianople, and was the first to enter that town at the head of his troops.

Under date of the 16th inst., the *Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula reports from Bucharest:—I have received a communication from Lady Paget, dated Uskub, the 8th inst. All the members of the Serbian Relief Fund there are well and cheerful, and are looking forward to undertaking the homeward journey soon. Lady Paget has latterly suffered much from overwork and was seriously ill last month, but is now better.

Mr. H. Laxton, superintendent of the Eastern Telegraph Company's station at Port Sudan, has been transferred to Salonika.

For the benefit of the Serbian Relief Fund a morning concert will be given at Steinway Hall to-morrow (Saturday) by Mme. Madelaine Bathurst, Mr. Ivor Foster, Miss Bessie Worrall, and Mr. Stanley Stubbs. Tickets may be obtained from Mme. Bathurst, 103, King Henry's Road; Messrs. Chappell's, Bond Street; or at the hall.

The British Farmers' Red Cross Fund has now arranged to provide a further sum of £65,000 to the British Red Cross Society, of which £5,000 is earmarked for motor ambulances and a steam launch for the sick and wounded Indian soldiers.

The deaths of two Crimean veterans were announced last Friday. Mr. Hamblin Trelany Seale, who was assistant paymaster in the Royal Navy, and was with the Naval Brigade at Sebastopol, has died at Chelsea at the age of eighty-three years. Chief Petty Officer William Carnell, who held the Crimean medal with Sebastopol clasp, has died at the age of seventy-nine years.

In response to a request from the Directeur du Service de Santé, Paris, the number of beds at the hospital at Limoges, maintained by the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee, of Sardinia House, Kingsway, W.C., has been increased from 175 to 225. The hospital staff includes twenty-four English nurses.

The will of Mr. Constantine Constantinidis, who died recently at Alexandria, includes bequests of £1,000 to the Greek Navy, £500 to the Greek hospital at Alexandria, £500 for building a new residence for the site of the Orthodox Greek Patriarchate of Alexandria, £2,000 to the Greek Benevolent Society of Alexandria, the Philoptochos, £1,500 for the construction of his tomb in the Greek Orthodox Cemetery at Alexandria, and £1,000 for the poor, the interest being distributed as alms at Christmas. To his two sons he left a large house in the Greek quarter in Alexandria and a manufactory in the villages. To his sons and daughters he bequeathed a house at Nephisia and also an estate there.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

Mr. R. C. Lindsay, Under-Secretary at the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, is acting as Financial Adviser during the absence of Lord Edward Cecil.

Our Bucharest Correspondent reports that M. Michel Sturdza, late Secretary of the Roumanian Legation at Athens, has left Bucharest in order to take up his new post at Berne.

M. Ghermani, First Secretary of Legation, who had been temporarily attached to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Bucharest, has returned to his post in Vienna.

M. Filality, the Roumanian Minister in Serbia, has followed the Serbian Government to Corfu, where he continues to fulfil his diplomatic functions.

The King has been pleased to give permission to Mr. Thomas Harry Balding, Instructor to the Cavalry Squadron of the Shereefian Guard at Rabat, Morocco, to wear the Cross of Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, which decoration has been conferred upon him by the President of the French Republic in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

The Sultan of Egypt has approved the promotion of El Bimbashi W. H. McCowan, Arab Battalion, to be Kaimakam.

The *London Gazette* announces that Captains E. D. F. Gee, R.G.A., and W. F. M. Bagshawe, R.G.A., are promoted to be Majors and are to remain seconded to the Egyptian Army.

The following transfers in the Egyptian Army have been approved as from the dates stated:—El Bimbashi F. G. Peake, 4th Battalion, to Arab Battalion. 14-12-15.

El Bimbashi S. Hutchins, Sudan Government, to Department of Supplies. 21-1-16.

El Bimbashi Hon. Fitz R. Somerset, 9th Sudanese, to Sudan Government. 21-1-16.

El Bimbashi F. W. L. Edwards, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General and Aide-de-Camp to the Sirdar, has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

El Bimbashi G. F. Raper, Artillery, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

The following appointment is announced:—El Bimbashi C. W. W. Sandes, 12th Sudanese, to be a Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General.

A Berlin telegram received, by way of Amsterdam, last week, states that the German Minister in Sofia, Dr. Michahelles, owing to ill-health, will be replaced by the German Minister at Christiania, Count von Oberndorff. Dr. Michahelles has received the Order of the Red Eagle of the First Class with oak leaves.

Under date of February 21, the Washington correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports:—In all probability the post of Consul-General at Cairo will not be filled by the American Government until the close of the war. The place has been made vacant by the forced resignation of Mr. Olney Arnold, whose marked pro-German sympathies made him distasteful to the British Government, and who was removed when representations were made by the British Government to the Department. Mr. Olney Arnold was accredited to the Turkish Government, but since Turkey's nominal control of Egypt has been broken by the war, the Washington Government would have to recognise the new status, which it prefers to avoid by leaving the post vacant and designating a temporarily-acting Consul General.

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ROLL OF HONOUR.

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

The Editor of THE NEAR EAST *would be obliged if relatives of former British residents in the Near East who have joined H.M.'s forces would communicate additional names or other particulars for insertion in our Roll of Honour. Biographical details concerning those who have fallen in their country's service would also be appreciated.*

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co., Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Captain A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
BARKER, 2nd Lieut. C., Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
BARRON, Captain J. B., Worcester Regiment, France.
BATH, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
BELL, Sister M. J., Edinburgh War Hospital, Bangour.
BINNS, Lieut. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
BINNS, Lieut. Harold H., Royal Naval Division Headquarters, British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
BINNS, Lieut. W. Hylton, care of The British Consul, Brindisi.
BLYTH, Captain R. C. P., 1st Gloucestershire Regiment, attd. Egyptian Army. (*Killed in Action.*)
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
BOND, Lieut. Gladwyn J. T., 1/3 West Riding Brigade, R.F.A., Ripon.
BOND, Trooper Sidney, 1779, Royal Horse Guards. (*Wounded.*)
BOND, Corporal R. (41,357), Headquarters Staff, "D" Battery, 79th Brigade, R.F.A., 17th Division, B.E.F., France.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Private Henry J., R.A.M.C., Duke of York's Barracks, Chelsea.
BROOKS, Corporal George, 41356, D. Batt., 78th Brig., R.F.A., 17th Div., B.E.F. France (in hospital with fever).
BURN, E. R., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BURNS, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Accidentally Killed.*)
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C. Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CHARNAUD, Lieut. A., R.N.V.R., Acting Interpreter.
CLEMOW, F. G., M.D., C.M.G., British Red Cross Mission.
CLIFTON, Capt. H., Interpreter, 11th Batt. Durham Light Infantry, 54th Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital. Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CORBETT, Lieut. H. C., M.D., R.A.M.C.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Fulford Barracks, York.
CUMBERBATCH, Captain R. C., 7th Bn., Rifle Brigade, 14th Division, B.E.F., France.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. H. D., 6th Bn., "The Buffs," 12the Division, B.E.F., France.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., No. 38983, R.F.A., B. Battery, 84th Brigade, 18th Division, British Expeditionary Force, France.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Battalion.
ELLIOTT, Flight Sub-Lieut. Clifford W., R.N.A.S.
EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (8) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GOUT, Captain Charles L. Gout, 2/4th K.O.Y.L.I., Lark Hill Camp, Camp No. 10, Salisbury Plain.
GOUT, Rifleman Evelyn, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GRAVES, Captain Philip, Intelligence Department, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian H., "A" Co., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade, Queen's El Ward, Bed 40, Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester. (*Wounded.*)
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HOLMES, 2nd Lieut. Gerald H., 2/5th Batt. Leicestershire Regiment.
HOLTON, Corporal Alfred, Royal Naval Division, Divisional Engineers.
HOLTON, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.
IRELAND, Private D. J. (8346), 15th County of London Regiment.
JACKSON, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
KERR, Miss E., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., H.M. Hospital Ship Brighton, British Expeditionary Force, France.
KEYSER, Lieut. A. G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. Fred., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. Hugh, 2/7th City of London Regiment, Acting Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
LA FONTAINE, Sub-Lieut. J. S., R.N.V.R., Hawke Battalion. (*Wounded.*)
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LE BAILLY, Lieutenant R. F., R.N.V.R., Recruiting Officer for Royal Naval Air Service, Brook Green Road, Hammersmith.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
LYSTER, Lieut. Henry Newbolt, Brigade Intelligence Officer, 81st Infantry Brigade, British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Salonika.
LYSTER, Pte. Frederick John, 6129, 5th Co., Inns of Court O.T.C., Berkhamsted, Herts.
MACKENZIE, 1st Lieut. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
MACKINNON, Dr. Frank I., Captain, R.A.M.C., San Antonio Palace, Malta.
MACKINNON, Dr. John M., Captain, R.A.M.C., 3rd King's African Rifles, Mombasa, British East Africa.
MACKINNON, Lieut. Patrick, 12th Field Co., Royal Engineers, 6th Division, B.E.F.
MACKINNON, Lieut. Eric, 13th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
MACRAY, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.
MCLOCHLAN, Private B., 1st Canadian L.I.
MCLOCHLAN, Private G., 1st Canadian L.I.
METCALFE, Sister E. J., Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
MOORE, Miss K. M., Royal Red Cross, Serbia.
MORRISON, Lieut. J., 4th Seaforth Highlanders, B.E.F., France.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MUMFORD, P. F., Army Service Corps, R.E., Baldock.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NOWILL, 2nd Lieut. Sidney, 2/17th City of London Regiment, Acting Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., Haddington.
PEACOCK, 2nd Lieut. Frank, 4/4th Batt. London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers.
PEARS, Captain G. B., Military Cross, R.E. (*Wounded.*)
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
PODMORE, Lieut. Arthur, Military Cross, R.E.
POYNTER, Lieut. Hugh E., No. 2 Base Supply Depot, Portishead, Somerset.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
REES, Sub-Lieutenant J. Langdon, R.N.V.R.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
REES, Sub-Lieutenant T. B. F., R.N.V.R.
RICHARDS, Miss, Dispenser, Edinburgh War Hospital, Bangour.
ROBINSON, Lance-Corporal J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem. (*Killed in action.*)
RICE, Rifleman Cecil, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Died from Wounds.*)
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. R. A. C., Royal Engineers, P.S., Army Base Post Office, Salonica.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SAMSON, Seaman George McKenzie, V.C., R.N.R. (*Seriously Wounded.*)
SEAGER, Lieut. J. A., 16th Middlesex Regiment, France.
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regt. (*Wounded.*)
SELLAR, Lieut. Fred. B., Interpreter, Central European Expeditionary Force.
SEMPLE, Rev. S. H., C.F., 7th Royal Scots, 156th Brigade, 52nd Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
SIMMONS, Gunner H. C., 123rd Heavy Battery, R.G.A. (*Died from Wounds.*)
STEPLING, Rev. Canon, R.A.M.C.
STOCK, Lieut. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
SUMMERS, Lieut. H. C., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Europa."
SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).
THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
THOMPSON, John, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
THWAITES, Captain H., R.A.M.C., France.
TORRANCE, Dr. D., R.A.M.C.
TRENTER, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.
VAN LENNEP, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
VAN MILLINGEN, 2nd Lieut. Charles A. M., 14th Rifle Brigade.
VAN MILLINGEN, Private R. G. C., 3rd Batt. London Scottish.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Egbbert, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (8) Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
WEALE, 2nd Lieut. W. W. C., 11th Batt., Devonshire Regiment. (*Wounded.*)
WELLS, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
WHEATLEY, Miss, Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. No. 21, Ambulance Train, British Expeditionary Force.
WHEELER, Captain P. F. C. d'Erf, 3rd Dorset Regiment, Medit. Exp. Force. (*Wounded.*)
WHEELER, 2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Nowell Popham d'Erf, 7th Dorset Regiment, Portsmouth.
WHITEHOUSE, Canon F. C., 3/6 City of London Rifles, Fovant Camp, Salisbury.
WHITEHOUSE, Mid. L. Edwin, H.M.S. "Triad," Mediterrancan.
WHITEHOUSE, Mid. L. E., R.N.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Lieut.-Commander F. E., R.N.
WHITTALL, Lieut.-Commander H. E. C., R.N.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. H. V., Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Kenneth, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut Roland, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. (*Died from Wounds.*)
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Walter, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Wounded.*)
WILSON, Dr. Marian E., Scottish Women's Hospital, Abbaye Royaumont, France.
WOODS, Harold, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
WRATISLAW, Captain J. C., 8th Leicestershire Regiment, 110 Brigade, 37th Division, B.E.F., France.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1916.

ERZEROUM—KUT—BAGHDAD.

Unless all the indications are at fault, the capture of Erzeroum by the Russians marks a turning-point in the war with Turkey. There is no need to indulge in any exaggerated expectations. Erzeroum is not in Europe; its fall is Turkey's trouble, rather than Germany's; and although the Central Powers have as little desire to see disaster overtake either of their vassal States as to incur it themselves, they are probably too conscious of troubles of equal magnitude, though of a different order, nearer home to feel overmuch the loss of a Turkish fortress in Armenia. The significance of the Russian success, therefore, has to be considered in its relation to the military operations in Asia, which is, after all, one of the minor theatres of the war. Its importance in this theatre, however, is quickly revealed. In the first place the fall of Erzeroum implies a grave misconception on the part of the Turco-German military authorities. The despatch of Field-Marshal von der Goltz Pasha to Baghdad with the object of driving the British expedition into the Persian Gulf meant that Mesopotamia had become for the Turks and their German masters on the spot the main sphere of operations. Hither would be sent as many men as could be spared and the bulk of the available munitions. While the latter would be despatched by the Baghdad railway, it is probable that von der Goltz's army would rely largely for reinforcements and some supplies on Anatolia and the Erzeroum district, which furnish some of the best material in the Turkish army. The capture of Erzeroum cuts off the Baghdad command from one of its bases, and threatens its communication with the other and main base, inasmuch as the Russians at Bitlis are barely 150 miles from Nisibin, the present railhead of the Baghdad Railway. The whereabouts of the German Field-Marshal would supply the best clue to the Turco-German view of the situation. If he has found it necessary to return to Constantinople, only one inference can be drawn. If, on the other hand, he is still at Baghdad, then we may expect the Turks to make a determined effort to stay the Russian advance at some point between Mush and the *tracé* of the Baghdad railway, even if it is not challenged directly from the west. The signal success already achieved by the Grand Duke Nicholas must not obscure the fact that his difficulties increase as he proceeds westwards and south-westwards, owing to the necessary lengthening of his front.

So long as Russian troops are in touch with Turkish fugitives the Grand Duke's task is a comparatively easy one, but he will not be able to continue the pursuit beyond a certain point without running the risk of exposing his left flank to the possibility of an attack from the direction of Baghdad. The period that he may require to consolidate his position and bring up reinforcements will in all probability be utilised by the Turks to bring up relief from Constantinople, Aleppo, and Baghdad. The resultant disorganisation of Turco-German plans is to be regarded as by no means the least valuable effect of the capture of Erzeroum. It will tax Turkey's resources to the utmost to interpose an adequate barrier in the way of the Russian advance. If, therefore, the attempt to co-ordinate the military efforts of the Entente Powers has been successful, now is the time for Russia's Allies to come to her assistance in order to enable her to press home her advantage. Among the unfortunate comments that have appeared in the daily Press in connection with the fall of Erzeroum, probably the most misleading is the statement appearing in the *Morning Post* to the effect that the salvation of General Townshend's force at Kut depends upon Russia, that "if we are saved there, we shall be saved by Russia." In the first place, we may hope that the safety of the Kut garrison will already have been practically decided by the arrival of the reinforcements sent to General Lake. If it were merely a question of a dash to extricate General Townshend from a dangerous position, and then to withdraw the joint forces, there would be less need to delay General Aylmer's advance; but the object of the Mesopotamian expedition can only be, in succouring the Kut garrison, to make the place once more the base for a fresh forward movement, this time on an adequate scale. The Russian victory in the north, without doubt, comes at an opportune moment. Coinciding with an improvement in the British position in Mesopotamia, it will probably simplify the advance of the expedition, just as the progress of the British in turn will prevent the Turks from despatching too large a force from Baghdad to check the Russian advance. The British Expeditionary Force and the Grand Duke Nicholas' army are now playing into one another's hands, although the difference in their respective strengths does not allow any comparison between the effects they can produce. Both, however, are in need of further assistance, and sound strategy on the part of the Allies would call for a combined movement, which would threaten Turkey from a different direction and prevent her from devoting her maximum strength to meeting the Russian menace. There are several points on the coast line between the Dardanelles and the Sinai Peninsula which lend themselves to such an object. A landing at one or more of these points would be as valuable to the Grand Duke Nicholas as the strengthening of his army by several divisions.

The British expedition to Mesopotamia has not fulfilled its earlier promise. We have called attention frequently in these pages to the mistakes of the higher command, but we do not hold with those critics who decry the whole enterprise. The very fact that mistakes have been made, that British prestige in these regions has suffered from military reverses, is sufficient reason for profiting by our experience and seeing the thing through to a successful issue. Fortunately, everything points to a determination on the part of the British Government to adopt this plan. It would be a crowning disgrace, if we imposed upon our Allies the additional task of capturing Baghdad. There can be no desire to underestimate the importance of the Russians' successes; but for the moment Baghdad is outside their sphere. Although it makes no difference which of the Allied troops are the first to enter a town or district, the point we would make here is that Great Britain, having put her hand to the Mesopotamian campaign, has to carry it out to the end on her own account, and there must be no encouragement of a *laissez faire* policy, which would cause us to slacken our efforts on the Tigris in the expectation of the Russians doing our work for us. If the military operations in the Near East and Middle East are viewed from their present standpoint, regardless of all that may have gone before, it will be seen that the Allies at Salonika and Erzeroum and on the Tigris are in a strong position to neutralise the efforts of the Central Powers south of the Danube. Provided the Allied War Council, strengthened, it is to be hoped, by the participation of Italy, can give adequate attention to this vast theatre, regarding it as a single sphere, a successful initiative at this juncture must materially and immediately affect the whole course of the war. It is to this satisfactory stage that the fall of Erzeroum has brought the Entente Powers.

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JOURNEYINGS IN ASIA MINOR.

By MARY A. POYNTER.

A May and a September journey into Asia Minor, over the same route and in the same year,* enable the traveller to enjoy both the flower and fruit of the land, and to see the country, as the country-lover might say, at both its bests!

There is only one *through* passenger train each day from Constantinople into Asia Minor—that is, through to the town of Eski-shehr, which is at the top of the plateau beyond Ismidt, and some two hundred miles inland. At Eski-shehr the train ties up for the night in order to make a fresh start soon after daybreak the following morning—one part for an all-day journey over a branch line eastward to Angora, and the other part, a longer train, continuing south-east on the Baghdad line proper to Konia. The legend on many of the railway carriages reads "Constantinople-Baghdad," which is an anticipation rather than an accomplished fact. My husband had some special work to do in both Angora and Konia which led us this interesting way, and it added to the journey's interest to know that the railway for the distance we were to travel at least should follow the old caravan route that once led to Baghdad. It is a comparatively new railway through an old, old land—the line to Angora having been finished in 1892, and that to Konia opened in 1896. It now extends far beyond Konia, and this much-discussed German enterprise is being hurriedly pushed forward; but there is a great mountain, a part of the Taurus, still to tunnel, and several sections to be connected before the line is complete and it can reach the city of Haroun-er-Rashid. So slowly do the trains "run," and such long halts do they make, that one can view the country almost from the standpoint of the pedestrian. In this part of the world leisure seems to be the watchword for man, only the seasons hastening to be up-to-date that they may not jostle each other unduly. One train a day is not likely to upset the even tenor of life in the Interior (the Constantinople short for inland Turkey), or to introduce speedily fresh customs to a people quite content with those long familiar to them.

Stamboul, sitting complacently, though at times a bit uneasily, in the seat of once mighty Byzantium, is a true daughter of Asia lent to Europe for a season. This is what the traveller feels as he looks back upon the city from the boat that takes him across the Bosphorus—the Bosphorus at its entrance—to Haidar Pasha, where the railway leading into Asia Minor begins. A tempting view, a haunting, parting memory is this of beauty, perhaps a little dimmed though mellowed by time, full of repose and charm of outline, and framed by a sea and sky that set her apart from all others to be admired—this last of the daughters of Asia to hold court in Europe. And when this daughter is called back to her own country one feels that she will go reluctantly, and will take with her her cypresses, most mournful as they are most decorative of all trees, and that with her will go also the only man now left in Europe who can ride a donkey or can sit cross-legged on a divan and still look the gentleman and the wise man.

The Germans have built a very fine station at Haidar Pasha, finer than there seemed to be any demand for when the road was first constructed, and any Anglo-Saxon can hardly help regretting that this station and the ship- and train-yards connected with it should in any way seem to intrude upon or shut out a part of the view of the English cemetery, which lies to the left and almost immediately adjoining, and where sleep so many of the brave men who lost their lives in the Crimean War. Also near by is the building where that early heroic nurse, Florence Nightingale, cared for so many of the sick and wounded from that war, and won such undying laurels for herself and the profession she so unselfishly established. A little further on to the left is the great cemetery of Scutari, perhaps the greatest cemetery in the world, and unique for the life that goes on above the sleepers, for its thousand cypresses, for the little children and the Turkish women who play or rest within its shade, for the crumbling headstones, set at all angles and bearing in some instances such quaint inscriptions, and lastly for the *tekké* of the Howling Dervishes and for the leper colony set within its midst.

Leaving the sight of the Bosphorus, with all its claims upon the imagination, almost directly the railway runs through a part of old Chalcydon, of which not even its name remains; through several pretty modern towns, with their opulent gardens and vineyards; then comes in sight of and runs for many miles along the eastern shore of the Gulf of Ismidt—through what was once the province of Bithynia—with the red-earthed, pine-crowned Isles of the Princes (Prinkipo) and the distant Bithynian snow-capped Mount Olympus in sight for the first half-hour of the journey. This eastern shore of the Gulf of Ismidt is quite thickly populated, and the fields are well tilled, though the soil, cultivated for long centuries, looks rather poor in patches and in need of some encouragement other than the spade.

The opposite shore is outlined by higher mountains and is heavily wooded to the water's edge. The towns on this side are few and far between, in these days, and are visited only by an occasional small steamer that plies up the Gulf to take on board the infrequent traveller and such produce as this wilder and less accessible shore may be inclined to send to market. Although this western shore lies within distant sight of Constantinople for many miles of its length, there are said to be "mild" and prosperous brigands living here among the less adventurous souls; indeed, we have had certain members of this interesting fraternity pointed out to us when a pleasure boat on which we were sailing has called at some port on this side for provisions, such as chickens and eggs, wherewith to replenish its larder.

The railway side of the Gulf has many old landmarks, and much of historic interest associated with its every mile. Its gardens and vineyards were famous in old Byzantine times; in the year 565 A.D., at the town of Pendik, only sixteen miles from Constantinople, died the great General Belisarius. And a greater general than he—great Hannibal—who was exiled to the province of Bithynia, and ended his term of banishment here by taking poison in 183 B.C., has, according to tradition, his last resting-place on the hillside above Guebzeh, though more scholarly authorities place his tomb at Dil (Libysos), a few miles further on. Such authorities say this tomb at Dil was restored by the Emperor Septimus Severus, but there seems to be no Emperor coming forward these days to do again a like needed service. In the meantime those cypresses that surround the traditional tomb on the hillside at Guebzeh are no mean monuments, and are perhaps in this case, as in many another Near Eastern cemetery, what Byron calls them, "the only constant mourners of the dead." Near Guebzeh, too, is a fine old ruin of a Byzantine fortress, standing out on a cliff above the sea, lone and imposing, embowered in green—a landmark of beauty, though shorn of all strength as a means of defence. Near the station of Heréké, renowned now for its manufacture of carpets, is the site of Ankyron, where Constantine the Great died, and, strangely enough, in this same neighbourhood, though long centuries later, died Mohammed II., the Conqueror of Constantinople.

At the head of the Gulf lie the modern Turkish town of Ismidt and a few old broken walls and ruins that mark it as the site of that once fair capital, Nicomedia. This latter was founded by King Nikomedes in 264 B.C. The Younger Pliny speaks of it in the time of Trajan, and the Emperors Hadrian and Diocletian had courts here—the latter persecuting the Christians so cruelly—and Constantine also did much in his day to adorn the city. But, as one may imagine, this town passed through many and varying vicissitudes before its name was finally changed and it settled down into being the quiet Turkish town of some twenty-five thousand inhabitants it is to-day.* It was plundered by Goths and Persians, it suffered a terrible earthquake in 358 A.D., and though it was rebuilt in the Emperor Justinian's time, it never recovered its former high place among cities. Finally it was taken by the Turks under Sultan Orkan in 1330. Now, nearly six centuries later, though shorn of all suggestion of its former importance, one would call it a picturesque town—that is, from a distance—a town rambling up the hillside, with few public buildings, though with many mosques and white minarets set amid green cypresses to indicate its present ownership.

From Ismidt the railway runs across a plain of almost tropically luxuriant vegetation until Lake Sabanja is reached—Sabanja, famous for its fish and water-fowl, and for the bewitching way it mirrors the blue sky and whatever clouds may come floating over the same. This lake also furnishes a refreshingly cool bathing-place for the hard-working water buffaloes, who at free moments on hot summer days wade out into the water until only their ugly black heads, set with kindly blue eyes, are to be seen above the surface. At the station of Arifié the broad plain of the Sangarius is crossed, and from the railway line is just visible that wonderful bridge built by Justinian in 561 to span the Sangarius river, and bearing a lofty and somewhat pompous inscription in Latin to that effect, though since this inscription was written the Sangarius has cut out for itself another

* That year being, in the writer's case, the interval between the close of the Balkan war and the outbreak of the present war.

* Recently the Turks have had the idea of turning it into a somewhat important ship-building port.

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river bed, and flows some two miles away from the bridge that once spanned it! But the bridge remains, a delightful feature in the landscape, its eight arches of about seventy-five feet span still bearing testimony to the beauty and permanence of Roman architecture.

At the station of Lefke one may take an *araba* (native wagon) and drive across the mountains to the right for four hours and find another valley and Lake Ascanius, at the head of which is situated old Nicæa, the Nicæa of the Creed and the capital of more than one empire of old. It has shrunk now to a pitifully small town, fever-stricken, and with little more than its glorious old city walls left to testify to its former high estate. But its recorded story, its situation at the head of the blue lake, and the imposing mountains that encircle it seem to set it apart for all time as a place for sacred pilgrimage.

From Lefke and onward fields of poppies, grown for opium, and the low mulberry tree, grown to feed the silk-worm, illustrate the various industries of the people; up steep inclines where a fruit-tree might hesitate to take root the mulberry flourishes, so that there is little land in this especial region that can be said to run to waste. One passes an occasional ruin, overgrown with ivy, showing that this way came the Crusaders, and that they remained in some places long enough to build castles of defence, if not for settled abodes. When the cañon of the Kara Su, a small but riotous stream, is reached the train goes into a deep shadow even if it be midday, and the ravine is so narrow and the walls of rock so high on either side, and so brightly tinted, that one can almost imagine oneself passing through a Colorado cañon for the moment. Bilejek, once a Byzantine town, is situated in as narrow a ravine as man ever sought to build home in, and the railway, in order to get in and around and over it, seems to execute a series of contortions as it were. At this station smugglers were selling contraband tobacco on one side of the train, whilst soldiers and Customs officials carefully patrolled the other! Newspapers are beginning to be read in this region; for all the small boys of the town were drawn up alongside the train and demanded ours when they saw it, though they only expressed disgust when they found it was printed in the French, not in the Turkish, language.

On our journey we passed many newly placed towns, consisting of tents only. These harboured hundreds of the many thousands of refugees fleeing before the oncoming Bulgar in Thrace. They were really returning to their own country after all, returning hardly any poorer than when they went; for Thrace had done little more for them than to give them shelter. As a rule, scant education and scant comfort had been their lot. Asia in Europe had never felt altogether at home.

The railway at various places changes streams, follows up fresh waterways on its climb to reach the higher plateaux. After the Kara Su the Sorgun Su is one of the obliging streams that lead the way. Travelling up the Gulf of Ismidt, by the Lake Sabandja, and following the little streams through wooded ravines up to the uplands of Asia Minor is like going for a visit to Switzerland so far as change and freshness of air are concerned; though the things you see and the people you will meet make quite another picture on the canvas. The charm of the high Near East is very great indeed. It is an unconscious, unposed, unprepared charm, and if some comforts are lacking on the journey, there is enough novelty to offset any such lack.

On our first journey to the Interior we left the Bosphorus late in May, left that district basking in the first flush of summer, and the shores of the Gulf of Ismidt continued to give the impression of a season well advanced toward maturity. As our train began to climb, the leaves of the calendar began to be turned—in a day we went steadily back to late spring, then to early spring, though never back to winter. At Bilejek the acacia tree, past its fragrant prime on the plain below, was in full creamy blossom, and when the upper plateau was reached this tree was just beginning to put forth its green tassels and make ready to bloom. The mornings and evenings in the higher altitudes are perhaps a bit chill, but the freshness of the landscape and the glory of the midday more than compensate for any slight discomfort from the cold.

As the afternoon wears on and the train, most of its climbing done, reaches the upper level, this level develops into a broad plain. One town here, Bozujuk (old Lamunia), possesses a beautiful mosque, judging from its exterior, built by Kassim Pasha, and there are Byzantine ruins of some importance in its neighbourhood. But now, as a rule, the little towns cling to the far hillside that bounds the plain, and the train stops too far away from them for one to make their acquaintance. They look picturesque and not unprosperous in the distance.

On this plain that leads up to Eski-shehr was fought the great battle of Dorylæum. Here on July 1, 1097, the Crusaders, under Bohemond, Tancred, Robert of Normandy, and Godfrey de Bouillon, defeated Solimon, the Turkish Sultan of Iconium. The city of Dorylæum is lonely enough now; it is simply a mound out on the plain two miles from Eski-shehr. The peasants go to this buried city sometimes for marble or stone for the buildings of Eski-shehr, but no organised excavations have been made as yet by archæologists. The old city holds its secrets still; the soil of the plain has buried the town, just as it has covered the fallen Crusaders and their foes.

In the twilight comes Eski-shehr, situated more than twenty-six hundred feet above the sea we have just left behind. And Madame Tadia's house, which is neither a hotel nor a *han*, but a suggestion of both, receives one very comfortably for the night. She has furnished entertainment for at least two generations of travellers, and has become herself one of the landmarks of the town.

One does not feel like starting out at daybreak the following morning for either Angora or Konia, but would stop over for a day to see what manner of a town is this on the banks of the little, fast-flowing Pursak. Not that Eski-shehr itself is of great interest to the outsider, as it might have been when it was a Byzantine frontier fortress or a Seljukian stronghold. Devastating fires have visited it frequently, as they have visited most Turkish towns. Yet there is the site of Dorylæum to visit, and there are the interesting meerschaum mines near by, from which many things both useful and ornamental are carved, to find their admired way far beyond the confines of Asia Minor. Eski-shehr is now important mainly as a railway centre, and we understand it is building up quite rapidly since it has thus been brought into more speedy touch with the outside world. Its fashions still remain early-Eastern, however, and the town itself, that part of it which lies some distance from the station, while not presuming to indicate great riches or high distinction, is almost as Oriental-looking as Damascus.

The dress of the Turkish women of Eski-shehr is glaringly bright of hue—red and yellow predominating—the *yashmak*, or wrap worn over the head, face, and shoulders, being of red material, with stripes of blue running across it; her skirts are of the divided order, and she presents to the world a figure surely in triumphant colour. She does not shut up all her face and look at the world through one eye, after the fashion of the women of Konia; but goes her way apart, rears her children, and does her work uncomplainingly, as do most of her sisters in Moslem lands. Eski-shehr (Old Town) is not a tourist centre, but, since the tourist has to pass through it on his way to almost anywhere in the Interior up from Constantinople, the day is not lost which is spent in making its acquaintance.

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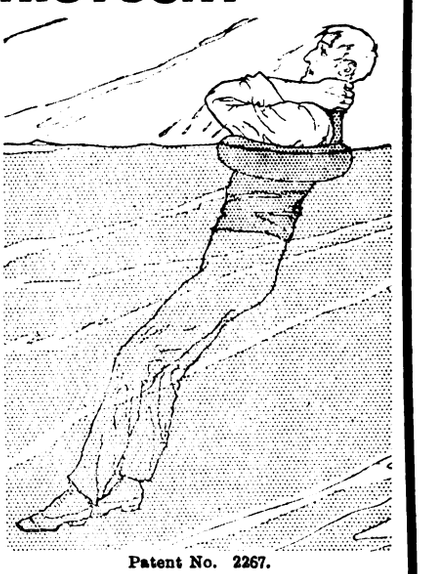

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The declarations of Solomon Effendi, a Turkish journalist, to the correspondent of a French newspaper are really quite pathetic. He has everything mapped out in his mind *so* nicely, and is so refreshingly cheerful as to the prospects of destroying Britain, that it seems almost indecent to thrust at the weak point in his argument. No doubt his assertion that the Turks do not intend the conquest of Egypt will be supremely gratifying to her defenders, but he has a terrible scheme up his sleeve for all that. The Suez Canal is to be occupied, and this done, Solomon Effendi says that the rest is easy. England will be robbed of her connecting link with her colonies—no colonies, no food—exit England! It's an astonishingly simple and effective picture.

***

Now there is in Wales a village named Risca, and if you want to make sure of inflaming one of its inhabitants to the verge of insanity, call him a cuckoo. For tradition has it that once many years ago a notable of the village caught one of these birds alive. The event was of sufficient importance to attract municipal attention, and the village, desiring to preserve to itself a bird so uncommon, walled in an open space, and in the presence of a representative gathering of local magnates the cuckoo was introduced to its new quarters and set free. It flew over the wall. It seems to me that somewhere there is a connecting link between the reasoning of these good gentlemen and Solomon Effendi. Had the former clipped the bird's wings all might have been well; were the latter able to destroy the power of the British Navy all would be well with his scheme, provided, of course, that we have no objection to the Turks occupying the Canal. As matters stand, however, I can't see what's wrong with the old route to our colonies in the very unlikely event of the Canal becoming impassable for a space. No, Solomon Effendi is not well named.

***

I see that Luxor has been converted into a vast convalescent station for British soldiers, and a more ideal spot for such a purpose it would be hard to imagine. The winter climate of this resort is absolutely perfect, and the many well-appointed hotels which the place possesses make ideal convalescent hospitals with little or no alteration. For the first time I am reconciled to the existence of that mammoth affair of luxury, the Winter Palace Hotel, on the river front at Luxor. Thousands of British soldiers will henceforward bless its name, and that is sufficient. In the same spirit I am prepared to condone even the cinematograph entertainment which, I read, forms part of the evening's entertainments. When complete victory is ours it will be an easy matter to propitiate the outraged goddess of the Nile by casting the instrument and films into her deep waters in sacrifice. In the meanwhile, let our watchword be "everything for our heroes"—nothing as usual.

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A native of Baghdad—described as "a Turk," which, if he really comes from Baghdad, seems to be a misnomer—was last week brought up at the Thames Police Court and remanded on the charge of travelling more than five miles from his registered address without a permit. He had, it was explained, managed to enlist in the 7th London Regiment, and he actually appeared in court in uniform. I am sorry he has got into trouble, for, if he be a genuine Baghdadi, I, for one, should be prepared to believe that his sympathies are with this country, since the Arabs of Baghdad—as I have often remarked before—do not love the Turk, and *do* generally like and respect the British. That being so, he may well have enlisted with the honest desire to "do his bit" for this country, even though it be not his by birth. Moreover, he is reported to have said, when arrested: "I thought as other aliens join I would join," which sounds frank enough. I have been told by one of the British refugees from Constantinople that she herself saw a man whom she recognised as a German in our military uniform. She promptly called a policeman's attention to the fact, and gave him such information as she could; and I trust the Teuton is now out of *that* uniform. But the Baghdadi of the 7th London is probably deserving of sympathy, and, if so, I hope he will not have cause to regret his lack of understanding.

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Thinking it over, I am inclined to wonder whether it might not have been a good stroke of business to "boom" this poor Baghdadi instead of prosecuting him. Try to imagine—it will be very difficult, I know, but still, try!—what would happen if a Serbian voluntarily offered himself for enlistment in the Kaiser's army. The Germans, I feel sure, would boom the fact for all it was worth. The Press of neutral countries would be inundated with messages headed: "Serbians Adopt Kultur and Fight for the Kaiser," "Serbian Brigade Forming in Berlin," and so forth, and the recruit would, no doubt, receive speedy promotion. So why not, in our case: "Turkish Volunteers for the Trenches," or "Arab Example to Home-Bred Slackers"? I commend the idea to the recruiting authorities.

***

The Times publishes the following extract from a letter written from Salonika, on February 8, by an officer:—

> "Imagine this war. Some of our people went out on a reconnaissance in front of the line, where there were quite a number of Turks. The latter were as courteous as possible, and showed them the best places for geese and helped to stalk them."

The "Turks" referred to are doubtless Greek subjects, but even so, the incident strikes me as one of the most remarkable I have read of in this war. Imagine any Briton—even a pacificist—helping the Boches to stalk geese. But then, of course, there has always been a kind of rivalry between the turkey and the goose.

***

The Germans are certainly leaving no stone unturned in their efforts to bind the Turks and Persians to their chariot wheels. Last week we were informed that the "German-Turkish Union" is going to erect in Constantinople a building to be known as "The House of Friendship," which, it is hoped, will become "the centre of Kultur" in Turkey; and now we learn that a Persian paper, the *Kaveh*, is to be published in Berlin, with a view to increasing popular interest in Persian affairs. If I am not mistaken, a similar paper, printed in Turkish, was founded some months ago in the German capital; but I have yet to learn of a "House of Friendship" being erected in Berlin, to serve as a "centre of (Turkish) Kultur" there. Yet, why should not the Turks return the compliment? The Germans have been loud in their praises of their Oriental Allies. So why not go the "whole hog"? As a matter of fact, the Turk could teach the German many virtues, but the Teuton appears to think that it is only his Ally's vices that are admirable and worthy of adoption.

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A Roumanian correspondent forwards a story which is far too good to keep to myself; though, unfortunately, the sender cannot vouch for its accuracy. He writes:—"In accordance with an invitation addressed by the French Government to the Russian military authorities, the latter forwarded the names of men whom they judged to be deserving of decoration with the Legion of Honour. Their astonishment was considerable when, on subsequently reviewing the names of the men who had received this distinction, it was remarked that they by no means corresponded with the names originally sent in. A closer investigation of the discrepancy revealed the fact that, through some unaccountable mistake, the French Government had been presented with a list, not necessarily of heroes, but of subjects recommended for vaccination." I like that touch "not necessarily of heroes." But, as a matter of fact, the Russian army does seem to be made up of heroes. The way in which, yesterday, short of ammunition, it stood up to the Boches and held them in check—flesh and blood against guns and gas—and in which to-day it is whipping the Turks in Armenia and overcoming intense cold and truly appalling natural difficulties in its stride, so to say, affords proof of its quality.

***

The splendid feat performed by the Russians in capturing Erzeroum has naturally led to a great deal of writing about that not very attractive city, but, curiously enough, I have observed no reference to the fact that in 1847 it gave its name to a treaty. This Treaty of Erzeroum, which aimed at settling once and for all the vexed question of the frontier between Turkey and Persia, was the outcome of an offer of mediation made by Great Britain and Russia to the two interested parties; and though, owing to the irreconcilable attitude of both Turks and Persians, it did not entirely fulfil the hopes entertained at the time, it certainly did prevent the outbreak of very serious trouble that seemed imminent before the meeting of the Commissioners. Anglo-Russian memories of the place are therefore pleasant ones, and we may feel sure that recent events will do nothing to make them otherwise. It may be of interest to note that the chief British representative on the first Turco-Persian frontier Commission, appointed as a result of the Treaty, was General Sir W. F. Williams, R.A., "the Hero of Kars," who was then only a colonel, and that Loftus, the archæologist, was attached to his staff as geologist. The Russian Commissioner was Colonel Tcherikoff; while Persia and Turkey were represented by Mirza Jaffer Khan and Dervish Pasha respectively.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Future of Constantinople. February 21.

Mr. KING, in commenting upon the statement made by Mr. Asquith in connection with the new Vote of Credit, said that he thought the House ought to have been told more about our advances to our Allies and to neutrals. He went on to ask what were our intentions regarding the future of Constantinople. If this country had sent to Gallipoli a great expedition, which cost probably £200,000,000 or £300,000,000 and 100,000 lives, we ought to know the political object with which the expedition had been undertaken. Dr. Dillon had lately pointed out that the whole object of our Near Eastern policy had been to give Constantinople to Russia. If that was so, then the defection of Greece, the opposition of Bulgaria, and the hesitation of Roumania were all explained at once. If our policy had been clear before the world, and judicious in regard to Constantinople, we could have had all these countries in on our side, fighting against the Central Powers. That was the argument. It seemed to be a plain fact to anybody who had studied the politics of the Near East.

Mr. OUTHWAITE said they had had various statements made in reports of the Greek Chamber and by three successive Greek Prime Ministers, which gave us some clue to the fact that the Dardanelles Expedition was undertaken for the purpose of securing Constantinople for Russia. They knew that, because the Prime Ministers of Greece said that they offered and undertook to come in at the time of the first Dardanelles enterprise, but that Russia opposed that action because she herself desired the conquest of Constantinople, and did not wish to have a rival claim in the operations. The significant thing was that so far as they knew the military operation at the Dardanelles was not undertaken at the advice of, but against the advice of, our highest naval and military authorities. They knew it had not the sanction of our highest naval authorities, and he believed he was right in saying that it was not favourably approved in the first case by Lord Kitchener. It was a diplomatic manœuvre, and we had to back up our diplomacy by force of arms. It seemed a dangerous method to have the House kept in the dark as to our diplomatic activities, our political objects, and our commitments to foreign countries.

The Situation at Salonika.

Mr. LYNCH referred to Salonika, and said if Salonika was meant to be the beginning of an offensive the number of troops sent there was totally insufficient; for what could have been done six months ago by 500,000 men could not be accomplished to-day with two million men. The Germans were nearer their base than the Allies. He looked upon the situation at Salonika not as a military situation, but as one of those Parliamentary situations meant to save the face of the Government and depending on the valour, the courage, and the genius of General Sarrail, one of the best of French generals, but upon whose soldiers he feared too great a task had been imposed. He had nothing but the gravest anxiety for the situation at Salonika, for it presented to the German staff precisely the kind of problem which they loved—a concrete problem where all the factors are known. They knew exactly the force there and the resources of the Allies, and they could calculate the number of guns to bring upon them and the number of troops they must launch to the attack.

Fighting near Aden.

Replying to Major NEWMAN, who asked for information regarding the Turkish report that a reconnoitring detachment had been annihilated near Aden, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said: The Turkish claim would seem to be founded on an engagement which took place on January 12 between a reconnoitring column of the Aden garrison and a Turkish force, in the neighbourhood of Sheikh Othman. The losses on our side were one British officer and four Indian ranks killed and four British and thirty-five Indian ranks wounded. The enemy's losses were severe, amounting to about 200 killed and wounded. The column was neither annihilated nor defeated, but withdrew when the purpose of the movement was completed.

Constantinople Again. February 22.

Mr. OUTHWAITE asked whether the British Government had entered into a commitment to support Russia's claim to Constantinople, and if so whether it had any bearing on the Dardanelles Expedition and on the present operations in the Near East.

Sir E. GREY said he must refer the hon. member to his reply on May 13 last.

Operations in Egypt.

Colonel YATE asked the Under-Secretary of State for War if he could say when the despatches relating to the operations in Egypt during the past year will be published.

Mr. TENNANT: The hon. and gallant member is presumably referring to the operations which took place in the neighbourhood of the Suez Canal in the early part of last year. These operations were fully described in six long official communiqués issued in February and March, and there is no additional information to be published.

Colonel YATE: Was that information published in the *London Gazette?*

Mr. TENNANT: I think so, but I cannot be certain at this distance of time. It was certainly published in the Press.

Colonel YATE: Will the right hon. gentleman see that the despatches are published in the *London Gazette?*

Mr. TENNANT: I will endeavour to do so, but I cannot give a promise.

Cotton in Egypt.

Mr. THEODORE TAYLOR asked the Foreign Secretary if the Government of Egypt had taken steps to ensure the planting of a full acreage of cotton during the coming season, in view of the need of greater supplies for the industries of this country, and what steps were being taken in the Sudan to increase the growth of cotton there.

Sir E. GREY, in reply, said he would refer the hon. member's question to Cairo for such further information as could be supplied.

The Mediterranean Position.

Mr. HOLT, speaking on the Vote of Credit, said he thought the Government ought to make a frank statement about the naval position in the Mediterranean. It was a very serious matter. Steamship owners, he said, had been given to understand that the Mediterranean was so far unsafe by reason of enemy submarines that it was desirable they should adopt the Cape route. Obviously if the Mediterranean was rendered unsafe by submarines, the whole motive for holding Egypt and the Suez Canal had disappeared. The general impression among shipowners was that the difficulty in the Mediterranean was due to the want of professional competence and skill on the part of the Allied Navies. They ought to be told what the Allies were doing in the way of keeping the Mediterranean reasonably free for the passage of our ships, or whether the Government intended to take any steps at an early date to make the Mediterranean as safe as the neighbourhood of the British Isles at present. They ought to have a very frank statement from the Government on the subject. He also asked for information regarding the expeditions to Salonika and Egypt, and said they were vastly expensive. He wondered if there were many enemies anywhere particularly close to them. From what was going on it looked as if the enemy had induced us to plant our forces in these remote places and had then gone quietly back, leaving us to wait until later on.

Major NEWMAN said if the hon. member had happened to be connected with the expedition to Salonika he would have found that there were enemies round about that place.

February 23.

Mr. BALFOUR, answering Mr. KING, said it would not be advisable to state in detail the organisation of the Allied naval commands in the Mediterranean, but the general command was in the hands of the French Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Fournier. In the Adriatic and its approaches the Italian Commander-in-Chief was the Duke of the Abruzzi, and other local commands were assigned to British officers. The best indication of the work which had been performed by the Allied Fleets in the Mediterranean was the successful transport of large military forces to Salonika, the successful evacuation of the Allied expedition to the Dardanelles, and last but not least the transportation of the Serbian Army from Albania—a result chiefly due to the energy and ability displayed by the Italian Fleet. Beyond that he had no statement to make.

SALONIKA AND CALAIS.

We take the following quotation from an article in the *Globe* (February 21). The writer thinks that the position of Salonika is causing increasing uneasiness to the enemy, and contiues:—

Calais and Salonika are two cardinal points in the general campaign. The attempts hitherto made on the former have been worse than unavailing, for they have only resulted in heavy loss to the Germans. Whether or not another attempt is in contemplation, as seems likely, the result can be predicted with certainty. What Germany fails to accomplish in the first onrush when her best troops were available and the Allies were unprepared in the sense that they now are, she will not succeed in henceforth. It is quite on the cards that there will be a further serious attempt along large sections of the western front before long, and the apparent impregnability of Salonika will give an impetus to this. But nothing that can be done in France and Flanders will relieve the Balkan stalemate in favour of Germany.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Erzeroum.

The fall of the famous fortress of Erzeroum has naturally been one of the chief subjects of comment in the British Press recently. The magnificent achievement of the Russian troops has been applauded by the Press throughout this country; our first quotation is from a leading article in *The Times* (February 19) on the cause and effect of the victory:—

The *Cologne Gazette*, obviously under official inspiration, has published an article which endeavours to prove that the disaster is all the fault of the Turks. We doubt whether Enver Pasha will quite relish the way in which his new masters cheerfully seek to throw him to the wolves the moment that anything goes wrong. It was always obvious to those who know German methods that Enver would instantly be made the scapegoat by his Prussian friends in the event of reverses, but no one expected to see him treated quite so callously. Moreover, the accusation is manifestly entirely unjust. The real culprits who were the cause of Turkey's loss of Erzeroum were the ultra-clever Prussian officers who now dominate Constantinople, and are leading Turkey to her doom. They were so clever that they entirely forgot the long arm of the Grand Duke Nicholas. They insisted on making a Prussian colonel Governor of Erzeroum, and assumed that all would be well. The great Marshal von der Goltz so miscalculated the situation that even after the Russians began to move he continued to jog on his way to Baghdad.

The various plans for wonderful things that the Germans had advertised for the immediate future are then dealt with, "but the net result of four months of bombastic declarations is that they have lost Erzeroum, the greatest military base in Asia Minor. We hope the Turks, and especially Enver, appreciate this remarkable demonstration of the Prussian mastery of the art of war by advertisement."

The article deprecates any tendency to overrate the value of this victory, remarkable though it was. It concludes:—

On the other hand, it must be recognised that the fall of Erzeroum is of far greater military importance, and is therefore a far bigger material blow to the Turk than the fall of Baghdad would have been. Baghdad, by reason of its ancient fame and its modern association with German ambitions, may enjoy greater prestige both in East and West; but Erzeroum was Turkey's principal fortress beyond the Bosphorus.

The *Manchester Guardian* in a leading article on the victory says:—

It will be objected that victories in these remote hills will not greatly affect the main course of the war, but this is to misunderstand the objects for which Germany plunged Europe into this turmoil. The West with Germany is not the end, but the means to the end; she invaded Belgium because she wanted a bastion in front of industrial Westphalia and France, in order to gain more power for her elbow in dealing with Russia and the East. Her great political object in this war was to obtain for herself the headship of a Central Empire stretching from Hamburg to the Persian Gulf. For all her restlessness in Flanders, a hundred yards advance there is nothing to her except as a means of rooting herself more firmly in the East. Moreover, so long as we keep command of the sea, the danger to the British Empire from Germany is not in Belgium but in Palestine, which menaces Egypt, and Mesopotamia, which if the Germans established themselves firmly there might some day menace India. . . . A victory in front of Kut-el-Amara would be the British counterpart to the Russian capture of Erzeroum, and be the beginning of the end for German political ambitions in the East.

The *Standard*, in a leading article, says:—

The occupation of Baghdad would be a less heavy blow to Turkish sentiment, for Baghdad is Arab and not Turkish, whereas Erzeroum is associated with the first westward advance of the race of Ertogrul, with its palmy days of dominance, and with its stubborn resistance to the conquering Slav. He who holds Erzeroum commands all the roads to Armenia, Mesopotamia, and Persia, and possesses a first-class base for further offensive operations. That the Turks have allowed this great stronghold to fall into their enemy's hands argues either over-confidence in its strength or in the weakness of the attacking force, or a total subservience to Germany. It speaks eloquently of the terms on which Enver Pasha is permitted to play dictator at Constantinople that Turkish army corps are concentrated in Macedonia for the benefit of German or Bulgarian designs when they were badly wanted for the defence of vital Turkish interests in Asia. It remains to be seen whether Germany has really done well for herself in sacrificing her unhappy ally in this way.

The military correspondent of the *Morning Post*, in an article on the fall of this great fortress, writes:—

The signal disaster to the Turkish arms in Armenia, involving both the defeat of their field army and the downfall of their stronghold in that province, cannot fail to react on other spheres of Turkish activities, actual and potential. The blow is not one that can be calmly ignored, and it must be supposed that it will have the effect of drawing troops away from the Balkan theatre and from the Egyptian frontier. The Balkans have been a prolific source of misleading rumours, but there is little doubt that the Turks have been utilised to set free Bulgarian troops for service in Macedonia and Albania, and that they will not now contentedly submit to forces remaining locked up in regions and for purposes in which they have no direct interests. The much advertised attack on Egypt, which is already rather belated, is not likely to materialise; and the flow of reinforcements into Mesopotamia, the quarter which has hitherto caused most anxiety in Constantinople, is likely to be arrested. In Persia, which lies within the more immediate sphere of influence of the Armenian campaign, such enthusiasm as still remained for the German cause should be effectually damped.

Of all the regions affected, the relief will be most appreciated in Mesopotamia, although its full effect cannot be expected to manifest itself for some time.

Bulgaria and Germany.

A special correspondent of the *Morning Post* (February 21), writing from Salonika, says that the reports of Bulgarian deserters who arrive at that town show that relations are becoming increasingly strained between Bulgaria and Germany. According to this authority the German proposal that Bulgarian soldiers should take their place with the Germans and Austrians in Russia and France has had to be abandoned, in view of the resentment it caused among the Bulgarian soldiers who claim that they have already done all that duty requires in the present war.

Less than a fortnight ago a party of men belonging to this deserter's regiment were sent to the village of Trun, near Monastir, to bring back some hay. On arriving there they found that the hay had been requisitioned by the Germans, who had set a guard over it. The Bulgarian officer in command of the party ordered his men to take the hay. Upon this the German guard attempted to prevent them, and again on the command of the officer the Bulgarian artillerymen shot five Germans with their revolvers. Of the 780 horses belonging to this artillery regiment, six batteries strong, 140 have died for want of food, and the rest are in such a poor condition that double teams are necessary to draw the guns. An order for Bulgarian troops to be dressed in German uniforms was countermanded three days after it began to be carried out, and the German officers attached to the 5th Infantry Regiment have been withdrawn.

King Peter's Faith in Victory.

An exceedingly interesting interview has been obtained with King Peter by a correspondent of the Associated Press at Aedipsos, a report of which has been cabled by Reuter's Agency in New York, from which we quote. King Peter is referred to by his interviewer as being "physically broken and virtually blind," but as being in possession of undimmed spirits and unclouded intellect. His Majesty spoke mainly of the splendid assistance given by various bodies of Americans to distressed and wounded Serbians, and went on:—

For those of our Allies who have remained faithful we have no reproach. They came to our aid too late to save us. But they came. They were not organised for war nor ruled over by soldiers. Had they been so organised, so ruled, perhaps they would have been able to save us.

Civilisation cannot be made an engine of war perfected to foresee every contingency. It is inherent in liberty that it acts slowly and clumsily, but this very slowness and clumsiness constitute the strength of free peoples. Their triumph is long coming, but it is none the less sure.

King Peter says that the war is "the supreme, the last effort of feudalism, a fight to the finish between the feudalism of yesterday and the freedom of to-morrow." The Serbians, he says, were desirous of living at peace with Austria, but "it is of the nature of a feudal State that liberty cannot and must not flourish in the same vicinity, and Austria arranged all that in the time of the Obrenovitches. Serbia was made merely a tributary of Austria. She was no longer free at all."

In referring to his antecedents, King Peter spoke with pride of the fact that his grandfather was a peasant. "Crowns are lost, but the pure, clean blood of those who have lived of the earth does not die." Our quotation is from the latter part of the interview, which refers to Serbian relations with Bulgaria and Greece:—

"As for Bulgaria, we have proved that we have no rancour against soldiers who fought side by side with us for the liberty of the Balkans. We agreed to make enormous sacrifices that they might remain our friends. They would not. The obsession of Balkanic hegemony pursues them. Yet, despite everything, I say even now with all my heart, let the Bulgarians live in tranquillity at home. There's room enough for all in the Balkans. All that is required is a little goodwill."

"And Greece, your Majesty?"

For a while the King did not answer, as if unwilling to touch the subject. At length he said:—

"As for our Ally Greece, she has understood differently from us her interests in the Balkans; but apart from her refusal to

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participate in the war, shoulder to shoulder with us, she has in other respects fulfilled the duties of friend and neighbour. To-day we are the guests of the Greek people, and we are grateful for their hospitality."

The old man fell silent. Evidently the effort to talk had been a severe strain. The doctor made a sign to the correspondent, but King Peter felt it and gathered strength for a final word. With a single gesture he brushed away the tenderly restraining touch of the aide-de-camp. He bent forward, his broad, square, short-fingered, peasant hands clenched to strike sharply the arms of his chair in emphasis, and he shouted the words :—

"I believe in the liberty of Serbia as I believe in God. It was the dream of my youth. It was for that I fought throughout manhood. It has become the faith of the twilight of my life. I only live to see Serbia free. I pray that God may let me live until the day of redemption of my people. On that day I am ready to die, if the Lord wills. I have struggled a great deal in my life, and am tired, bruised, and broken from it, but I will see, I shall see their triumph. I shall not die before the victory of my country."

The Murder of Prince Yussuf.

In a dispatch from Athens to the *Daily Chronicle* (February 19), Mr. Martin H. Donohoe throws further light upon the recent murder of the Turkish Crown Prince. According to a letter from Constantinople which Mr. Donohoe had been shown,

the Prince was found in his palace lying in the corridor between the harem and the bathrooms. A vein was opened in the left arm, and he was allowed to bleed to death. The body was covered with bruises, and everything pointed to his having desperately struggled for life.

He appears to have been waylaid and surprised in the corridor. His cries for assistance were heard by the harem inmates, and also by the palace domestics, but none offered to render him any help.

When overcome by his assassins he was thrown down and bound and gagged with a handkerchief. Several slashes were made in his arm before the murderers succeeded in their enterprise.

It appears that the Prince had been accustomed to go about armed, and it was to his neglect of carrying a revolver when passing along a corridor in the Palace to the bathroom that placed him at the mercy of his assassins. Mr. Donohoe's despatch contiues:—

The letter also says that passers-by outside the palace enclosure heard the Prince's piteous shouts for aid. These cries suddenly ceased, and the marks on his throat show that the assailants half-strangled him in their attempt either to stifle his cries or in the process of gagging their victim.

Although the Government announced that the fatal wound was self-inflicted, on the morning of the discovery of the body the inmates of the harem and the entire staff of domestics were marched off under military escort to an unknown destination.

The enmity between the Prince and Enver Pasha was bitter. In the State Councils the Prince charged Enver with being responsible for the ruin of Turkey by embarking on a disastrous war on the side of Germany. Over and over again he declared himself in favour of a separate peace.

Enver is also a keen hater who, seemingly, would never scruple to remove inconvenient enemies from his path, and the climax was reached a few weeks before the Prince's death when the murdered man said to Enver: "Beware what you are doing. Your hour is approaching when the nation will rise up and exact reparation for its sufferings—its hunger. In the people's hour of vengeance, they will probably hang you all."

It was this outburst that probably sealed the fate of the unhappy Prince, for the tyrant of Turkey would brook no criticism of the policy of his German masters and paymasters.

Balkan Roads.

Mr. H. W. Nevinson, in a dispatch from Salonika to the *Manchester Guardian*, recently gave an interesting account, from which we quote, of the difficulties of road transport in the Balkans.

Our Allied armies are thrown back upon the old-fashioned road for movement, and in the Balkans old fashion is mediæval fashion. Starting from Salonika there are three of these mediæval roads, as there are three railways. One goes about 100 miles to Monastir and is the relic of the Roman Egnatian Way, which led from Durazzo through Ochrida to Salonika and Constantinople. One goes about fifty miles to Seres, crossing the Struma twenty miles south of the demolished railway bridge near Demir Hissar, and one, turning off from the same road less than a mile outside the city walls, runs through wild mountains towards a big village called the Hortiach (where a Roman aqueduct stands), descends steeply to Langaza Lake, and runs along the south side of Beshik Lake and down the Rendina defile to the coast at the Gulf of Orfano. I walked along this last week as far as the Gulf of Orfano (about fifty miles from Salonika) and found the mud almost impassable. It is rather strange that the road beside the main railway up the Vardar to Uskub, Nish, and "Europe," is hardly to be called even a Balkan road so far as I have seen it. One could hardly call it a path even in the Balkans.

According to Mr. Nevinson, our first attempts at improvement, made with the assistance of "native labour, recruited for the most part from among destitute refugees—Serbians, Albanians, Greeks from Thrace, Greeks from Asia Minor, Armenians escaping death, and Turks escaping the army, who practised a Babel of eloquence upon each other, but practised little else, least of all road-mending," were hardly a success. A change for the better has, however, been wrought, thanks to the organisation introduced by a man who "was hanging about in staff offices doing nothing in particular, but called an interpreter." We quote from Mr. Nevinson's further details regarding this road-maker.

There are many Oxford scholars out here in various uniforms, and possessing knowledge from the Stone Age to the birth of Christ, or even later. But the peculiarity of this Oxford scholar was that his knowledge of the Balkans was derived not from history but from insects. From youth he had studied the habits and customs of grasshoppers and earwigs. I believe he has discovered no less than 500 undescribed species of earwig in the world, making 800 in all. And in the course of this peculiar research he has acquired such intimacy with the Balkans that he can discriminate Bulgarians, Roumanians, Serbians, Greeks, and Turks at sight, can address them all in their own language, and make allowances for their different habits and behaviour.

This man set to work about Christmas, and now one finds a perfectly organised camp of labourers, parties of whom go out every sunrise to work upon the roads and return before sunset.

The Super-Cad.

In an article, entitled "The Fatal Balkans," the *Daily Express* (February 19) calls attention to the perverse fate which gives empty successes to Germany while denying her all the fruits of victory.

Her alliance with Bulgaria and the consequent occupation of Serbia were reasonably expected to make her mistress of the Balkans, and to render possible the colonisation of Asia Minor, which has been a principal part of the Pan-German scheme. Serbia was overrun, but the Serbian army remained in being. The Anglo-French forces at Salonika have prevented the Teutonising of the Balkan Peninsula, and the reinforcement of the troops under General Sarrail's command by the veteran Serbians and Montenegrins is a serious threat to Bulgaria, and may well upset Potsdam's calculations. The Russian capture of Erzeroum must have an important effect on the Balkan position. The Ottoman Empire has been struck at its most vital part, and the way to Baghdad is closed.

The writer proceeds to a neat definition of Turk and Teuton.

The Turk is often a fool, but he is nearly always a gentleman. The German is always the super-cad. We, in England, with our long experience of the fine qualities of the Moslem peoples, have sincerely appreciated the chivalrous manliness of the Turk. Even his evil association with the German has not corrupted his good manners, as was proved a dozen times during the struggle in Gallipoli. We are fighting him without a trace of animosity, and we regret the penalty he must pay for listening to the beguiling voice of Germany. Erzeroum will convince the Turk that his rulers have made a fatal blunder. Whispers travel on the wings of the wind in the Near East, and the discontent of the majority of the Turkish people will affect opinion in Bulgaria, where the alliance with Germany against Russia is almost religious sacrilege only to be made tolerable by that immediate and overwhelming success which covers the grossest sin.

Articles to Note.

"Anglo-Egyptian Sudan: Cotton Planting Prospects" (Illustrated), in the *Field* (February 19).

"Churches of Northern Armenia," by Sir Martin Conway, in *Country Life* (February 18).

We are glad to note that the *Athenæum*, which is now published monthly instead of weekly, shows no signs of losing its old friends and admirers, but is, on the contrary, making many new ones. The demand for the January number considerably exceeded the supply, and the February number is so good that it would be not at all surprising if the same story should be repeated. With the new series certain changes have been introduced into the paper. "Notes and News" is a new feature, and, we think, a good one; and the increase of articles will be welcomed by many readers. Rather more space is devoted to Science, Fine Arts, Music, and the Drama; but the reviews of books remain, as they have always been, the principal feature of the paper. It is pleasant to be able to add that they still constitute an invaluable guide to the reader and buyer of books, and that the high reputation that the *Athenæum* has always enjoyed is not likely to suffer in any way by reason of the changes—which are, indeed, in all cases improvements. The current number contains a special article, "The Land of Mazeppa" (Ukraine), which will interest many of our readers, and we notice that an article on "Southern Slavs and Turkey" is to appear in the March number.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

On February 11 we quoted the *Times* Bucharest correspondent as having cabled on February 4 to the effect that "an arrangement had practically been concluded with an Austro-German syndicate for the sale of 1,000,000 tons of maize, 350,000 tons of wheat, 150,000 tons of barley, and 100,000 tons of oats." Elsewhere we publish a letter from our own Correspondent in Bucharest (February 1), which confirms the above message, excepting as regards the quantities of wheat (200,000 tons) and barley (10,000 tons) to be purchased by Germany; further, no mention is made of the purchase of oats.

***

"It is deeply to be regretted," adds our Correspondent in his letter, "that Great Britain did not acquire the whole crop of maize when she made her purchase of wheat." The reason is obvious. The political effects of our transaction have, by the new German deal, "been reduced to a minimum," and besides, we have placed it within Germany's power to purchase 1,000,000 tons of foodstuff which otherwise would not have been available. It looks very much as though someone had blundered, to allow of such a heavy leakage. Besides, by buying the whole maize harvest "we would have succeeded in placing Roumania, once and for all, outside the sphere of German influence," and have crippled that subversive German propaganda so distasteful to all honest and patriotic subjects of King Ferdinand.

***

The *Morning Post's* Buda Pest correspondent, referring to Roumania's deals with Germany and Austria, states that gold is insisted on—and rightly, too, be cause the Boches, as everyone knows, are not to be trusted—in payment for all purchases. All sales, moreover, must be sanctioned by the Government. In this connection the correspondent gives the following graphic picture of how sales between the two parties are concluded:—"No goods can be shipped or loaded in Roumanian carriages," he says, "without a written sanction from the Treasury, and the prices are being checked and often not approved, in which case the permission for shipment is refused. The buyer has to pay the full amount in gold at the Treasury, and only then can the seller apply for a bill of lading, he being paid by the Treasury in Roumanian paper notes. In this way all the gold is being paid into the State coffers, and as a consequence the solidity of the Roumanian lei is firmer than it ever was before. The prohibition of taking gold out of the country into Hungary is strictly enforced, and travellers are searched to their skins before they leave the Roumanian frontier, so as to make it impossible for any gold to return if once it gets into the country."

***

The accounts of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt for the year ended December 31 last show a total income for the period of £E819, of which £E505 was derived from subscriptions and £E292 from the advertisements and sale of the Chamber's monthly journal. Interest on investments amounted to £E50. Expenditure exceeded the income by 647 milliemes. Salaries were the chief item, absorbing £E386, while the cost of producing and distributing the monthly journal come to £E237. A donation of £E50 was made to the British Red Cross Fund, and figures in the expenses. The total assets of the Chamber as at December 31 amounted to £E1,685.

***

The Manchester Chamber of Commerce is to be heartily and unreservedly congratulated on having voted down Free Trade. Unfortunately, as a result of the resignation of the directors, the Chamber will not be represented at the conference of the Associated Chambers of Commerce in London next week, but this, as compared with the *coup de grâce* to Cobdenism in its great stronghold, is only of secondary importance. There is no doubt that a wave of public opinion throughout the country is demanding that we should, without loss of time, take the necessary steps to protect ourselves against a dumping of enemy goods into this country as soon as the war is over. The best way to go about this is to erect a protective tariff barrier around our shores, without loopholes for the enemy to enter through, but with broad, open gates for our friends and allies. The conversion of such a strong Free Trader as Lord Cromer to a Preferential Tariff something on the lines suggested is a clear indication of how present circumstances have modified existing principles, and the Manchester vote has succeeded in successfully crystallising public opinion. It only remains for the conference of the Associated Chambers next week to follow suit, thus showing the Boches that not only can we raise the necessary men to smash them on the battlefields of Europe, but that we can, and will, also ruin their industries.

***

The Austro-Boches have started, with a great flourish of trumpets in Vienna, a new journal to be called the *Wirtschaftszeitung der Zentralmaechte*, which is designed to promote closer economic relations between the Central Powers and their allies, and to discuss important questions of industry and agriculture. It will maintain (says a Reuter message from Switzerland) offices in Berlin, Vienna, Buda-Pest, Sofia, and Constantinople. The first number contains an article from the Mayor of Vienna, who says: "When the war is over, the allied enemies will remain in the world-market; they will try to supplant us everywhere, to hinder our economic development, and to weaken us until they become our masters." Not only will we try to do so, but we will succeed. And the Manchester vote is a decided step in the right direction. As for the *Commercial Journal of the Central Powers*—to Anglicize its barbaric name—its Sofia and Constantinople offices are ephemeral, not to say purely nominal, ones, and will exert no influence on the future economic life of Bulgaria or Turkey. So that, at the most, Berlin will be able to communicate only with its satraps Vienna and Buda-Pest in the personal columns of the "W.Z.Z."

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On Monday last Mr. Charles Carkeet James, M.Inst.C.E., read a paper before the Institution of Civil Engineers on the "Main Drainage of Cairo." Mr. Carkeet James, it will be remembered, was appointed in October, 1906, when engaged in the drainage of Bombay, to prepare a project for the drainage of Cairo, and to supervise the carrying out of the scheme when approved. The result of his labours, together with a description of the drainage scheme, accompanied by numerous plans, is contained in the lecture, to which a lengthy reference will be made in THE NEAR EAST at an early date.

***

The Hungarian Bank of Commerce claims net profits for 1915 amounting to 13,090,991 kronen. The commercial branch yielded 2,264,000 kronen more than in the preceding year, and, while recommending a dividend of 7½ per cent., carrying forward 1,239,738 kronen, the directors place a million kronen to the staff pension fund. The increased profits are claimed to have been principally due to prosperous transactions in the Near East. I leave my readers to guess at the nature of these operations, but in view of what happened in the Balkans during the year 1915, it may safely be assumed that the bank's profits cannot be examined too closely.

***

Significant of the better relations between the Entente Powers and Greece, says the *Financier*, is the fact that Athens has recently been a good buyer of Greek bonds on the Paris market. Thus the quotation of the Five per Cents. of 1884 has risen since the end of January from 275 fr. to 280 fr., the Fours of 1887 from 248 fr. to 256 fr. and the Fives of 1914 from 81 fr. to 85.55 fr. Deals in Greek bonds here are as rare as Zeppelin visits, but the tendency of prices since the end of January has been upwards, the Fives of 1914, which are the best criterion, having risen from 73½ to 75.

***

An Athens correspondent writes:—"According to an official report, the Greek Public Debt amounts to Drs. 1,542,604,826. The budgetary deficit in 1915 amounted to Drs. 358,286,743. In 1906 the Government employed 10,000 officials, whose salaries amounted to Drs. 16,000,000 per annum. To-day the officials number 37,000 and their salaries total Drs. 55,000,000."

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The Governor-General of the Sudan has issued a Proclamation prohibiting the export of Hessian cloth and Hessian bags, all kinds of jute cloth and jute bags from the Sudan, except to Egypt or to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, except with the permission of an officer appointed in that behalf.

***

I am pleased to see that, according to our Cairo Correspondent, the Egyptian Government is proceeding energetically with the liquidation of enemy firms included in "C" Group, and that placards inform the public of the measures which have been imposed. On the other hand, the Board of Trade *Journal* has published the list of the firms in the group in question. With regard to my note last week on this topic, I was made, by a regrettable misprint, to refer to Weinrich and Co. instead of to Boehme and Anderer, as the aggressive firm situate near the Turf Club.

COMMENTATOR.

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Egypt's Gold-Bar Exports.

A Barometer of Fellah Prosperity.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, January 31.

Without wishing unduly to dwell on the improved economic and financial condition of the country, to which reference has of late so frequently been made in your columns, I should like to draw attention to one feature which speaks more eloquently than anything else of the change for the better that has taken place. I refer to the exports of gold-bar. Tradition has it that the fellah hoards gold in times of prosperity. Undoubtedly he does, but not in the form of sovereigns or napoleons, as is popularly supposed. His hoarding takes the form of gold ornaments with which he overloads his women-folk. The more prosperous the year, the more gold bracelets, anklets, etc., are made by the goldsmiths from the gold coin that the fellahin bring in for the purpose. These gold ornaments constitute the family "nest egg," "stocking," "reserve," call it what you like, and in times of stress or adversity they are the first possessions disposed of in the attempt to tide over the crisis.

Buying Up Gold Hoards.

When shortly after war broke out difficulty began to be experienced in marketing the cotton crop, the fellahin, of course, felt the pinch—not right away, but towards the beginning of October. At that date the heavier instalments of the taxes, rents, etc., began to fall due, and as only devisory prices could be obtained for the crops, and the proceeds by no means sufficed to meet pressing obligations, the fellahin set to and started to sell off their female relations' gold ornaments. Dealers and goldsmiths soon recognised that a unique opportunity for making profits lay before them, and they took advantage of the hard-pressed state of the fellahin to buy up their "hoards" at ridiculously low prices. Indeed, so mercilessly were the latter being robbed that the Government had to issue a circular stating that instead of promiscuously realising their gold ornaments, the fellahin could hand them in in payment of their taxes. Even then for some considerable time the dealers continued their lucrative trade, and as an indication of the low prices which they gave for their purchases, I might mention that at the time it was possible to buy goldware in the Musky at round about 10 per cent. below the value of the metal contained therein.

Melting Down Gold.

There was, of course, no local demand for such ware, and the dealers and goldsmiths found that more profit was to be made by melting the ornaments down into bars and shipping them abroad. Thus during the first five months of the war gold bar to the value of £E227,000, of which all but £E7,000 went between October and December, was exported, as against £E68,000 during the corresponding period in 1913. The traffic went on increasing during the succeeding months, and up to the end of September £E620,000 had been sent out, as compared with £E114,000 in 1914. The totals for the years, however, were £E700,000 and £E330,000 respectively, so that the export during the last three months of 1915 had contracted considerably, £E80,000, as against £E216,000 during the last quarter of 1914.

It may, of course, be objected that, while the ready payment during October and November without any unusual outward signs of monetary stress of nigh on a quarter of a million more in land taxes than during the same months of the previous year may be an indication that the fellah is less hard-pressed for ready money, the marked contraction of gold-bar shipments may also be due to the approaching exhaustion of the fellah's gold hoards. That explanation is untenable, however, for no one who has any knowledge of the fellahin would or could maintain that anything but a portion—and then not a considerable one—of his womenfolk's gold ornaments is represented by the million sterling of gold-bar that has left Egypt since the outbreak of war.

Banks' Exports.

Likewise, the contention that as this gold-bar was shipped almost entirely by the banks it does not necessarily follow that it represents the gold ornaments of the fellahin cannot hold water. In the first place, the banks are the only and the most natural channels through which the dealers can place their gold-bar on the foreign markets. Secondly, the banks, if they keep a gold reserve, keep it in British and French specie, which they would certainly not go the expense of melting down for the purpose of export—if, indeed, they had wanted to export it. Finally, and consequently, if any of the banks did ship gold-bar solely for their own account that gold-bar was undoubtedly acquired by them directly or indirectly from the fellahin, whose ornaments it represented.

Prosperous Fellah.

The deduction which I consider one may legitimately draw from the marked contraction of the export of gold-bar at the very period when heavy tax and rent instalments are falling due is that the fellah is in far easier circumstances, and that there is a ready demand locally for whatever gold is on the market. Confirmation of this is forthcoming in the work done by the Government assayers, Some months back the assay office was reorganised, and the fellahin were informed that they could get their golden articles tested and stamped on demand. During the last four months the provincial and municipal assayers have done more work than was ever known, and the records show that the articles submitted for assay have almost invariably been of very recent purchase. It must not be forgotten that no inconsiderable amount of gold has been brought into Egypt by the troops, and that it has all gone into the general circulation; indeed it is quite astonishing what a quantity of gold one meets with in the districts nowadays. All things considered, there is little doubt that the fellah is fast setting himself to the reconstitution of his "family reserve"—a sure sign that he is prospering, and a further proof that the financial condition of the country, as a whole, is satisfactory.

ENEMY FIRMS IN EGYPT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 8.

Further notices have appeared this week in the local Press to the effect that controllers have been appointed for the liquidation of certain enemy firms, and advising creditors to lodge their claims at near dates. In addition, placards have been placed on all establishments ordered to liquidate, informing the public that the liquidation has been ordered by the military authorities.

THE FUEL QUESTION.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 8.

The coal question is as acute as ever, and it is understood that the Financial Adviser, Lord Edward Cecil, who has gone to England will try to make some arrangement that will give relief to the situation out here. As regards the petroleum question, prices have this week advanced a further P.T.1, and the opinion is gaining ground that the authorities have not been sufficiently awake, and that the petroleum companies have succeeded in becoming masters of the situation.

*** The Alexandria correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, writing on February 8, states that it appears that the coal trouble is being somewhat alleviated. It is reported that the Egyptian Government is expecting 28,000 tons of coal from Japan, and this added to the stock of 62,000 tons will no doubt rationalise the price for the cultivators. Egypt will no doubt become a regular customer of Japan, seeing that her freight charges and insurance rates are less than those of England or the United States, the freight of the latter standing at 115s.

GERMANY AND ROUMANIA

Another Grain Deal.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, February 2.

The Government has yielded to the political pressure which Germany has been exerting in consequence of the wheat sale to England, and has accepted proposals for another purchase. We are, therefore, about to witness a further sale to this Power.

After satisfying the requirements of the British contract and reserving 5,000 truckloads, which have been asked for by neutral states, Roumania has about 20,000 trucks available for sale to Germany, provided the consent of the agriculturists is obtained. It is quite possible that they will refuse to part with their remaining wheat, for a rise of prices may be expected in the near future, and the price offered now is the same as before, namely, 3,200 fr. per truckload. Germany is further negotiating the purchase, at the price of 3,000 fr., of 100,000 truckloads of maize, of which 60,000 belong to the harvest of 1914, 40,000 forming part of last year's crop. She is further making offers for the available stock of barley of the variety used in the brewing of beer, which amounts to about 1,000 truckloads. The price Germany is disposed to pay for this is 4,000 fr. per truck. Peas and beans are also being asked for, but the available stock is being reserved for exchange into indispensable articles of foreign manufacture.

The terms of the new sale are identical with the previous ones. In a word, the price of the goods has to be paid in Roumanian *lei*, and the export taxes *in gold*. The agreement has not been signed yet, for the German Commission is still negotiating the purchase of lei with the National Bank. The Germans ask that the rate of exchange for the *mark* shall remain unaltered, that is, 1.20; whereas the National Bank, taking into account the depreciation which the German mark has suffered, will not admit a higher rate than 1.10.

It is possible that the negotiations will be broken off, but the chances are in favour of the Germans agreeing to the Roumanian terms.

(Delayed in transmission.)

Bucharest, January 30.

The purchase of 80,000 truckloads of Roumanian wheat by England has been a veritable blow to the Austro-German Commission, which had bought only 50,000 truckloads of wheat, Indian corn, peas and beans, in spite of its having been authorized to acquire 100,000 truckloads. Persuaded that Germany presented the only available market for Roumanian agricultural produce, the Commission tried to take advantage of this fact by buying at a lower price and imposing onerous and humiliating terms on the seller—such as delay of payment until the goods had crossed the frontier—limiting itself to a simple promise with regard to the purchase of the other 50,000 truckloads, and without fixing the price or the remaining conditions of their purchase.

The moment the Germans heard of the proposed British purchase, they offered prices superior to those tendered by England. The Commission for export replied in the sense that they could not entertain overtures for a further sale to Germany until they had concluded their transaction with England.

It is evident that the British purchase has procured for Roumania the advantage of no longer being at the discretion of a single purchaser, a state of affairs which had the double drawback of lowering the market value of her goods and of allowing the Germans to exercise a certain influence of a political character. Thanks to the British purchase, the Roumanian agriculturist has been able to realize a portion of the value of his produce, which enables him to meet current expenses, and since the menace of financial ruin, which was staring him in the face, has been removed, he has acquired, in addition, a greater freedom of judgment in matters of foreign policy. That the Germans grasped the full significance of the sale to England is proved by the criticism which it evoked in German and philo-German circles from the moment the subject was first mooted.

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The Baghdad Railway.

Details of Construction.

The following are extracts from an article on the above subject which appeared in *The Engineer* (February 4) :—

"The first section of the line (the Baghdad Railway is of the normal gauge of 1.44 metres = 4 ft. 8½ ins., *i.e.*, the same as that of the Anatolian Railway) from Konieh *viâ* Eregli and Bugurlu was constructed to the length of 124 miles, the railhead being reached some time in 1904, or about five years after the work was begun. The next section taken in hand was shorter, about 105 miles, from Bugurlu to Aleppo. To carry out this portion of the work a separate small company was formed in Switzerland with German capital, the head offices being situated in Glarus. The progress made subsequently was very remarkable, work proceeding simultaneously in three different directions—the first from Adana eastward to Amanus, the second from Adana westward to the Taurus Mountains, and the third from Bugurlu eastward also to the Taurus Mountains. But the section eastward (westward?) from Adana to Bugurlu has since fallen into abeyance, although the original plans called for its construction early in 1909. The greatest engineering difficulty is experienced in this part of the country, and even the surveys have not yet been finally completed. For many months—now running into years—the German engineers and surveyors have been examining the position in all directions, especially around Adana, Yenidje, Missis, and Hamidieh. Up to the time of the outbreak of the war with Turkey it had not been determined whether the line, on leaving Adana, should run directly to Aleppo *viâ* Hamidieh-Osmanieh-Bagtche, a very costly route to follow, or *viâ* Alexandretta. What had been resolved upon, however, was that the line on approaching Adana should meet the Mersina-Tarsus-Adana line at a point called Yenidje, about half an hour's journey from Adana.

Islahie-Radju.

"Notwithstanding the interruption occasioned by the war, construction on a further section of the Baghdad Railway has been proceeding, and, as recently as October last, the section between Islahie and Radju was completed and opened to traffic. Both of these stations are situated east of Amanus and north of Aleppo, and the completion of the section brings the Syrian part of the system nearer to the main tunnel—known as the Bagtche tunnel—by thirty miles. Here, however, there has been a halt, and it looks like being a long one.

"The great Bagtche tunnel will eventually pierce the Amanus Mountains, on the border between Asia Minor and Syria. With its completion the more serious part of the engineering difficulties will have been overcome, and the work of connecting up the many isolated stretches of track will follow. At the point reached shortly before that where the Bagtche tunnel is encountered, the track begins to rise from the plains towards the mountain range at a gradient of some stiffness. The rise begins after leaving Mamoure, the last station in the Cicilian Plain, the slopes being very uneven and irregular, and calling for a great number of retaining walls and masonry culverts. There are numerous deep ravines which have to be spanned by steel bridges, and of the eleven or twelve required only eight have, so far, been completed. There are also seven minor tunnels, with an aggregate length of 6,355 feet.

The Bagtche Tunnel.

Bagtche station is reached at an altitude of 1,745 feet, and after passing this the great tunnel bearing the same name will be entered, the track then passing through two smaller piercings having a respective length of 236 feet and 394 feet, and over one short steel bridge. The Bagtche tunnel, like most of the other openings, is cut out of the solid rock, and much difficulty has been found with the water encountered in some parts. The length of the tunnel is 16,028 feet, and for about 8,000 feet of its length it ascends gradually until it reaches an altitude of 246 feet above the level of the entrance. There is then a gradual descent for a length of 3,000 feet odd, the track finally emerging at the other end at an elevation of 197 feet above the level of the Amanus entrance. Between the point of exit and that of the next station—Islahieh—not as yet completed, there are four other tunnels having an aggregate length of 3,500 feet. From first to last the length of tunnelling which has had to be allowed for in crossing the chain of mountains attains to 26,250 feet.

"The great Bagtche tunnel has been compared for length and engineering difficulties encountered to some of the large Alpine tunnels. The cost is expected to work out at hardly less than something between the cost of the Mont Cenis tunnel, which was about £224 per yard, and that of the St. Gothard, which was £142 per yard. Whereas the gradient in the Simplon tunnel is 1 in 500, that of the Bagtche tunnel is 1 in 394.

"In tackling the Bagtche rock, which is hard quartz, special boring machines had to be constructed. In some parts of the tunnel hydraulic rock drills of the Brandt type and dynamite were used, as in the case of the Simplon tunnel. It is said that some of the expert drillers who were employed upon the Tauern tunnel, in the Austrian Alps, and the Lötschberg tunnel, completed in 1911, have found engagements on the work of the Bagtche tunnel.

Proposed Branch Lines.

"The actual line from Konieh to Baghdad, which is some 900 miles in length, is destined to serve the following towns and districts :—Karaman, Eregli, Kardash-Beli, Adana, Hamidieh, Osmanieh, Bagtche, Kazanali, Killis, Tel-Habesh, Harran, Ras-ul-Ain, Nisibin, Avniat, Mosul, Tekrit, Sadidjeh, Baghdad, Kerbela, Nedjef, Zobeir, and Busra. But, in addition, there are to be the following four branches :—(*a*) From Tel-Habesh to Aleppo; (*b*) from a neighbouring point on the main line—to be agreed upon—to Urfa; (*c*) from Sadidjeh to Khanikin; and (*d*) from Zebeir to a point on the Persian Gulf—to be agreed upon between the Imperial Ottoman Government and the concessionaires. The construction is not destined to stop even here, however, for steps have been taken, and consent has been given, to construct the following further seven branches :—(*e*) Towards Marash, (*f*) towards Aintab, (*g*) towards Birijik, (*h*) towards Mardin, (*i*) towards Erbil, (*j*) from the Diala towards Salakie and Tuz-Kharmati, and (*k*) from El-Badj to Hit.

"By the beginning of June of the year 1915 the following sections of the portion of the railway known as the Aleppo line had been opened and put into operation :—Aleppo, Mouslemie, Akterine, Tchoban Beyi, Akje, Koyounli, Hulmenie Jerablus, Siftek, Ser Arab Pounar, Kharab Nass, Qul Tepe, Tell Abiad, Ghodjar, Touem, Tel-el-Hamoud, and Ras-al-Ain. The journey on this section occupies ordinarily some eleven hours.

"The entire length of line which it is claimed has now been laid down and opened to traffic leaves but a distance of 373 miles between Aleppo and Baghdad. But apart from Aleppo which, it will be remembered, is a branch and not a part of the original Baghdad Railway, the distances to be covered between Konier, Baghdad, and Busra are as follows :—Konieh to Baghdad (roughly) 900 miles, and from Baghdad to Busra, 350 miles. Thus we have a total distance for the track of 1,250 miles."

"W. J. C.," in the article in *Blackwood's Magazine* quoted by us last week, has some pertinent remarks to make anent German intrigues and aspirations in Asia Minor prior to their machinations in connection with the Baghdad railway, and even to-day, in Germany, great interest is evinced in matters pertaining to Asiatic Turkey, as will be seen from the following quotation :—

"For reasons not easy to determine," writes the author, "Asia Minor has had attractions for people of German race during many years." Thus, for instance, "we find German settlements in Asia Minor before the Baghdad Railway fired German imagination and gave definite form to ambitions hitherto vague. In some of the cities, such as Constantinople, Smyrna, Aleppo, and Angora, there have been foreign colonies of merchants, agents, buyers, and the like for centuries, but the German settlements were of another sort. They were composed of people who sought land, and went into country districts to make their homes. They went in the spirit of colonists; settled; prospered in fashion notwithstanding disadvantages; and sometimes intermarried with native races. The largest and best known of these settlements, one that enjoys the special providence of the German Emperor, is that at the foot of Mount Carmel in Syria. There were others, however, earlier and much less ambitious, now almost forgotten. Such was one at Amasia, in Northern Anatolia, founded sixty or seventy years ago, and which by this time has merged completely in the native population. Here and there also you come upon isolated German settlers, or three or four together upon a large farm. They live and work in obscure parts of the country, remote from markets and railways, rather than in any other part of the wide world open to German industry and capital."

Asia Minor a German Hinterland!

The natural deduction to be made is that while this movement lacked a well-defined plan, "the future of Asia Minor was a subject on which the average German, in the Near East at least, had definite views with which he was quite satisfied. His underlying idea was of the Turkish Empire as a natural German hinterland, with enormous capabilities under German development and tutelage. . . . All Germans in the Near East might have belonged to a society for forwarding national aims, and seemed to bring a personal interest to bear on such matters . . . and the work all these German pioneers turn out is thorough. One supposes there is no better built railway of its sort than the Baghdad Railway. It is permanent and heavy all through; with heavy steel sleepers everywhere, and heavier rails than are used on any other line in the world.

"After seeing Germans at work in Asia Minor and what they have done so far, and still more the spirit in which they work, one can have no illusions left about the result. In twenty years of undisturbed activity Asia Minor would become like a Germanised Brazilian province, but without an intervening ocean and Monroe doctrine. That doubtless would have been the way in a time of continued peace, but under the opportunities of war the process is to be a briefer one. Short cuts are to be taken. It is thought that what might have required a generation or more to achieve may be done now in a year or two. Companies are formed to exploit the country. Lectures are given. Maps of fertile areas are printed and distributed. Magazines devoted to the subject of what may be done in Asia Minor are issued. It is discovered that the territory has suddenly become of vital economic importance to Germany, and not less so strategic and political."

DATES.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of equipment, clothing, material, paraffin, milk in tins, etc., necessary for Central Stores for one year from April 1, 1916, to March 31, 1917. Date, March 20.

Tenders are invited by the Army Finance Department, Ministry of War, Cairo, for the supply of 350 tons of Rangoon rice, No. 3, into the stores of the Egyptian Bonded Warehouses Company, Alexandria. Date, March 14.

The Egyptian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of "53,080 manches en bois" and 500 cannes en jonc de 1 metre et 60 centimetres de long." Date, April 3.

The Secretary of the Direction Générale des Douanes Egyptiennes, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 250 pairs of boots. Date, March 8.

The Ports and Lights Administration, Alexandria, invite tenders for the supply of petroleum and benzine required for the financial year 1916-1917. Date, March 20.

Tenders will be received at the office of the London agent of the Egyptian Government (Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G.) for the supply and delivery to the Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs Department, of 20,000 oak sleepers, for normal gauge track; 180,000 pine sleepers, for normal gauge track; and 1,300 pine sleepers for turnouts. The sleepers must be of very good quality wood, and preferably of one of the following species: European and Japanese oak, Montenegrin, Swedish and Norwegian and Baltic red pine, or any other species of oak or pine of equal quality. In default, tenders for sleepers of any other quality of wood coming from Japan, America, India or Australia would be taken into consideration. Further particulars may be obtained on application to the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Public Works for the supply of sundry materials, such as lime, homra, sand and cement tiles, required during the financial year 1916-1917. Samples shall be deposited at the Roads Service Depot, Sharia Abbas, Cairo, before noon, on March 4.

The Secrétaire Général des Domaines de l'Etat (Service Technique), Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of accessories for workshops, etc. Lists, samples, etc., can be seen at the head offices in Cairo. Date, March 1.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-18). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.

On February 2, the following announcement in connection with the above tender appeared in the *Official Journal*:—Owing to the loss of the mail by the s.s. Ville de la Ciotat the date for the reception of tenders which had been fixed for noon on March 1, is postponed until noon on June 1. The latest date for the reception of samples is May 25, 1916.

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

Sudan

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on March 22, 1916, for the supply of oils and lubricants required by the above department for 1916. Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, Agent Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria, or Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen's Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on March 29, 1916, for the supply of paraffin and petrol required by the above department for 1916. Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, or to the Agents, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria.

Tenders will be received at the offices of the Assistant Financial Secretary, E. A., Khartoum, and the Governors, Dongola and Berber, up to 12 noon, on March 7, 1916, for the supply of 8,000 straw hats to the War Department, Khartoum North.

Persons wishing to tender for the above can obtain full particulars from either of the above-mentioned offices.

Abyssinia.

The Acting British Consul at Harrar (Major Lawrence) has forwarded a collection of samples of German and Austrian goods formerly imported into the Consular district of Harrar. The samples are all ticketed with the wholesale buying prices, and include a range of textile piece-goods, comprising velvets, satins, broad cloths, Turkey red cloths, brocades, sheetings, etc. There is also included a small range of gold braids, threads and fringes, and a few samples of hardware. These goods are generally purchased c.i.f. Djibouti, with thirty days D/P or D/A, duty not paid. The suppliers draw on the importers through the National Bank of India, Aden branch, or the Bank of Abyssinia.

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Malta.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies notify that sealed tenders (in duplicate) will be received by the Treasury, Valetta, Malta, for the supply of stationery for the Government of Malta. Forms of tender and specifications may be obtained and samples of stationery may be inspected at the office of the Crown Agents for the Colonies (Pattern Room), Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W. Date, March 2.

Greece.

H.M. Consul at Piræus reports that the Greek Government *Gazette* of December 23/January 5, contains a call for tenders by the Harbour Board of Piræus for the construction of works generally in the port of Piræus at the estimated cost of 3,500,000 drachmae (about £140,000 at par).

The "cahier des charges" and all other documents and plans can be inspected at the office of the Harbour Board at Piræus, at which address tenders will be received up to February 21/March 5.

Cyprus.

The Public Works Department, Nicosia, invite tenders for the supply of petroleum and petrol for the year ending March 31, 1917, delivered at the Public Works Department Yard, Nicosia, or at the Municipal Store. All tenders should be sealed, and should be addressed to the President of the Tender Board, the Office of the Treasurer, Nicosia. Tenders should be marked "Tender for Petroleum for Public Works Department," or "Tender for Petrol for Public Works Department," in the left hand top corner of the envelope, and should reach the Office of the Treasurer not later than 11 a.m. on February 18, 1916. All details regarding the articles to be supplied can be obtained from the Office of the Director of Public Works, Nicosia.

The Cyprus Government announces that an agreement has been arrived at whereby for a period of three months commencing January 1, and ending March 31, the maximum freight rate for oil to be charged by the above-mentioned company between Port Said or Alexandria and any port in Cyprus, shall be as follows :—Crude oil, 15s. per ton; and refined petroleum, 1s. per case.

Tenders are invited by the Public Works Department and the Royal Engineers at Limassol for the supply of materials, etc., for the year 1916-17, delivered at the Depot, Limassol, as in Lists numbered I., II., and III., obtainable from the Director of Public Works. Tenders may be made for any one, two, or all three lists at the option of the person tendering. All tenders should be sealed, and should be addressed to the President of the Tender Board, the Office of the Treasurer, Nicosia. Tenders should be marked "Tender for Materials, Limassol," in the left-hand top corner of the envelope, and should reach the office of the Treasurer not later than 11 a.m. on February 18. All details regarding the articles to be supplied can be obtained from the office of the Divisional Engineer, Limassol.

Tenders are invited by the Public Works Department, Nicosia, for the supply of materials, etc., for the year 1916-17, as per the Lists numbered I. to VII., to be obtained at the P.W.D. Office. Tenders may be made for any or all of the seven lists at the option of the person tendering. All tenders should be sealed, and should be addressed to the President of the Tender Board, the Office of the Treasurer, Nicosia. Tenders should be marked "Tender for Materials, Nicosia," in the left-hand top corner of the envelope, and should reach the office of the Treasurer not later than 11 a.m. on February 18, 1916.

Morocco.

H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier reports that he has received a complaint from the French Resident-General in Morocco that steamship companies frequently fail to deliver to the Customs authorities the documents required by the regulations in regard to goods not landed which should have been landed, goods landed at a wrong port, goods not loaded which should have been loaded, goods lost at sea, etc., thus making it difficult for the authorities to check the manifests.

Engineering Notes.

Water Supply of Nicosia.

A correspondent writes:—For a long time all has not been well with the water channels that supply the capital, the inhabitants of which for years had reason to complain and call for a remedy. Not only does the supply fall lamentably short in the summer months, but even in the winter great inconvenience and difficulty is caused to many in obtaining the scanty allowance which is allotted to householders. Moreover, there has been constant danger of contamination along the masonry channels that carry the water. Recourse is had in many cases to wells in order to augment the supplies, and from these there is not unfrequently danger of infection—of typhoid and other complaints. Needless to say, many of the numerous gardens of Nicosia also suffer from lack of irrigation. The matter is thus one of urgent importance, but obstacles have stood in the way of remedial action. A dispute between the municipality and the Evkaf Department, as regards the control and administration of the supply, has been the subject of litigation. The District Court pronounced in favour of the municipality, and the Evkaf appealed. The Supreme Court has now given judgment against the appellant. Unless, therefore, the Evkaf should appeal to the Privy Council—a very costly proceeding—the matter of responsibility is now definitely settled. Assuming that this is so, it will now behove the municipal body to lose no time in adopting vigorous measures to deal with a problem which, of course, takes precedence of all others. How to increase the supply is a question for the Nicosia Corporation, as it has been for several other towns of Cyprus. The opening of fresh wells, and the possibility of taking a portion of the copious flow which supplies Kythræa, appear to be alternatives. Expert opinion will be needed, and the question of ways and means may present some difficulty. A loan will presumably be necessary, and application for Government aid will no doubt be made. It is high time that the matter should be resolutely dealt with and placed on a satisfactory footing.

A Combined Sprinkling and Sweeping Machine.

How often have tourists in Near Eastern towns been driven away by the thick clouds of dust which only a moderate summer breeze suffices to raise to great heights? The remedy of sweeping the roads either by ordinary means or sweeping machines is often worse than leaving the dust alone at the mercy of the wind. There are modern methods by which such a scourge can be prevented, but for some reason or other they are very slowly introduced. Possibly the municipal authorities are not properly informed by their responsible engineers as to the merits of the newest mechanical appliances for the purpose. There are towns however, in which modern sweeping machines are being used, and for preventing the raising of dust a sprinkling water-cart precedes it with more or less effective results. A new combined sprinkling and sweeping machine which was noticed in a recent show would, undoubtedly, be of interest to many municipal authorities in the East, now that preparations for the approaching summer are under consideration. The machine is automobile, with a strong and compact frame. The tank is mounted upon bearers, bolted to the frame. The distributing pipe is of cast iron, built up in sections, with machined joints, so that if any part is damaged it can be replaced without the expense of a complete new pipe. The down pipes are connected to the tank and to the distributor by flexible compression joints. The distributor is fitted with a double row of jets placed one above the other, and capable of being used separately or together, at the will of the driver. The top row of jets provides for a fine spray, whilst the lower row gives a medium spray, and the combination of the top and bottom rows, when operated together, produces a very heavy spray. The jets are brought into operation by means of a lever placed in an accessible position on the left side of the driver. A special feature of the machine is that the water issues from two holes, which approach each other at an angle, causing the two streams to impinge one against the other and break into a flat fan-shaped spray of varying degrees of fineness. The sweeping arrangement underneath is very efficient and easily controlled by the driver from his seat.

New Method of Repairing Scored Cylinders.

One of the most serious and embarrassing troubles to the users of gas-engines, especially if they happen to be in localities where repairing shops are not near at hand, is a scored cylinder—that is to say, when grooves have been formed on the walls of a cylinder by a loose piston-pin or other cause. The usual remedy for such damage is to have the cylinder rebored, which means the dismantling of the engine and sending the cylinder or, as it often happens, the whole of the engine, to a repairing shop. By this means considerable expense and loss of time are incurred. A new method of repairing such damage, which is described by a firm in the *American Gas Review*, will, therefore, interest gas-engine, as well as oil-engine, proprietors, because it is both easy and inexpensive. The said firm state that in their works are often being repaired gas-engine cylinders whch have been scored by loose piston-pins, but that they never advise reboring of such cylinders. They have found that the grooves cannot be filled with metal by the oxy-acetylene welding process without involving subsequent reboring, this being made necessary by the distortion that follows local overheating of the scored cylinder wall. Their method of repairing grooved cylinders is to solder the grooves full of soft metal, then scrape the excess down to a true bearing surface. The cylinder to be repaired must first be cleansed of oil by washing with diluted acid, followed by clean water. The cylinder is then heated to temperature preferably near the boiling-point of water or a little higher. The grooves to be filled are then given a coating of the necessary soldering compound, which, when evaporated, leaves a thin plating of copper, to which the solder will readily and permanently adhere. The success of the operation depends mainly on thoroughly plating the part to be soldered with copper, since solder does not readily adhere to cast iron; but if the job is well done, the soft metal will stay in the grooves permanently. One motor thus repaired, the firm assert, has been under observation over two years, and the compression is quite as good in the scored cylinders after repair as in the unscored cylinders. This method has the added merit of being inexpensive.

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Near East Markets.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, February 7.

Bitter cold has prevailed during the early part of February and for some days previously. There have been piercing north winds and sharp frosts, and water has been frozen at Nicosia and throughout the plains.

High Prices.

Petroleum is difficult to obtain in many parts, and in the towns the price has risen. At Nicosia the Commissioner and Provost Marshal, Mr. C. S. Cade, has given notice to the public that owing to the shortage in Egypt the supply from that source available for Cyprus is now very limited, and that strict economy should be observed in its use. The price of wheat at Nicosia has reached 85 piastres (9s. 6d.), and barley the excessive price of 40-44 piastres (4s. 11d.) the bushel.

Fresh Flights of Locusts.

Large quantities of dead locusts have been washed ashore on the coast of the Carpas, the long neck of land to the north-east of the island, near Rizo-Carpas. They had evidently succumbed to the strong winds and intense cold which they encountered, and from which they were perhaps endeavouring to escape on the Syrian coast. That there should be locusts in a flying stage at this season so far north appears to be a very unusual circumstance. They are of a reddish colour, and seem to be rather larger than than those which flew to Cyprus in large quantities last autumn. Various other articles, including many barrels of white grapes, have also been washed ashore along this coast, which may point to the sinking of some vessel.

TUNISIAN CROPS.

The U.S. Consul-General reports that while the Tunisian grain crop was a large one, the results were somewhat unsatisfactory, owing to the abnormal proportion of straw and the comparatively small yield of grain. The September and October rains have made it possible to begin the first sowing.

The vineyards suffered from mildew and from an invasion of locusts. As a consequence, the crop was on the whole much below the average. The outlook for the coming year is unpromising, as the vines in their present state need careful treatment, and competent labour is scarce.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, February 24.

Currants.

There has been a good demand for all grades, and considerable business has been done, particularly in lower and medium kinds, at full prices. The speculation which has been going on for the last two or three weeks, for reasons alluded to in our previous report, had the effect of advancing prices about 2s., and if the existing difficulties in shipping, discharging, delivery, etc., continue, a further advance may be expected. Pyrgos, quoted at 40s. to 43s.; Amalias, 43s. to 45s.; Patras, 44s. to 47s.; Gulph, 47s. to 48s.; Vostizza, 46s. to 50s.; Zante, 43s. to 46s.; and smalls, 44s. to 50s.

Sultanas.

The demand for all available kinds continues steady, with more business being done in Afghan and Indian fruit, whilst Greek, owing to the high prices asked, is selling slowly.

Seeds.

Linseed is nominally steady, although Argentine shippers show willingness to meet the buyers. Calcutta in all forward positions is offered to-day at 83s.; March-April, 83s. 6d., was sold; La Plata, Feb.-March, Hull, 77s. to 78s.

Cotton-seed is very quiet, and nothing doing. Egyptian to London, spot, offered at

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£14 10s., but Feb.-March is held at £14 15s. Rapeseed is also very quiet, and quotations are as last week. Canary-seed in better demand at 85s. to 115s.

Oils.

Linseed oil is firm and with better inquiry for the summer months. Spot pipes £44, barrels £45, month £45, March-April £45 10s,. May-August £46 15s., less ½ per cent. buyers, sellers net; September-December, £47 15s. Cotton oil is steady, but quiet. Crude spot, in pipes, £42 10s.; refined pale pipes, £47 10s.; and barrels, sweet, £51 to £52 as to make. Rape oil is well maintained, but in limited demand. Ordinary brown, naked, spot, £52; English refined, barrels, £54 to £56. Olive oil is in better demand at late rates.

Oilcakes.

Cotton Cakes.—The stocks of Egyptian kinds are rather small, and as it is known that only a limited quantity is now available for shipment, prices are very firm at £10 5s. to £10 7s. 6d., whilst English makes can be bought at £10 to £10 2s. 6d., and Bombay at £9 10s.

Linseed Cakes.—Owing to the restricted demand which has been noticeable during the last two weeks, a certain anxiety prevailed among holders, which had the effect of forcing down the prices 4s. to 6s. per ton. Best London-made is offered at £12 17s. 6d. to £13. Indian seed, pures, at £12 15s. 6d. to £12 17s. 6d. per ton.

BRITISH COINS IN THE SUDAN.

The following notice appeared in the Sudan Government *Gazette* on February 7:—

"In order to meet the present abnormal demands of trade and to prevent a shortage of silver currency, the free circulation of British silver florins and shillings in all towns and districts of the Sudan is hereby authorised at the following rates—viz., one shilling equals P.T. 5; one florin equals P.T. 10.

"So far as supplies are available, British florins and shillings will be issued at the above rates by all Sudan Government Treasuries in exchange for any coin or notes now legally current in the Sudan.

"British florins and shillings will be accepted at the above rate of 5 piastres to a shilling by all Government Treasuries and offices in the Sudan in payment of any taxes or other sums due to Government. This privilege will not be withdrawn until after the expiration of three months' notice, to be published in the Sudan *Gazette*, during which period British florins and shillings will be exchanged for Egyptian coin or notes at the rate of 5 piastres per shilling at all Government Treasuries in the Sudan.

"No British silver other than florins or shillings may be circulated in the Sudan.

"Notwithstanding anything contained in this notice, the importation of British florins and shillings by anyone other than the Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government is strictly prohibited, under the provisions of the Customs Ordinance."

The *Officiel Journal* announces that the exportation of eggs for Egypt to the United Kingdom and to the British Possessions and Protectorates will be permitted during the month of March, but that all exportation during that month shall be prohibited as soon as 10,000,000 eggs have been exported in the said month.

COMPANY MEETING.

EGYPTIAN AND FOREIGN TRUST.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Egyptian and Foreign Trust, Ltd., was held on Friday at Dashwood House, New Broad Street, London, Mr. A. F. P. Roger (Chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. O. King) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—We meet again still under the shadow of the great European war. In Egypt, where the great bulk of our interest lies, industry continues to suffer, and in consequence our revenue is still further reduced to the extent of £723 3s. 8d. On the other hand, we have effected further economies in expenditure to the extent of £247 19s. 7d., making the net decrease in revenue £475 4s. 1d. It is always dangerous to attempt to forecast the future. Personally I can scarcely believe that when we meet at this time next year the war will still be waging. Even if it is, however, I feel that we must have already touched bottom so far as this company is concerned, and that any change will be for the better. Our chances of complete recovery in the years to come are materially altered and postponed through the war, but that is inevitable. Your directors are still of opinion that it is their duty to continue their endeavours to regain as much of the lost and depreciated capital as possible, although, so long as the war continues, there is little which can be done. While we regret the depreciation which has occurred, it should not be forgotten that we are not responsible, as the securities on which that depreciation has arisen were purchased not by us but by our predecessors. An event has occurred within the last day or two which we view with great satisfaction—that is, the fall of Erzerum. I think that may be said to place Egypt further away from a German invasion and to render the road to Baghdad very much more open to attack.

The prosperity of this company depends largely on the prosperity of Egypt, and, as is well known, Egypt has hitherto depended almost entirely on its cotton crop. There was a considerable reduction of the area under cotton last year, but this is not altogether without its advantages. Egypt has depended too much on one crop, and as the land hitherto devoted to the production of cotton is utilised for other crops we may reasonably expect a broadening of the basis of prosperity, with a corresponding stability in commerce and finance. The shortage in the crop has also had the inevitable result of raising prices, and cotton to-day is costing 11½d. per lb. as compared with 5d. at the commencement of the war. While we do not feel optimistic, there are, as I say, advantages and rays of light on the horizon; but, as before, I must ask you to be patient and see what the future may bring forth. We can do nothing more than that, I think, for the moment. That gentlemen, is all I have to say, but if there are any questions you wish answered, I shall be very glad to reply to them to the very best of my ability. I now propose: "That the directors' report and annual statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1915, be adopted."

Mr. A. T. Cruickshank seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Cruickshank, seconded by the Chairman, Major Barré A. H. Goldie was re-elected to his seat on the board, Mr. Cruickshank remarking that Major Goldie was not present, but was better employed elsewhere in the service of his King and country.

The auditors, Messrs. Russell Harris and Co., were re-elected, on the motion of Mr. G. H. Fookes, seconded by Mr. A. H. King.

Mr. Kahn proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Dr. Moody, in seconding the resolution, remarked that it must be a satisfaction to every shareholder that the company had practically no liabilities. He had no doubt that the directors would sooner or later meet the shareholders with a more cheerful statement than had been received by them on the present occasion.

The vote was unanimously passed.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the vote, and the proceedings then terminated.

CAIRO COURT FOR AUSTRIANS.

Before his Honour Judge Grain, in his Britannic Majesty's Special Court for Austrians at Cairo, the hearing was commenced on January 24 (says the *Egyptian Gazette*) of the case in which Mr. Antonio Leies de Laimburg, an Austrian subject, belonging to a well-known Irredentist family of Trieste, sued the Reunione Adriatica di Sicurtà for damages for wrongful dismissal and damages for loss of rights in a pension fund.

The case is of considerable interest, as it raised the important question of local usage in matters of dismissal. In addition, questions of Austrian law, applicable under the Proclamation of April 15, 1915, were gone into at some length. The plaintiff was represented by Mr. Reginald Silley, and the defendant by Mr. C. H. Perrott.

His Honour Judge Grain pronounced judgment on Thursday morning in favour of the plaintiff, allowing him twenty-three months' salary as damages, and the return of his pension fund contributions for twelve years, as well as the contributions of the company to the same fund, with 4 per cent. compound interest. Defendants were also condemned to pay costs.

THE JOINT-STOCK DIARY.

Messrs. H. Howes and Co., of Gresham Buildings, Basinghall Street, London, the well-known company printers and stationers, have produced a very handy diary for the present year, which is published at the nominal price of 2s. 6d. Two days of the week are allotted to each page, which gives plenty of room for entries, etc. Of more than usual interest, however, to the many people connected with joint stock companies is a complete encyclopædia of company law and practice which is included in the diary, and which has been compiled by Mr. H. C. Emery, the author of "Company Management" and other similar works. The compendium has been carefully arranged, and embraces all that is really necessary to know in connection with the conduct of public companies, and as it is written in a simple, straightforward manner, it can readily be understood by the most inexperienced. The general utility, therefore, of the diary is much enhanced, and it should find a ready sale, especially considering that the price is so moderate.

A Supplement to the *Board of Trade Journal* (February 17) contains complete alphabetical lists of articles which are at present prohibited to be exported from the United Kingdom and from certain Allied and neutral countries. The latter include Greece and Roumania.

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GOLDEN DOOR OF ERZEROUM

The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* has interviewed a man in Paris who for many years past has been closely familiar with the Erzeroum district. He is a man of considerable commercial experience, and writes:—

"Erzeroum is the centre of a vast caravan trade between the Black Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the Caspian Sea. Railways do not exist in Armenia, and roads are few and far between. Under Sultan Abdul Aziz a road was built between Erzeroum and Trebizond, which is the only one leading to the Black Sea. The principal products are wheat, barley, flax, fruit, and cotton in small quantities. Sheep-farming is cultivated on a large scale, and the wool is highly appreciated for its fine quality. About thirty miles from Erzeroum is the thickly-wooded region of Tortum, where oak, mahogany, walnut, and other valuable woods are found in great profusion. The mineral wealth of Armenia has been only scantily exploited, but the far-seeing Germans must have been fully aware of such possibilities when they cast covetous eyes upon these Eastern lands. Copper, iron, silver, coal, and petroleum have been found in many localities. In the mountains near Erzeroum there is a valley called Ilderim Dersi, where iron has been found in large quantities. At Terjan the merest scraping of the soil has revealed the presence of petroleum. Between Erzeroum and Trebizond, near the town of Gumush Khaneh, there are rich silver deposits. The name alone is explanatory, signifying "locality of silver," and it has been known from time immemorial. There is no doubt that Armenia would have offered a tempting field to the German prospector when the country had been placed on a more stable basis and when mechanical transport had been developed.

"The latent possibilities of the country in trade and its development after the war are very great. The district is naturally extremely rich, and this was no doubt a point considered by the Germans in connection with the Baghdad Railway, for it would have acted as a huge magnet to the trade of the whole country, and their engineers and commercial travellers would in a few years have galvanised its dormant possibilities. From the commercial point of view Armenia is a country well worthy of attention. The Armenians have always been naturally keen business people, and have always represented the banking and moneyed element of the East. Their sympathies have always been with the Allies. When happier and more peaceful times return they would be the first to welcome a closer interchange of trade with the Powers fighting in the cause of justice. All classes of traders and manufacturers would find a big field there. Railway and mechanical transport manufacturers have an unrivalled chance to open up this undeveloped country. There will be a vast demand for agricultural machinery to supplant the ancient methods which are in use to the present day. The mineral wealth of the country, which is greater than people abroad imagine, would furnish an ideal market for mining implements and machinery of all descriptions."

CYPRUS STEAMER SERVICE.

It is announced in the *Cyprus Gazette* that until further notice the contract winter time-table of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company will be replaced by the following:—

Alexandria (depart) Saturday, 2 p.m. or any later hour; Port Said (depart) Sunday (*a*), 11 a.m.; Famagusta (arrive) twenty-three hours later; Larnaca (depart) Tuesday, 2 p.m.; Limassol (depart) Tuesday, midnight; Paphos (*b*) (depart) Wednesday, noon; Port Said (arrive) Thursday, 7 a.m.; Alexandria (arrive) Friday, at daylight.

(*a*) Mail steamer to leave Port Said not later than 11 a.m. if the mails are on board; if not, immediately they are.

(*b*) When not calling at Paphos the mail steamer shall leave Limassol Wednesday afternoon, provided that the arrival at Port Said is not later than 7 a.m. on Thursday.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for week, 23 tons; last week, 28 tons. Hurgada production for week, 516 tons; last week, 325 tons.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended January 20 amount to £E7,068, or an increase of £E1,468 over the corresponding period of 1915.

EUROPEAN OILFIELDS.—Production for week ended 13th inst., 85,000 poods.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Production for week ending February 12, 725 tons.. Moreni well No. 38 flowing when opened.

ROUMANIAN GOVERNMENT FOUR AND A-HALF PER CENT. GOLD LOAN OF 1913.—The Royal Roumanian Finance Ministry announces the numbers of 1,376 bonds, amounting to £49,381 4s., which have been drawn for redemption on April 1, and interest on them will cease from that date.

A CHEAP SUMATRA RUBBER SHARE.

The Rubber share market is full of life and activity, and with the commodity certain to maintain its high level, share prices will continue to rise. Investors on the lookout for a cheap share likely to afford a good yield in the near future may be recommended to purchase the Way Halim (Sumatra), a member of the Lyall Anderson group of companies. This concern has great potentialities. It owns upwards of 6,000 acres in Sumatra. So far considerable of the acreage planted with Hevea rubber, only 322 acres planted in 1909 are in bearing. On an average price of 2s. 6d. per lb., the current year's net profit from rubber alone would amount to £2,100. Including the revenue from coffee, the income on this basis would be sufficient to pay quite 5 per cent. for the year ended March 31 next, and at the higher price realised the company will be in a position to declare a much larger dividend. Under the circumstances the 2s. shares (1s. 8d. paid) at round about 1s. 9d. are obviously undervalued, and it is not surprising to hear from reliable market authorities that they are shortly expected to double in price.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Ordinary General MEETING of Shareholders of the National Bank of Egypt will be HELD on SATURDAY, the 25th March, 1916, at 4 p.m., at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo, for the purpose of:—

Receiving the Directors' Report.
Receiving the Auditors' Report.
Submitting the Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1915.
Declaring a Dividend.
Electing Directors.
Considering the resignation of Directors.
Making a decision in respect to the exclusion of a Director belonging to an Enemy Country.
Electing Auditors for the year 1915 and fixing their remuneration.

All Shareholders holding a minimum of 20 Shares have the right to take part in the General Meeting provided the Shares are deposited under the following conditions at one of the following places, where cards of admission or Proxy Forms will be delivered:—

IN EGYPT—At the latest the 20th March, 1916.
At the Head Office, Cairo.
At the Branch at Alexandria.
At the Agencies of the Bank at Assiout, Assouan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin el Kom, Damanhour, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig and Mousky (Cairo).
At the Office of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank.
Bank of Athens,
Banque Belge pour l'Etranger,
Imperial Ottoman Bank,
Banque d'Orient,
Banco di Roma
Cassa di Sconto e di Rispannio,
Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris,
Crédit Lyonnais.

IN THE SOUDAN—At the latest the 15th March, 1916, at the Agencies of the National Bank of Egypt at Khartoum, Port Sudan, and Suakim.

IN EUROPE—At the latest the 8th March, 1916.
In Paris, at the Offices of the Société Marseillaise.
In Italy, at the Offices of the Banca Commerciale Italiana.
In London, at the Agency of the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.

F. T. ROWLATT, Governor.

Dated the 24th February, 1916.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93⅛	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	78
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	67
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	65
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80⅛	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	54
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	43⅛
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	51½
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	58
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	78
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Ss., £60p.	92	—	86
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94⅛	—	78
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	69
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82⅛	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65⅛	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅛	—	4⅛
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	—	6⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	70
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9⅛
Bank of Abyssinia	⅛	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1⅛
Bank of Roumania	8⅛	—	—
Eastern Bank	6	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅛	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅛	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13⅛	—	11⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅞	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅜
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	—	15/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	⅛	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅛	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	⅛	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8⅛	—	5⅛
Do. Pref.	4⅛	—	3⅛
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/—
Do. Def.	⅛	—	—
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	7/9
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	3/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅛	—	⅞
" " Founders	⅛	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	75
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	6/9
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	⅛	—	⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅛
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1⅛	—	⅛
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	23/-
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	15/9
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	—	16/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅛	—	3⅛
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2⅛	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Feb. 23.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅛	7/9
Anglo-Persian	22/1⅛	18/6
European Oilfields	4/9	2/6
Roumanian	20/-	12/3

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Feb. 22.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	402
Canal de Suez	4050	3895
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	600
Turkish Unified 4%	59.95	57.50
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	87
Serbian, 1895	—	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 252.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The coincidence of the lull in other theatres of the war during the fierce struggle before Verdun is discussed elsewhere in this issue. Here we would merely voice the admiration which the heroic resistance of the French has evoked not only from their Allies, but also, we believe, from the whole world, not excepting the enemy, if they have allowed themselves to contemplate this aspect of the episode. There can be no doubt that the Germans expected to win through to Verdun, and that their preparations were made on a scale which appeared to them to have eliminated failure. But against a perfectly attuned combination of French valour and French generalship the German masses have so far broken themselves in vain. The end of the struggle is not yet; but the first rush has spent itself, and any respite must be even more favourable to the French than to the Germans.

The evacuation of Northern Albania by Serbian, Montenegrin, and Albanian troops has been completed, and the Italian troops have also been withdrawn from the same region. They were sent to Durazzo, the port of embarkation, to render the Serbians all the assistance in their power. During the latter stages of the evacuation they acted as a screen to the other troops and the refugees, and held up the Austrian advance as long as it was necessary to do so. An enemy *communiqué* announced that when the Austrians entered Durazzo it was in flames. With the departure of Essad Pasha, who left with the Allied troops and proceeded to Rome, the last vestige of government was removed from the town. The tribesmen hostile to Essad's rule would lose no time in taking advantage of his withdrawal, and reports of the town being looted and fired may well be credited. Thus, apart from the pleasure of issuing picturesque statements of the events leading up to its capture, the Austrians would derive little satisfaction from the occupation of Durazzo.

With Serbia and Montenegro in the enemy's hands, the extent to which Albania is overrun by Austrians and Bulgarians is of small account. The Italians have posted themselves at Valona, and have announced their intention of holding it at all costs. Any attempt to attack the town will prove a very different proposition from the final pursuit of the Serbians across Albania. An Italian statement thanking the British Adriatic Mission for providing materials for the construction of a mole at Valona indicates that steps have been taken to make the port an adequate base, and Italian interests will have prompted the Government to see to its defence. Valona will thus mark, as the Greek frontier does in other directions, the southernmost point of the enemy's thrust. Any strategical merit the port has is naval rather than military, and there is not much ground for hoping that it will be used for an Italian advance co-ordinated with a forward movement of the Franco-British forces at Salonika. We could wish that the part to be played by Italy in the rehabilitation of Serbia and Montenegro had been made clearer. She has rendered yeoman service in bringing relief to the Serbians; but it has to be admitted that her military efforts have so far fallen very short of her interests in the Balkans.

An official Note issued in Rome throws an interesting light on the work imposed on the Allies in bringing such relief to the Serbians as they were capable of giving them. Since the middle of December, runs the statement, 250 steamers have been employed in transporting 260,000 men "and a remarkable number of animals," under the escort of units of the Italian Fleet and Allied ships attached to it. During the same time 200,000 cwts. of material were transported on a hundred steamers. In addition to this work there was the task of conveying frequently between Italy and Albania foreign Ministers and their Sovereigns, as well as political, civil, and military authorities. "The enemy attempted to impede this extensive and complex movement by continual activity in the air, by mining certain sea areas, and often by attempting to bring into action squadrons of torpedo-boat destroyers, supported by scouts or cruisers, and, lastly, by nineteen submarine attacks." But the losses resulting from the enemy's activities were trifling, and not a single Serbian soldier was lost at sea.

News of the fall of Erzeroum will have reached Bulgaria at a moment when probably the last glamour attaching to the German alliance had just faded away.

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It requires no very intimate knowledge of the country and people to realize something of the Bulgarians' feelings at this stage. They are in their fourth consecutive year of war. Their quarrel has been primarily with the Serbians, and in any case is restricted to the Balkans. It was no doubt flattering to their vanity to be incorporated in the magnificent military machine of the Central Powers, in order to dispose in double-quick time of their hereditary foes. But it was not until they had overwhelmed Serbia that the country as a whole began to realize that German support entails corresponding obligations on Bulgaria's part; that, when their own particular work is finished, they must still undergo all the disabilities and hardships of war, not for their own advantage, but for Germany's benefit. For a people wedded to the soil as the Bulgarians are, who, while perfectly ready for war, consider that the duration of all hostilities should be regulated strictly by the agricultural seasons, it will be particularly galling to have a season wasted by their manhood being kept with the colours in a cause no longer their own.

On the top of these general considerations will come the special hardships which will be associated with Germany and the German Army. If the Germans are exploiting Austria-Hungary for the benefit of their own country, there is little likelihood of their sparing Bulgaria. We may, therefore, place some reliance upon reports of the rise in the prices of commodities of everyday use due in part to the quantities exported to the Central Powers. To add a fresh grievance by making the German depreciated mark a medium of exchange at par is the refinement of cruelty, and will probably be more resented than the dearness of meat and bread. It is at this point that the Bulgarians learn of the Russian victory in the Erzeroum. *Proximus ardet.* The disaster belongs properly to Turkey, but it reflects upon the efficacy of Germany's tutelage. Worse still, it conjures up the old belief in the invincibility of Russia, which had been forcibly exorcised in obedience to German suggestion. In such circumstances the report of the arrest of fifteen members of the Opposition in the Sobranje on a charge of high treason is of considerable interest. Whatever credence may be given to individual accounts of conditions in the enemy countries, we may be fairly confident that the situation in Bulgaria from the German point of view is thoroughly unsatisfactory. Accordingly, the time is ripe for a vigorous offensive on the part of the Allies in the Near East.

A notice in the London Press summoning all Greek subjects of the conscript classes 1892 to 1914 to present themselves at the Greek Consulate-General with a view to their returning to Greece to be enrolled in the army, is an indication that the Greek Government is not contemplating demobilization. On the contrary, the possibility of intervention on the side of the Allies is now openly canvassed. To the symptoms of the changes which Greek public opinion is undergoing, enumerated in these pages last week, may now be added King Constantine's own proposal to visit the Allies' positions at Salonika. The fact that Baron von Schenk should have chosen such a moment to leave Athens is also regarded as symptomatic.

The welcome intelligence of renewed activity on the part of General Aylmer's relief expedition on the Tigris has been received during the past week. Exactly a month after the last attempt to force the enemy's lines, columns advanced up the right bank of the river to bombard his camp and to test the quality of his resistance. The Turks suffered heavily as a result of the bombardment, and the official statement adds that "useful information was obtained by our aeroplanes," but we are left to understand that no final dislodgment of the enemy was effected. The expectation of fresh floods seems to point to a further period of enforced idleness, which will not be wholly wasted, if the expedition continues to receive reinforcements. In the meantime we are invited to revise our conception of General Townshend's position at Kut. He has asked for and received by aeroplane vegetable seeds and gramophone records. If these represent the sum total of his immediate requirements, apart from actual rescue from the enemy's investment, he has made a masterly use of his resources. We can only hope that neither General Aylmer nor the higher military authorities will be led to postpone the relief of the Kut garrison until the seeds are up or the gramophone records worn out.

Fuller details of the capture of Erzeroum are now available, and, if possible, enhance the merit of the Russian success. The assault on the forts and the principal position lasted from February 11 to February 15 inclusive. After the forts on the left flank of the main Turkish line of defence, extending about twenty-nine miles, had been taken, the fate of the forts in the centre and on the right flank, and, after them, of the second line forts, and the principal defensive position was decided on February 16 after short attacks. During the assault on the fortress several Turkish regiments were annihilated or made prisoners with all their officers. The exact number of prisoners taken was only twelve short of 13,000, together with 323 guns. In the pursuit of the retreating Turks the Russians have reached Ashkala, thirty miles west of Erzeroum, while other columns continue to advance on parallel routes between the captured fortress and the Black Sea, and again to the south of it. The weather conditions are still bad. Trebizond, which must be regarded as the main objective of the Russians now, is nearly two hundred miles by road from Erzeroum. To reach it first Turkish reinforcements have much more than twice that distance to traverse from railhead at Angora. The capture of Trebizond will not only mean the complete elimination of the Turks from Eastern Asia Minor, but will also materially simplify the provisioning of the Russian forces operating on this front. Topographical considerations must largely determine the line behind which the Grand Duke Nicholas will decide to consolidate his position. In view of the reports that the Turks are despatching troops in all haste from Constantinople via Angora, he will be more concerned to be prepared for any possible menace from this quarter than merely to extend his conquests in a direction which lacks practical military objectives.

The Russians have added to their successes in the Middle East by the capture of Kermanshah. This town has long been the centre of Turco-German intrigue, and was supposed to have been occupied by a substantial force detached from the Baghdad command. There is nothing in the brief Russian statement to show whether the enemy were in any strength or the character of their resistance. They were dislodged from a series of positions, and so may be supposed to have fought tenaciously. But whether the Russians were opposed by an organised force equipped with artillery is not stated. It may well be that the report of a Turkish expedition to Persia was circulated with a view to intimidating all whom it might concern. If this force does not exist, there is some ground for hoping that the occupation of Kermanshah will complete the discomfiture of Turco-German agents and their propaganda in Persia. The Russians have dealt the insurrectionary movement a series of swift blows, from which it is not likely to recover in the part of the country where Russian troops remain. If on the other hand any large force has escaped at the time of the capture of Kermanshah, the only course open to it will probably be to retire upon Baghdad. There, in due course, if it elects to remain in the city, we may hope to see it dealt with by the British expedition advancing up the Tigris.

The success of this bold stroke of our Ally is bound to have an important bearing upon our own operations in Mesopotamia, but it would be most unwise to conclude that the Turkish defence of Baghdad will necessarily collapse at once as a result. Kermanshah is barely 160 miles from Baghdad in a direct line, but it

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is nearly 250 miles by road, and the road is by no means an easy one even for a light caravan to travel over. From Kermanshah it trends south-west to Harunabad, thence bears northerly to Kasr-i-Shirin, and then south-westerly again through Kizil-Robat and Bakuba to Baghdad. It traverses one of the wildest parts of Persia, winding between and across high mountains, which offer excellent opportunities for the exercise of guerilla tactics; and at this season of the year it is sure to be rendered more difficult by snow and bitter cold. The Russians, therefore, will find it no easy matter to advance with their heavy artillery, even if the enemy, as seems likely, should have been too well whipped already to make the best of his opportunities. As for any direct advance on Kut, that would seem to be out of the question at this time of the year, even for the marvellous Russian troops; for range after range of mountains lies right across the direct line—and amongst the ranges are the Kabir Kuh, the Siah Kuh, and the Pusht-i-Kuh.

On February 26 by far the most substantial success yet reported over the Tripolitan Arabs in western Egypt was gained at a point some fifty miles from the frontier. The scene of this action is farther west than recent engagements have been, a circumstance which points to the British column having been reinforced and being able to operate at a greater distance from its base at Mersa Matruh. The enemy's column was under the personal command of Nuri Bey (the brother of Enver Pasha), with Jaafar as his principal subordinate. Nuri was killed, and Jaafar was taken prisoner. The enemy left more than 200 killed and wounded on the ground. The composition of the British force adds interest to the engagement. It was under General Lukin, who was through the German South-West Africa campaign, and included South African troops, Yeomanry, and Territorial artillery.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* gives a summary of a series of interesting articles on Turkish affairs appearing in the *Mokattam* based on information obtained from "a person who recently arrived from Constantinople." According to this authority the officers of the Turkish Army are divided into two camps, one loyal to the Germans, the other strongly anti-German and anti-war. This division, it is added significantly, has greatly influenced the nature of the recent fighting between the Russians and the Turks, also that between the British and the Turks, and it will continue to have an influence in the near future. The Germans are represented as being under no illusions regarding the state of feeling in Turkey, and the visit of the German Foreign Secretary to Constantinople, followed, as it was, by the hurried trip of the German Ambassador for one day only to Berlin, is cited as evidence of their uneasiness. The statement that Talaat Bey has sent deputations to Switzerland to discuss prospects of peace is confirmed by the *Mokattam's* informant, who points out that the fall of Erzeroum, which "came as a thunderclap to the Ministry," will enhance the anxiety to bring the war to an end. The articles bear the stamp of the genuine impressions formed on the spot by a well-informed observer, and for this reason we are inclined to accept the accuracy of the deductions drawn. "This chronicler states," adds the *Times* correspondent, "that the fall of Erzeroum has impressed the populace, and that, if the British are successful in Mesopotamia and are able to take the offensive and break the Ottoman resistance, as the Russians have done, the Committee will fall from power and another Ministry will succeed them and sue for peace. If the Germans oppose this course of procedure, the Turkish troops will fight and oust the Germans. This the Germans realise."

ZUNGULDAK.

BY HUGH E. POYNTER.

As the name of Zunguldak has appeared in so many of the Russian *communiqués* referring to naval operations against Turkey in the Black Sea a description of this place, which the writer visited in the summer of 1913, may not be out of place.

The little port of Zunguldak is the creation of the French Société Générale d'Heraclée, which exploits the coal mines of Zunguldak and Cozlu. This Zunguldak lies about 120 miles east of the entrance to the Bosphorus, on the southern shore of the Black Sea, and is a more or less regular port of call for coasting steamers and sailing vessels. On the occasion of this visit a steamer of the Paquet line took me there between the hours of 4 p.m. and 5 a.m. the following morning.

The little port lies in a deepish bay surrounded by hills, which are thickly wooded down to the water's edge. The French Company have constructed a modern pier for loading their coal, which a light railway brings down from the mines that are situated up a valley some little distance from the sea, from which they are not visible. The little town itself is partly on the bay and partly in the valley running up from the shore, and is entirely devoid of interest, not possessing even the picturesqueness of most Turkish villages. The town, too, is under the disadvantage common to all towns located in the vicinity of collieries in being covered very freely with coal dust. In fact, the water of the bay, in which I twice indulged in a swim, was covered with a thin film of black! Accommodation is very poor, though the French officials of the company have pleasant homes and are most hospitable. Zunguldak owes all its prosperity to the company, and the company being a French one, it is easy to understand why the Russians were at first reluctant to attempt the destruction of the port and harbour works.

With all other sources of supply cut off, Constantinople was dependent upon Zunguldak for its coal, and the efforts made to keep open communication with that place must have been considerable. Bombardments may have damaged the jetty to a great extent, but they cannot have affected the mines themselves; a landing party would have been necessary for that, and it would require the continual presence of Russian ships of war to prevent small steamers and sailing vessels from running cargoes of coal from Zunguldak to the Bosphorus. In the winter, however, the harbour being much exposed to gales, it sometimes happens that the place is isolated for weeks at a time, as no ships can enter or leave that port.

The coal is of a poor, soft quality, and the mines are scarcely equipped for furnishing all the needs of the Turkish capital, and the occasional visits and bombardments by Russian warships must have considerably impeded the supplying of coal, though it would be practically impossible to cut off entirely supplies from these mines. Moreover, there can be little doubt that land communication between Zunguldak and the Gulf of Ismidt sufficient to allow the transport of coal may be in course of development, and this would render Zunguldak independent for the time being of the sea route to Constantinople. The nearest point by rail is Ada Bazar, the terminus of a branch line from the station of Arifié on the Anatolian railway, beyond Ismidt.

On my return journey the voyage was made in a small Turkish ship, mostly by daylight. The shores of this part of the Black Sea rise in hills thickly covered with woods. A stop was made for a few hours at the little port of Eregli, the site of ancient Heraclea Pontus, which lies a few miles west of Zunguldak, where some ruined walls and towers may be seen, but otherwise it is now only an unimportant fishing village.

The coast at the entrance of the Bosphorus is rugged and austere, and very dangerous for ships in stormy weather. A place called the "False Bosphorus" has often enticed ships to their ruin in foggy or stormy weather. There is a lifeboat station on each shore near the entrance, and, until recently at least, these stations were in charge of Englishmen, who conscientiously performed many difficult and dangerous tasks.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 14.

Marriage of High Commissioner's Daughter.

What would, under normal circumstances, have been a brilliant social event took place quietly this week. I refer to the marriage of Miss Irene Earle McMahon, youngest daughter of Sir Henry and Lady McMahon, and of Captain Kenmore Evans Gordon, only son of Colonel and Mrs. Evans Gordon, which was celebrated at St. Mary's Church on Wednesday, by the Rev. C. T. Horan, who officiated in the absence in the Sudan of the Bishop in Jerusalem. There was a small gathering of prominent British officials in the church, and a reception was afterwards held at the Residency, where the guests included Prince Kamel-ed-Din, Prince Ahmed Fuad, Prince Yussuf Kamel, the Ministers, Generals Maxwell and Murray, the Diplomatic Corps, and the principal Government officials and leading British residents. During the reception, H.H. the Sultan, who the previous evening had given a dinner-party at the Palace in honour of the bridal couple, drove over from Abdin and personally presented his congratulations.

The Mixed Courts.

The Mixed Courts question is still unsettled, but it is generally believed that the British and Egyptian Governments will accede to Italy's request for an extra judge. There is, it is said, another important point at issue, not directly connected with the question; but no official confirmation of this fact or information as to its nature can be obtained. I have, however, every reason to credit this statement, and to believe that no difficulty will be found in reaching a satisfactory settlement. Meanwhile, the delay is giving rise to all manner of discussions in the Press and in judicial circles, and it would appear that considerable difference of opinion exists as to the position of the Mixed Courts *vis-à-vis* Italian litigants. It is held by many people that as the Italian judges have abstained from sitting, the Egyptian Government, whose servants after all they are, should withhold their salaries in virtue of the financial code which regulates their conditions of service. Apart from the fact that such action on the part of Egypt would be somewhat tactless at the present juncture, when diplomatic negotiations in the matter are in progress, the Italian magistrates cannot be held responsible for their abstention, for the simple reason that this took place at the request of the Assembly of the Mixed Court of Appeal.

The Mixed Courts do not, however, seem to have made up their minds as to the procedure to be adopted in cases where Italian subjects are one of the parties. The Mansura Court has struck off all such cases from the cause list provisionally; the Cairo Court has merely set them back. Leading members of the Mixed Bar hold that Italian plaintiffs can continue to sue before the Mixed Courts, although they cannot appear there as defendants, and must be sued before their own Consular Courts. There is an equally strong opinion that so long as Italy does not recognise the extension of the Courts, her subjects cannot appear before them in any capacity. Altogether, the incident bids fair to give rise to a good deal of learned argument in the Courts, both Mixed and Italian, and it will be exceedingly interesting to watch the development and see how the problem will be dealt with locally, pending a settlement of the international difficulty. It is quite conceivable that the two jurisdictions may arrive at conflicting conclusions, as happened once before over a totally different question between the Mixed and the British Consular Courts.

A New Census.

Negotiations are at present in progress for the taking of a census of Egypt next year. The cost will be £E25,000, but although these are times when economy has to be practised, this work is of such great value to the country that there appears to be little fear that the money will not be granted. The last census was taken in 1901—the preceding ones took place in 1887 and 1882—but the forthcoming one should prove to be more reliable and should produce even more valuable statistics, for the Department of State Statistics has during the past three or four years been completely reorganised, and is now conducted on lines that give results that are not purely academic, but are also of practical utility to those responsible for the economic administration of the country. The Department's Statistical Year-Book is a monumental work, packed full of interesting and useful information, and the intelligent manner of its compilation is an earnest of what we may expect of a census conducted under the same auspices.

The New Codes.

The staff of the Ministry of Justice and the other legal luminaries of the country have during the past year had an exceedingly busy time, and the coming months promise to be equally full of work for them. Commissions have been formed and have been occupied principally with the elaboration of the new codes that the change in régime and the contemplated amalgamation of jurisdictions will eventually render necessary. The task falling to these commissions is in itself admittedly a gigantic one, and it can to-day be predicted that it will be several years before it is accomplished, unless the members are relieved of all other duties and permitted to concentrate on the delicate and important work of code-drafting. Such relief cannot, I fear, be afforded them so long as the war lasts; for the present abnormal condition of things necessitates the constitution and holding of divers special courts and inquiries, and the legal experts in the country at present are not numerous enough to carry out the work appertaining to those special courts and inquiries satisfactorily and expeditiously. We can, therefore, say that some considerable time will have to elapse after the declaration of peace, no matter when that takes place, before any cut-and-dried machinery or any complete system of codes, acceptable to all parties interested, is ready to take the place of those at present in operation; and the general public must make up its mind to put up with the old judicial system for several years yet.

Side by side with the study of the new civil codes, destined to take the place of the present complicated system, there is being carried out an examination of the Moslem law of personal status, at present used in the Mahkema Sharia. That law contains many anomalies and many interpretations of Sherei principles that, however correct and adequate they may have been when first propounded, are to-day quite inconsistent with the changed conditions under which the Moslems of Egypt live. Efforts have been made for some time now to raise the moral standard of the people and broaden the trend of Moslem thought. It is obvious that the existence of an antiquated law of this nature, regulating as it does the personal status of those whose condition it is desired to improve, cannot conduce to the success of those efforts. H.H. the Sultan, than whom no more enlightened Oriental Prince lives, has greatly interested himself in the question, and a draft of the proposed reforms has now been submitted to the Ulema and leading Moslem lawyers, who are all agreed in principle on the necessity for some extensive change in the existing law, so as to make it more in keeping with modern conditions.

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SUDAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Frontier Delimitation.

Captain G. B. Wauhope, Senior Inspector of the Kassala Province, who succeeded Captain G. B. Hobart (who died at Kassala on July 1, 1914), has recently been despatched upon a mission in connection with the delimitation of the frontier between the Italian and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Much of what was formerly the Italian Sudan has been merged into the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan; the Italian possessions in Central Africa now consist mainly of the colony of Eritrea, including the Dahlar Archipelago. Eritrea, literally "the Red Sea," which adjoins the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, consists of a triangular portion of barren and sandy lowland, situated between 12 deg. and 18 deg. N., containing, in all, a coast-line along the Red Sea of about 700 miles, with a total area of 60,000 square miles, and a population estimated at 280,000, of whom some 3,000 are Europeans.

Kassala Province.

The province of Kassala possesses historical associations of no small interest. The town, bearing the same name, and handed over to the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan by the Italians in 1897, had been in their possession only since 1894. In this province, in 1898, was fought the important battle of Gedaref. Near El Fasher ford, located on the right bank of the Khor Ghash, is the site of the post which was held by a detachment from the Kassala garrison in that year. Just as the Italians are fighting gallantly with us to-day so did they aid us in every way in the early and difficult days of the British Occupation, beginning in 1898-9. Indeed, the Italians extended a most friendly welcome to the Anglo-Egyptian troops at Kassala, Massowah, Asmara, Keren, and Agordat. The commanding officer offered to sell to the British the Krupp guns belonging to the fort, the ammunition and stores, the furniture, and, in fact, everything that might be found useful. Among the many other things placed at their disposal were five hundred camels, several hundred transport mules of Abyssinian breed, and all the necessary saddlery and harness.

No province of the Sudan has been more seriously affected by the general economic depression from which the whole country has latterly been suffering than that of Kassala. And yet there has been no one of the political Departments which has made a braver struggle against such adversity. During the governorships of both Colonel A. Cameron (now the Governor of Sennar) and Captain C. H. Townsend remarkable advances have been made in the general conditions and the well-being of the people of this province, which, in superficial area, ranks with those of Sennar and the Upper Nile, although the population is considerably smaller than that of either. To Captain H. E. Dumbell, now an Inspector of the Repression of Slave Trade Department, but formerly an Inspector of Kassala, may be attributed much of the progress attained.

The results of the wise and intelligent administration may to-day be seen in the improved conditions of the people. Indeed, but for the Sudan's unfortunate financial state, Kassala might almost have realised the best results aimed at. The price of dura, now quoted at about fifty-four piastres per ardeb (an ardeb equals 5.44 bushels), is considered satisfactory, while the crop is proving especially plentiful. Huge quantities of Kassala dura have been purchased for Abyssinia, thus bringing corresponding wealth to the growers. On the other hand, the cattle industry, which has been very carefully fostered and encouraged by the Administration, is flourishing apace. Last year, however, and the year before, cattle-plague wrought a certain amount of destruction, although the nomad Arabs suffered less than other owners. Owing to this fact their tribute was increased, and, moreover, without any difficulty, so that the province enjoyed a higher revenue aided by the revision of the herd lists in some districts. The prices of cattle and sheep are now at a very remunerative level for the breeders. Cotton, likewise, is promising very well, the crop having now commenced to come in. The worst of Kassala cotton, however, is that the cultivators will insist upon mixing the varieties of cotton and thus diminish the value of the yield. Were the communications of the province to be improved—and but for the prevailing circumstances they would have been this year—the cotton industry would flourish.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

ROUMANIA AND THE CENTRAL POWERS

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In a message from your Correspondent in Bucharest, published in your paper a few weeks ago, it was stated that only his advanced age secured M. Carp an undisturbed hearing during the great speech he made recently in the Roumanian Chamber.

May I, for the sake of history and as a new proof of the sentiments which animate the bulk of Roumanian public opinion, correct to some extent the above statement, on the strength of private information I have received from Bucharest?

M. Carp's political career commands the unbounded respect alike of friends and adversaries, and the deputies listened with deference to what he had to say. But their patience was exhausted when in his concluding words M. Carp proceeded to indicate that Roumania's place was by the side of the Central Empires, and interruptions occurred and vituperations were flung from all sides of the House. The feelings roused by his opinions may best be gathered from the reply made by a deputy, when M. Carp's friends were claiming a fair hearing for him: "But he is horrifying us all!"—I am, etc.,

D. Mitrany.

The London School of Economics and Political Science (University of London),
February 23, 1916.

PRISONERS IN BULGARIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—While I fully concur with the view expressed in last week's Near East that no credence should be afforded to Balkan rumours until they are substantiated, the judicial calm with which you comment upon the outrages upon British prisoners alleged by *Le Journal des Balkans* strikes me as being rather inadequate to the occasion. An investigation, "both in the interests of British prisoners in Bulgarian hands and in the interests of the Bulgarians," is certainly necessary, but I would add a word to this. If upon investigation it is found that the disgraceful charges alleged by *Le Journal des Balkans* are substantiated, Bulgaria should be warned that such incidents will be marked by the sternest retribution at the end of the war, be that when it may.

The Bulgar may no more hope to escape punishment for outrages against the laws of civilised warfare than may the Boche, and it is surely for you and other patriotic journals to point this out to him in the plainest manner possible.—I am, etc.,

Edward Francis.

London, S.W., February 26, 1916.

SUDAN PERMITS.

The Governor-General of the Sudan has issued a Proclamation amending the "Permits to Enter the Sudan Proclamation, 1915," making Section 2 of the Proclamation read as follows:—

"Except as hereinafter provided, no person may enter the Sudan without a permit. The following persons may enter the Sudan without a permit, namely, officers and soldiers of any military forces serving in the Sudan, officials and employees of the Sudan, Egyptian or British Governments serving in the Sudan or coming to the Sudan on duty, and, when travelling with them, their wives and families resident with them, and their servants accompanying them or their wives and families. Provided that Governors of frontier provinces may exempt from the need to obtain permits any persons or classes of persons being natives of or residents in any neighbouring country for the purpose of enabling them to enter their provinces for temporary purposes."

FRENCH HOSPITALS IN EGYPT.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of February 10 announces:—It has been decided by the French military authorities that Alexandria shall no longer be a hospital centre for French troops, and Commandant Lambelin has addressed a long note of thanks to the many persons who have contributed to the efficiency of these hospitals.

The first French wounded arrived early last May from Kum Kalé and Sedd ul-Bahr, when it was found necessary to find accommodation for more than 2,000 men. General Maxwell requisitioned many important establishments for the French troops. Sick and wounded troops were also received at the San Stefano Hospital and at the Government Hospital, while the Sultan offered the Mansurah Palace for a similar purpose. The French religious institutions also fitted up hospitals, and the European Hospital placed beds at the disposal of the French troops. At Cairo a special annexe was erected at the French Hospital, and the Suez Canal Company gave up an entire wing of its hospital at Ismailia.

Commandant Lambelin expresses his gratitude to the members of the French and other European colonies for their kindness and generosity, as well as to a large number of local doctors and to Père Gaston and various Sisters and Frères for their devotion and self-sacrifice in this cause.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, February 9.

The Chamber.

The principal feature of the reassembling of the Chamber was the admission of deputies from Upper Epirus, to the number of fifteen, as members of the Parliament. The Government regards this event as a great success gained.

The election of the brother of the late M. G. Theotokis as President of the Chamber, as a tribute to the memory of his brother, has disposed of a thorny question on which the members of the Cabinet were divided in opinion and had some difficulty in reaching an agreement. The new President, however, still remains in Corfu and shows no eagerness to come to Athens, and his duties are performed by the Vice-President.

The tone of the protests made to-day in the Chamber by the President of the Council, regarding the occupation of Corfu and of Karaburnu by the Allies, gives the measure of the impression caused in official circles by those acts. What they fail to take into account is that after the occupation of Salonika the occupation of the Karaburna Fort became indispensable for the Allies, in order to secure command of the Gulf of Salonika and the entrance to the harbour. M. Skouloudis also declared that no pressure by the Entente would be able to force Greece into taking action so long as her own interests were not involved.

In the course of the discussion to which these declarations gave rise it was admitted by some members of the Cabinet that the pressure on the part of the Entente, to which the presidential declarations referred, was the result of misunderstandings, and it was well said that the Government really only followed a policy of neutrality in an opportunist sense. One of the Opposition deputies condemned the Government strongly for keeping the troops with the colours for so many months without deciding definitely for war or for peace; and for putting into the mouth of the King the statement that it was the Entente Powers who wished Greece to maintain its mobilization, thus exposing the Crown to a direct denial of this assertion by the four Powers.

The Dangerous Position of Greece.

The *Patris*, taking as basis a statement published in the Turkish *Tanin*, which purports to have learned from an official source that Germany has informed Greece that if she continues to tolerate the presence of the Allies at Salonika and the extension of their fortified works she (Germany) will be compelled to regard Greece as hostile territory, believes that Germany will finally invite Greece to co-operate with her in expelling the Franco-British troops; and that should Greece refuse she would then declare herself to be reluctantly compelled to promise Bulgaria compensations at the expense of Greece in order to obtain Bulgarian co-operation against Salonika. The *Patris* asks whether, faced by the dilemma of losing Salonika or of declaring war on the French and British, it would not be better to lay aside opportunism and co-operate with the 350,000 Allies, in order to settle accounts with Bulgaria.

The Government Press.

The language of the so-called Governmental Press —which is first and foremost the Germanophil Press —is truly extraordinary. It becomes more and more violent; and all sorts of calumnies are launched against the Venizelists in order to compromise them. Especially are they accused of being anti-dynastic. The main objectives of the campaign carried on by these journals are France, the French authorities at Salonika and the French Minister in Athens. Public opinion is thus daily inflamed.

The Italians at Corfu.

The arrival of some Italian carabineers in Corfu—a half-score or so, who, it appears, escorted some Serbian deserters there—has caused a great to-do in Athens. The Government has forbidden news of this to be telegraphed abroad, and has protested energetically to Rome. It is even stated that as a result of a rising of the islanders the carabineers had to withdraw, but this seems hardly credible. The trouble caused by the arrival of these few Italian soldiers in Corfu is, of course, due to the fact that the Italians are always accused by the Greeks of coveting the island because of its proximity to Italy, because it formerly belonged to the Venetian republic, and because a little Italian is still spoken there.

THE GREEK MOVEMENT FOR INDEPENDENCE.

The Hon. W. P. Reeves delivered the third of his course of lectures at the London School of Economics last Monday, his subject being the renaissance of the Greek nation. He said that throughout its career, but especially in the days of its decline, the Turkish Empire was a despotism for all, but a despotism that pressed with especial severity on the Greeks and other Christians. The best treatment the Turk allowed these was a contemptuous toleration; the worst was to kill them if they showed any signs of being troublesome. It was impossible for a Christian to get justice in the courts if the other litigant was a Moslem. If he was a peasant he was the victim of an oppressive system that left him a pittance barely sufficient to maintain life. First of all he was usually a tenant, and had to pay a rent to a landlord of about half his produce, then the Government took a land tax in kind amounting on the average to about one-seventh. He was not allowed to reap or thresh his grain unless the tax-gatherer was present, and thus his agricultural operations might be delayed for two months at a time. In common with other Christians, he had to pay a poll tax, which was rendered more oppressive through the exactions of the tax-farmers who collected it. He was liable to forced labour on public works, for which he received no payment. Finally, when Government officials travelled on public business the villages had to entertain them free. As regards traders, where the Turk would pay import or export duties of, say, 2½ per cent. and the foreign trader resident in Turkey 3 per cent., the native Christian subject of the Sultan would be required to pay 5 per cent. Beyond all this was the bribery of officials, the oppression of pashas and great landlords, who set the law at naught.

The renaissance began with a revival of Greek trading in the eighteenth century. This became possible when the power of the Algerine and other corsairs was broken, and when the Western Powers, having gained privileges from the Sultan, used these illegally to grant licenses to Greeks to trade on the same terms as the foreigner. The Greeks established mercantile houses with branches in various European cities, and became prosperous. The hope of a free and independent Greece arose in their minds. The appearance of Ali Pasha as Governor of Greece delayed the movement, but an attempt was at last made under Prince Ypsilanti. This was a complete failure, but another attempt was made. It was a contest where all the advantages were on the side of the Turkish Government, and at first the Greeks got little or no sympathy from the European Powers; but after the struggle had dragged on for years and the Greeks had achieved a measure of success, the Turks in revenge massacred great numbers of Greeks who were wholly unconcerned with the insurrection. The slaughter of these loyal and peaceable people living far from the scene of turmoil created a revulsion of feeling in Europe, and a cry went up that the Turk was an unspeakable barbarian.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, February 15.

University Disturbances.

The University of Jassy is closed in consequence of a general "strike" on the part of the students. Those of Bucharest have declared a sympathetic strike, so that the end of this week may see the closure of both universities. The circumstances which have led to this development are of a local character more or less, but not without interest, for they throw light on the sentiments which animate the youth of the nation.

M. Virgil Arion's change of attitude in matters of foreign policy is responsible for the trouble. This gentleman is a professor at the University of Jassy, and was until recently president of the "League for the Cultural Unity of all Roumanians." For reasons which still require explanation, M. Arion, who was known as one of the strongest supporters of the movement in favour of national union, has since the outbreak of the war adopted a friendly attitude towards the Central Powers, which has caused him to be excluded from the society of which he was president, Octavian Goga, the Transylvanian poet and Nationalist, being chosen as his substitute. M. Arion has also become director of the *Moldova*, an organ which has come into being since the commencement of the war, and is run by the Germans. These and other circumstances have given rise to a feeling of deep resentment, especially among the students of Jassy, who had previously looked up to M. Arion as a guide, a warm sympathiser, and one of the most convinced champions of the great cause that lies so near the heart of every patriot.

The cynicism with which he repudiated his previous convictions has created a feeling among the students that they have been cruelly deceived and their confidence betrayed. None the less, M. Arion was allowed to deliver his University lectures unmolested. On the occasion, however, of a public lecture not connected with the work of the University, a number of students, apparently nettled by circumstances of a provocative character, manifested their disapproval by singing patriotic songs, thus obliging M. Arion to retire. M. Stere, the Russophobe Rector of the Jassy University, thereupon adopted an extremely hostile attitude towards the students. It was decided to inflict heavy punishment on twenty-seven of the guilty students, one of the items being the withdrawal of their right to become members of the committees of student clubs for the space of a year. This latter punishment is considered illegal, and has given rise to widespread indignation, extraneous interference in the organisation of these clubs having never previously occurred. The students consider the punishment illegal because they did not manifest as students, but as a section of the general public, the occasion being a public lecture entirely unconnected with the University. They look upon the above measure not only as representing an immediate blow, but a permanent menace, and a precedent which will favour the introduction of party politics into the ranks of the students and the internal organisation of their societies. This apprehension is well founded, as all will admit who know to what extent party politics have infiltrated the social life of the Roumanian nation.

The students have set forth their grievances in a closely argued memorandum, which is remarkable for its form. There is little probability of their capitulating, for they feel themselves supported by a large proportion of the professors in both Universities.

The Jassy students are mostly very poor, many of them holding purses which have been temporarily withheld by the Rector. In view of his pronounced Russophobism and M. Arion's Germanophilism, this procedure is regarded as a reprehensible means of exerting moral pressure.

A Recruit for the Conservatives.

The fact that M. Michel Marghiloman has joined the Conservative Party, presided over by M. Nico Filipescu, is significant. It has the appearance of being a public expression of disapproval of the attitude adopted by his brother, M. Alexander Marghiloman, whose advocacy of the policy of adhesion to the Central Powers led to his losing the leadership of the Conservative Party.

German Corruption.

The Central Commission for Exports assembled a few days ago for the purpose of pronouncing on the subject of a commission of 1½ million francs offered by the German syndicate in connection with the recently effected sale of cereals. The Roumanian Commission, we are glad to record, unanimously refused the German "bakshish."

Roumanian Papers for Bulgaria.

Roumanian newspapers are not allowed to cross the Bulgarian frontier. Exception was made for the *Universul*, which for some time enjoyed the privilege of being read by Bulgarians, but this paper has now been stopped likewise. The rule does not apply, of course, to the *Ziua*, the official organ of the Austrian and German Legations. This journal is, however, nothing but a German paper in disguise.

Bulgarians in Roumania.

During the last few months a number of Bulgarian subjects have been settling in Giurgevo for the alleged purpose of buying grain. The presence of these unwelcome visitors has aroused the curiosity of the authorities, for they are numerous and have no fixed occupations. Apart from this, they are mostly young men, whereas it is well known that the Bulgarian military authorities have forbidden all subjects up to the age of fifty-five from leaving their country.

Certain inhabitants of the Dobruja of Bulgarian origin have declared their intention of offering their crops for sale to the Bulgarian Government. They are reported to have said that if they were not allowed to export their grain into Bulgaria they would keep it until the not very distant time when the Bulgarian Army would enter the Dobruja.

Germany and Bulgaria.

Field-Marshal Mackensen is believed to have made two journeys recently, one to Sofia to discuss with Tsar Ferdinand the conflicts which have arisen between German and Bulgarian officers, and also for the purpose of arranging for the establishment in Bulgaria of a branch of the Krupp works. The object of the other journey was the inspection of the Bulgaro-Roumanian frontier of the Dobruja.

A train is reported to have left Rustchuk a few days ago for Varna, carrying 100 officers, of whom sixty were German and the remainder Bulgarian. The number of German troops now occupying the Dobrujan frontier is considerable, especially about Razgrad and Shumla.

LIFE IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, February 15.

The Germans are insinuating themselves more and more into the internal affairs of Turkey, so that there is not a public service which is not at the present time under the control of German officials. There is great misery in the Turkish capital. Flour is bought in Roumania at the price of 61 francs the sack, and resold in Constantinople for three times that sum. Rice cannot be obtained at all. Coffee costs 50 francs and sugar 20 francs the kilogram. The latter is only delivered on presentation of a medical prescription.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, February 7.

The Zeppelin Attack.

After several weeks of comparative calm, not to say dulness, the people of Salonika were rudely awakened from their slumbers a few nights ago by a series of violent explosions. It happened about three o'clock of the morning on an exceptionally dark moonless night. I jumped out of bed, like all others, and gazed heavenward. Nothing was to be seen but the silent stars and occasional flashes of light as the explosions took place. At first it seemed that the fleet was firing heavy guns at another German aeroplane, but it soon became evident that bombs were falling on shore. It was not until the following day that we learned that a Zeppelin had paid us a stealthy visit, causing serious loss of life and damage to property. As in the case of the first aeroplane attack, practically all the loss has fallen on the Greeks. The Allies suffered very little.

Details of this attack and the damage done have already been telegraphed to London; but there are one or two points to which I may be allowed to refer. The local Greek journal *Phos* (Light), the most rabid of the pro-German gang of newspapers, suggests that the damage on land during the Zeppelin raid was caused by shells fired at the visitor by the fleet. It is, however, officially confirmed by the Allies that not a single shell was fired by the warships that night. "And why not?" I fancy I hear my readers exclaim. For the obvious reason that they did not wish to disclose their position in the harbour to the enemy, who would doubtless take advantage of the gun-flashes to drop bombs upon the ships in order to sink or damage some of them. The Zeppelin bombs are exceptionally large and dangerous, as the airship has much greater lifting power than an ordinary aeroplane, whose bombs are few and usually very much smaller. One of these Zeppelin bombs fell quite near my abode, and made a pit in the ground nearly 3 yards wide and about 1½ yards deep. If it had fallen much nearer these weekly letters would probably have come to a sudden and violent end, and the subsequent proceedings would have interested your correspondent no more.

Who Pays the Damage?

The only other point to which I need refer is this: Who is going to pay for the damage, amounting to some four million francs (£160,000), caused by an incendiary bomb to the property of a particular bank? I understand the insurance companies are protected by a special clause in their policies excepting war risks. In the end, of course, the Germans will no doubt have to pay—if they have any money left to satisfy the gigantic bill which they are running up. But, meantime, the question arises whether the Greek Government should claim these damages from Germany or from the Allies. The responsibility of the Allies depends on the obligations which they undertook on installing themselves here. The general impression, however, is that in any case the Allies will pay the damage in the meantime and take their chance of recovering the amount from Germany at the end of the war.

The Captured "Albatross."

All Salonika has visited the captured German "Albatross" aeroplane, which differs considerably in appearance from the "Taube" (pigeon). It was exhibited in one of the widest main streets near the front and opposite the French headquarters. I also made a pilgrimage to the spot and inspected the creature. It did not seem much the worse for its fight with the gallant Frenchmen, who managed to puncture its petrol tank with their mitrailleuse. The first thing that attracts the eye is the series of large black crosses painted on the brute. A closer examination revealed to me the inscription in German, *Gott mit uns* ("God with us"). To that the French aviators may have something to say.

The Case of John Sinnett.

I met him at the "Librairie Française"—the principal book shop in Salonika—which is a place much frequented by Allied officers and men (and where, by the way, The Near East is always on sale). He is a Welshman connected with the Veterinary Department of the British Army, and is about forty-six years of age. There is nothing singular about all that; but, as a matter of fact, his position is very singular, if not unique. He was born of British parents in France in 1869, and had the right on attaining majority to declare whether he would choose British or French nationality. He chose the former, and thus avoided military service in France. Eventually he had a son, also born in France, who had not the same option, and who is now fighting in the 25th Regiment of Chasseurs, while his father is also fighting the same enemy under the British flag. The circumstances are claimed to be unique. In any case it is a remarkable instance not only of the fraternal, but even of the occasional paternal, relations now existing between the soldiers of the two great allied nations.

The German Propaganda.

Baron Schenk, the chief of the German propagandists in Athens, is now so famous—or, rather, notorious—that his name has become a household word, though few people know how to spell it correctly. He is *persona grata* with Ministers and even higher personages, and he rules half the Press of Athens with a rod of iron—or, rather, gold. I may be told that this is as threadbare a topic as the weather, but I am not going to dilate upon the Baron's doings; I am simply going to quote from an official document which gives a curious insight into his methods, and which needs no comment. The document in question is the official report of the proceedings in the Assize Court of Verria on November 14, 1915 (Old Style), in reference to the case of one Hector Georgiou Athanassiadis, and which report is now on file at the Salonika Court of Appeal:—

The judge having invited the accused to state his defence, the latter said:—

"I was engaged as manager of Mr. M. D. Caromilas's newspaper at a salary of 60 francs per month, but I was also interested in the profits, which brought me in from 120 francs to 150 francs per month. At the hotel in which I lived I paid 3 francs per day. My means were sufficient, because, in addition, I had the sums paid to me by Baron Schenk.

"The Baron was employed by the German Embassy to publish in the Greek Press false news as well as telegrams favourable to Germany, and he could also assure to himself the hospitality of the columns of our paper. As I knew French I was engaged to collaborate with Baron Schenk. He paid me on each occasion 20, 30, 40, 50, and even 60 francs, and these payments were repeated on an average four times a month. This work brought me in, therefore, from 80 to 100 francs per month."

A Newspaper Prosecution.

The concoctions of Baron Schenk and his collaborators of course appeared in the German subsidized newspapers of the capital, and although they caused much excitement and aroused much indignation among the majority of the people, no official notice was taken of them. Contrast that attitude with the vindictive proceedings taken in the Criminal Court of Salonika against the leading Ententiste morning paper, *L'Opinion*, and the *Makedonia*. The former is printed in French and the latter in Greek.

It appears that these papers, on what they took to be reliable authority, inserted a paragraph in reference to the supposed incursion of a band of Bulgarian *komitajis* into Greek territory, where they had a severe fight with Greek troops. It seems the news was not true. Here was an opportunity to have a kick at the Entente through their organ, *L'Opinion*, and the prosecution took the utmost advantage of it. On a vague indictment based on a still vaguer "law" both newspapers were found guilty of exciting the minds of the people (as if they had not been much more violently excited by Baron Schenk and his allies), and the responsible editors were condemned to prison for fifteen days. They do not mind this a bit, as the prosecution has given them such an advertisement that they will benefit rather than lose by the publicity given to the proceedings.

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, February 9.

King Ferdinand and the Air Peril.

"Tsar" Ferdinand, who is not famed for courage at the best of times, is reported to be in a state of great alarm regarding the chances of an aerial attack, and it is said that he was seized with panic when he learned that a flying corps formed part of the expeditionary force landed at Salonika. At the council of Ministers called to discuss the subject he declared that it was necessary to surround the capital with a patrol of flying machines, and that every Bulgarian aviator should be recalled from the front. The Palace at Sofia has been protected by special roofing, and searchlights are busy all night, and a Zeppelin has been brought from Germany. On the arrival of this monster it was greeted with martial music played by massed bands, and Ferdinand in person welcomed its crew, and bestowed decorations upon the officers.

Germans and Serbs.

The state of the Serbians in Old Serbia is deplorable. The Germans have instituted a reign of terror in that district, just as in Belgium. Serbians are not allowed to pass the Government buildings or the barracks; the inhabitants must not be out after 5 p.m.; nor may they leave their homes before 7 a.m.; and all Serbians must salute German or Austrian officers who cross their path. Any contraventions of these regulations are punished with the utmost severity. The least penalty is a month's imprisonment.

The Germans have arrested Serbs in large numbers, who have been deported into Austria, and many families are thus left without means of subsistence. Bands of Bulgars and Albanians wander at will and without hindrance from village to village. At present there are in Belgrade about 80,000 Serbs, and at Nish nearly 100,000.

"Kultur" for Young Bulgaria.

One result of their intervention which will cost the Bulgarians dear is that the Bulgarian Government, at the "request" of the German authorities, is drafting a law to make the German language obligatory in all Bulgarian schools! The German Government undertakes to despatch to Bulgaria the necessary number of schoolmasters for this purpose.

Brothers in Arms!

According to information received from Macedonia, the tension between the Germans and Bulgarians is becoming very acute. It is stated that near Kavki, outside Monastir, the German soldiers, furious at hearing their Bulgarian fellows-in-arms say that what successes had been gained in the Balkans were due to them, attacked them with their bayonets. A battle royal ensued, which was only brought to an end by the intervention of armed force. Many severe wounds were given and received on both sides.

New Postage Stamps.

The Bulgarian Government are stated to have already issued postage stamps to commemorate the great European War. They bear the effigy of "Tsar" Ferdinand in the costume of a Byzantine Emperor!

Travel Restrictions.

The Bulgarian *Official Gazette* publishes an announcement that, for the better security of the national defence, there will be henceforth only five points at which travellers may enter or leave the country—Rutchuk and Lom Palanka, on the Danube; Oborishte, for Roumania; Kuleli Bourgas, for Turkey; and Ortchitar for Greece. Anyone endeavouring to ignore this notice, and to pass the frontier elsewhere, will be liable to trial by court martial.

The *Dnevnik* announces that the Director of Railways, in accordance with military instructions, refuses to allow railway wagons to be despatched to any destination in the "new territory." On this account the population is suffering from a total lack of certain products which are impossible to forward save by rail; and the "Comité central de prévoyance publique" has intervened at the Army Headquarters, the Council of Ministers, and the Ministry of War in order to obtain permission for a sufficient number of wagons to leave for the districts suffering from a shortage of food.

BABYLONIAN SABBATHS.

"It has," says the *Independent* (New York), "been a debated question among scholars whether the Sabbath was a purely Jewish institution or whether it was known also to the surrounding nations. There is no evidence of an Egyptian Sabbath, for the Egyptians had a week of ten days; nor have we any proof of a Phœnician Sabbath and the evidence of a Babylonian Sabbath has been meagre; but in a volume just published by the Yale University Press, Professor A. T. Clay has made important addition to the proof that in Babylonia a seventh day of worship was recognized."

After referring to the only two inscriptions found before which could be interpreted as referring to the Sabbath, the *Independent* continues: "We now come to Professor Clay's new evidence. In the Yale collection Professor Clay has found a group of twenty-three tablets containing a report of monthly receipts of sheep intended for temple service at Erech, a very ancient city in southern Babylonia. They are dated from the fifth year of Cyrus, 554 B.C., to the sixth year of Cambyses, 523 B.C., inclusive. The tablets are all of the same nature, and after stating that the sheep have been received for sacrifice, a report is made in four columns for each day. Now the important thing is that a note is added to the record for the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th days stating that an additional sacrifice of a lamb was offered on that day. Here is a definite recognition of a special religious observance celebrated at the temple on those days. The evidence is indubitable that four days which we may call Sabbaths were observed each lunar month seven days apart, and this evidence is of great value for religious history.

"To be sure, these tablets come from a comparatively late period towards the end of the Jewish Babylonian captivity; but taken with other evidence it is clear that no Jewish influence is here to be discovered. And the Babylonian Sabbath was of very little account as compared with that of the Hebrews. It did not enter into the daily life of the people. We have thousands of contract tablets all dated, and they prove conclusively that there was no interference with ordinary business and work. This discovery is of much importance, but much more needs to be learned as to the origin of the observance of the Sabbath, a point on which the text of the Fourth Commandment in Deuteronomy gives a different reason from that in Exodus."

MESOPOTAMIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

MRS. MARLING'S FUND

For Providing Comforts for Troops Serving in Mesopotamia.

Hitherto the subscriptions in this country to the above Fund, which subscriptions now amount to £1,583 10s., have been collected privately among those more particularly associated with the Persian Gulf.

In view, however, of the large augmentation of troops now operating in that theatre of war, and of the greatly increased difficulties of the task which they are called upon to perform, Mrs. Marling desires to extend the scope of the Fund by making an appeal to the general public, whose assistance in such a worthy cause will, it is hoped, be readily given

Mrs. Marling, when making her appeal wrote as follows:—

"There are many people who have personal experience who will realize how terribly trying to troops the carrying out of military operations in Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf must be at this season. The following paragraph, taken from the 'Near East,' quoting a letter from a soldier serving with our forces in those parts, brings home to us that the brave men fighting under such exhausting climatic conditions are not benefiting by the many organizations formed at home for the purpose of giving small comforts to our Armies abroad:—

"'The People of England seem to have forgotten us' is the pathetic cry of a soldier serving with the British Expeditionary Force at the head of the Persian Gulf; 'we have not had so much as a box of matches from England.'"

All money collected is being remitted to the credit of Colonel Sir Percy Z. Cox, K.C.S.I., Senior Political Officer to the Expeditionary Force, who is employing it in the purchase of comforts for the troops suitable to the local conditions.

All donations should be sent to:—

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA,

25, ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.,

and cheques should be crossed and made payable to "Mrs. Marling's Fund."

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I am obliged to the Salonika Correspondent of THE NEAR EAST for his letter on the subject of the pronunciation of the name of that port, which, coming from the "scene of action," will probably set at rest doubts that appear to have troubled several readers. I must thank him, too, for his kind reference to myself and his good wishes for my success on what he refers to as my "erratic course." But I beg leave to inform him that I have not the faintest intention of "tackling the Turkish names from Sedd-el-Bahr to Kavak." I have too lively an appreciation of the difficulties and dangers of *those* waters, thank you! Indeed, the pronunciation of place names is almost as difficult a matter as the translation of Oriental words, to which I have referred many times; and just now I feel unequal to grappling with its perils.

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Apropos of this I have come across a paragraph in *The Times* which evidences the difficulties with which writers on the Near East are confronted:—

> An officer in the Flying Corps in Egypt has carried out an aerial reconnaissance from Daba, the railhead of the Mariut Railway, to El Gara (about sixty miles north-east of the Siwa Oasis) and back, a distance of 400 miles. The airman started early in the morning, reached El Qara at midday, and was back at 4 p.m.

It will be seen that in this paragraph both Gara and Qara are used to designate the same place. Now, if Gara is right, Qara is wrong, and *vice-versâ*, and I should have welcomed an authoritative note on the subject. Personally, I favour the "Q," because it is softer and less ugly than the other form. It was Count Gleichen, I believe, who first introduced the "Q" into official spelling in Egypt, but it does not seem to have been generally adopted even by the Government, although it is, I know, used by the Post Office.

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Apart from the matter of spelling, the news of itself is extremely interesting. What tremendous and romantic possibilities of exploration lie in the future of the aeroplane and the dirigible! An efficient substitute for petrol and its kindred spirits as driving power is, it seems to me, the one and only weapon necessary to complete our annihilation of distance. Some genius of the future will probably produce a machine that will automatically compress the air in its flight, and, storing it in "batteries" for its own consumption, be independent of petrol or other fuel. When that day comes we may fold the whole earth beneath the shadow of our wings. Who knows what the trackless deserts hold? Who knows the peoples, the civilisation, which may exist in the heart of inhospitable, untrodden ways? Just beyond the spot where the last exploring camel fell or turned may well be hidden new islands of the blest, cities more safe from discovery than any lone island in all the uncharted seas. But when over earth and wave our airships eat up the distance at the rate of more than a mile a minute, what can remain unhid? When the war is over there will come a new era for the explorer, who, riding the air, may pierce the veil of desert mystery.

***

King's Day in the Sudan has become a festival which apparently increases in popularity year by year. The day is set aside for the commemoration of the visit of their Majesties the King and Queen to the Sudan—a visit that was one of the wisest acts of a wise king. I happened to be in the Sudan at the time, and I shall never forget the real enthusiasm of the natives, an enthusiasm which was curiously pleasant because it was so unmistakably spontaneous, and showed such pride of country, too. When his Majesty disembarked at Port Sudan and the news spread through the country that he was actually on land, the whole aspect of the Sudani's life was changed. At one stroke they had become not only subjects of the Crown, but children of the King. I talked to many natives of different tribes at about this time, and in all the dominant feeling was one of intense pride. The Sudan was no longer merely a country with a history—it was a part of the British Empire with a future. Such a feeling would not, of course, have been possible had not the seeds of trust and affection for British methods and institutions been sown by the Administration of the Sudan since the battle of Omdurman, but it is none the less gratifying on that account. This year King's Day appears to have been celebrated with more than ordinary enthusiasm, because the Empire of the King was at war, and the people of the Sudan wished once again to make it abundantly clear that they were part of the Empire and loyal subjects of his Majesty.

***

The gift of tongues appears, as I think I have already pointed out in these notes, to have been bestowed in a most liberal manner upon the people of the Levant. Very few of them speak less than three languages fluently, and more often than not they can converse with ease in half-a-dozen different tongues. I am reminded of this fact by a paragraph in one of the provincial papers concerning the interpreter at the courts of Hull; a certain Signor D. Victor del Bourgo, who already speaks ten languages as fluently as his own and is now on the high road to perfection in three more. This is certainly a remarkable record, but I find that the gifted gentleman, who is the son of an Italian father and a Spanish mother, was born at Port Said, so I marvel no longer. As a child he came by Italian, Spanish, and Arabic naturally from father, mother, and attendants; a little later he accompanied his father to Abyssinia, where he added the language of King Menelik's people to his vocabulary. For ten years he studied Greek, French, and Hebrew in Turkey, and at the age of eighteen he was appointed interpreter to the Greek Police in Canea by Prince George, brother of the Greek King. Subsequently he returned to Egypt, where for some time he held various appointments under the Government, and his later travels included journeys to China, Austria, Germany, and Russia. He married in the latter country, and came to England four days after the declaration of war. Signor del Bourgo is now only thirty years of age, so he should have ample time for further study before him.

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I have been favoured with a copy of the *Lloyd Ottoman*, a French edition of the *Osmanischer Lloyd*, published in Pera. It is, by the way, rather odd that it should be necessary for the Germans to print their propagandist journals in French for the "benefit" of their Turkish friends. Perhaps the Taskmaster has not yet seen fit to ordain that *all* Turks *must* learn more German than "Hoch der Kaiser!" and "Deutschland, Deutschland über Alles!" But, whatever the reason, the fact remains; and the obliging Teuton provides the French-speaking Young Turk with this enterprising news-sheet. And it *is* enterprising, too, mark you! The number in my possession contains the first mention I have seen of yet another ghastly outrage perpetrated by the brutal French and domineering British upon the long-suffering Hellenes: the news, to wit, of the landing of French and British troops at the Piræus and at Phaleron. At the latter place the ruffians appear to have landed for the express purpose of looting, for the *L.O.* informs its readers that "après y avoir opéré quelques perquisitions, ces troupes se sont rembarquées." After this, it is not surprising to learn that the Greek Government is packing up its traps and preparing for a hasty departure to Larissa, and that the State archives are being transported thither in haste; but it is a little disappointing to read that "les troupes grecques ont observé une attitude passive."

***

The *Lloyd Ottoman*, unlike the Greek troops, is moved to extraordinary indignation by the report of this horrible outrage, which must, of course, strike the invaders of Belgium and the Champions of All Scraps of Paper as unspeakable in its vileness. The writer of what-appears-to-be-intended-as-the-leading article (see how the influence of the Teuton stylist is affecting me!) waxes wroth indeed over the Franco-British violation of "protestations solennelles," and administers a tremendous trouncing to—M. Venizelos! I have found the high moral tone of this article most refreshing; and, if only I were not afraid of getting into trouble for trading with the enemy, I should be tempted to give up *Punch* and take the *Lloyd Ottoman* instead.

***

The same incorruptible journal reproduces many comments from the Turkish Press upon the arrival of the first Berlin-Constantinople train. These I have read with interest, and I gather that the train—drawn by a new engine and decked with flags—was laden with smiling and affable Teutons and good wishes in about equal parts, and that it was greeted on its arrival at Sirkeji station with the "mêmes chaleureuses ovations qui lui ont été faites partout," and with "sentiments et manifestations de joie réciproques." The *Tanin*, the *Terjumani-Hakikat*, the *Ikdam*, and the *Sabah* are all keen on these warm ovations and manifestations of reciprocal joy. They are also all equally keen on pointing out that the arrival synchronises with the good news of the unconditional surrender of Montenegro, which marks the beginning of the end, so to say, and that henceforth great and beneficent Germany will be able to draw all the supplies she may wish from Turkey, and to send to Turkey all—and more than all—the German police, professors, and Under-Secretaries that Turkey may desire. That is not, perhaps, the way the Young Turk journalists word it, but it seems to be the thought they desire to express. Their effusions almost read as if they were inspired from the same source. It is a pity that the news about Montenegro should have proved a wee bit premature after all. Perhaps the wonderful train took away with it on its return journey some of the good luck and high hopes it had brought.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

RAILWAYS AND WAR.*

The extent to which railways are being used in the present War of the Nations, says the author of the book under review, has taken the world by surprise, and though, with the exception of a careful analysis of the organisation of the railway systems of England, Germany, and France at the outbreak of war, he does not examine their direct influence on actual hostilities, he, nevertheless, shows us the extreme importance of rail-power, both as a means of transport and of strategy. As its title indicates, the book is more or less a historical study of the growth of the world's railways in connection with war and conquest, their evolution from subsidiary agents of transport to factors of vital importance in military campaigns. The study of this process is deeply interesting; and though we are unable to follow its development in the world-war—this, to quote a railwayman's expression, is still a "sealed book"—it is to be hoped that at some future date the author will pen a sequel to the present volume, showing us how campaigns both in the West and in the East were influenced by the presence or absence of railway lines. We can safely predict that the chapters dealing with the Near Eastern campaigns will not be the least instructive. How Austria overran Serbia, thanks to her Bosnian lines; how Germany's campaigns were influenced by the opening and protection of the Berlin-Constantinople line; how the Vardar Valley line was destroyed and rebuilt; how Turkey lost Erzeroum owing to German ambition in Anatolia; and how and why the Baghdad Railway failed to fulfil its great objective—are problems that will have to be carefully studied.

According to the author, the American War of Secession, commonly called the Civil War, was the first of its kind seriously to develop rail-power as a military factor. That was fifty years ago. Since then the military authorities of the various countries have developed their systems and organisation with varying success, and as war succeeded war they learnt from the blunders committed by belligerents and improved on their successes. We do not intend here to pass these wars in review (our readers are referred to the book under notice), but mention can be made of three Near Eastern wars or campaigns which were instrumental in shaping the future of rail-power in war time. The three campaigns in question, and which are ably examined by Mr. Pratt, are the Abyssinian campaign of 1867, the Russo-Turkish War of 1877, and the reconquest of the Sudan in 1896. Regarding the former, we seem to have blundered horribly. The line was to have been built from Annesley Bay to Magdala, but it was never finished; all the necessary plant was to be supplied by the Government of Bombay, but the material supplied lacked uniformity.

> The rails obtained from different railway companies in India were of five different patterns, of odd lengths, and varying in weight from 30 lb. to 65 lb. a yard. Some of them had been in use many years on the harbour works at Karachi, had been taken up and laid down several times, and had also been bent to fit sharp curves or cut to suit the original line. Some single-flanged rails had been fitted in the Government workshops at Bombay with fish-plates and bolts; but the holes in the plates and rails were not at uniform distances, and the bolts fitted the holes so tightly as to allow of no play. Then, when the rails arrived, no spikes came with them, and without spikes they could not be laid. When the spikes followed, it was found that the augers for boring holes in the sleepers had been left at Bombay, to come on by another ship. . . . If the rails gave much trouble—and even when they had been laid it was no unusual thing for them to break between two sleepers and throw the engine off the line—the locomotives and rolling stock caused still more. Six locomotives were shipped from Bombay; but, owing to the great difficulty in landing and the labour involved in putting them together, only four were used. Of these, one was a tank engine which, although just turned out from the railway workshops at Bombay, required new driving wheels after it had been running a fortnight. Another came with worn-out boiler tubes, and these had to be replaced at Zoulla. . . . The sixty wagons sent were ordinary trolleys, having no springs, no spring buffers, and no grease boxes. Their axle-boxes were of cast-iron, and wore out within a fortnight owing to the driving sand. As the railway came into use, every truck was loaded to its fullest capacity, and the combination of this weight with the jarring and oscillation on a very rough line led either to the breaking of the coupling chains or to the coupling bars being pulled from the wagons at starting. When fresh coupling chains were asked for, it was found that the boxes containing them had either been left behind at Bombay or were buried beneath several hundred tons of other supplies on board ship. At least 40 per cent. of the trucks were either constantly under repair or had to be put aside as unfit for use.

Admittedly the attempt as such was a failure, but happily it did not affect the military campaign, which was brought to a successful conclusion—without its railway.

The Sudan campaign of 1896, on the other hand, was, as regards the vital importance of rail-power, a glorious success, and the swift defeat of the Mahdi's troops by Lord (then Sir Herbert) Kitchener was largely due to the rapidity with which a line was constructed to the heart of the Sudan. The first advance of our Army necessitated the construction of a line from Wadi Halfa along the Nile to Kerma, a distance of 216 miles, which was satisfactorily completed in thirteen months. The second stage required a new line across the desert from Wadi Halfa to Abu Hamed, a distance of 232 miles. Work began on May 15, 1897; by the end of July 115 miles had been completed; by October 31 Abu Hamed had been reached.

> The construction of the 232 miles of track had been accomplished in five and a-half months, notwithstanding the fact that the work was carried on during the hottest time of the year. An average length of a mile and a-quarter of line was laid per day, while on one day in October a maximum of three and a-quarter miles was attained. So well, too, had the work been done that trains carrying 200 tons of stores, drawn by engines weighing, without tender, fifty tons, were taken safely across the desert at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour.

The above, though merely a sketch of the first stage in the reconquest of the Sudan, will serve to show how railway construction had improved and the rôle it was bound to play in future wars. Prior to the reconquest of the Sudan—the successful issue of which had depended to such a large extent on the railway from Wadi Halfa to Atbara—the Russians had shown in their war with Turkey that they were fully alive to the necessity of relying to a great extent on railways of communication.

> Under a convention which had been agreed to with Roumania on April 16, 1877, Russia was to have a free passage for her troops through that country. She was also to have the use of the Roumanian railways and of all their transport facilities. But the only line then running through Roumania was one that went from Galatz, on the Russo-Roumanian frontier, to Bucharest, and thence (with a branch to Slatina) to Giurgevo, on the Danube, where it connected with a Bulgarian line from Rustchuk, on the south of the river, to Varna, the Turkish base of supplies on the Black Sea. Not only was the Roumanian railway system thus limited in extent, but the lines had been indifferently constructed, they were badly maintained, and they had an inadequate personnel, together with an insufficiency both of rolling stock and of terminal facilities. . . . The principal lines thus taken in hand were:—1. A line in Russia, from Bender, on the Dniester, to Galatz, establishing direct communication between the Odessa railways and the Roumanian frontier, and affording improved facilities for the sending of reinforcements to the seat of war. 2. A line from Fratesti, on the Bucharest-Giurgevo Railway, to Simnitza, the point on the north bank of the Danube where, on the night of June 26-7, the Russians built the bridge which enabled them to cross the river. 3. A line from Sistova, on the south side of the Danube, to Tirnova (Bulgaria), situate about thirty miles south-east of Plevna, and about twenty-five north of the Shipka Pass. . . .

During the time the war was in progress 229 miles of new railway and the road-bed for another 75 miles were constructed. "The development of the rail-power principle in warfare was carried still further by the construction of a greater length of railways, designed for military use, than had ever been built under like conditions before." (This, be it remembered, was before the Sudan campaign.)

It must not be supposed, however, that Mr. Pratt has devoted his book exclusively to the growth of railway construction in war time. In days of peace, preparations are made for war, administrative measures are adopted, organising forces are co-ordinated, and strategic lines constructed. All these are fully analysed. A most instructive chapter is devoted to German railway ambitions in Africa, and another, of less interest because throwing no new light on the subject, describes German military ambitions in Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, and Syria, the outcome of which has been the Baghdad Railway fiasco and the loss of Erzeroum to the Turks. Appendices dealing with the Indian frontier and Australia bring to a close a most readable book, the value of which is enhanced by a careful bibliography of the leading works bearing on the subject under review.

* "The Rise of Rail Power in War and Conquest" (1833-1914). With a Bibliography by Edwin A. Pratt. P. S. King and Son, London. Price 7s. 6d. net.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

La Germania alla conquista dell' Italia. By Giovanni Preziosi. With introduction and appendix by Prof. Matteo Pantaleoni. (Libreria della Voce, Florence. 2.50 lire.)

A Merry Banker in the Far East (and South America). By Walter H. Young (Tarapacá). Illustrated. (The Bodley Head. 5s. net.)

Moral, the Most Important Factor in the War. By Lieutenant-Colonel W. Shirley. (Sifton, Praed and Co. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

The Fleming H. Revell Company, of New York and Chicago, have published "Modern Movements among Moslems," by Samuel Graham Wilson, D.D., the author of "Persian Life and Customs." Dr. Wilson, who resided in Persia for more than thirty years, has studied his subject closely, and he shows how the currents of the movements that he describes are exerting, and must continue to exert, a tremendous influence on Islam. Amongst the titles of the chapters are: "The Revival in Islam," "Modernism in Islam," and "Mahdiist Movements."

Mr. Eveleigh Nash has published, at the price of 6s., Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall's "The House of War," a novel with a Turkish background.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916.	1916.		1334.	5676.
Mar.	Feb.		Rebi II.	Adar.
3	19	Friday	27	28
4	20	Saturday.....	28	29
5	21	Sunday	29	30
			Jumada I.	Adar II.
6	22	Monday	1	1
7	23	Tuesday	2	2
8	24	Wednesday	3	3
9	25	Thursday	4	4

General Sir John Nixon had the honour of being received by both the King and the Queen at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday.

Lieutenant-General the Hon. Sir Julian Byng had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace last Friday.

H.H. the Aga Khan left London on Monday for Monte Carlo. He expects to return to town in April.

H.E. the Serbian Minister, who was last week confined to his room by an attack of influenza, has now recovered, and was able to visit Sir Edward Grey at the Foreign Office on Monday.

Bishop Stileman, formerly Bishop in Persia, has accepted the living of Emmanuel Church, Clifton.

Among the naval officers decorated by the King at Wednesday's Investiture was Commander E. C. Boyle, who received the Victoria Cross for his brilliant submarine exploits in the Sea of Marmora.

Under date of February 27, Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports:—According to a telegram from Bucharest the Queen-Dowager of Roumania is ill with influenza, slightly localised in the lungs. Her Majesty's general condition is satisfactory.

A message from Bucharest states that the following bulletin was issued concerning the dowager Queen Elizabeth on Tuesday:—"The affection of the lungs has changed a little. A new centre of inflammation has been observed. The patient has, however, only moderate fever, and the pulse is unchanged." The bulletin on Wednesday stated that the Queen's condition had not improved.

According to a telegram from Vienna, the King of Bulgaria, with both his sons, left there last Friday evening for Coburg to visit his parents' tomb.

According to a telegram from Vienna the King of Bulgaria is confined to his bed with a slight attack of bronchitis.

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The age of the pupil, district preferred, and rough idea of fees should be given.

J. and J. PATON.

— EDUCATIONAL AGENTS, —

143, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

A telegram from Sofia states that on the occasion of King Ferdinand's birthday the Crown Prince Boris was appointed a major, Prince Cyril a captain, and Duke Charles Edward of Saxe-Coburg Commander of the Second Bulgarian Regiment and a General of Infantry.

Dr. Alomcilo Nincitch, the Serbian Minister of Finance, left London last Friday for Paris. During his stay in London he had several conferences with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Governor of the Bank of England.

Sir Edward Boyle has returned to London from the Near East, where he has been working on behalf of the Serbian refugees.

An engagement is announced between George Francis Blackburne Daniell, Egyptian Civil Service, Lieutenant, 6th Battalion Royal Fusiliers, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Blackburne Daniell, and Mary, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eastwick, of Rogate, Sussex.

Last Friday Mr. Bertram Christian, Chairman of the Serbian Relief Fund, London, received from the Foreign Office a cable dated February 21, transmitted by the Chargé d'Affaires at the American Legation, Sofia, to the American Ambassador in London, stating: "Lady Paget's mission all arrived here. All well. Send greetings." This message indicates that the first stage of the mission's homeward journey has been covered.

Major-General Sir George Frederick Gorringe, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., who has been wounded in Mesopotamia, is a son of Mr. Hugh Gorringe, Kingston-by-Sea, Brighton, and has had a very distinguished military career. Born in 1868, he was educated at Lees School, Brighton, and Wellington College, and entered the Royal Engineers when he was 20, attaining to his present rank in 1911. His war services include the Dongola Expedition in 1896, the Nile Expedition of the following year, the battles of Atbara and Omdurman, two or three other expeditions in the Sudan, and several other hard-fought engagements. Sir George has also filled official appointments in Egypt, and had charge of the rebuilding of Khartoum after the annihilation of the Mahdi and his followers. For his services he has received many medals and decorations. The D.S.O. he got in 1896, and he was made a K.C.B. last year.

Second-Lieutenant Fred La Fontaine, formerly a private in the 7th Service Battalion, Rifle Brigade, B.E.F., France, has been appointed Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.

Second-Lieutenant Walter Whittall, formerly a private in the 7th Service Battalion, Rifle Brigade, B.E.F., France, has been appointed Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.

Mr. S. Hubert La Fontaine, formerly Assistant District Commissioner, Taveta, British East Africa Protectorate, who, until lately, held the temporary rank of Lieutenant, Intelligence Department, Voi, B.E.A.P., has now received his captaincy.

M. Henri Curdier, the French Orientalist, has been elected an honorary member of the Italian Royal Geographical Society.

Our Roumanian Correspondent writes (February 15):—

Roumanians all the world over feel that their nation has suffered irreparable loss in the person of Mgr. Metziano. Since 1899 he had been Archbishop and Metropolitan Primate of the Greco-Oriental Church of Transylvania and Hungary. For over sixty years he had fought tooth and nail against the Magyar system of persecution, organizing and reorganizing with invincible courage the national resistance of the Roumanians. His high character had gained even the respect of the Magyars, so that he had succeeded on more than one occasion in obtaining slight concessions in favour of his conationals. There are few finer figures than that of this indomitable old prelate of 89 years, who sinks into the grave with his withered arm still raised in defence of his flock.

M. Diano, Attaché of the Roumanian Legation at Athens, is now in Bucharest on leave.

M. Camille Blondel, French Minister in Bucharest, has completely recovered from the operation he recently underwent.

M. Trandafiresco, First Secretary of Legation, attached to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, has left for Paris.

Colonel Andonovitch, Serbian Military Attaché, and Captain Pichon, French Military Attaché, have returned from their journey to Russia.

M. P. P. Carp has returned to Bucharest from Vienna. While abroad he gave a number of interviews to members of the Austrian and Hungarian Press, in which he discussed Roumania's foreign policy. His German sympathies are too well known for his remarks to be accepted as representing anything but a personal opinion.

Bucharest society has lost an interesting figure in the person of Prince Démètre Moruzzi. He was the descendant of an ancient family, which in bygone days has given more than one "hospodar" to the Roumanian principalities. He had been deputy, senator, and on three occasions Prefect of Police for the city of Bucharest. A veteran of the War of Independence of '77, he loved the army passionately, wearing with unveiled satisfaction his uniform of colonel of the reserve whenever there was occasion. At the time of his death he was actually "concentrated," though 68 years of age. He was familiarly known as the "Kneaz"—a princely title conferred upon a Russian ancestor. "Grand seigneur" in the best sense of the word, he held advanced views, and was one of M. Take Jonescu's strong supporters in the ranks of the Conservative-Democrat party. He enjoyed extraordinary popularity among all classes. In private life he was known as a true and generous friend, whose heart and purse were alike at the disposal of the needy. He leaves two sons and two daughters. Of the former, who are both officers, one commands the Roumanian School of Cavalry and the other is fighting in the ranks of the French Army, where he sustained a severe wound some months ago.

I have to announce the death of M. Jean Tancorescu, formerly journalist and deputy. In the early nineties he played a political part of some importance as partizan of the late Lascar Catargi.

A Reuter's telegram states that Essad Pasha arrived at Nice on Tuesday, coming from Rome. He expressed his belief in the final victory of the Allies. Essad Pasha intends to remain there until his presence is needed again in Albania. Madame Essad is also in Nice.

The death is announced of Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Rea Milner Crooke at Southsea, in his sixty-seventh year. He was the eldest son of Mr. E. G. Crooké, of Chorley, and entered the Army in 1866, joining the Royal Marine Artillery. He saw active service in the Sudan Expedition in 1884, and was at the defence of Suakin and took part in the advance on Tamai. He was mentioned in despatches, and received a medal with clasp and the bronze star.

It is announced that Major Edward Campion, 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, died on February 25 from the effects of gas poisoning. He joined the Seaforths from the militia as second lieutenant in December, 1895, and was promoted lieutenant in June, 1898, captain in March, 1901, and major in October, 1914. For a year from October, 1900, he was temporary A.D.C. to

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the major-general commanding Infantry Brigade, Aldershot. He was present at the battles of the Atbara and Khartoum in the Nile Expedition of 1898, and during the South African War, 1901-2, won the Queen's medal with five clasps.

We regret to announce the death of the Hon. Sidney Carr Glyn, a son of the first Baron Wolverton. He was formerly Captain in the Rifle Brigade, and served in the Crimean campaign. From 1880 to 1885 he sat as M.P. for Shaftesbury.

A correspondent writes :—The late Mr. John Gandon, who passed away at Sydenham on February 6 last, in the prime of life, was for many years manager of the Ottoman Gas Company, Ltd., Smyrna, and a leading member of the British colony in that city. His premature death will be deeply lamented by a wide circle of friends, both here and in the East, to whom he had endeared himself by his genial disposition and sterling qualities. He was held in high esteem by his company, and his loss at this juncture will be felt by the board of directors, whose business in Smyrna he directed with conspicuous ability and tact.

Lady Kemball, widow of General Sir Arnold Burrowes Kemball, has died suddenly at her residence in Sussex Square, Brighton. She was the third daughter of the late Mr. A. N Shaw, of New Hali, N.B., and married in 1868 General Sir Arnold Kemball, who was Consul-General at Baghdad, and had also been Military Attaché at Constantinople. He died in 1908.

Lieutenant Ronald John Mortlock Lias, 9th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment, is reported killed in action on February 23. He was the fifth son of the Rev. J. J. Lias, Chancellor of Llandaff Cathedral, and was Master in Victoria College, Alexandria, 1913-14. He enlisted in the Public Schools Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, in August, 1914, was appointed second lieutenant 10th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment in November, 1914, and lieutenant 9th (Service) Battalion in the following month.

Mr. Henry Wilsdon, one of the few remaining survivors of the famous charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava, has died at Oxford, aged ninety-two. He was a native of Woodstock, and enlisted in the 4th Light Dragoons in 1848. Besides being engaged in the charge Wilsdon was also present at the battle of Inkerman. He received two medals and three clasps. He was in the band of the regiment, ten of whom were in the charge; four were killed and four were taken prisoners, while Wilsdon and a comrade escaped. He celebrated his golden wedding six years ago.

The King has granted to Mr. Henry Higgs, C.B., of H.M. Treasury, ex-Inspector-General of Finance to the Egyptian Government, authority to wear the Insignia of Grand Officer of the Order of the Nile, conferred on him by the Sultan of Egypt.

In a statement issued by the War Office, it is announced that Nuri Bey, the brother of Enver Pasha, was killed in recent fighting on the Egyptian frontier. He was at the time of his death personally commanding the enemy force.

Old silver thimbles, broken or worn silver trinkets, bracelets, brooches, chains, cigarette cases, coins, or any old oddments of silver or gold are asked for to provide a motor hospital boat for the Euphrates, to be named the Silver Thimble, No. 5. All contributions or donations should be forwarded to Lady Maud Wilbraham, care of Miss Hope-Clarke, 2, Crescent Road, Wimbledon. Three ambulances, costing £400 each, and a "motor disinfector," costing £1,060, have already been provided. The motor hospital boat has been very specially asked for. Each boat takes nine stretcher cases, and costs £800.

The Committee of the Armenian Refugee Lord Mayor's Fund has received the following telegram from the Central Armenian War Victims' Committee in Tiflis: "Several thousand refugees, mostly women and children, saved in Gines, Erzeroum, and Mush."

After being prisoners of war since November, Dr. Aspland, who was in charge of the hospital in Serbia maintained by the Wounded Allies Relief Committee, of Sardinia House, Kingsway, Mrs. Aspland, Dr. Slater, and the three nurses, Sister Dutton, Sister Millthorpe, and Sister Miller, have arrived in London. The party are all in good health, and speak well of their treatment by the Austrians. On becoming war prisoners in November at Vrnatchka Banja, the party were sent on to Krushevatz, and after remaining there for a month were told that they would be sent home. Leaving on February 11, they were taken to Belgrade in charge of a guard of eight Austrians, and after spending the night there went on to Vienna, where they arrived the next morning, and received every attention from the American Ambassador. They proceeded to Vludenz, in the Austrian Tyrol, and remained there for ten days, after which they were taken on to Feldkirch, on the Swiss frontier, and regained their freedom. Arriving at Zurich the same night, they were kindly received by a representative of the British Consul, who also saw them off later to Paris. Although they were strictly guarded for the most part, there were also times when they were allowed a fair amount of liberty.

With the exception of Orderly Gill, who is suffering from enteric, all the members of the hospital unit under the command of Dr. Banks arrived in England on Tuesday. This unit, which was sent out to Serbia by the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, was captured while working at Vrnatchka Banja, but the personnel, after being sent to Vienna, were released on February 14 and sent to Zurich.

One of the most interesting of the recent gifts to the Red Cross Sale at Christie's is an Arabic letter from General Gordon, which was sent out of Khartoum in a quill.

M. Filipescu, the Roumanian Conservative leader and former Minister of War, left Bucharest last week for Petrograd, on his way to the Russian front.

The following medical appointments are announced :—A. L. Murison, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., to be District Medical Officer, Cyprus; Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Whitwell, M.B., M.Ch. Edin., B.Sc., P.H. Edin., I.M.S. (retired), to be District Medical Officer, Cyprus.

Dr. Elsie Inglis and her party of nurses from Serbia have arrived in London.

Admiral Sir Dudley de Chair, the Blockade Minister's new adviser, was present at the bombardment of Alexandria in 1882. After the bombardment he landed with the Naval Brigade, and, going for a ride on horseback, he wandered outside the British lines and lost his way. A party of Arabs dragged him before Arabi Pasha, one of his captors remarking on the way, "I think you hang!" Arabi held him prisoner, but he managed to escape. On the fall of Cairo he was selected by Wolseley to carry the news of the success to Alexandria, a dangerous mission for which he received several decorations.

Reuter's Agency is informed that nothing is known of the fate of Mr. Christian, an inspector of the Indo-European Telegraph Department, who was employed in repairing the telegraph line between Shiraz and Ispahan at the time when his compatriots who were held in captivity at Abram were seized at Shiraz. It is feared that he has suffered the same fate as Mr. Mackerrick, of the same Department, who was shot by the gendarmerie officer Angman with his own hand.

Mrs. J. C. Smith, the wife of a colleague of Mr. Christian, has died as a result of the hardships experienced while being removed by Herr Wassmuss with the rest of the British colony at Shiraz from that place to Bushire.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

DEATHS.

GANDON.—On the 6th inst., at Bishopsthorpe Road, Sydenham, John Gandon, A.M.I.C.E., of The Point, Smyrna, eldest son of the late Charles Gandon, M.I.C.E.

PETRICI.—On February 28, at 20, Ladbroke Grove, Hélène Petrici (*née* Lascaridi), in her 69th year.

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FRIDAY, MARCH, 3, 1916.

OF SET PURPOSE.

A superficial glance at the war to-day might lead to the conclusion that the terrific clash of arms before Verdun had not only monopolised the attention of the world, but had cast its spell also on the belligerent forces elsewhere. Just as the progress of a typhoon is marked by areas of unusual calm immediately outside its wide track, so, it might be argued, the very violence of the struggle in France had produced an inevitable lull in all the other theatres of war. It is true that at a moment when on several fronts expectation of a long-promised offensive runs high the process of marking time remains the order of the day. We are not asked to suppose that at every point commanding officers are emulating the detachment of General Townshend and begging for vegetable seeds and gramophone records; but with the exception of the Russian advance in Armenia and the minor operations in Persia, there is a distinct absence of news regarding the forward movements for which the Allies have waited so long. The explanation is, however, that the offensive initiative is still with the Central Powers. It is Germany who has struck at Verdun, and the Germans with the Austro-Hungarians who compelled the Allies to take up their position at Salonika, and imposed upon the Russians along the Baltic-Bukovina line an enforced period of recuperation. But just as the Turks attacked first in the Caucasus, only in the fulness of time to be rolled back in a disastrous rout that has engulfed Erzeroum and threatens Trebizond, so the moment must come, we believe, when the offensive now with the enemy passes everywhere into the Allies' hands. His intentions in the West are not yet clearly revealed. The bid for Verdun may be the prelude to greater things along the same front, but for the moment it stands alone. If the armies of the Central Powers remain quiescent in other parts, it is solely because they are not equal to any additional strain. Retaining the power of the offensive, they would naturally elect to strike in as many places as possible at one and the same time. The present lull, therefore, away from the western front, in so far as it has any reference to events on the Meuse, is a symptom largely favourable to the Allied Powers.

In some quarters it will be asked why the moment when Germany is concentrating her efforts at one point is not chosen by the Entente Powers for assuming the offensive against her elsewhere. In some circumstances such a course would be most satisfactory; but inasmuch as the enemy's initiative implies his superior preparedness for the war, the Allies do well not to be turned aside from a considered line of action by the enemy's movements. His blows have to be met, and for that reason it was necessary to occupy Salonika and thus to sterilise Turco-German efforts in the Near East and beyond. But to build up an elaborate offensive on Germany's chance preoccupations would imply either the absence of any studied scheme of campaign on the part of the Allies or its hasty abandonment for a plan which must necessarily be inadequately prepared. We need not, therefore, be greatly concerned over the lull in the Near East. It is in the Allies' interests that, when they do strike, they should strike all together. The Central Powers have been able in the past to make full use of their magnificent network of railways in order to deal with each front in turn. Their resources will be far more heavily taxed, if they are pressed simultaneously from all sides. Whatever may be the state of the Allies' preparations in the West and in the East, they can hardly be at their maximum strength yet in the Balkans. The withdrawal of the last remnants of the Serbian and Montenegrin armies from Albania finds the Italians at Valona, but not in a position to give any real help to the Allies in a general advance. Any forward movement from Salonika must synchronize with Roumania's entry into the war, and this in turn, to achieve the maximum effect, is dependent on Russia's progress in Bukovina, which will compel the Austro-Hungarian forces to withdraw from some of their commanding positions on the Roumanian frontier. The feeling that the somewhat anomalous position at Salonika has lasted long enough has prompted the military authorities to sanction the publication of an article from an officially recognized correspondent on the spot on the prospects of an early offensive. Summing up the situation, he states that "failing attack by the enemy, there are three things necessary to bring to an end the present state of military inactivity in the Balkans which everyone in the Allied army feels has lasted long enough. They are reinforcements, such as, indeed, are constantly arriving; more mountain artillery, and the full equipment of the whole force with transport suitable to mountain warfare. The accomplishment of these matters may take a little while yet, but all of them are well under way." Salonika, however, though the pivot of the situation in the Balkans, does not represent the sum total of the military preparations that have to be made, and in spite of the weariness of a long wait, the Allies must not allow themselves to be tempted into a premature effort, either because their troops "are spoiling for a fight" or from over-sensitiveness to public opinion at home.

If the enemy's movements are not to be allowed to distract the Allies from their set purpose, still less should developments favourable to themselves interfere with carefully matured plans. The warning is, perhaps, applicable to the Middle East, where the situation is of necessity somewhat indeterminate. So far the only established factor is that a British force tried to reach Baghdad and failed. The attempt implied a definite objective, which in the circumstances obtaining in this part of the world cannot be abandoned altogether without prejudice to the British position. A signal success has brought Russian arms some distance into Armenia, and has thoroughly disorganized the enemy. But unless the Turco-German forces can be captured or annihilated the Russian advance, though invaluable for the blow it has dealt the Turks, can only with difficulty be linked up with the general plan of campaign. The Grand Duke's forces must needs face west, or with a deflexion on their left flank south-westwards towards the railway at Nisibin. They can hardly hope to sweep right across Asia Minor, and they cannot turn their attention wholly southwards with a view to bringing direct pressure to bear on the Turkish position at Baghdad. Again with regard to the more recent Russian success at Kermanshah, although it is within measurable distance of Baghdad, we need further information of the strength of the forces engaged before we can count upon a Russian advance from this direction upon that city. Reference has been made from time to time to a Turkish force detached from the Baghdad command for service in Persia, but in the light of recent events it would not seem to have attained any considerable proportions, and Russia's success has been gained with the mobile columns equipped mainly for the pursuit of the numerous insurrectionary bands under German, Swedish, or Turkish leadership. The intentions, therefore, which the British Government had in view when allowing General Townshend to be sent on towards Baghdad, must rely for their fulfilment on our own Mesopotamian force. If the position at Kut is not more critical than official optimism represents it, then there is much to be said for a delay in the advance of the relief expedition until it has received enough reinforcements to carry it forward not only to General Townshend's camp, but right on to Baghdad.

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THE EGYPTIAN MIXED COURTS AND ITALY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 8.

The exclusion of Italian subjects from the benefit of the Mixed Courts, due to the non-receipt of the assent of Italy to the renewal of the mandate of that jurisdiction, to which I referred in my last week's letter, has not been remedied as yet. The law decreeing the extension of a year was only promulgated at the eleventh hour, so to speak, and when I wrote there had been no time to make satisfactory inquiries. It now transpires that the non-receipt of Italy's assent was not, as the terms of the law led one to believe, unintentional or due to oversight. Italy had made her consent to the renewal of the mandate conditional on the appointment of an additional Italian judge, and the British and Egyptian Governments had refused to accept the imposition of this condition.

It may be asked how it is that, having agreed quite recently—in January, 1915—to a renewal of the Courts' mandate for one year, Italy should suddenly, without any apparent change in the situation of her subjects resident in Egypt, make her assent conditional on the acceptance by the Egyptian Government of the appointment to the "Tribunaux de la Reforme" of another judge. The answer is quite simple.

When war broke out, England, France, Russia, Germany, Italy, Austria, America, Belgium, Portugal, and Greece had each three judges in the Mixed Courts (one in Appeal and two in First Instance), whilst Spain, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, and Switzerland had each two judges in the Courts of First Instance. Whenever the mandate of the Courts comes up for renewal, those of the judges do also; consequently, when an extension was agreed to in January, 1915, as reported at the time in The Near East, the mandates of the three German and three Austrian judges were, for obvious reasons, not renewed. This created six vacancies—two in Appeal and four in First Instance. During the past year one of the vacancies in the Appeal Court was filled by the promotion from the lower court of one of the Norwegian judges, while of the five vacancies thus left in the First Instance Courts, two were filled by the appointment of Englishmen from the Ministry of Justice, and one by the nomination of one of the French members of the Cairo Mixed Bar. There are, therefore, still three vacant judgeships—one in Appeal and the others in the lower courts—and it is one of these vacancies which Italy now considers should be given to one of her subjects, her contention being that her colony is far larger than that of France, who has been accorded an extra representative—if one can so call the foreign members of these courts, in the Mixed Tribunals.

The attitude which Italy is understood to have taken up is, however, based on a misappreciation of the circumstances. There can be no question of right as regards the filling up of the vacancies left by the disappearance of the German and Austrian members of the Courts. All the Powers have the numerical representation stipulated in the various agreements regulating the constitution of the Mixed Courts; and the filling or non-filling of the vacancies referred to is entirely in the discretion of the British and Egyptian Governments. Moreover, it is doubtful whether Italian interests in this country are, in the aggregate, as important as, for instance, those of France or Belgium; and Greece, on the basis of numerical size of colony, has certainly greater claim for larger representation than Italy.

It might, of course, have been better policy on the part of the British Government if it had offered one of the vacancies to Italy as a recognition of the assistance that country always gave us during the most trying periods of our Occupation, and also in consideration of the fact that she has the second largest colony in this country and is an Ally. But that is another matter. Had Italy been better advised she would never have made her assent to the renewal of the Mixed Courts conditional on the acceptance of her demand, but would have signified her acquiescence in the renewal, at the same time intimating to the British Government her feelings in the matter. The latter would undoubtedly have taken an early opportunity of satisfying its Ally's desires without setting up the precedent, which acceptance of the claim as now made by Rome would most certainly establish, and which it is most desirable for many reasons to avoid. Even to-day there is reason to believe that if the Italian Government would relinquish its "claim" and would agree to the extension unconditionally, as the other Powers have done, London and Cairo would be only too pleased to meet it in regard to extra judges to fill the vacancies still open.

It is to be hoped that the difficulty will speedily be removed, for the situation created by the exclusion of Italians from the benefits of the Mixed Courts may become very serious. Since Italy has not agreed to the renewal of the Mixed Courts and has not made any special arrangement on the subject with the Egyptian Government, as laid down in the conditions agreed upon when the Courts were first created, she returns to the state of affairs that existed prior to the institution of these Courts—i.e., to the Consular Courts. But here a great difficulty at once arises. So long as the Mixed Courts exist, the Consular Courts of the Signatory Powers have no jurisdiction in civil and commercial cases, in which the two parties are not of the same nationality. Consequently, whilst Italians can be proceeded against by persons of other nationalities before the Italian Consular Courts, which, technically speaking, regain their old jurisdiction, they cannot bring actions themselves against such persons, since, in the first place, their country, by refusing to agree to the renewal, debars them from the Mixed Courts; secondly, their own Consular Courts and the Native Courts are not competent, and the only other system open to them, the other party's Consular Court, has, for reasons already stated, no jurisdiction in such matters. The situation may even be aggravated by the fact that the Italian Consular Courts, seeing that their nationals cannot obtain justice in the other Consular Courts, may refuse to hear cases brought against Italians by persons belonging to other nationalities. It is true that the Mixed Courts do admit their competence in cases where one of the parties belongs to a country which has not subscribed to their creation, but the position of the Italians is not quite the same, since their country was at one time a party to the operation of the Mixed jurisdiction and has of its own accord severed its connection with it.

As the foregoing indicates, the situation created will be serious not only for Italians, but also for all the other nationalities. That there will be considerable interference with business goes without saying, and there is, on the other hand, no knowing where the resultant complications will end. Already the Italian judges have ceased to sit, and all cases in which Italians are concerned have been adjourned by the courts *sine die*.

It would be interesting to know why the Egyptian Government went to the extreme of excepting Italians from the application of the decree in question pending the assent of the Italian Government to the extension. Precedent is, in fact, against this action. There have been two occasions since the first institution of the Courts in 1876, when the Powers had not agreed to the extension of the mandate by the time that mandate had to be renewed—in 1884 when Greece consented to the prolongation for five years of the Courts "on the condition that besides the two Judges of First Instance there should be two other Greek judges," and in 1889, when Greece, owing to certain questions still outstanding between her and the Egyptian Government, only agreed to an extension of one year. In the first instance Lord Granville categorically declined "to discuss the question of the increased representation for Greece on the Tribunals in connection with the question of their prolongation," and the powers of the Courts were prolonged for five years by a law which mentioned in the preamble merely "that our Government and the majority of the Powers interested are agreed on the prolongation"; in the second the powers of the Courts were prolonged for five years, the preamble mentioning that Greece had only agreed to one year's extension. (In 1890 the Greek Government ,having settled its differences with Egypt, agreed to the full five years, and a decree announcing this fact was duly issued.) It would appear that all the present pother with its probable complications might have been avoided if the precedent of 1884 had been adopted; but possibly the Egyptian Government had special reasons for ignoring what had gone before and for taking its present action. It is understood that negotiations are being carried on in London, and we may hope for a speedy solution on lines acceptable to all parties of a question which, it appears, was raised by the Italian Government on its own initiative and without any official instigation from the Italian colony here, and which it would surely never have pressed to its present stage if it had realised all the difficulties its delay in agreeing to the extension would entail for its own nationals as well as subjects of other friendly Powers.

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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS.

THE SPRING CAMPAIGN.

The past fortnight has been practically devoid of military interest in the Balkan theatre of the war, the extravagant German offensive in the West having monopolised public attention.

Durazzo.

Nevertheless, the situation to the north-east and to the north-west of Peleponnesus has been developing along normal lines. The Austrian advance in Northern Albania, with Durazzo as its immediate objective, was only contested by the Allies as long as the evacuation of the country by the Serbian, Albanian, and Montenegrin forces was in progress. The successful completion of this strategic shortening of our line on the eastern Adriatic shore coincided with the likewise successful withdrawal of all Allied forces from Durazzo, which subsequently fell into Austrian hands. The movement of our embarkation seems to have been admirably carried out under gunfire from the Italian Fleet. Unfortunately, the abandonment of Durazzo gave rise in London to reports to the effect that Italy had decided to evacuate Albania —a report which has since been officially contradicted. As was foreseen in these columns some weeks ago, Valona is an important strategic position standing in close relation to our occupation of Salonika, and, therefore, a point to be held at all costs. The decision to defend it to the utmost has, happily, been taken, and, according to most recent accounts, the Italians are fortifying the place, aided by the French and, according to a telegram from Rome, by the "British Adriatic Mission." In the circumstances we await the Bulgaro-Austrian attack with confidence.

The Spring Campaign.

At the time of writing the position may be summarized as follows:—Northern Albania, to the River Skumbi, is in the hands of the Austrians, and Elbassan, in the Skumbi valley, is in Bulgarian possession. From the above river, therefore, the enemy will make his attack on Southern Albania (or Valona, more properly speaking) from the north and east. A Hungarian military critic (quoted by the Buda Pest correspondent of the *Morning Post*) gives the following outline of the enemy's spring campaign:—

Southern Albania is now the objective of the Austrians, with Valona as the goal. These operations will be carried out jointly with the Bulgarian forces which have already entered Elbassan, and are reported to be also at Berat, in the most south-westerly corner of Albania, as well as the district of the Ochrida and Prespa Lakes, whence a comparatively good road leads to the Santi Quaranta Port, on the seashore just opposite the island of Corfu, where the Serbian and Albanian forces are concentrated.

The plan is to occupy this road as quickly as possible so as to make it impossible for the Serbian troops to use it, and then to get into Valona as speedily as possible for the purpose of separating the Italian and Serbian forces in Corfu from the Entente troops at Salonika. By this strategic move, it is inferred, the co-operation of the enemy groups will be frustrated, and each of them will have to fight their battles separately.

It is not to be supposed, however, that the above plan is of such easy execution as would appear from the foregoing. Austria is incapable, as the present war has shown over and over again, of fighting successfully against anything save a bed-ridden foe, and in the Valona district she will be up against an adversary who is strongly entrenched, admirably supplied with munitions, and backed by a fleet second to none in the Mediterranean.

Salonika.

As regards Salonika, our second base in the Balkans, little need be said here at present. An uneventful fortnight has passed, and if, during this time, the enemy has strengthened his position to the north of the port, it may safely be assumed that we have not been idle. It is difficult to say whether the much-vaunted attack on our position will materialize, or whether the enemy will decide to remain on the defensive in an endeavour to prevent us from reaching the Berlin-Constantinople *couloir*. At the present moment the latter policy seems to be that adopted by the German General Staff, and it is likely that it will be maintained until the fate of Valona has been determined or until Roumania has definitely declared herself. In the meantime, however, we are speedily gathering in Salonika the men and material necessary for the carrying out of our plans, about which the less said the better. Nevertheless, it must not be supposed that if we do advance against the mountains to the north of Salonika our task will be an easy one. Not only are the natural obstacles in our way tremendous, but we may depend upon it that the enemy has, during the past months, feverishly fortified all approaches to his line of defence from the south. So important to him is the Berlin Constantinople *couloir* that he will have left nothing undone to prevent us from penetrating into Central Macedonia.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

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DIARY OF THE WAR.

The following happenings in the Balkan theatre of the war are from the *Times'* monthly review of the past month:—

February 1.—Salonika raided by enemy aircraft; six soldiers, three of them Greeks, and four civilians killed.

February 2.—Russian offensive in the Bukovina against Czernowitz renewed; fighting at Uscieczko and Rarancze.

February 6.—British cruiser and French torpedo-boat covering the retirement of the Serban Army engage four enemy destroyers in the Adriatic and drive them in the direction of Cattaro.

February 8.—Russians occupy Uscieczko and cross to the western bank of the Dniester. French cruiser Amiral Charner sunk by German submarine off the Syrian coast.

February 29.—French transport Provence II. reported sunk in Mediterranean on February 26. Nearly 1,000 lives lost. Fight at Manheulles, south-east of Verdun.

IN SERBIA LAST SUMMER.

At the Lyceum Club, Piccadilly, last Tuesday, Mrs. Aldridge described her experiences at a dispensary in Serbia last summer and afterwards during the retreat to the coast. She was stationed at a large village, some thirty miles south of Kragujevatz, and lived under canvas with a lady doctor and a nurse. Medical attendance of any kind was rare in Serbia, and people came with their ox-wagons a journey of two or three days over the mountains to get the help the dispensary had to give them. Mrs. Aldridge said she found the Serbs much more Oriental than ourselves, very fond of bright colours in their dress and elsewhere, and given to decorating themselves with flowers. They were a very charming people; but the men were quick-tempered and fierce, and went always armed. The women were great spinners and knitters, and she had been prepared to find things a great deal different from what they were in England by noticing that people shook their heads for "yes" and nodded them for "no," and that women, in knitting stockings, did not begin at the opening, but at the toe.

Her introduction to Serbian society was amusing. She, with the two other English ladies, called on the local Pope; but the little phrase-book from which they were learning Serbian did not contain anything suitable for polite conversation. The best they could find was, "How many dogs have you?" and this question was accordingly asked and answered. Then followed, "How many oxen have you?" etc. When they got to the end of their vocabulary of domestic animals the visitors stood up, cried "Long live Serbia!" and came away. The visit was a great success, and was the beginning of a warm and enduring friendship.

Of the tragic side of recent Serbian life and history Mrs. Aldridge naturally saw a great deal. The first Saturday night after their arrival she and her friends were startled by a strange wailing, rising and falling and echoing weirdly among the hills. It was due to the custom of women visiting the graves of their dead scattered about in groups on the wild mountain-side, and chanting a mournful dirge as they go.

All through the summer there were rumours of the English coming to help the Serbians, rumours which were finally belied. When the last Austrian invasion came the Serbians fought with most determined valour, although they knew they must finally be defeated. Mrs. Aldridge had by then been recalled to the hospital at Kragujevatz, and this was soon so overcrowded that many wounded men had to lie on the bare floor. Then all the men and boys who were able to walk at all had to leave the town; only those who were quite unable to travel were left behind. The wounded men went with the rest, wearily tramping away to the south until the Bulgarians cut them off in that direction; then the fugitives had to retrace their steps and go over the mountains of Albania down to the coast. The journey took Mrs. Aldridge's party seven weeks, and after the first day's march they found scattered all along the road broken-down and abandoned vehicles, dead or dying animals, rifles and equipment that had been cast away, the bodies of men who had died on the way, and starving and exhausted people, whom it was impossible to help.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Near East in the War. Feb. 23.

In the course of the debate regarding peace proposals,

Mr. PONSONBY, who followed the Premier, asked the House to remember that we were not fighting in France and Belgium alone, but at Salonika, Aden, Mesopotamia, and East Africa; indeed, all over the globe. That was a policy which made victory, in the full sense of the word, ten times more difficult.

Mr. WALSH, dealing with the argument that bankruptcy would prevent this kind of war from happening again, said for the last fifty years we had been talking of Turkey as "the sick man of Europe." It never had any credit, yet somehow, in the most mysterious way, the Turkish soldiers had made the most effective fighting men during the last half century, and long before it, and whether fighting on the one side or the other, like the Fuzzy-Wuzzy of the Sudan, they had never been prevented from fighting by their country being in a chronic state of bankruptcy.

Major MURRAY said Germany's plan was to dominate Europe and the Near East, and to seize from Britain the command of the seas.

Mr. OUTHWAITE doubted whether the objects we first had in mind were still the objects we had in view. We knew now that we went to the Dardanelles in the first place at the request of the Russian Government, and we learned from statements in the Russian Press and from a statement made in the Greek Chamber that our excursion into the East had largely been a commitment to aid Russia in the conquest of Constantinople. Dr. Dillon had said that this commitment to Russia was made last April by the Foreign Secretary, and that the result of this commitment had been the alienation of Bulgaria and Greece, and the keeping of Roumania neutral. He could not see that this excursion into the East came anywhere within the objects of war as set out by the Prime Minister. The *Manchester Guardian* of the 17th inst. contained a remarkable article by Dr. Evans regarding the secret negotiations and commitments in connection with the intervention of Italy in the war. He made the statement which he said was known in the Foreign Offices of Europe, but of which we had no information, that Italy's terms for coming in were that Dalmatia should be surrendered to her—areas inhabited by a purely Slav population. Dr. Evans went on in his article to make the charge that this was an absolute departure from the principles laid down by the Prime Minister. It was the handing over of a Slav population to the overlordship of a race of different nationality.

To Mislead Roumania. Feb. 24.

Mr. PETO inquired whether the Government had official information that shortly after the publication by the *Labour Leader* of its intention to agitate against the Military Service Act, the portion of the paper dealing with the proposed campaign was translated into Roumanian and re-issued broadcast in Roumania, with an introduction to the effect that industrial England was in revolt.

Sir E. GREY.—The attention of his Majesty's Government was drawn by the British Minister at Bucharest to the use being made by enemy agents in Roumania of the article from the *Labour Leader*. Steps were at once taken to make it known that the journal was not of the representative character attributed to it by those agents.

Salonika Casualties. Feb. 29.

Mr. TENNANT, answering Mr. King, said that the number of casualties in the Salonika force up to February 20 was:—

Officers	37
Other Ranks	1,439

Generals in Egypt.

Sir A. MARKHAM asked the Under Secretary for War whether there were 117 Generals now in Egypt.

Mr. TENNANT: If there were a large force of troops in Egypt—a subject on which it would not be proper for me to make a statement—it is quite conceivable that the presence of 117 Generals might be necessary.

Lord Kitchener. March 1.

Mr. FORSTER, replying to Mr. Hogge, said the amount issued from public funds as the emolument of the present Secretary of State for War was £6,140 a year, being the salary of Lord Kitchener as Agent-General in Egypt, less the regulated amount issuable to the present High Commissioner.

Mr. COWAN asked for what period Lord Kitchener had been appointed Secretary of State for War.

Mr. FORSTER asked for notice.

The Cairo Residency.

On a Civil Service Supplementary Estimate of £37,330 for the purchase of land adjoining the Residency at Cairo, Mr. HARCOURT, in reply to Mr. Ashley, explained that the additional ground was wanted not for the extension of the Residency, but for office purposes owing to the increasing pressure of work. The land had been in the market for some years, and the price asked was at first £12 a square metre, then £7 to £8. Now it was to be had for £3 10s. a metre, and the Commissioner and the Foreign Office thought it a very good bargain. There were about three acres. If it had not been bought, the land would have passed into other hands, and the Government might have had to pay a much higher price. The Egyptian Government were therefore asked to make the purchase, and the Vote would enable the Government to refund the amount. There was on the site a half-finished house, which might in future be adapted for military purposes, but no money was being spent upon that at present.

Mr. HOGGE described the purchase as a most extravagant proceeding.

Sir F. BANBURY reminded the House that several Cabinet Ministers had gone, at great inconvenience, that afternoon to preach economy. It would be a very good thing if those left in the House would endeavour to follow their example and initiate a little economy

Mr. HARCOURT said that £630,000 had been saved this year on the Vote for the Office of Works.

Sir F. BANBURY: We would like it to be more.

Mr. W. RUTHERFORD sympathised with the Government. He had always been struck with the parsimony of the British Government in its expenditure on their representatives in the capitals of the Middle East. In the eyes of Eastern people especially it was advisable for the British representatives to be as well housed and to have as good an equipage and state as the representatives of other countries.

Lord R. CECIL agreed that the present was a bad time for making expenditure of any kind, and said he was sure that view was shared by the Egyptian Government, who would not have recommended the proposed outlay unless they were convinced that it was an economical operation. The history of our position in Egypt was a very peculiar one. For a long time the only position occupied by our representative there was that of one of the Agents-General. He was a comparatively unimportant diplomatic officer, who lived in Cairo and advised the Egyptian Government. The course of historical events was such that he gradually acquired more influence and a stronger position, and it culminated in the latter part of Lord Cromer's term of office in his being by far the most important person in Egypt, and really he had a degree of authority over an extent of land and a population which made him second only to the very highest official in the British Empire. Those who had seen the British Residency in Cairo would agree that it did not err on the side of extravagance or ostentation. The building was becoming more and more unsatisfactory in respect of accommodation for the very large amount of official work which had to be done in it. The obvious thing to do was to enlarge the existing buildings, and for that purpose the land was bought on exceptionally favourable terms. The Egyptian Government, however, did not propose to start building until after the war.

Mr. MALCOLM protested against the House being placed in so impotent a position as to be asked to sanction a completed transaction, and Mr. M'NEILL asked why the consent of the House of Commons had not been asked before the purchase was made. Mr. DILLON, however, said that on the present occasion, to his amazement, he found himself in warm sympathy with the Government; much of our present troubles in the East were due to allowing ourselves to be outshone by the representatives of other countries.

THE DEATH OF PRINCE YUSSUF.

Under date of February 28, the Cairo correspondent of the *Times* writes that the *Mokattam* is publishing a series of articles giving reliable information about Turkish affairs obtained from a person who recently arrived from Constantinople:—

It states that the late Prince Yussuf, the Turkish Heir-Apparent, who formed a strong party hostile to Enver Pasha, consisting of Arab and Turkish officers and members of both Houses who were daily gaining prestige, continually urged the Sultan to end the relations with the Germans and dismiss the Ministry and alter the present disastrous policy of Turkey. Shortly before his death he persuaded the Sultan to hold a secret council of Prince Yussuf's partisans at the Dolma Bagtche Palace to concert measures. The German Ambassador heard of it and advised Liman von Sanders, who was then in Gallipoli, and who forthwith went to Berlin to consult the Kaiser and explain that Prince Yussuf was a bitter anti-German and a serious enemy. What was then decided is not known, but a few days after Liman von Sanders's return to Constantinople Prince Yussuf's servants seized, gagged, and bound him, a blood-vessel was opened in his arm, and he was left to bleed to death. The statement that the body was taken to Lule Burgas for the purpose of proving to Enver the death of his opponent is untrue, but prominent members of the Committee viewed the body to confirm the death of the Prince.

When the Sultan heard the news his grief was such that he refused to receive Enver or the German Ambassador, or to transact any business. The Ambassador intimated that if he persisted in this attitude he must either abdicate or accept deposition. The Sultan, seeing that it was useless to resist the Germans, gave way and resumed business relations, but everyone in Constantinople is aware that Prince Yussuf did not commit suicide. After his death, the Committee seized nineteen of his party, imprisoned sixteen, and cast three into the Bosphorus.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Senussi.

We take the following quotations from an interesting contribution to the *Pall Mall Gazette* (February 26):—

The founder of the sect was Sayyid Mohammed Ibn Ali, who came to be called Es Senussi, possibly because he lived near the Senus Mountains, in Algeria; more probably because he adopted the name of a fifteenth-century religious teacher, Mohammed Ibn Yusuf el Semri. He was a sufi, or mystic, and won such a name for unorthodoxy that he was taken to Cairo and handed over to the tender mercies of Ulema. We are spared many details of his stay there, but the story ends tritely enough: "But God delivered him out of their hands."

It would seem that Sayyid Ibn Mohammed Ali was not only guilty of idealising Es Senussi; he came across the Cairena priesthood in precisely the same fashion. He seems to have gone through most of the religious phases which are the peculiar property of king-priests. For some time he favoured the mystic philosophy of Esh Shadhili, a thirteenth-century divine. But, wearying of the elusive theories of the mystics, he, during his wanderings over Algeria and Egypt to Mecca, fell in with the teaching of the Quadarites, Quadaratism being an Oriental expression of the doctrine of free will and a revolt against the predestination theories of Islam.

The future leader of men sat at the feet of the head of the Quadarites at Mecca till the latter's death, when the feet split into two sections, and he became the recognised head of one of them. . . .

Sayyid Mohammed Ibn Ali died in 1859, and his younger son, Senussi Mahdi, in 1902. The mantle of the Order now rests on the shoulders of Sayyid Ahmed esh Sharif.

How his power will be wielded it is difficult to say. The Senussi (by which name the followers of el Senussi were called) are traditionally anti-Turk. But they are a volatile people, troubling all nations, Turk and Italian alike. Though England has had assurances from the Senussi, assurances, under the circumstances, can count for little.

Life in Bucharest.

"An Englishwoman," in an article to the *Daily Mail* (February 25), gives an interesting picture of life in Bucharest to-day.

Bucharest is certainly at the present moment the gayest capital on the Continent.

Amazing as it may seem, the luxury-loving Roumanians are more recklessly extravagant than ever in their pursuit of pleasure.

Theatres, music-halls, ball-rooms, kinemas, and places of amusement of every description are crowded every night. In fashionable and expensive restaurants champagne flows, to the fascinating strains of the delightful gipsy orchestras. In casinos gold is thrown away with a carelessness that makes one gasp; superb cars roll up and down the Calea Victoriei, bearing lovely, laughing women exquisitely dressed.

On every side one sees luxury, dissipation, extravagance, and—indifference.

We foreigners look on with awe and amazement at the spectacle of this joyous crowd dancing madly round the edge of an active volcano.

The writer says that, the fact that their country may at any time be called upon to engage in the deadly struggle, does not appear to trouble the people of the city in the least.

Like other neutral countries, Roumania has been greatly enriched by the war, for her wheat, maize, benzine, petroleum, etc., are in great demand in spite of the very high prices asked and the heavy taxes the Government has put on all exports—taxes which have to be paid in gold.

The buyers are Austria and Germany, and need forces them to pay the price. So long as Roumania has corn to sell the Germans will not be reduced to famine.

She adds the opinion that "If England had bought up long ago all the wheat this country had to dispose of, the blockade would have been more efficacious and our brave men nearer their goal."

It appears that on two separate occasions the windows of the German and Austrian Legations have been smashed by the mob.

The two Ministers seldom appear in public. Their newspapers, of which five are printed in Roumanian and two in German, are boycotted by the public; though large numbers of them are distributed gratis all over the town.

Exasperated by the insolence of the German-edited paper *Ziua*, the students recently turned out in groups and seized all the copies they could lay their hands on and burned them in the open places. This done they marched off, singing patriotic songs and the "Marseillaise," to the publishing offices and demolished everything they could find. . . .

This state of armed neutrality cannot last very much longer, and the Austro-Germans themselves do not try to deceive themselves as to the intentions of Roumania; their violent speeches and threats prove that they are beginning to lose all hope of winning her to their side.

When the time is ripe and the circumstances favourable we shall be able to salute Roumania as one of our most valued Allies.

In German Toils.

Under the above heading the Special Correspondent of *The Times* (February 29) at Salonika gives some interesting sidelights upon the relation of Germany on the one hand, and Bulgaria and Turkey on the other. The first paragraphs of his despatch are illuminating:—

To whatever depths the value of the mark may have fallen in neutral countries, the Germans see to it that it remains at par in Turkey and Bulgaria, which are now being flooded with that discredited medium of exchange. Those who refuse to accept it at face-value are punished by fine and imprisonment.

A neutral traveller who has just arrived from Varna states that one consequence of this imposition is that most of the shops in the various towns have been closed. Meat and bread, which were so cheap and abundant before the opening of the road to Germany, have more than quadrupled in price in three months.

He confirms recent statements with regard to the demoralization of the Bulgarian nation, which now tardily realizes the weakness of Germany as a protector, and sees no issue but disaster from the narrowing toils in which it is entangled. That Greece and Rumania will seek with every chance of success to profit by Bulgarian extremity is looked on as a dismal certainty.

So much for Bulgaria on the date when this portion of the message was written, February 23. The correspondent continues:—

In Turkey a similar situation prevails. There, however, the scarcity and the dearness of foodstuffs have been artificially enhanced by the greed of members of the Committee of Union and Progress, who monopolize the supply of native produce to the cities, requisitioning it or buying it up at their own price, and reselling at a fabulous profit. They also requisition half of all consignments of sugar and other dry provisions coming from Austria, and sell them at the extravagant rates created and sustained by these very requisitions. The members of the committee have thus built up, at the expense of the starving people, colossal fortunes, which they hope some day, if the worst comes to the worst, to enjoy in secure retirement.

The first news received from Belgrade in Serbian circles here is to the effect that no postal communications are permitted with neutral countries by the Austrians throughout the zone occupied by them. In the territory administered by the Bulgarians the exchange of postcards with Greece is allowed. In the Austrian-administered territory hostages have been taken in all the towns as a guarantee for the passivity of the population. From Belgrade all Serbian men, except traders and artisans, have been removed to Austria. The circulation of civilians in the streets is forbidden after 7 p.m. Natives are not allowed to use the trams without a special permit. Numbers of *cafés chantants* have been opened. Most of the Austrian officers have brought their families to Belgrade and have installed them in the houses abandoned by Serbians who have fled.

A postscript to the despatch, dated the 24th, adds:—

As in Turkey, so in Bulgaria it is being sought to stem the rising tide of popular discontent by political arrests. A beginning has been made by the imprisonment of fifteen members of the Opposition in the Sobranye. It is announced in a telegram from Sofia, received here to-day, that the arrested deputies are accused of high treason. It is stated that all belong to the Ghenadieff Party.

West and East.

Colonel F. N. Maude, C.B., writing in the *Sunday Times* (February 27), reviews the situation on both western and eastern fronts. He thinks that, given fair weather, the Cossack should soon be raiding Turkish convoys between Nisibin and Baghdad, and considers that unless orders for the withdrawal of the Baghdad garrison were issued some days ago, it is probably doomed, as a small number of well-mounted men should be sufficient to prevent munitions reaching the city. He thinks that Turkish troops will probably concentrate not further than forty miles away from Constantinople.

How such a concentration would react politically is a question quite by itself, but all the indications point to a probable rising of all the old Turkish party against the tyranny of Enver Pasha's people and the Germans, for under the threat of Russian attacks from the Black Sea, both on the side of Asia Minor and of Europe, the facts could no longer be kept from the people and the old fanatical spirit of the Moslem would then very speedily revive.

Nor must we forget the reaction of these events on the Bulgarians, who already feel themselves deserted by their German allies and are very hard pressed indeed for numbers to meet the Rumanian dangers from the North and the threat of an offensive by the Allies, based on Salonika and the Mediterranean Coast. The "Izzat" of Germany in the Balkans is broken and what that means, those who know the Mediterranean and Eastern world can estimate.

The one fly in the ointment at the present juncture is this, that the attacks of the Russians from the Bukhovina direction achieved such success at the outset in drawing away German reinforcements from the Balkan peninsula that there is very little left for the Allies to hit, and that little is likely to be still further reduced before the final consequences of the Russian advance in this region have been completely developed.

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A Battlefield of Egypt.

In view of the recent fighting in the district of Matruh in Egypt the following quotations descriptive of the country, from an article entitled "The North-West Frontier of Egypt," by "F. R. C.," in the *Geographical Journal* (February), will be of interest. The writer deals generally with the region which extends from the Nile Delta westward to Cyrenaica, and from the Mediterranean to the northern border of the Libyan desert. The passages which we quote below follow a description of the oasis of Jarabub and the routes connecting it with the valley of the Nile:—

A brief description of the northern border of the Marmarican plateau will show the advantage this coast route has over the desert route by Siwa. The plateau does not extend without a break in its level to the Mediterranean. Rugged cliffs jut out into the sea, though not to any great distance, and practically the whole coast-line is rock-bound. But there is often a terrace-like descent from the level of the inner plateau, the lower steps of the terrace being covered with a more or less deep layer of loam. There is a nearly continuous strip of level loam-covered limestone along the coast, and a good deal of this level area is cultivated, and maintains a sedentary population. Though water is scarce, it is not entirely absent, and barley of good quality is grown. The villages are usually at places close to the shore, where a break in the coast-line makes a safe harbourage for boats and small sailing vessels. The depth of the plain varies in the western part of Marmarica from a few hundred yards to twelve or more miles; in the east the plateau recedes further from the Mediterranean, leaving for a length of seventy miles an area about twenty miles deep between it and the sea. It is along this level strip that the coast route between Egypt and the Barbary States runs. There is only one place of importance along the route; this is Mersa Matruh, which is about 200 miles west of Alexandria and about 150 miles east of Sollum. It owes its existence to a fairly commodious and sheltered bay, to which access is gained by one of the breaks in the limestone cliffs forming the shore line, the fairway being about 800 ft. wide. The advantages offered by this one decent harbour in a distance of 350 miles were recognised long ago, and in Ptolemaic and Roman times the port of Paraetonium stood on a bay (the entrance to which is now nearly silted up) immediately west of Matruh. The topography of the Matruh region has been studied in some detail, and may be instanced as an example of the character of the northern versant of the Marmarican plateau. An almost straight line of low limestone hills faces the sea. Behind these hills is a strip of sand dunes, scrub, and salt lakes. This is succeeded by a nearly level plateau of loam-covered limestone stretching southward ten to twelve miles, and affording a large area of cultivation. Beyond the plateau rises some 60 ft., and is covered by a thinner layer of loam, and finally the level of the inner tableland is reached.

It is in the district of Matruh that the fighting between the Arabs and the British has taken place. From Sollum and one or two other places further west the garrisons have been withdrawn, though the coast is kept under strict surveillance by warships of the Allied fleets. In view of the disturbed state of Cyrenaica and the dubious attitude of the nomads, this withdrawal was well justified.

The Unselfishness of Russia.

We quote the following tribute to the unselfishness of Russia from an article upon the military achievements of that country which appeared in the *Nation* (February 26). The writer eulogizes the genius of the Grand Duke's strategy, and continues:—

And there is, too, another quality which seems to be the special endowment of Russia. So far as there has been unselfishness in the war, she has most conspicuously exemplified it. The rashly gallant incursion into East Prussia in August, 1914, was her attempt to relieve the pressure in France. She flung her lines over the Carpathians this time last year, courting the attack which she knew must find her weak in the chief requisite of the war—munitions. She has now relieved the pressure upon us at Kut and in Egypt. These things are not to be easily forgotten. They have added to a war marked by a thousand horrors a touch which is rare enough in the interplay of modern States.

Germany and Turkey.

A recent number of the *Times* reproduces a long résumé of an article which appeared in the *Berliner Tageblatt*, with the remark that "since the beginning of the war no such article has appeared in the German Press." Our contemporary includes many quotations from the German paper, most of which reveal a distinct spirit of pessimism. All the way through the article is marked by evident dissatisfaction and disillusionment; on several occasions the writer only thinly veils his sarcasm, as, for instance, when he intimates that it remains to be seen "whether her military achievements will bring in corresponding political and economic fruits." The *Manchester Guardian*, quoting from the same article, says that the writer admits that the position of the Allies is improving in the Near East—especially in Greece. He continues:—

Now the fall of Erzeroum opens Turkish Armenia to the Russians. Thanks to the helpful activities of German officers, Constantinople is not likely to be threatened yet, so far as we can see. But the land the other side the line Salonika-Erzeroum, which passes very, very close to Constantinople, is less secure, and promises to remain so.

In a further portion of his article the writer says:—

We have heard a great deal lately from expert observers of the justifiable self-confidence of a revived and strengthened Turkey: with this in mind, then, we ought to warn against any mention of help to this brave nation, which perhaps does not want it. We could do this all the sooner in the present case, since this perfectly just wish of Turkey's, to support herself, does not at all clash with what we must regard in the future as the lead for our interests. For our Allies' sake the security of Constantinople is a political and vital interest of this war for us.

The *Times* concludes its summary with the quotation from the *Tageblatt*, which we reproduce below:—

We shall be heartily glad if it is true that the Russians will fare with Erzeroum as they did with Przemysl. But in so far as there is a question of German support in the driving-out of the Russians, one would like to recommend caution. We have recently heard much from close observers about the just self-confidence of the revived Turkey. In face of this, we ought really to be cautious in any reference to the possibility of giving a brave people help which it may not want. In the present case we should do this all the more because the just desire of Turkey henceforward to maintain herself by her own strength is by no means contrary to what we shall in future have to recognise as the line upon which to pursue our interests.

The security of Constantinople is for us, for the sake of our Allies, a political vital interest. But if a decision cannot at present be reached in the Eastern Mediterranean, and if after the war the old *status quo* at the Golden Horn, with its glorious and profitable intrigues, were once more to gnaw at the vitals of strengthened Turkey, the question of Erzeroum would remain for us a matter by no means of indifference, but it would assuredly no longer be a vital interest. We should have to put up with it, as we have, and shall have, to put up with quite other things.

Montenegro and the Montenegrins.

The *Asiatic Review* (February) contains an interesting article—prefaced by an autographed portrait of King Nicholas which his Majesty himself presented to the author—under the above head by Mr. Oliver Bainbridge. Mr. Bainbridge uses the fall of Lovtchen and Cettinje as the text of an emphatic appeal for unity and method in the operations forced upon the Allies in the Balkans. The great part of the article is devoted to a study of Montenegro and the Montenegrins. The following quotation, which refers to the personality of the King, is irresistible:—

King Nicholas is a "Liberal," but insists on his subjects being "Conservatives." An English M.P. has given an amusing report of his conversation with this genial autocrat, who speaks French, Italian, and German perfectly. He says:—"Once, when expatiating to me upon the subject of his orthodox Liberalism, I ventured to ask the explanation of what appeared to me a slight inconsistency. How was it that many amongst the most heavily chained prisoners at Cettinje appeared to be in durance because they professed themselves to be Liberals? His Majesty was quite prepared with his explanation.

"'I am a Liberal,' he replied, 'and there is no objection to personal rulers and potentates being Liberals; but all properly conducted subjects should be Conservatives, and I intend that mine shall, at all events.'

"Not altogether in vain, I thought, had he studied the idiosyncrasies of the object of his political admiration.

"All great men have their failings, and King Nicholas's little weakness is that he imagines himself an authority upon British politics. 'Why are you not in favour of Home Rule?' he inquired of me on one occasion; 'I cannot understand anyone objecting to it.' 'You have, sir,' I replied, 'in the Podgoritza district and elsewhere, a large number of Mussulman Albanian subjects. If these people agitated for separation, what would you do?'

"'If they agitated!' exclaimed his Majesty, in a tone of stupefaction—'if any subject of mine agitated for anything at all, I would very soon show him who was master here.'"

Mr. Bainbridge asserts that no monarch of modern times is so worshipped by his people as King Nicholas of Montenegro.

Articles to Note.

"Distracted Turkey," from the *Mokattam* (Cairo), in the *Times* (March 2).

"Erzerum," by Sir Martin Conway (illustrated), in *Country Life* (February 26).

"Two and a-Half Years in Mesopotamia," by Sir William Willcocks, in *Blackwood* (March).

"The Retreat from Serbia," by Alice and Claude Askew, in the *English Review* (March).

"Factors in the Problem of the Near East," by J. A. R. Marriott, and "Italy's Part in the Balkan Operations," by Julius M. Price, in the *Fortnightly Review* (March).

"Vox Populi," by the Earl of Cromer, in the *Nineteenth Century* (March).

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DIRECTORY

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

AITKEN, Mr. and Mrs. R. H., Holly Bank, Dalry, Ayrshire, N.B.
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ALDOUS, A. H., Banbury Road, Brockley, Northants.
ANDERSON, J. H., and family, 114, Botanic Road, Glasnevin, Dublin; or c.o. Gill and Cook, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.
ANDREWS, H. L., care of Crédit Lyonnais, Lombard Street, E.C.
ARLAND, J. A., C.S., 63, Guilford Street, W.C.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
BAKER, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur, and family, 107, Abingdon Road, Kensington, W.
BARFF, Mrs. Edward D., and daughter, 20, Hereford Square, S. Kensington, W.
BARNHAM, Henry D., C.M.G., 129, Ladbroke Road, Holland Park Avenue, W.
BARWELL, Mr., 62, Hart Road, Erdington, Birmingham.
BEAUMONT, H. D., British Embassy, Rome.
BELL, Mrs. H. J., 71, Belsize Park Gardens, Hampstead, N.W., or care of Messrs. Grindlay and Co., Parliament St., S.W.
BENNETT A. A., 11, Basford Bank, Stoke-on-Trent.
BENNETT, Mr. and Mrs. C. Taylor, 213, Seabank Road, New Brighton, Cheshire.
BINNS, Mrs. C. E. and family, 32, Maple Road, Surbiton.
BINNS, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas, 8, Incognitogaten, Christiania, Norway.
BINNS, Miss Hilda, Bagthorpe Military Hospital, Nottingham.
BINNS, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence G., 4, Woodland Villas, Muswell Hill, N.
BINNS, Mrs. Walter, 7, Ferndale Road, Hoylake, Cheshire.
BINNS, Lieut. W. Hylton, c/o British Consul, Brindisi.
BINNS, Mrs. W. Hylton, 13, Rue de la Grange Batelière, Paris.
BIRD, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. C., Grand Hotel de Kephissia, Kephissia, near Athens.
BLAIR, Charles, and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
BOND, Miss, 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Mrs. R. M., and daughters, Laurel Dene, Northallerton.
BOND, A. W., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Miss E. G., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Miss H. V., 4, Oxford Terrace, Kingston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
BOND, Miss I. A., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Mrs. R., 4, Oxford Terrace, Kingston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
BOND, Mrs. S. J., and daughter, 4, Oxford Terrace, Kingston Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
BOND, Stephen J., 16, Wilton Mansions, Kelvinside N., Glasgow.
BOND, Mr. and Mrs. Valentine, and family, 11, Neville Street, Riverside, Cardiff.
BOROUGH, Rev. Roland, Eaton Bank, near Duffield, Derby.
BOWMAN, Joseph, and family, 5, Crewdson Road, Brixton, S.W.
BOYD, W., 22, Charles Street, Wigan.
BRIGSTOCKE, Dr. and Mrs. P. W., C.M.S. Hospital, Old Cairo, Egypt.
BROOKE, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur, 45, Savile Road, Dewsbury.
BROOKS, W. W., Royal Naval Torpedo Factory, Greenock, N.B.
BROOKS, Mrs. W. W., and daughter, Hotel Metropole, Athens.
BROWN, Canon J. Carnegie, 16, Lincoln's Inn Fields.
BROWNLOW, Miss F. A., 8, Homefield Road, Wimbledon.
BURROUGH, Rev. Howard C., and family, 5, Rue des Protestants, Tunis, N. Africa.
CAMPBELL, J. L., c/o Barnes, Lloyd's Register of Shipping, Piræus, Greece.
CAMPBELL, Mr. J. L., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
CAMPBELL, R. J., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
CAMPBELL, W. Gordon, care of Standard Oil Co. of New York, Salonica.
CAHAN, Julian, 17, Via Ariosto, Milan.
CARPENTER, Rev. F., Rushington, Braywich Road, Maidenhead.
CATONI, A., care of Lloyd's Agency, Larnaca, Cyprus.
CATOR, Judge and Mrs., Carlton Hotel, Alexandria, Egypt.
CERVATI, A. Edgar, care of British Insulated and Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescot.
CHALMERS, D., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
CHALMERS, Mrs. D., jun., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
CHARNAUD, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B., and family, 18, The Avenue, Brondesbury Park, N.W. Tele., Willesden 845.
CHARTERS, Miss, Elmwood, Harrogate.
CHISNELL, George A., Rue Nikis, No. 11, Athens.
CLARKE, Miss Jeannette Griffitt, The Hutch, Shepherd Road, Watford, Herts.
CLEMOW, F. G., M.D., C.M.G., British Red Cross Mission.
COLES, Donald A., M.D., c.o. Lloyd's Bank, 72, Lombard Street, E.C.
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COMBER, F. W., and family, The Old School House, Ness, Cheshire.
COOK, H., Tower Bungalow, Tankerville Drive, Leigh-on-Sea.
COOK, Mr. John A., Grand Hotel Princesse Sophie, Athens.
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CRAWFORD, Sir Richard, British Embassy, Washington, U.S.A.
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CUMBERBATCH, Mr. and Mrs. A. H., Odessa.
CUMBERBATCH, Miss Lilian, c/o Mrs. J. Gilbert, Manor Lodge, Egham, Surrey.
CUMING, Bombardier A. C., 262nd Battery R.F.A., 84h Brigade, Colchester.
CUMING, Mrs. J. B., "Fleet View," Fleet R.S.O., Hants.
CUMING, Miss M. Constance, "Fleet View," Fleet R.S.O., Hants.
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FERGUSON, F., Secretary's Office, G.P.O., London.
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GORDON, Mrs., and family, Alexandria.
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HARTY, H. J., and family, Old Phaleron, Greece.
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HARVEY, E., 46, South Quay, Great Yarmouth.
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LA FONTAINE, Miss Edith F., Elmfield, Esher, Surrey.
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LA FONTAINE, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred, 1, Rue du Lycée, Athens.
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LE PAGE, Eng. Lieut. R.N., and Mrs. G. W., care of Dr. Morgan Rees, Benton House, Whitchurch, near Cardiff.
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LYSTER, Miss Edythe, Kerry House, 46, Auriol Road, West Kensington, W.
LYSTER, Fred. J., 69, Edith Road, West Kensington, W.
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MACKINNON, Dr. Frank I., Lieut. R.A.M.C., St. George's, Malta.
MACKRAY, E. D., Daira of H.H. Princess Emina, Berdein, Egypt.
MCGILL, Mrs. Robert, and children, c/o Mrs. Robinson, Mayfield, Aigburth, near Liverpool.
MADGE, Harold, and family, 62, Balls Road, Oxton.
MALTASS, Albert and family, Odos Kokinaki, Kefissia, Greece.
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MASHAM, Mrs., Lower Eastwood, Ledbury, Hereford.
MASTERMAN, E. W. G., M.D., Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry.
MAYOR-METCALFE, Mr. and Mrs. A., "Laurel Dene," Northallerton.
MCCRIE, Mr. and Mrs., Sunset Cottage, Stoke Fleming, Dartmouth.
METCALFE, Miss E. J., Thornsgill House, Askrigg, Yorkshire.
MILLINGEN, Mrs. and Miss Van, c.o. Imperial Ottoman Bank, London, E.C.
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MITCHELL, E. A., Keyward House, Wells, Somerset.
MONCK-MASON, A., Ottoman Bank, Alexandria.
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MOUNTAIN, Mr. and Mrs. Henry, Hotel Minerva, Athens.
MOUNTAIN, Mr. and Mrs. W. C., and family, 33, Promenade, Cheltenham.
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MUMFORD, Newman, H.M.S. "Europa," G.P.O., London.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NAVILLE, Pryame, c/o The Imperial Ottoman Bank, 26, Throgmorton Street, E.C.
NEWNHAM, Miss Sophia, 24, Brunswick Road, Hove, Sussex.
NEWTON, Miss F. E., International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, W.
NIAS, Arthur, care of The Imperial Ottoman Bank, Throgmorton Street, E.C.
NOWILL, Stephen, Sandygate House, Sheffield.
O'NEIL, Miss, 14, Odos Homer, Athens.
PALMER, S., and family, Alexandria.
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PARFITT, Harold, 176, Whitehouse Rd., Croydon.
PATERSON, Mrs. Alexander, Allanshaw, Hamilton, Lanarkshire, N.B.
PATTERSON, Mr. and Mrs. H., Hotel d'Angleterre, Athens.
PEARS, Sir Edwin, 10, Lowther Road, Barnes, S.W., also Reform Club.
PEARS, Henry E., 21, York Street, Portman Square, W.
PEARS, Miss Lorna E., 21, York Street, Portman Square, W.
PEDDIE, F., 109, Avenue de Villiers, Paris.
PISANI, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick, and son, Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22, Athens.
PISANI, Mr. and Mrs. Edward, Boulevard Constantin le Diadoque, No. 53, Piræus.
POYNTER, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh E., 70, Addison Road, W.
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RAMSAY, Mrs. Alexander, and family, 18, Alwyne Mansions, Wimbledon, S.W.
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RAWE, Reuben, Old Phaleron, Greece.
REES, Messrs. T. Bowen and Co., Ltd., 34, Stadium Street, Athens.
REES, T. Bowen, 34, Stadium Street, Athens.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The past week has been an active one in trading circles, the meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom coinciding with the second week of the British Industries Fair (which closes to-day) at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Each event, in its own peculiar way, serves to indicate that the country is at last waking up to realise that if we are to wage a successful trade war we must be up and doing.

***

Turning, in the first place, to the Industries Fair, we must congratulate the Board of Trade on its initiative in this matter. The Fair is, of course, not a patch on the Leipzig Fair, an institution hundreds of years old, but it forms already a respectable embryo of what in due course will grow into a useful exhibit of British-made goods. The majority of exhibitors, I understand, are satisfied with the results obtained, and have—due allowance being made for the war—booked numerous orders. The class of visitors, moreover, was the desired one—namely, business men and travellers. The latter, it must be remembered, made the Leipzig Fair what it really was, and it is to be hoped that in future the British Industries Fair will annually serve as a magnet attracting to London, the world's greatest mart, travellers and selling agents from all over the world.

***

Regarding more particularly the Near Eastern—or, for that matter, the whole Mediterranean—market, it is true that the present Fair will appeal but slightly to travellers and sellers in those districts. The class of goods in general request in the regions under review is of the cheaper kind—an article which can successfully compete with the German and Austrian one. I had hoped to see more of such articles exhibited. Taking two of the most important sections of the Fair—toys and glass (porcelain) ware—we find an exquisite display of all sorts and manners of objects, showing that we can turn out much better articles than the enemy, but what we really want to prove is that we can turn out cheap Austrian glass, Nuremberg toys, etc., at favourable prices. Only by doing this can we hope to avoid the dumping of this market with enemy goods after the war, or compete with him on the Near Eastern market. The same remarks apply to fancy goods—leather, etc.—which, to be commercially successful in the regions quoted, must compare favourably, as regards price, with the Austro-German article.

***

The above remarks certainly do not apply to all the exhibits. Thus, for instance, Messrs. Raphael Tuck have a practical show which will appeal to all classes. But then, their name is well known throughout the Near East, which is a market that has been thoroughly—and therefore successfully—worked by them. An article which, if properly worked in the Mediterranean, would be a selling proposition, is the Besway Patent Knife-Cleaner—a tidy little mechanism which, if not more expensive than the small enemy article, is certain to appeal to the market under review. Messrs. Henry Harvey and Company's exhibit of shell objects and decorations also strikes the right note. Rust's Vitreous Mosaics is another article certain of a Near Eastern success if brought properly to the notice of architects and contractors who work those districts. As a matter of fact, I understand that the firm has, through its exhibit at the Fair, already received a demand from Cairo which I hope will bear fruit. With the drainage scheme on the eve of completion, there will be an early demand for mosaics such as those here referred to. Bucharest and Constantinople are also likely to be buyers of this article at a no distant date.

***

The firms mentioned in the last paragraph by no means exhaust the list of those who are making a bid for the export trade to foreign countries. Enough, however, has been said to show the class of goods that are needed if we are to wage our trade war on Germany and Austria in the Near Eastern market, as well as elsewhere.

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The meetings of the Associated Chambers of Commerce will be dealt with in next week's issue of THE NEAR EAST.

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Recently the Buda Pest correspondent of the *Morning Post* drew attention to a matter I have frequently referred to—namely, the efforts being made by Germany to control the navigation of the Danube. He says:—"At a conference which was held at Nürnberg recently, and at which the representatives of German commercial and industrial societies were present, it was decided that the German Government should be asked to make propositions to Austria and Hungary regarding the establishment of a navigation tariff agreement on the Danube, and thus to open a new route for German ambitions to the Balkans and the Black Sea. The Conference decided that the German Government should be asked to put forward propositions regarding this agreement, that it should be concluded before the end of the war, and that a central joint committee should be appointed to decide the tariff questions and insure to the Germans navigation facilities on the Danube. They also proposed to include the other countries lying on the Danube in the agreement."

***

The Danube navigation is an old scheme of the Germans, and the canalisation towards the Danube is one of their dreams which they also wish to realise during the war by taking advantage of the so-called alliance with the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. They have succeeded in getting Bulgaria within their orbit as far as the lower middle reaches of the river are concerned; but Roumania still holds the trump card in this region, and can rationally be expected to keep a watchful eye on her interests. She will certainly have our tacit approval for opposing German attempts to Teutonise the Danube. That these are more serious than is generally supposed is proved by the eagerness of the Boches to construct a new canal linking up the "German Rhine" with the Danube, via the Main—which, if realised, would place the Rhenish industrial producers in immediate contact with the Near Eastern market. Hence Teuton ambitions on the Lower Danube will have to be closely watched.

***

Our Bucharest Correspondent, referring in a recent letter to our grain deal with Roumania, pointed out that our Boche detractors were exploiting to the utmost the one real drawback which the transaction presents to the seller, "namely, Great Britain's inability to export her purchase, imposing as it does on the farmer the risk attendant on the warehousing of the wheat, and depriving him of the use of his magazines for the new harvest in about five months' time." The same correspondent writes:—"In order to remove this objection, M. Démètre Greceano has suggested that England should build the necessary magazines at her own cost, or in association with the Agricultural Syndicates. The cost of their construction would amount to something like 12-15 million francs, which is not a high figure when it is remembered that the wheat stored is of the value of 362 million francs. Moreover, the Agricultural Syndicates would accept all responsibility for the wheat, so that its ultimate delivery under the best possible conditions would be assured." It is to be hoped that our Government is considering the advisability of accepting this proposal.

***

A Paris contemporary, emphasising the importance of the Greek mercantile marine, gives the following interesting figures:—At the commencement of 1913, Greece had 389 steamers over 30 tons, with a total net measurement of 433,633 tons; at the beginning of 1914 she had 450 of 494,404 tons, and early in 1915 the fleet had increased to 474 vessels of 549,983 tons. All these vessels are engaged in international trade, frequently on account of other countries, especially Italy, to which she brings goods from England, Russia, Roumania, Tunis, and even the United States and Holland. In the case of Italy alone, the commercial movement of the Hellenic fleet in 1914 represented 2,590,022 tons, having more than doubled itself in ten years. It is conceivable (continues our contemporary) that this considerable development of the Greek mercantile marine should not be without influence on our Italian allies, and possibly explains certain tendencies of contemporary Italian politics.

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The fact that the Sudan Government has imported large quantities of British 1s. and 2s. coins points to a healthy resumption of trade in the interior of the country, where, in view of a steadily increasing commercial movement, a considerable shortage of coins has made itself felt. The value of the shilling coin has been placed at P.T.5, and that of the florin at P.T.10, at which price they will eventually be repurchased by the Sudan Government. As the value of the sovereign remains, as hitherto, at P.T.97½ there is a fractional difference between the intrinsic value of the two new coins and their value as fixed by the Sudan Government—namely, of P.T.2½ per 20s. or ten florin coins. As the measure is a purely local one, it will in no way affect the rate of exchange. Incidentally it may be mentioned that Egypt seems also to be affected by a shortage of coins, because it is announced that Lord Edward Cecil's visit to London is not unconnected with the minting of new Egyptian coins. It is to be hoped that if a new design for Egypt's coinage is to be adopted, it will contain the King's effigy. I understand that among the Sudanese natives the newly-introduced coins have, for this very reason, been particularly acceptable.

COMMENTATOR.

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Fruit-Growing in Egypt.

A Visit to the Sewage-Farm at Khanka.

CAIRO.

Few people realise that a vast area of desert near Cairo has been transformed into profitable fruit plantations through the utilisation of the city's drainage, the scheme for which, thanks to the English advisers to the Egyptian Ministry, has been most successfully carried out by Mr. Carkeet James, the Controller-General of the Cairo drainage works.

This huge work, which was begun in 1909, arising from the imperative necessity of a proper drainage system for Cairo, will have cost approximately one and a-half million pounds, but it is expected that a part of this outlay will be covered by the proceeds which will eventually accrue from the fruit plantations, covering hundreds of acres, and treated with sewage irrigation.

An inspection of the drainage works, together with the nursery and plantations at Khanka, is an interesting experience, quite aside from its aspect as a highly successful feat in engineering and horticulture.

Let us begin our tour of inspection by leaving the train at the siding called Gebel el Asfar, and take our seat on one of the hand-pushed trolleys, with legs dangling not far from the ground, seated on a stout cushion placed on the rough wooden trolley seat, and set off for the works.

If Fate does not provide a fierce wind blowing from Khanka into the face of the person aspiring to reach his destination, he will quickly go off at a fine pace along the little rails, propelled only by Arab runners, but if the wind is against him, then he will move very sedately and slowly, with an opportunity to breathe in the ozone of the desert, and leisure to ponder the size and desolation of the vast spaces of sand stretching as far as the eye can see on either side.

Arrived at length in the vicinity of the works, we first pass on the right-hand side a sand-plus-cement brick factory, and near it the Ezbet, or Arab village, which is being created ready for labourers later on. Here, if we are not officially due first of all at the houses of the staff, we can dismount and have a look round whilst our Arab pushers rest.

Arab Builders.

Under a shady long shed we see a Greek foreman supervising the Arabs who are making the bricks. One part of Portland cement goes to eight parts of sand in the mixture of mud-pie which is going to be the brick of a few moments hence. This mixture must not be cheapened by adding water instead of Portland cement, and so the Greek foreman must be there to prevent tricks being played in its composition. Under his eye Arabs shovel the right mixture into a simple-looking machine with an energy so European and so wholly extraordinary that we inquire whence this miracle.

They are paid per brick made, so, though the day labourers in the engine-rooms are usually snatching dreams every moment they are not watched or wanted, these brawny fellows work with a will, and we are able to see the bricks made by dozens as we wait. Oh, so simple it seems! And so simple it is when once a master-brain has created the apparently simple machine for shaping the bricks, a machine not costing much over £50, and which can be worked without being destroyed by these labourers, who treat it as they do their donkeys, with slaps and whacks, as they turn cranks and push parts up and down.

To see a beautifully cleanly-cut, partly hollow brick turned out in three minutes, placed on a wooden support, and laid on the ground to dry, and to know that the sun and air will make it solid in a few days' time, is really fascinating. No worry about the process! No expense except the cheap machine, cheap labour, and getting the Portland cement imported!

Then we go to see the two round houses which are for the future inhabitants, made of these same bricks, and find that they cost only about £26 each, although the rooms appeared very large from the standpoint of the usual dimensions of the mud hut.

Here the scaffolding prevented our going over the little streets—or, rather, lanes—between the houses, but we learnt that shops would be built and a mosque, and that half the village would face the other half from a broad street or midan.

An Oasis of Green.

Getting into our trolley again, we are pushed up to the residential quarter of the settlement. Here we find one fine two-storied house, a flat above and a rest house below, standing in a lovely garden, with large green lawns.

Next to this, the most imposing residential structure is the bungalow for the use of the Controller-General, Mr. Carkeet James. This bungalow stands in a green garden, occupied principally by a flagstaff, from which a flag can be seen for many miles when princes pay visits, or to denote official residence. The bungalow has every modern convenience, including two bath-rooms. The approach to these residences is a wide avenue, lined with trees now about three years old, and already flowering and thriving exceedingly.

Other houses are bungalows for the officials in charge, and are quite comfortable, though the rooms are rather small. Some of these are of mud bricks covered with lime-wash; others of white sand bricks of the small kind, not hollow; all have corridors covered with red tiles running round them, and are inwalled in spaces more or less worthy of the name of gardens. Lastly, we see a terrace of small rooms in white brick built not far from these dwellings, and learn that they are the quarters for the domestic servants.

And here, in the desert, we find every comfort and luxury in the homes of the married men, and just as many conveniences as they want in the quarters of the bachelors—only don't think you can tell your servant to run round to the grocer's shop for an addition to a slender ménu! Everything edible comes from Cairo. A special man, a special ass, only specimen of its kind which meets our eye at Khanka—are kept for the commissariat.

Once a day your food supply reaches your door, and your mail comes above your joints, your pickles, and your whiskey, over the knees of the caterers.

Very denuded of beasts is this great beehive of industry, and we felt we should like to take that donkey's opinion of the solitariness of life at Khanka!

The Plantations.

After a short rest at a bungalow we remount our trolleys and go to see the plantations. As we came we noticed a thick belt of eucalyptus trees to our right, but to see them as a promising wood one must ascend to the balcony of the Great House.

This agricultural side of Khanka is one of great interest. It is a part of Mr. Carkeet James' plan to utilise the sewage, after it has been subjected to various filterings and added to pure water, to grow remunerative crops. In an interesting article which appeared in the *Egyptian Gazette* in July of last year the following details regarding the drainage scheme are given, and are well worth quoting here.

Cairo being on a plain and the sewage having to be conveyed a considerable distance to the disposal works, it is unfortunately impossible to drain the city by gravitation only, and the drainage of the entire city and suburbs, therefore, has to be carried out by pumping, with the exception of a portion of Abassia where gravitation is feasible.

The scheme consists of drainage by the sectional and gravitation systems. The sectional system is divided into sixty-six areas, each of which is provided with ejectors for forcing the sewage, by means of compressed air, through sealed sewage mains, into the main collector at Pont Ghamra. The compressed air required at each ejector is supplied through cast-iron pipes laid in circuits to ensure continuous service throughout the city. Eighty kilometres of air and sealed sewage mains are needed for the sectional system.

Cairo Drainage Scheme.

Each ejector station consists of two spherical cast-iron sewage receivers, of the necessary capacity to suit the requirements of each area and contained in a cast-iron casing or tubing. The action of each ejector station is automatic and the method of working is as follows: Sewage from the houses gravitates through street sewage into an inlet or collecting manhole from whence it flows into the sewage receivers. The sewage fills the receivers and raises a float which opens the automatic valve for the supply of compressed air, and at the same time closes the exhaust valve. The compressed air, on being admitted into the receiver, presses on the upper surface of the sewage and forces it through the sealed sewage main to the main collector. As soon as the contents of a receiver have been discharged, the float governing the automatic valve for the supply of the compressed air is pulled down by an attached weight and shuts off the compressed air supply, at the same time opening the exhaust valve which places the inside of the receiver under atmospheric conditions and ready to receive a further supply of sewage by gravity. The whole process is automatic and works with the minimum of supervision.

The gravitation system starts at Pont Ghamra, at which point all the sewage from the sectional system is discharged into a main collector 1.60 metres internal diameter. The main collector then gravitates for a length of thirteen and a-half kilometres to its termination at Kafr el Gamoose, intercepting the gravitation sewers from Abassia, Demerdache, Koubbeh, Heliopolis, Zeitoun and Matarieh at various points along the course. At Kafir el Gamoose the main collector terminates in a screening chamber, where the solid and floating matter from the sewage is removed by means of mechanical screens and transported by Decauville to the sewage farm. The sewage then passes through a culvert into the pump, immediately over which are placed the pumps and engines of 900 h.p., which lift the sewage through a 0.92 metre diameter cast-iron main for a distance of eleven and a-half kilometres to the farm at Gebel el Asfar.

Purification Works.

At the purification works and farm at Gebel el Asfar, the sewage from the rising main will be received in tanks, where it will undergo a process of sedimentation. The effluent from the tanks then passes through filter beds composed of gravel, where it undergoes further treatment before being used for irrigating the farm.

About 200 feddans of land has been levelled and is ready for cultivation, and the tree-belts for protecting the crops are well advanced. The water used for irrigating the belts is obtained from artesian bores, and the levelling has been carried out by convict labour.

The vastness of the sand fields amazes the eye, all divided by roadways on which the trolley lines are laid, so that we are pushed round them at a rattling speed. Let us first get off at the nursery. Here we see an effendi in charge of the workers, and learn that he is a specialist on tree propagation. Under his eye are grown from seed or cuttings thousands of shade trees and fruit trees. The eucalyptus and the Australian wattle are found very suitable for quick culture, the tamarisk shrub is largely used as a wind break, whilst near the houses are thousands of date palms planted in rows, at present only about a foot high, but destined in twenty years or less to be producing valuable dates.

Thousands of orange trees, mandarines and citrons are already planted out, and

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acres of grape vines, pomegranates and figs. What a luscious land it will be in our children's heyday.

The Nurseries.

Vegetables of all kinds are grown in a plot adjoining the shaded nursery, and here we peep down a huge well from which water is pumped into a fine tank, from which it is used daily on the nursery grounds. The most perfect arrangement of all the parts of the nursery elicits our admiration. There is something so hopeful, so cheerful about size and perfection in gardening operations that we are led to forget for a moment the many anxieties of the horticulturists.

The need of shelter from fierce desert winds and sun is very great, hence the planting of the eucalyptus groves to shelter the fruit trees in some measure from the blasts of Boreas. It seems marvellous that after the first tender stage all these fruit trees will grow in pure sand, if properly watered, and when the water is mixed with manure their growth will be even more rapid.

Awe-inspiring to an eye accustomed to small orchards are these vast sand fields planted to fruit-bearing trees, and when we hear that as far as the eye can reach the desert will be squared off and planted, we realise that the heads which can plan all these wonders and carry them out successfully are worthy of our deepest respect, and after having visited the tanks, the engine-house, the filtering beds, etc., we feel indeed that Egyptian Days are quite as wonderful as Arabian Nights!

H. POWER.

SHIPPING AND EGYPT.

A telegram received at Alexandria (says the *Egyptian Gazette*) announces that the Italian Government has decided to prohibit Italian vessels of more than a thousand tons burthen from leaving the Mediterranean or to trade in the inland sea with neutral countries, or even with the Allies, except with special permission. This measure will not, however, affect Egypt very much, as the weekly Italian steamers which belong to lines receiving a Government subsidy for their service between Egypt and Italy are not likely to be withdrawn.

With regard to the temporary suppression of the Messageries service, says the same journal, this measure only applies to the Marseilles-Alexandria service. The Far East Messageries steamers will continue to call at Port Said as in the past.

Trade Notes.

Egypt.

The Secretary of the Direction Générale des Douanes Egyptiennes, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 250 pairs of boots. Date, March 8.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Public Works for the purchase of the following steamers; (1) Rameses the Great and (2) Tewfik, both damaged by fire at Bulac, Cairo, and (3) Rameses, lying sunk off Messrs. Cook's yard at Bulac.

Separate tenders will be received for each of these steamers, which will be sold as they lie in their present position and condition with boilers, machinery, etc., on board. Tenders should be addressed to the Director-General of the Mechanical Service Ministry of Public Works, Cairo. The Rameses the Great and the Tewfik will have to be removed within three days, and the Rameses within one month of acceptance of tender. No date for the receipt of tenders is mentioned.

A cash deposit of £E10 must accompany each tender.

The Department of Technical, Industrial, and Commercial Education, No. 14, Sharia Abdin, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of raw materials, pupils' clothing, etc., for Cairo and Assiut Model Workshops and Mansura Trades School. Specifications and all other information can be obtained at the Model Workshops, Bulac, Cairo. Date, March 11.

H.M. the Consul at Cairo has forwarded particulars in connection with a call for tenders by the Egyptian Ministry of Education for the supply of raw materials, manufactured accessory articles, tools, pupils' clothing, etc., required during the year ending March 31, 1917, by the Model Workshops at Bulac (Cairo) and Assiut, and by the Trade School at Mansura. The list of articles required includes metals, piping, brushes, belting, leather, timber, locks, nails, screws, tools, files, emery cloth, paints, cotton yarn, clothing, etc. Copies of the specification, list of articles required, and forms of tender may be obtained from the Model Workshops, Bulac (Cairo), where also samples may be seen. Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received up to noon on March 11 by the Director-General, Department of Technical, Industrial, and Commercial Education, Cairo. A copy of the specification, together with a list of the articles required, may be consulted by United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade is in receipt from the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior of copies of the statement of conditions, etc., in connection with a call for tenders for the supply of Ghafir clothing required by the Stores Department during 1916, including blue drill belts, drawers, and qamis. Two metres of cloth of the kinds which the tenderer intends to use must be submitted to the Director of Stores, Bulac, Cairo, at least ten days before the adjudication. Copies of the specifications, with forms of tender, etc., may be obtained at a cost of 2s. per copy, from the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W., where also sealed samples of the articles required may be inspected. Sealed tenders, on the proper form, will be received, up to noon on April 22, by the Under-Secretary of State (Personnel and Equipment Department), Ministry of the Interior, Cairo.

Sudan

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on March 22, 1916, for the supply of oils and lubricants required by the above department for 1916. Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, Agent Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria, or Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on March 29, 1916, for the supply of paraffin and petrol required by the above department for 1916. Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, or to the Agents, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria.

DIRECTORY—*Continued from page 496.*

REITH, Mrs. G. Douglass, U.F. Manse, Clunie, near Murthly, Perthshire.
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THOMPSON, Mrs. Harold, Glenmore, Avenue Road, Falmouth.
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TUCKER, Thomas J. V. Ferid, c/o A. H. Brace, Esq., 19, Stafford Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.
TURNER, Charles, Iriam, Manchester.
VIDOVICH, Nicholas, and daughter, Hotel Centrale, Rue du Stade, No. 22, Athens.
WATT, Mr. and Mrs. A. B., Grand Hotel, Larnaca, Cyprus.
WAUGH, A. T., Hotel Continental, Athens.
WEAKLY, E., C.M.G., Norfolk Hotel, Kensington, W.
WEALE, W., Foreign Office, S.W.
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WEALE, Miss M., "Rosedale," Wellington Street, Slough, Bucks.
WEALE, Miss Norah, Lydgate House, Hunstanton.
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WHITTALL, Reginald, and family, 60, Scarsdale Villas Kensington, W.
WHITTALL, W. J. H., 1, Princes Square, Bayswater, W., and c/o Hotel Minerva, Athens.
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WORTHAM, Mrs., 34, Cambridge Street, Hyde Park.
WRATISLAW, Mrs., c/o Hotel Minerva, Athens.

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ROUMANIAN COMMISSION FOR IMPORTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, February 1.

A commission has been appointed by the Government for the purpose of determining the conditions in which foreign produce may be imported, as well as for regulating the exchange of goods between Roumania and the neighbouring states.

ROUMANIA'S FOREIGN TRADE.

Reuter reported from Bucharest on February 27 that the Central Committee on Imports publishes its latest decisions, which may be summarised as follows:—1. All imports require the authorization of the said Committee. 2. The export of cereals must be authorized by the Central Committee. 3. The export of wines must be authorized by the Wines Committee. 4. The export of other products, now on the prohibition list, including petroleum and all mineral oils, must be authorized by the Imports Committee. 5. The export of products on the prohibition list must be authorized by the Imports Committee. The Government is taking active measures to prevent the smuggling of live stock out of the country.

GREEK ENEMY FIRMS.

The *London Gazette* of February 29 publishes the following list of firms of Greek nationality or association with whom trading is prohibited, except where a general or special licence has been granted. Application for a licence should be made to the Controller, Foreign Trade Department, Lancaster House, St. James, S.W.

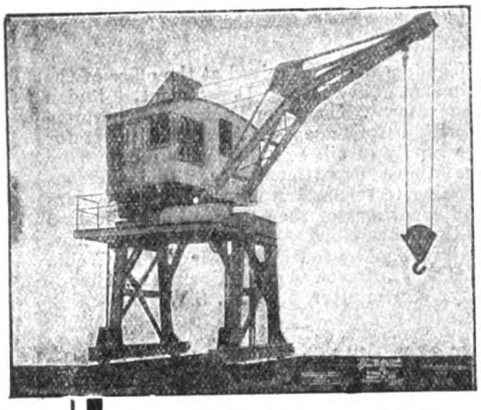
Antovich, Pierre, Chios.
Back, Paul, Athens, 13, Rue de l'Université.
Bensussan, D., Piræus.
Block, Eugène, Piræus.
Damas, Constantine, Calamata.
Defner and Edelmann, Athens.
Goldstein, Albert, Volo.
Gromann, George, Athens.
Hampartchoumian, Aran, Athens and Manchester.
Harr, Gustave, St. Theodore Square, Athens.
Heidmann, Hans, Salonika.
Hoffmann, Alfred, Piræus.
Koenig, T. and H., and Co., Athens.
Kouremetis, Michael, Athens and Calymnos.
Kouremetis, Pandelis, Athens and Calymnos.
Kruger, Max, Canea.
Kruger, Richard, Canea.
Michaelides and Milch, Panghion Hotel, Athens and Piræus.
Ornstein, Dr. Otto, Chios.
Schiffel, Helmuth, Volo.
Sufelder and Co., Salonika.
Stringos, George, Piræus.
Weher, Karl, Athens.
Wein, Jacob, Canae.
Zahri, Henry, Calamata.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC FAMINE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, February 12.

In a previous letter I referred to the enormously increased prices of the necessaries of life in this town. What we usually class as luxuries have undergone a still higher increase. Photographic materials are generally included in this class, but to the army of amateur photographers among the Allies and the representatives of the illustrated journals in particular they have become very necessary. The small stock of such materials obtainable in the town was soon exhausted, and now there is a regular photographic famine. Further supplies have been ordered, but in consequence of the disorganized steamer services they have not yet arrived. As examples of the high prices asked, I may mention that a box of plates 13 x 8 centimetres (7 in. by 5 in.) is usually sold at 12 or 13 frs. (about 10s.). The price in London is about 3s. Again, hyposulphite of soda, which I used to buy at home for 1d. per lb., has cost me as much as a shilling for the same quantity.



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Engineering Notes.

Salonika Improvements.

A writer in the *Morning Post* gives the following interesting details of what we have done in Salonika:—When our first supply ships steamed up the Gulf last October there was only one jetty at which their cargoes could be discharged, and but one berth available for them alongside the quays. There was not enough water at the jetty for transports to berth there, so that supplies could only be landed in lighters. Behind the jetty was a tract of waste ground used by the Greeks as a sort of remount depôt for pack ponies—a broad slough of mingled mud and manure. Beyond that lay the rough-paved streets of the town, ending in the two indifferent main roads that go out into the country, neither of them in a condition to stand the traffic of heavy motor-lorries to which they were about to be subjected. In four months, thanks to the labours of the Army Service Corps and the Royal Engineers, the Augean remount lines, cleaned up and floored with tons of stone and gravel, have become our Base Supply Depôt, piled high with tons of foodstuffs; roads now run in places where the first motor-lorries that ventured sank over the axles and had to be towed out with ropes; a long new jetty has been built; a Decauville light railway is being laid, starting from the shore and ending in an aerial cable railway among the hills ten miles away to the north; previously existing highways have been improved in every way, their cavities filled in, their worst stretches re-metalled, and their wooden bridges under-pinned, while at least 100 miles of new roads have been built, so that Greek farmers whose property last harvest-time was five miles from the nearest track negotiable by wheels, already find an excellent motor road passing by their very gates. These, together with the sinking of artesian wells, the draining of marshy soil, and the doubling of the railway tracks, are some of the works that have been undertaken in connection with the revictualling of our force here."

Presses for the East.

Presses for various purposes are extensively used throughout the East, especially in districts where oils, wine, cotton, flax, and other similar fibres, or wool, hides, etc., are produced and exported. In the Near East particularly the possession of a press is regarded as a very valuable asset to the grower, or to the export merchant. But whilst hydraulic and other mechanical presses have been introduced in that region during recent years, their heavy weight is an impediment to their employment in hilly districts where, owing to the lack of proper roads, everything has to be carried on the backs of mules or horses. The possibility, therefore, of being able to transport by such means efficient and powerful presses will be of great interest to many proprietors who are compelled to use wooden presses of an archaic design and local construction. We allude to a press which is made almost entirely of mild rolled steel, only very few parts being cast iron. The risk of breakage is thus reduced to a minimum. The mechanism is very simple, but scientifically designed on the most correct principles to give a gradually but enormously increasing pressure, while keeping the motive power almost constant. The press requires no skilled attention and can be driven by hand power, animal power, or by means of a belt from any prime mover, such as steam, gas, or oil engine, electric motor, or water wheel. The machine is worked by turning a winch close, or attached to it, which winds in a wire rope and pulls a combination of levers together, thereby pressing down the platen. There is a knock-off arrangement which automatically stops the winch directly the platen reaches the required point, and applies a brake that holds it as may be desired. In this type of press there is absolutely no "slipback," as often happens with hydraulic presses. When the pressure is no longer needed the brake is released and the press returns to its initial position automatically. This press is built in a great variety of sizes and capacities to suit all kinds of produce, whilst a noteworthy feature is its portability. If the makers of this type of press adapt it to the requirements of olive growers and oil-mill owners in the Near East they will secure a good market.

A Cold Tire Setter.

Agriculturists and those who use vehicles or implements with wooden wheels are in a position to know the trouble attached to such wheels in hot weather, and the inconvenience experienced when tires become slack and wheelwrights or blacksmiths are not near at hand. It often means suspension of work and loss of time at an important period of the year. All these can be prevented by a compact little machine which was viewed at a recent show. According to those who were using it, the machine is "a very powerful tool," and is much quicker than the old-fashioned style of putting on tires. In addition, the machine is useful when the tires become slack, as they will do in hot weather especially. Instead of rewelding the tire—a method occupying considerable time—all that the operator has to do is to set the wheel in the tire on the machine and tighten it up, a matter of ten minutes or so, which means that it is effecting a considerable saving in labour. It is claimed that two men can put on about fifteen pairs of tires a day. One of the chief advantages of this machine is that it has a key-adjusting device which forces the grip keys against the tire, making them work evenly, and preventing their slipping on the tire. The keys are made fast in the machine with a movement of the hand in forcing the lever down, and the keys are absolutely obliged to work evenly and cannot slip. It is claimed to be the only machine with draw-heads moving on a circle to conform to the circle of the tire, and, in the writer's opinion, a most-needed machine in the East, where there are not many skilled wheelwrights, and many vehicles and implements have to remain idle when needed most through the want of capable men to effect repairs, especially on wheels.

The Edfina Line.

According to the *Egyptian Gazette*, railway traffic on the above line has been suspended. There are only four trains daily on the line from Bussili to Edfina, two up and two down. The rails are all being taken up and removed to another part of Egypt. There is not much trade in that part of the Delta, and it will be possible to communicate with Alexandria by the Delta Light Railway system through Damanhour.

THE DEMAND FOR ZINC.

The large amount of zinc required for war purposes, and the resulting enormously increased demand for the metal, known commercially as spelter, lend special interest to an article in the current number of the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* on "The Occurence and Utilisation of Zinc Ores." The chief zinc minerals are described, and a brief account given of the more important occurrences in the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and India.

Zinc ores have been mined in many parts of the United Kingdom, but the most important zinc deposits in the British Empire are those of Broken Hill Mines, New South Wales, the output of which alone is sufficient to supply the entire demands of the United Kingdom for metallic zinc. The Broken Hill ore before the war went mainly to Germany for smelting, but the Australian Government has adopted measures which will prevent this in the future. Zinc is also found in South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, New Zealand, and Newfoundland. Canada contains a number of workable zinc deposits, particularly in British Columbia, and there is every prospect of Burma becoming an important producer. In Africa there are zinc deposits in Egypt, Nigeria, Rhodesia and the Transvaal, as to which more information is needed.

Twelve barges and steamers, belonging to the Express Nile Steamers Company, have been chartered by the Egyptian authorities for £E2,000 per month.

IMPORTANT PETROL SEIZURE

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, February 7.

A short time ago the French authorities at Salonika seized a quantity of petrol (motor-spirit) under circumstances which clearly indicated that it was intended for German submarines or other enemy use. The present Greek Government, whose strong pro-German sympathies are well-known, wished to minimise as much as possible the importance of this seizure, and accordingly an official *communiqué* appeared in the Athens newspapers to the effect that the quantity seized only amounted to 60 litres (about 13 gallons). This *communiqué* having been brought to the notice of the French Headquarters here, they have now issued the following official statement, which shows how much reliance can be placed on *communiqués* from pro-German sources, even when they are official.

"1. The benzine (petrol) was seized on January 22 from the Astra Romana Co., whose premises were closed, the manager, a German, having been arrested on December 31 for espionage, his son and the engineer, Elfer, having fled.

"2. Fifty barrels of petrol were discovered by the gendarmes under planks covered with 20 centimetres (about 8 inches) of earth, in a deep excavation, the earth, which was levelled down, suggesting no suspicion of the existence of this reserve. Other barrels of petrol and oil were seized in the same buildings.

"3. The total quantity seized amounts to 15,962 kilos (about 16 tons) of petrol and 19,204 kilos (about 19 tons) of oil, of which the French authorities have taken possession."

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Near East Markets.

SUDAN GUM.

Exports.

One hundred and four thousand seven hundred and eight kilos of gum, valued at £E3,213, were exported viâ Port Sudan, and 2,413 kilos of gum, valued at £E57, were exported viâ Halfa during December, 1915.

The following table shows the value and quantity of gum exported from Port Sudan during the period January 1 to December 31, 1915 :—

	£E.
Australia	6,047
Egypt	23,450
Eritrea	1,033
France	84,825
Great Britain	131,357
Greece	236
Holland	278
Italy	8,681
New Zealand	71
Spain	1,080
U.S.A.	50,169
Japan	5,070
Total value	312,297
Total quantity, tons	11,577

During the same period in 1914 the exports of gum from Port Sudan were 12,266 tons, valued at £E312,697.

TOBACCO FROM CYPRUS.

In former times the tobacco-growing industry in Cyprus was of some importance, but latterly it had practically disappeared. In 1905 the Director of the Imperial Institute, who visited the colony at the request of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, suggested that this industry should be revived. It is satisfactory to note that this suggestion has no wborne fruit. A company was formed in 1913 with the object of reviving the Cyprus industry, and tobacco is now being cultivated at a number of villages, and is also being grown experimentally by the Department of Agriculture. Five samples of Cyprus-grown "Turkish" tobacco have recently been examined at the Imperial Institute, and the reports of British tobacco manufacturers thereon received. The general result of these investigations and reports is satisfactory, and the tobaccos are regarded as distinctly promising for the manufacture of cigarettes of the Turkish and Egyptian types.

Now that the difficulties created by the Turkish suzerainty of Cyprus have been removed and the island has become a British possession, the industry may be expected to make rapid progress.

AMERICAN GRAIN FOR GREECE.

According to Reuter, the Salonika correspondent of the *Echo de Paris* says:—The National Bank of Greece has been instructed by the Minister of the Interior to effect the purchase in America of 35,000 tons of wheat for Government account. The ships required for the transport have already been advised to be in readiness to start for America so soon as the negotiations commenced by the Bank with the American grain firms have been terminated. Immediately the grain arrives in Greece, the Bank will have it stored in different warehouses so that it can be quickly distributed in pursuance of the instructions of the special committee created to that end. The present order will be followed by others on the same conditions.

PERSIAN GUM-TRAGACANTH.

The various species of Astragalus, known in Persia as "kevin," from which gum-tragacanth is obtained, grow on the mountain ranges which surround the Persian plain. The bushes producing the gum grow to a height of two feet. In the spring when the sap rises a part of the branches are cut away, thereby allowing the sap to flow out, which coagulates within a few hours on the surface of the stalk. An American Consular report states that the price of gum-tragacanth has increased 5 to 10 per cent. since the outbreak of hostilities in Europe. The principal Persian markets for gum-tragacanth are

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Hamadan, Shiraz, Karman, and Kermanshah. From 150 to 200 tons are exported annually from Hamadan alone. Before August 1, 1914, half of this amount was shipped to Russia and the other half to America and Great Britain; but since that date the amount shipped to Russia has been reduced to one-fifth, the other four-fifths going to America and Great Britain.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants. LONDON, March 1.

The market has been active this past week, with considerable business done at more or less higher prices than those quoted last week. Speculation is still going on, and, as mentioned in last report, prices may go higher.

Sultanas.

There is a steady demand without any particular change in prices. Afghan and Indian fruit continue to attract attention, while Greek and Cretan is somewhat neglected.

Figs.

The market is rather quiet and prices unchanged

Dates.

There has been a better demand with business done at late rates.

Seeds.

Linseed is inactive and lower. London-Calcutta spot is quoted 81s., afloat 81s., February-March and March-April 81s. La Plata-Hull February-March and March-April quoted 74s. 6d. Cotton seed is dull. London-Egyptian on spot is offered at £14, and February at £14 10s. per ton. Rapeseed remains very quiet. Toria-Hull, March, 74s.

Oils.

Linseed oil is quiet and easier. Spot pipes landed are offered £44; barrels, ditto, £45; March-April, £44 10s.; May-August, £45 10s.; September-December, £46 10s. Rape oil is steady. Ordinary brown, naked spot, £52; English refined barrels, £54 to £56. Cotton oil is quiet. Crude spot pipes, £42 10s.; refined pale pipes, £47 10s.; and barrels sweet, £51 to £52 as to make.

Oilcakes.

Cotton Cakes.—Only a small quantity of Egyptian is available on spot, for which holders ask £9 17s. 6d. to £10, while there are sellers of afloat shipments at £9 13s. 6d. to £9 15s. 6d. ex ship. English are unaltered, while Bombays £9 5s. per ton is asked. Linseed Cakes.—There has been an improvement in the market with a better consumptive demand, but no speculative inquiry is noticeable. Quotations have a hardening tendency. Best London make is offered at £12 15s. to £13, while fine seedy Calcutta is offered at £13 to £13 5s. per ton.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture has purchased 16,000 ardebs of cotton seeds from Messrs. Carver and Messrs. Benachi, of Alexandria, at the rate of from P.T. 140 to P.T. 145 per ardeb. The price was paid a few days ago through the Alexandria Governorate. The seeds, which are required for the poorer class of the fellahin, have been ordered to be forwarded to the various Merakez, where they are wanted. The goods will be resold there at the rate of P.T. 150 per ardeb for cash and P.T. 168 for delayed payment, including all expenses.

PROSPERITY IN EGYPT.

The many investors interested in Egypt (says the *Observer*) can rest assured that the country is flourishing, as the financial figures show. The fellaheen are doing well with their cereals and sugar crops, and the improvement should continue. As regards cotton, it will be recalled that the Government put the 1915 crop down at 4,863,000 cantars, and as some of the 1914 crop was still held up in the provinces, estimated the total deliveries at the end of the agricultural year as rather higher. Already 4,000,000 cantars have arrived at Alexandria and all but 500,000 cantars have been exported. Stocks are decidedly lower than a year ago. Cotton is still coming into the ginneries, and stocks are still held up. As Egypt is not half-way through the agricultural year, there is every prospect that when August arrives the 1914-1915 crop figure of 6,320,000 cantars may be attained, despite the short 1915 crop. An indication of the altered conditions is seen in the fact that the value of the exports of cotton and cottonseed are greatly in excess of a year ago.

As far as the prospects of the 1916 crop are concerned, it is early to say much. Sowing has commenced in Upper Egypt. But there is a chance that the area will not return to the 1,700,000 feddans level from the 1,186,000 feddans level to which it was reduced by the operation of the 1914 decree. The reasons are that cottonseed is phenomenally dear (P.T. 150 per ardeb, against P.T. 100-110 normally). An ardeb is required for three feddans of land, and the fellah may prefer to stick to his cereals, which have paid him well. Moreover, good cottonseed has been in short supply. The shortage and dearness of coal, which is nearly four times its usual price, are serious, for the fellaheen use a quantity for their irrigation pumps, especially at the cotton sowing period. The Government is taking exceptional measures in regard to raising the water-level in the canals, so that the trouble may be obviated.

DEBTS OF THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE.

Zakaria Bey Namek, a well-known lawyer of Beni Suef and member of the Legislative Assembly for that province, has compiled a very interesting report on the debts of the Egyptian population. The writer, according to the *Egyptian Gazette*, gives a statement of such debts in 1913 as compared with those in 1906 and 1900. This statement shows that the debts have risen from 140 million frs. in 1900 to 540 millions in 1906 and 1,175 millions in 1913. He criticises the system resorted to by the mortgaging banks of expropriating the mortgaged property when the owners delay the payment of the instalments due, and thinks that owing to the war and the difficult circumstances in which landowners are placed at present the banks should deal with their debtors in a more lenient way, and thus avoid the sale of the mortgaged property at very low prices, as is the case at present.

Namek Bey advises the Government to interfere and to seek a solution in which the interests of both the banks and the proprietors may be guarded. He thinks that this could be executed if sequestors were appointed from among notables and officials to administer such estates for five years, after which they would revert to their normal condition, and the proprietors would thus have their properties saved, while the banks would be able to recover their debts.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Reuter reported from Amsterdam on February 29 that a telegram from Constantinople announced that the Turkish Senate, after a short debate, in the course of which Talaat Bey reviewed the financial situation, adopted the Budget, with only one dissentient voice.

The Roumanian Budget for 1916 amounts to 600,000,000 lei, the same as that for 1915.

The Sofia Budget for 1916 allows for 7,874,560 frs. ordinary and 6,445,292 frs. extraordinary expenditure.

In a message from Athens British exporters are advised to discard their fears to make shipments to Greece owing to the uncertainty of the future. It is pointed out that they run the greater risk of seeing the Greek market monopolised by foreign competitors, notably Americans, and that there are hundreds of articles outside the Allied restrictions for which Greece is prepared to pay cash on delivery.

It is announced from Athens that, as the result of Great Britain's refusal to supply the full quantity of sulphate of copper demanded by Greece, the Greek Government has applied to the United States.

During last year the Greek Government paid £10,699 to this country as an instalment of the Greek Loan, leaving £689,402 due.

The Bulgarian Government has prohibited the exportation of soap.

The House of Commons is to be asked to vote £198,019, additional sums required for various branches of the Civil Service, and it includes £37,339 for the purchase of some property adjoining the Residency at Cairo.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the eleven days ended January 31 amounted to £E7,713, as against £E6,304 for the corresponding period of 1915.

GREEK GOVERNMENT 5 PER CENT. LOAN OF 1914.—The coupons which fell due on March 1 should be presented for payment between the hours of 11 and 2, at the office of Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son, 70, Old Broad Street, or at the office of Messrs. Emile Erlanger and Co., 8, Crosby Square, E.C., or at the London County and Westminster Bank, Ltd., Lothbury, where lists may be obtained.

PRINCE LINE.—The directors have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., payable March 4.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Production for the week ended 19th ult., 721 tons.

SUEZ CANAL.—Receipts for the 26th and 27th ult. amounted to 290,000 francs., as compared with 510,000 francs for the corresponding days last year.

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MONTENEGRIN BANK NOTES.

The Budapest correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports from a Hungarian source that M. Jergovich, a Montenegrin ex-Minister of Finance, told a journalist in an interview that the total debts of Montenegro amount to £4,000,000, and that the financial reorganisation of the country would be a very great task. During the war, the Government issued a loan in the interior of the country amounting to nine million crowns (£360,000). Together with the loan which Montenegro received from England, the whole of the money was spent on the army and equipments, for which they had to pay in gold.

The journalist, who had an interview with M. Jergovich, then says:—"In the streets of Cettinje, one can see everywhere large numbers of bank notes lying on the ground. The children play with them, and some of the most ragged juveniles claim numberless thousands as their possession."

These bank notes had been called in by the Government with the idea of issuing new notes, and the notes were strung on string and piled in great bags in the Treasury building. When the Austrian soldiers entered the capital, these bags were ransacked and thrown out. The new notes have not been issued, and so it came about that the Montenegrin children came into possession of this apparent wealth, which is utterly worthless. Learning that in distant parts of the country these notes are still being circulated, the present Government issued a warning information to the people, saying that they do not accept responsibility for their circulation. No other money was found in the Treasury except the many bags with the notes mentioned. Montenegro was perfectly penniless at the time of the Austrian occupation of the capital.

SOCIETE DE REGIE DES REVENUS AFFECTES au SERVICE de la DETTE PUBLIQUE HELLENIQUE.

BILAN du 1er JUILLET au 31 DECEMBRE, 1915 (v s.).

ACTIF.

Valeurs helléniques en or déposées à la Banque d'Angleterre.

L.S. 90,000 oblig,	4,500	Emp.	4%	Monop.	Fr.	988,537.50
,, 49,500 ,,	2,475	,,	5%	1881	,,	506,199.35
,, 10,000 ,,	500	,,	5%	1884	,,	101.315.65
,, 41,560 ,,	2,078	,,	5%	1890	,,	404 000.—
					Fr.	2,000,052.50

En Portefeuille:—

L.S. 1,440 oblig. 72 Emp. 5% 1890		Fr.	12,951,25
Emprunt hellénique 5% unifié:—			
Déposées à la Banque Nat de Grèce .....Obl.	28,000	Dr.	2,800,000.—
En Portefeuille..... ,,	16,156	,,	1,624,590.10
Emprunt National 5% 1900 .... ,,	1,995	,,	198,852.50
Débiteurs à l'étranger..		Fr.	62,720.75
Dépôts pour compte de la Commission Financière Internationale.....	Dr. 9,562,640.86 / Fr. 884,626.65	Dr.	10,447,267.51
Comptes divers avec le Tresor	Dr. 1,856.562.28 / Fr. 9,674.77	,,	1,866,237.05
Agents des Dépôts de vente.....		Dr.	2,500,675.18
Contrevaleur des articles timbrés à livrer	Dr. 10,211,474.33 / Fr. 1,144,671.45	,,	11,356,145.78
Articles de Monopole en cours d'expédition		Dr.	709,678.35
Comptes provisoires ..		,,	185,646.94
Comptes divers.....	Dr. 1,049,118.95 / Fr. 239,928.05	,,	1,289,047.—
Créances en Suspens ..		Dr.	15,126.15
Frais d'installation....		,,	17,503.60
Caisse		,,	409,981.94
		Dr.	35,586,476.60

PASSIF.

apital Social.....		Fr.	4,000,000.—
Réserve pour différence monétaire des valeurs helléniques en drachmes.....		Dr.	1,000,000.—
Réserve statutaire		,,	436,271.86
Fonds de réserve provenant de la prime des nouv. actions.....		Fr.	450,581.40
Fonds d'assurances....		Dr.	197,656.60
Réserve extraordinaire		,,	550,500.—
Comptes avec l'étranger		Fr.	172.20
Comptes divers des revenus affectés ..	Dr. 25,125,251.27 / Fr. 2,109,972.61	Dr.	27,235,223.88
Comptes provisoires ..		Dr.	45,912.85
Comptes divers.....	Dr. 1,170,241.81 / Fr. 122,051.50	,,	1,292,293.31
Dividendes de semestres précédents non réclamés		Fr.	9,187.—
Dividende à répartir ..		Dr.	336,000.—
Solde à nouveau		,,	32,677.50
		Dr.	35,586,476.60

PROFITS ET PERTES.

Doit.

Frais de transport des articles du Monopole :.....Dr.		372.269.95
Frais de transport des articles timbrés ,,		67,897.10
Appointements et rémunération du personnel de la Direction Centrale, des Agents des Dépôts, des Inspecteurs, loyers, etc. ..... ,,		330,473.45
Frais de transport du numéraire ..... ,,		6,207.30
Amortissement de comptes en souffrance ..... ,,		1,172.45
Retenues pour procès pendants..... ,,		60,000.
Patente .. .. ,,		5,673.05
Solde disponible ..... ,,		416,885.44
	Dr.	1,260,578.74

Avoir.

Solde Du Bilan précédent.....Dr.		31,790.50
Intérêts etc. acquis sur le Capital Social ,,		203,934.34
Commissions et indemnités sur les articles de Monopole ..... ,,		949,422.24
Commissions et indemnités sur les recettes des articles timbrés ..... ,,		75,431.66
	Dr.	1,260,578.74

REPARTITION DES BENEFICES Dr. 416,885.44.

Intérêts du Capital Social revenant aux Actionnaires .....Dr.		203,934.34
Prélèvement de 5% pour réserve statutaire sur Dr.155,371.36 du bénéfice industriel..... ,,		7,768.56
Dividende de 85% sur Dr.165,371.36 reparti aux Actionnaires ..... ,,		132,065.66
Idem de 10% sur Dr.155,371.36 attribué au Conseil d'Administration Dr.15,537.13, moins impôts 5% Dr.776.85 ..... ,,		14,760.28
Impôt de 5% sur Dr.15 537.13 ..... ,,		776 85
Impôt de 5% sur Dr.360,912 25..... ,,		18.045.10
Droit de timbre 2% sur Dr. 342,857.15.. ,,		6,857.15
Solde à nouveau ..... ,,		32,677.50
	Dr.	416,885.44

REPARTIR AUX ACTIONNAIRES.

Intérêts du Capital Social ..... Dr.		203,934.34
Bénéfice de la régie et de la perception des revenus affectés ..... ,,		132,065.66
Total ..... Dr.		336,000.—

Soit: francs or 10.50 pour dividende du Coupon No. 35.

Athènes le 9/22 Janvier 1916.

Le Président du Conseil d'Administration,
J. COUNDOURIOTIS.

L'Administrateur Directeur-Général,
AS. TH. ZAIMIS.

Le dividende à frs. or 10.50 par Action est payable sur présentation du coupon No. 35 à partir du 15-28 Janvier 1916.

A Athènes à la Caisse de la Société.
,, Londres chez Messieurs C. J. Hambro et Fils.
,, Berlin à la Nationalbank für Deutschland et chez Monsieur S. Bleichröder.
,, Constantinople chez Monsieur L. Zarifi.

THE GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to December 31, 1915 (New Style: January 14, 1915, to January 13, 1916):—

		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Pirœus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Dec.,	1915	2,423,582	1,553,000
Do. do. do	1914	2,630,367	2,375,605
Estimated Receipts for 12 months (Law of Contrc:)		28,900,000	10,700,000
Actual Receipts, 12 months,	1915	35,308,588	23,344,887
Do. do. do.,	1914	36,193,454	26,894,096
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 12 months	1915	+ 6,408.588	+12.644,887
	1914	+ 7,293,454	+16,194,096

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

With reference to the Trading with the Enemy (China, Siam, Persia, and Morocco) Proclamation, 1915, and to the Trading with the Enemy (Liberia and Portuguese East Africa) Proclamation, 1915, it is notified that inquiries as to whether specified firms in Persia and Morocco are desirable as consignees of goods, from the point of view of possible trading with the enemy, may now be made at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907..	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909..	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909 ..	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan ..	93⅛	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	78
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	67
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	65
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	52	54
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	52	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	45½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	43½
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	52	51½
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902 ..	77	—	58
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	75½xd
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.....	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855..	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	78
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	69
Do. 4 % Loan, 1903	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)..	4½	—	4½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.....	80	—	69½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red...	83	—	71½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	—	9½
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens.....	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	6	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited.....	3½	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	11½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅞	—	12
Do do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅞
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb. ..	57	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb...	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds..	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares) ..	1⅛	—	11/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt....	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	3⅛	—	5/8
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/-
Do. Def.	⅜	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	8/-
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	—	4⅜
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	1
,, ,, Founders	⅛	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	-	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red. ..	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	75
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	6/
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10⅜
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt..	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1⅜	—	⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1/-	—	23/-
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	—	15/9
Do. 6 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	16/-
Do. do. Prefs.....	3⅜	—	3⅜
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt. ..	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2⅜	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	March 1.
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	⅜	7/9
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	19/-
European Oilfields	4/9	2/6
Roumanian.....	20/-	12/3

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Feb. 22.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane ..	—	402
Canal de Suez	4050	3895
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	600
Turkish Unified 4%	59.95	57.50
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	87
Serbian, 1895	—	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 253.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

To the fall of Erzeroum has now to be added the capture of Bitlis by the Russians, in circumstances which make the feat almost more remarkable than the previous achievement. On March 2 the town was attacked at three o'clock in the morning during a snowstorm at the point of the bayonet, without a shot being fired. After a desperate resistance, the garrison was forced to retire. The position occupied by the Turkish artillery was captured after hand-to-hand fighting, in which all the defenders were killed. Twenty guns of Krupp's latest type, all in good condition, were taken, and in Bitlis itself was found a large depôt of artillery ammunition.

Meanwhile the right wing of the Russian line is driving the enemy before it along the Black Sea littoral. Before the Russian advance on Erzeroum the Turks occupied a strong position at Arkhava, a short distance from the frontier. They were attacked and driven out of this place in the middle of February, but, thanks to the configuration of the country, were able to offer a strenuous resistance in a series of positions separated by only a few miles from one another. The last of these to be held by the Turks was a little to the east of Atina, and rather than risk a frontal attack the Russians on March 4, under cover of the guns of the fleet, landed a force at Atina. From the wording of the official report, which states that, "advancing rapidly south, the Russian troops forced the Turks to evacuate their position," we must infer that the bulk of the force east of Atina made good its escape, as only 200 prisoners were taken on the occasion of the landing. Atina is sixteen miles from Rizeh, and sixty miles from Trebizond. The Russian advance continues in this sector, and Rizeh has also been occupied. It is doubtful, indeed, whether the Turks will be able to offer any formidable resistance east of Trebizond. A second Russian force was reported at Ispir some days before. Between it and Trebizond lies a high range, but the two forces, with the help of the Russian fleet, will probably seal the doom of the Black Sea port before Turkish reinforcements can reach it.

With the Russian line threatening Trebizond and extending south as far as Bitlis, there can be no doubt as to the seriousness of the thrust from the Turkish point of view. The menace, however, is not to Constantinople, but to Baghdad. The Russian successes will have disturbed the equanimity of the Turco-German clique which rules the capital, but they will have rendered the Turkish forces at Baghdad, or based upon it, anxious for their personal safety. If the present rate of the Russian advance be maintained, it cannot be long before the Baghdad line of communications, with its railhead at Nisibin, less than 200 miles south-east of Bitlis, is threatened. Already the route by which a number of troops will have been sent to Mesopotamia is in Russian hands, and east of Bitlis there will probably be a long gap in the Turkish line of defence. To complete the discomfiture of the enemy, it is essential that an immediate attempt should be made to reach Baghdad from the south. The British Mesopotamian force is some 150 miles away, but it has not yet acquired the momentum of the forces which our Allies have launched against the Turks in the north. True, it is operating at a great distance from its base, and unforeseen difficulties have arisen. But a relief expedition which does not relieve introduces a new term into British military phraseology, and one which ought not to be allowed to remain.

The last news from Kut dealt with General Townshend's request for vegetable seeds and gramophone records. As a testimony to the garrison's spirits the request was unexceptionable, but its publication in an official *communiqué* has not altogether relieved the public mind of anxiety for the safety of General Townshend's force. The absence of further news from this front after such a chatty description of life from day to day in beleaguered Kut is naturally commented upon, and surprise is expressed that more practical contributions should not be made to the public knowledge of how things really stand with this British force. The interest in Kut and its gallant garrison is not only personal. It is linked with concern for the future of British prestige in this part of the world. It is just as important that Baghdad should be taken by British troops with the least possible delay as that General Townshend should be relieved. There was recently a

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show of activity on the part of the relief expedition, but the message stopped somewhat ominously with a reference to the possibility of floods, and the rest is silence.

In Persia the Russians have continued their pursuit of the Turks west of Kermanshah. A further report speaks of the occupation, after an engagement, of the town of Bijar, ninety miles to the north-west of Hamadan. This is the first intimation of the enemy's forces in this part of the country being in two detachments. If the northern force consists of Persian irregulars only they will probably melt into space before the Russian troops. If there should be Turks or Germans among them, it should be possible for the Russians, who have reached Cola, twenty-seven miles west of Kermanshah, to cut off their retreat, whether they try to gain Baghdad or to link up with the Turkish forces which have been dispersed in the neighbourhood of Lake Van.

Apart from the Russian successes west and north-west of Kermanshah, the best news from Persia is contained in some belated information in the *Cologne Gazette*, which seems to indicate that the Germans are beginning to recognise that as far as that country is concerned they can throw up the sponge. A Hungarian deputy, we are told, who was formerly counsellor of legation, was sent out in January, 1915, "to Persia and Afghanistan, where he formerly acted in a diplomatic capacity, with the object of agitating against the Russians and the British." On the way to Afghanistan, however, the praiseworthy mission was rudely interrupted by the would-be agitator, Rakovsky by name, being attacked by Persian tribesmen and barely escaping with his life. This experience caused him to set his face at once in a homeward direction, and, after staying at Mosul and Baghdad, he finally reached Constantinople a few weeks ago. His verdict was that it was no use counting upon Persia, as complete anarchy reigned in the country. A second message to the *Cologne Gazette* reaches it from a Swede, Major Frisch, who was attached to the Persian Gendarmerie as instruction officer. He gives vent to the grievances of the Swedish Gendarmerie officers against one of their number, Major Nyström, who is spoken of as the present commandant of the force. The head and front of Major Nyström's offending appears to have been that he did not fall in with the plan of his brother officers to remove the Shah from Teheran to Ispahan and generally to embroil the Persians with Russia and Great Britain. Major Frisch is as pessimistic as Radovsky, for he ends up his recital by stating that the Swedish officers left behind in Persia are fighting a hopeless struggle, as they are opposed to an army of 40,000 men.

The anomalous position in Greece, where the Government is engaged in building a bridge to accommodate its own withdrawal from an untenable position to that occupied all along by the majority of the nation, finds a curious echo among the Greeks in Egypt. The Hellenic community in Alexandria has been thrown all agog by two incidents which happened almost simultaneously. Last July, at a time when feeling among Greeks ran high owing to the political crisis in Greece, a member of the Greek Club in Alexandria, a strong Venezelist, appears to have declared in that building, in the course of a heated discussion on affairs in the mother country that he was ashamed of being a Greek. Such a statement was held to be a statutory offence, and during February he was tried and sentenced to seven days' imprisonment by the Greek Consular Court. On the top of this trouble the Consul-General, who is held responsible for the harsh treatment of the unfortunate Venezelist, made a speech at a school fête, in which he pointed out that King Constantine's Government was following a line of policy solely dictated by the interests of Greece, and that the policy of the Opposition was against Greek interests. The Government, he is reported to have added, was co-operating with the Allies, there was no other course of action possible, and when the time came about, half a million bayonets would defend the country. On the evidence supplied the impartial observer will have a shrewd suspicion that the Greek Consul-General at Alexandria was offering a humble brick towards the Government's bridge at Athens. But his compatriots on Egyptian soil resent consular politics in any shape or form, and ask, if no other course of action save that of co-operation with the Allies is possible, what becomes of "the Government's cries of indignation against the Allies or the statement that scarcely 20 per cent. of the Greeks want to co-operate with the Allies"? The answer is that the cries and the statement will share the fate of many other winged words, because for the moment bridge-building is the most profitable occupation.

The death of "Carmen Sylva," the gifted Queen Dowager of Roumania, is a loss to Europe as a whole. To the Roumanians she was essentially Elizabeth the Good, for, having come amongst them as a foreigner, she identified herself entirely with her adopted country, devoting both her heart and her talents to Roumania's good. Her world-wide reputation as a poetess was used to make Roumania better known and better understood among the nations; her motherly instincts and orderly mind found expression in the organisation of Red Cross work during the war of 1877-78 and in the promotion of native arts and industries. At the same time her own enthusiasm for the arts and literature helped to foster their pursuit in the young kingdom. The welcome awaiting every true artist or man of knowledge at the Roumanian Court did much to keep Roumania in touch with the Western world of science, art, and literature. The brief summary of her will reflects the trend of her life's devotion. She prays Heaven to bless the Roumanian people, which is gifted with many excellent qualities that reserve for it a brilliant future. She leaves all the properties which she possesses in Roumania for various benefactions. Large sums are left to Queen Marie, to be expended for charitable purposes, and arrangements are made for providing dowries for poor girls and subventions to Roumanian artists studying abroad.

The news from Egypt this week records the reoccupation of Barani, on the western frontier, which had been in the hands of the enemy for three months. This step follows upon the successful engagement of February 27, when the enemy's position was attacked and their leader, Nuri Bey, brother of Enver Pasha, was killed. Other indications point to the fact that the trouble with the Senussi is on the wane. It was engineered by Turco-German agency, and was artificial to the extent that it was based on false hopes of booty rather than on any pronounced enmity towards the Anglo-Egyptian forces. The booty having proved a vain quest, the object of the campaign has gone, and the clearing up of the remains of the trouble should not present great difficulty.

The question of enemy trading has exercised British public opinion in Egypt for some time past, with the result that the Government was at last obliged to take more drastic steps to deal with the matter. Ventilation of the subject has helped to strengthen the hands of the authorities, and there is good reason to suppose that the peculiar difficulties of the political situation having been overcome, the matter is now being dealt with satisfactorily.

There has been a great deal of discussion lately about the stringency of the regulations that prohibit English ladies from going to Egypt. So far as the wives of military officers are concerned, it is clear that the judgment of the military authorities must be regarded as final. It is also conceivable that exceptions in the case of the wives of civil residents might prove undesirable, particularly if they tried to bring with them their sisters, cousins, or aunts. The very stringency of the regulations, in short, is probably the best safeguard against their effectiveness being counteracted. But this does not alter the fact that several cases of real hardship have come to light. The authorities in Egypt have had to deal with a difficult and constantly changing situation, and have treated it with remarkable success. We have no doubt therefore that they will manage to deal with cases of actual hardship on their merits.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 22.

The High Commissioner.

H.E. the High Commissioner, accompanied by Lady McMahon, has just paid a short visit to the Canal zone. Whilst at Ismailia they were the guests of the Count de Serionne, the Superintendent of the Suez Canal Company. His Excellency inspected all the defence works, which have been organised in that zone.

The Fall of Erzeroum.

All things considered, the fall of Erzeroum has had an excellent effect here. Many Egyptians know little about the town, and there is no doubt that they would have been far more impressed if a centre like Baghdad had been captured. All the same, the significance of the Russian victory is generally realised, and it is recognised, even by those who were disposed to credit the Germans and the Turks with serious intentions with regard to Egypt, that the reverse suffered by the latter in the Caucasus has settled all danger of any attack on this country; while at the same time it will considerably weaken the resistance which will be offered to us in Mesopotamia.

The Situation on the Western Frontier.

On the western frontier we have been somewhat active. Small parties of hostile Bedouin have been reported in the Farafra and Beharia oases, and strong reinforcements of troops were hurried to the Fayum and points further to the south, as it was thought that these Bedouin might try to raid the towns and villages on the west bank of the Nile. No fighting has occurred, however, anywhere along the western frontier, and at certain points the hostile bodies have gone off west again.

As a matter of fact there is considerable discord amongst the Bedouin elements who have been co-operating against us in the west. This is due in the first place to the traditional hostility that has always existed between the Tripolitan Arabs and the Aulad Ali, who are the preponderant tribes in the Eastern (*i.e.*, Egyptian) side of the frontier, and in the second place to the behaviour of the Turkish officers who have been directing operations. When the trouble on the frontier first broke out a great many of the Aulad Ali, and of the tribesmen of the neighbouring tribes, seduced from their loyalty to the Egyptian Government by the specious arguments of the Turkish emissaries, overcame their hatred of the Western Arabs, and, crossing over, joined with them in the attacks which were recently made on us. Some of these Eastern Arabs, it is true, were forced by threats and other subterfuges to fight against us, but the majority were undoubtedly tempted from their allegiance by the glowing prospects of booty held out to them. All went well for a time. The Eastern Arabs very soon found, however, that they were being made to do all the dirty work and bear all the brunt of the fighting. During the recent encounters the heaviest loss in life and property has fallen on them, and their protests have only called down upon their heads the harshest of treatment. Those who expressed their disgust at the disappointment of their hopes and at the non-fulfilment of the promises made to them, have been handled in the most disgraceful manner by the Tripolitan Arabs, who, encouraged by the Turkish officers, have been only too pleased to take advantage of their own numerical superiority and maltreat and coerce those of their Eastern neighbours who joined them.

Numbers of these Aulad Ali have managed to escape, and have come in to our lines since the last fight. They report that petitions have been sent to the Grand Sheikh of the Senussi by their tribes protesting against the treatment they have received; but as Sayed Ahmed El Sherif has lost all his influence, their appeal will, it is to be feared, have no effect. It is significant as showing that they realise this fact that the refugees have brought with them a petition from five sheikhs of one of the Aulad Ali tribes invoking the protection of the Anglo-Egyptian authorities against the Tripolitan Arabs.

From the tales of these refugees, who arrived in a pitiable condition, it is evident that the Aulad Ali have had quite enough of their partnership with the Tripolitan Arabs, and that, given the opportunity, all those who went over to them would be only too pleased to come back home again. Every consideration is being shown to the incoming refugees, who, it is recognised, have been the unfortunate victims of Turkish intriguers, and who are being housed and fed by the Anglo-Egyptian authorities in special encampments to the east of Mersa-Metruh. It is probable that the steady secession of the Eastern Arabs, which is continuing, added to the serious losses in life and cattle and property suffered by the Tripolitan Arabs, will cause the latter to withdraw still further to the West. Whether the back of their aggressive movement, such as it was, has been completely broken it is, perhaps, too early to say. The harvest is due at the end of next month, and we must wait until the Tripolitans have garnered in their crops and have their time once more on their hands, before we can tell whether the reverses we have so far inflicted upon them have really cowed them and shown them the folly of their ways. In any case, as I have stated before in this correspondence, nothing more serious than periodical raids and a guerrilla warfare on a small scale is to be anticipated in the West.

The Mixed Courts.

There is still no settlement of the question at issue between the Egyptian and Italian Governments, but it is now more confidently stated that the end is in sight, as it is understood that a formula acceptable to both sides has been found. I should like to take this opportunity of stating that negotiations are being carried on in the most friendly spirit.

Meanwhile, the Italian Consular Courts have received instructions from Rome to deal with all civil and commercial cases brought by foreigners or Egyptians against Italians. All such cases at present in the Mixed Courts cause list and not yet pleaded can be withdrawn from that jurisdiction and be entered before the Italian Consular Courts; but the Italian Government is of opinion that mixed cases in which the plaintiff is Italian can still be dealt with by the Mixed Courts. We shall know at the end of this week whether the latter endorse this view, for the question was raised on Thursday in the Mixed Court of Appeal in Alexandria by counsel for an Italian plaintiff, and the Procureur-Général promised to give his opinion after eight days' consideration.

The Egyptian G.P.O. and the Military Mails.

Reference has on more than one occasion been made in The Near East to the complaints of non-delivery of mails and parcels sent to the troops in Egypt. I gather that the impression is that the Egyptian Post Office is responsible for this state of affairs. This is, however, not the case, and a few words of explanation may, therefore, not be out of place. When the troops started to come to this country over a year ago it was proposed that—as had been arranged in connection with the rail-

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Count Michel A. de Zogheb, Cairo Manager.
ALEXANDRIA: Messrs. THE GABBARI STORAGE COMPY.
CYPRUS: NAJEM KOURY.

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ways and other services—the men in charge of the Egyptian Post Office should do the military work as well. The home authorities, however, for reasons best known to themselves, objected, and insisted on appointing and sending out their own staff. As a result, there has been throughout, and there still is in existence in this country, side by side with the Egyptian postal service, a second administration, which deals with and is solely responsible for the military mails, and over which the Egyptian postal officials have no control, although they have to do all the carrying of the mails in question. To all out here, who are aware of the efficiency of the Egyptian postal service, it has been a matter for surprise and deep regret that its valuable co-operation in such an important business as the handling of the military mails should have been dispensed with in this manner, and, considering the circumstances, it is no wonder that complaints have been rife as to the disposal of those mails. That there has been so little friction between the two authorities, and that the Egyptian service itself has suffered so little from the existence of this *imperium in imperio* is, I may add, entirely due to the tact and organising ability of the Egyptian Post Office staff, who have had, and are still having, no enviable strain put upon them.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, February 23.

The Legislative Council.

When the Council meets towards the end of March various draft laws will be introduced, among them one, which is much needed, to amend the law relating to the election of Mukhtars (village headmen). Various provisions in the existing law on the subject undoubtedly stand in need of amendment. For example, the last Annual Report mentioned that the Mukhtar, who is sometimes a moneylender holding judgments for debt against his fellow-villagers, is the authority for the execution of such writs—an obviously undesirable state of affairs.

Fate of a Cypriot Sailing Vessel.

On February 8 a sailing vessel, the Evangelistria, owned by a merchant of Kyrenia, G. Kharzalambou, was sunk by a French cruiser off the Papho coast, a crew of four being landed at Papho, and the skipper being detained. The vessel was returning from Rhodes, to which island it had, with permission of the authorities, taken a cargo. The master, it is said, had received orders to bring back olives, soap, or other non-contraband articles from Rhodes or other Greek islands. Report states that glycerine was found under consignments of soap and olives. According to the papers, the house and office of the owner have been searched, but nothing tending to incriminate him has been found. There can be no doubt that the French vessel had good reason for the action taken. Considerable excitement has been caused by the incident. It is stated that two submarines had been recently seen round the coasts. The matter is being further investigated.

The Convalescent Camp.

A large increase in the number of convalescents is expected. The accommodation has been considerably extended in late months near Limassol. The heat in Upper Egypt will soon render necessary the closing of such camps in those parts, and Cyprus will offer a welcome change. The Cyprus garrison will shortly be relieved by two new companies, one of which will probably be quartered at Nicosia.

A Cypriot Volunteer.

Among the volunteers serving in the Foreign Legion of the French army is a Cypriot from the village of Strovolo. The French Government has sent a first instalment of a generous allowance to his wife through the French Consul at Larnaca, M. Henri Bryois.

An earthquake shock was felt in parts of the island on February 22. Few years pass in Cyprus without tremors, especially in the west of the island, but there have been no serious shocks causing any damage for some time.

The island has again been without mails for a fortnight.

SUDAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Land Registration.

Judge G. W. Williamson, of the Land Court and Registry, Khartoum, is now on tour through the Provinces of Sennar and the Blue Nile, and is finding a plenitude of supervision work awaiting his attention. Judge Williamson has been ten years in the service of the Government, and is regarded as a sound authority upon all questions affecting the tenure of land and the benefits attending its agricultural development. The Administration for some time had the assistance of Mr. Ball, who a few years ago—1913—completed the settlement and registration of that part of Geteina District which lies on the east of the White Nile. Owing to the inhospitable character of this district, the work proved of a particularly arduous nature, and Mr. Ball was deemed to have done very well, especially in regard to the demarcation work carried out.

Judge Williamson has brought the work of his Court to a state of great perfection, and there is no question but that the benefits produced by the settlement of agricultural land have been numerous. The most satisfactory result perhaps is that it terminates, it is hoped for all time, the litigation which formerly took up so much of the time both of the landowners and the provincial staff. As an instance it may be mentioned that after the settlement referred to the entire number of land cases heard in Judge Williamson's Court for the year did not exceed five.

That the work of the Land Registration Court is not slight is proved by the fact that during the same period there were no fewer than 3,995 documents registered, representing in fees £E2,375. Of this total, 509 registrations were debited to the Blue Nile Agricultural Lands, while 980 were those of Omdurman. Although Khartoum only registered 372 claims, it paid by far the larger amount in fees—namely, £E1,154 out of the total mentioned, £E2,375. This was, however, only for Khartoum and Khartoum North Lands; the Province Agricultural Lands represented in addition 575 registrations, calling for fees amounting to £E256. At present little or nothing of importance is being recorded in the town or province of Khartoum in regard to land transactions.

Archæological Excavations.

The arrival of Dr. G. A. Reisner at Kerma, in the Dongola Province of the Sudan, indicates that the work on the excavations there, which had been interrupted since the outbreak of the war, is to be renewed. Dr. Reisner is in a peculiarly favourable situation, since the greater part of the funds for the carrying on of his valuable work is contributed by his wealthy University, that of Harvard; while the larger portion of the money necessary to carry on the excavations at Meroë and Napata emanates from the Universities of Liverpool and the Sudan Excavations Committee in the first instance, and from the University of Oxford in the second. It can very easily be understood why neither of the great English Universities at the present moment finds it possible or expedient to find the funds for further exploration work in the Sudan. In the absence of private support, it may be some time yet before either Professor John Garstang or Professor F. Llewellyn Griffith can take up the valuable work at Meroë and Napata where it was temporarily abandoned.

It was originally intended that Dr. Reisner should devote part of his season in 1915 to the number of mounds north of the cemetery of the Hyksos period at Kerma, which still awaited unearthing; it is this most interesting and instructive work that is now being proceeded with. It is believed that the results will enable us to detect that there were garrisons in the Sudan even earlier than that which held the Northern Sudan in the Hyksos period. This garrison, Dr. Reisner tells us, held Kerma during the Middle Empire, and the buildings—five in number—unburied by him had been built or reconstructed during this time.

Dr. Reisner is considered one of the greatest living authorities upon both Egyptian and Sudanese antiquities, and each year until last he passed several months at the excavation camp in Kerma.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, February 20.

The Forces at Salonika.

The growing importance of the concentration of Franco-British troops and of the fortified camp at Salonika, which has now become quite impregnable, taken together with the attitude of the Germans and their allies, who dare not undertake the much-talked-of attack, and with the capture of Erzeroum and the advance of the Russians, has made a great impression upon anti-Ententist circles, especially military circles. The latter, as the Venizelist Press calls to mind, formerly, through the Ministerialist journals, advised the Franco-British troops at Salonika to save themselves ere the Germans arrived to drive them into the sea, and offered the assistance of Greek troops to cover their retreat and embarkation. Then, it was said, it would be impossible for the 200,000 Franco-British troops to resist more than fifteen hours; the German torrent would overwhelm them! Now those who indulged in such prophecies are disillusioned by observing the strength of the Allied force in men and in guns; while the Serbians, whom they (the prophets) regarded as completely demolished, are on the high road to complete recovery, and will form a force of about 200,000 men to be added to the French and British at Salonika, bringing the total strength up to over half a million men.

These facts have utterly disconcerted the anti-Ententists, who dare neither to say nor to write anything further; and now it is beginning to be understood, even in high places, that if Greece had neutralised the action of Bulgaria at the psychological moment the Germans would never have crossed the Danube. It now remains to be seen if the change in the situation, which affords Greece every security, will decide her to take part in the great struggle. Unfortunately, for the moment at least, there are no indications of any change of the kind.

The Visit of General Sarrail.

The abstention in a body of all the members of the Cabinet from the official luncheon given at the Legation in honour of General Sarrail, to which they were invited, was a fresh manifestation against the Entente, and particularly against France, which leads one to think that no such intervention as that referred to above is likely. One thing, however, is certain: there has been a marked improvement in the relations between the Greek military authorities and those of the Allies at Salonika, and it is this which has rendered possible the visit of General Sarrail to Athens, his reception by the King, and the acceptance by the members of the Staff of the invitation to the official luncheon.

The Italians at Corfu.

The landing of Italian carabiniers at Corfu has raised a diplomatic and political question between Italy and Greece, and has stirred up a feeling of strong indignation throughout the country, especially in Corfu, which led to an unfortunate incident in the Chamber. The explanation given, that the presence of the Italians at Corfu has no other aim than to demonstrate the unity of action of the Entente Powers, has not carried conviction to the Greeks, since Italian co-operation has not been forthcoming at Salonika, at Mytilene, at Lemnos, or elsewhere, and Italy has always been suspected of harbouring designs on Corfu. As a matter of fact the Greeks cannot bring themselves to regard Italy in the same light as they regard the three other Powers in the Entente, who have always been the protectors of Greece, and from whom she has nothing to fear. Italy, as a neighbouring country, following an imperialist policy, is here regarded as a natural rival to Greece both in the Balkans and in the Ægean basin, and the Greeks, irrespective of party, will never forgive Italy for having filched the island of Rhodes. For these reasons it is held in certain directions that the other Powers ought not to have allowed Italy to take part in the French occupation of Corfu, and the incident has given rise to much dissatisfaction.

The Incident in the Chamber.

The maladroit attitude of the Government, which has allowed a deputy from Corfu to insult the Italian people, its Army and its King, from the tribune, without saying a single word of disapproval, compelled it afterwards to make the *amende honorable* by inserting in the official report of the sitting a statement that the Corfu deputy had been reprimanded by the President of the Chamber. What is more, M. Skouloudis has had to submit to some very strong remonstrances on the part of the Italian Government. Apropos of this incident the *Patris* recalls that when M. Venizelos foresaw this conflict of interests the Gounaris Government considered that the adhesion of Italy to the Entente would not be at all prejudicial to the interests of Greece.

Greece and Roumania.

A Ministerial journal which is reported to be inspired by M. Gounaris announced that the Roumanian Government has frequently expressed to the Athens Cabinet a desire to enter into closer relations with Greece, and that, as the Greek Government also recognize the desirability of this course, it is not improbable that a *rapprochement* may be reached shortly. This understanding, says the Ministerial journal, would aim, not at joining in the European struggle, but at preventing any excessive aggrandisement of Bulgaria or any other Balkan State to the detriment of Greek or Roumanian interests.

Commenting on these pronouncements, the *Patris* observes that "we must not allow ourselves to be deluded. Roumania understands quite well that after the crushing of Serbia, the Treaty of Bucharest, which constituted the point of contact between herself and Greece, is no longer in existence. Had Greece abandoned her neutrality in February or in August of last year, Roumania would certainly have done likewise; now, if the turn of events in the Balkans should decide her to join in the struggle and to co-operate with the Allies, she will do so without having any need to wait for the adhesion of Greece, who has become a factor of hardly second-rate importance. Greece, no longer able to take the initiative, will then see herself bound, willy-nilly, to follow the course of events in order not to find herself isolated and annihilated.

The Cost of Living in Athens.

The faulty distribution of supplies by the authorities appointed for this purpose has resulted in a lack of the principal provisions, not only in the provinces, but in Athens itself. Thus, incredible though it may seem to some of your readers, the inhabitants of the Greek capital, finding themselves unable to buy sugar, have been driven to replace it by honey. Holders of sugar sell it clandestinely at fabulous prices—2 frs. 50 and 3 frs. the oke (a little over a kilo); and this state of things has compelled the Government to requisition a large quantity of sugar, which will be sold at more or less reasonable prices. But, taken all round, the cost of living has become much higher in Greece than in Germany. Flour costs 90 centimes the oke, rice 1 fr. 50, beans 1 fr. 80, potatoes 80 c., olive oil 2 frs. 20 to 2 frs. 60, and so on.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

February 12.

The Threatened Attack.

Attack or no attack?—that is the question. It is discussed in all the newspapers, in all the camps, in all the cafés, in every place where men do congregate, and all come to the same conclusion—that the question still remains unsolved. The subsidised pro-German Press tell us the attack is imminent, as they have told us at intervals since last November. With monotonous reiteration they repeat in the form of telegrams, purporting to come from Bucharest, Rome, Paris—any place except their real birthplace, Berlin, or even Salonika itself—the tale that the Germans and their allies are concentrating large forces at Monastir, and that they will advance in ten days, five days, at once! But the Salonikians are not to be moved by these Wolfferies; the Allies here are not alarmed in the least, neither are they. Indeed, the former are now so confident of their strength that, as far as I can learn from conversations with both officers and men, they only pray that the news may be true. They would thoroughly welcome the attack, and they are quite prepared to give the enemy the very warmest reception.

These false cries of "Wolf! wolf!" (should it not now be spelled Wolff?) have been repeated so often that the people of Salonika refuse to be alarmed by them. Therefore, on the inspiration of Baron Schenk's organs in Athens, the local newspapers have gone off on another tack. They declare that Salonika is to undergo a further series of murderous bombardments from Zeppelins and aeroplanes, and advise the inhabitants to abandon the town *en masse*. Some weak souls may have been influenced by these threats; but the people are not going to leave, and that for two reasons. In the first place, they know the Allies have taken such fresh precautions that further serious aerial attacks are extremely unlikely, and, in the second place, they are making so much money out of the Allied troops that even if the enemy were at the very gates they would hesitate to give up such a lucrative business.

Salonika in Darkness.

In a previous letter I referred to the pathetic appeals made by the gas and electric light companies to the public imploring them to economise both these supplies, because of the shortage of coal at the works. The people do not seem to have paid much attention to these appeals. Then, just in the nick of time, the obliging Zeppelin came along, and now the Greek and Allied authorities have enforced an order that all lights in the main streets be extinguished and that interior illumination in the cafés and shops should be greatly reduced after a certain hour in the evening. Some people wickedly suggest that the gas and electric light companies must have been in league with the enemy in order to bring about the result so much desired. In any case, it is a ticklish operation to find one's way home now after 10 o'clock p.m.—for which reason the change is calculated to encourage sobriety. The main streets are then in absolute darkness. And such streets! Narrow and irregular, with here and there a hole or a mud puddle—just as the Turks left them. The belated pedestrian has, nevertheless, to keep his nose high up in the air in order to guide himself as much as possible by the appearance of the sky between the house tops on either side. I have not seen London since the commencement of the war, but it cannot be so bad as this. In any case, the streets there are level and clean underfoot.

British Lady Prisoner in Bulgaria.

Miss Joy Whitehead, a Canadian young lady who joined one of the Red Cross units in Serbia early in the present war, has not been heard of for a long time, and her friends are getting anxious about her. An American newspaper reports that she is now a prisoner in the hands of the Bulgarians. She was connected with one of the hospital units for a time, and acted occasionally as chauffeur (or "chauffeuse"?). She appears to have been a very courageous girl, and always wished to be as near the firing line as possible. Inquiries out here have so far been unsuccessful, but if anyone can give information as to her whereabouts they are requested to be kind enough to communicate with the British Consul at Salonika. No confirmation has been received of the report that she is now a prisoner.

Strike of Refugees.

One would have thought that the crowds of refugees who are employed here by the Allies, and who receive much higher wages than they could get elsewhere in the town, would be only too glad to earn about four francs each per day. But here, as at home, there are agitators who instigate them to demand more, and a few days ago they induced the men to come out on strike. The British authorities refused to increase the rate of pay, and threatened to import more reasonable workers from elsewhere. The ringleaders among the men told their comrades that, as the British were rich, they would pay any wages asked if the men only held out. As the strike produced no such effect, some of the men wished to return to work, but I overheard one of the aforesaid agitators tell them that if they went back now on the old terms they would be beaten. In the end, however, they all returned to work.

These labourers receive tickets or credit notes each day for the amount due to them, and at the end of the week these are paid at the pay office. But there is a crowd of agents or money-changers who waylay the men as they leave their work, and offer to discount these notes at once at considerably less than their face value. Many of the men yield to the temptation, and thus have little or nothing to receive at the end of the week. The money-changers then present the notes they have acquired, and are paid by the British in a lump sum. This is a very bad practice in the interests of the men themselves, and I would strongly suggest that the money should only be paid direct to the workers.

ARMENIANS OF LONDON AND BITLIS.

The capture of Bitlis aroused great enthusiasm at the Armenian celebration of "Vardanantz" at Westbourne Park Institute, Bayswater, on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Karnignian, a journalist, who has just arrived from the Caucasian front, remarked that it is not realized here that the Armenians are rendering invaluable assistance to the cause of the Allies in many ways. Another speaker said: "The Armenians have drunk the cup of sorrows to the bottom, but the days of joy are at hand." Professor Hagopian, who took the chair, and M. Tiratzian, of the Petrograd Opera, gave a historical outline of the celebration. The meeting was organized by the Armenian Literary Society of London.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, February 20.

Scarcity of Food—

Turkey seems to be not far from the fate to which she was doomed when her unscrupulous rulers dragged her into the European conflict. The latest news from Constantinople likens the situation there to that of a besieged city. The necessaries of life are becoming alarmingly scarce, and it is said that many of the large establishments are laying in stocks of provisions with the view of distribution among their employees later on. The prospect for those who have been unable to make provision of this kind for the future is not pleasant. As predicted in a former letter, the effect of the opening up of through communication with the Central Powers has been to deprive Constantinople of food, rather than to ameliorate the situation.

It is reported that meat is being exported from Constantinople; whether that be so, or whether it is because of the difficulty of bringing sheep to the capital, the fact remains that the price of mutton has more than doubled during the past month. An official notice in the papers states that the butchers are authorised to sell mutton at 17 piastres the oke, but actually much more than that has to be paid. Sugar is only being sold on the production of a doctor's certificate; groceries have almost ceased to exist; bread is obtainable only with more than the usual difficulties; and it is asserted that another two months will see the end of Turkey's wheat. A notice appeared in the papers of the 1st inst., to the effect that as the Anatolian railway was exclusively occupied by the military, no commercial traffic would be allowed, and that on the Oriental Railway the Army's requirements must be satisfied before wagons can be spared for commercial purposes. The announcement further states that the steamers of the Ottoman Navigation Company will carry gratis all foodstuffs from the Marmora ports to the capital. Coffee has quite ceased to exist in the interior, and the characteristic Turkish cup of coffee is no longer to be had. The *Tanin*, in a long article, urges the people to follow the example set in Germany, and to cultivate every bit of available land with some article of food.

—and Money.

The financial situation is likewise worse than ever. On January 31 the Chamber of Deputies passed a law increasing the loan of £T.6,000,000, voted last October, to £T.20,000,000, to be raised in Germany. It is not clear what the object of this loan is unless it is to pay in some form or other Turkey's debts to German creditors. All these loans raised in Germany are shrouded in mystery. Of course, no coin comes into Turkey; in fact, on the same day the Chamber authorised another issue of paper money to the extent of £T.1,340,000. The issue of so much paper of forced currency is naturally a matter of some concern to the banks, who may find themselves loaded with a lot of worthless "scraps of paper" at the end of the war. The mark is depreciated to the extent of about 35 per cent. in Constantinople, the exchange on Berlin being 24 marks to the Turkish pound.

The Death of Prince Yussuf Izzeddin.

The mysterious death of Prince Yussuf Izzeddin at 7.30 a.m. on the 1st inst. is the talk of the day. It has naturally given rise to many rumours, and the verdict of suicide is received with much scepticism. It is stated that the Prince was to have left the following day by the Balkan train. The long medical report, signed by nineteen doctors, states that death was due to hemorrhage caused by opening important veins in the left arm. The *Tanin* stated that the Prince's death did not come as a surprise in view of his well-known disposition to suicide, and that his Highness had suffered for years from an incurable illness. The interment took place on the 2nd inst. in the tomb of Sultan Mahmoud.

The British Cemetery at Scutari.

The British cemetery at Scutari has, it seems, for some time been under military control, with what object is not known. Entrance to the cemetery was only allowed for funerals, and nobody but the relatives of the deceased could attend. Now, however, even burials are not permitted there.

French and British Prisoners.

The batch of Frenchmen with one Englishman who were imprisoned as a reprisal for the arrests of the Consuls at Salonika have been liberated, but Mr. Scudamore continues under arrest at Stamboul. It is reported that he is well treated, and his wife is allowed to visit him twice a week.

The State of Smyrna.

The rumour that the Vali of Smyrna was to be replaced by Bedri Bey has not so far proved correct. There is a greater scarcity of food there than in the capital, and travellers say there is much sickness owing to the bread being evidently made of flour mixed with some other ingredient.

Smyrna, it is reported, has been denuded of its troops.

To what extent the Turks have been impressed by the fall of Erzeroum is not yet known, but there is no doubt that it will come as a great surprise to the people in general, and the effect will probably be to make them place less reliance on the official *communiqués*, which, during the continued advance of the Russians towards Erzeroum, have day after day announced "no change in the situation"!

DISTRESS IN SYRIA.

Writing from Cairo on February 18, an occasional correspondent reports:—

A private letter received recently from a correspondent in Palestine describes the acute economic distress from which the country is now suffering. Hardly any able-bodied men are left in the country; wheat is said to be selling at double the normal price, although it is one of the staple products of the land; while olive oil, which used to be exported in large quantities from Palestine, is now so scarce that it is selling at unprecedented prices. Soap also is being sold at proportionate prices. Although this year was that of a large crop—full and short yields alternate, as is well known, in Syria—yet, owing to the locust invasion, which came at a time when the olive trees were most susceptible to damage, the crop has been almost nil.

According to information which has reached Petrograd 40,000 Armenians in Erzeroum were driven out before the fall of the town and massacred by Kurds, who had been forewarned by the Turks.

Reuter's Athens correspondent telegraphs (March 7):—Advices from Constantinople state that a demonstration organised principally by women against the exorbitant prices of the necessaries of life in consequence of what was described as the unjustified war and the partiality shown for the Germans to the detriment of the natives has resulted in the prohibition of the export of meat to Germany which has been going on since the opening of the Berlin-Constantinople line. A railway wagon carrying preserved meat for Berlin was stopped at Adrianople, where the meat was sold to the population at a reasonable price.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of the "NEAR EAST" to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, February 17.

Disillusionment Beginning?

Travellers arriving from Bulgaria announce that the Bulgarians are moving part of their forces from the Albanian to the Macedonian front. Three Bulgarian divisions are being concentrated on the Ghevgeli line. All the soldiers, it is said, seem to be in very low spirits, and present a most dejected appearance. The provisioning of the army presents great difficulties, and efforts on the part of the staff to overcome these difficulties are generally vain. The construction of roads between Serbia and Bulgaria has been commenced, but the work is rendered very difficult by the intense cold and the lack of appliances and transport.

The insufficiency of food, the failure of the post and communications, and the complete lack of news regarding what is going on in Bulgaria itself are combining to exert an unfavourable influence on the Bulgarian soldier, who does not mind expressing his dissatisfaction openly, and cases of insubordination are of very frequent occurrence. Punishments in the ranks are correspondingly frequent, but they seem to have but small effect.

King Ferdinand's Movements.

The Agence Bulgare announces that King Ferdinand will shortly go to Coburg, and adds that he will appoint a Regent, which seems to indicate that his absence may be a prolonged one. It is asked in Sofia what motives can inspire his Majesty to leave his capital just now, when his presence is so necessary there, and to go so far away. Probably he finds the situation becoming too difficult for him. M. Radoslavoff is not the faithful, devoted Minister in whom the King can put unlimited trust, and Ferdinand knows quite well that he and the other members of the Cabinet would not scruple to leave him the moment that things go against him; and his departure may be due to sheer panic. On the other hand, it is possible that it is merely another of those wily moves for which he is famous—that he deliberately aims at giving his Government an opportunity to come to some arrangement with the Entente Powers, an arrangement for which he could, at need, disclaim all responsibility. Should this be the idea, he and his Government will doubtless find out that it takes two to make a bargain.

German and Bulgar.

It is to be observed that the German Press has lately indulged in some strong criticisms of Bulgaria for declining to press on with the war without further "compensations." This is significant, but even more so is the fact that the Bulgarian Press has quite changed its tone regarding the Quadruple Entente. The *Echo de Bulgarie*, which since the commencement of the war has never ceased to vilify the Allies, has lately moderated its language, and discusses political events calmly. All this seems to indicate that Bulgaro-German relations must really be seriously strained.

Serious anti-German movements are reported both in the army and among the civil population of Bulgaria. This is not surprising, in view of the well-known independence of the Bulgarian people. They refuse to become the vassal of another Power, and are in a state of rebellion against the attempt to make them so. More than one influential person is known to be of opinion that the best solution of the present state of things would be to make a separate peace with the Entente; but perhaps it will be wiser not to be more specific on this subject just now.

"Trophies of War."

More "trophies of war" have arrived at Sofia. These are in the form of agricultural machines of various kinds which have been "captured" in Old Serbia. It is announced that as soon as they have been repaired they will be offered for sale.

It is announced that the Council of Ministers, on the suggestion of M. Radoslavoff, has decided to adopt the Gregorian calendar in lieu of the Orthodox, now in use throughout Bulgaria. A decree will be issued announcing the date on which the change is to take place.

The fire which occurred a few days ago at Rustchuk caused enormous damage. According to particulars published by the Ministry of Finance, 5,000 cases of petroleum and a boat loaded with haricot beans were destroyed, together with a great deal else.

Desertions from the Bulgarian army are still on the increase, and are causing such serious perturbation to the military authorities that it has even been suggested that the relatives of any soldier deserting shall be put under arrest. All reports received here tend to show that the war is intensely unpopular with the rank and file, who are demanding to be informed how much longer they are to be kept under arms. One deserter states that he recently put this question point-blank to a lieutenant, and that the latter replied: "Ask the Germans!" then spat on the ground—an action that will be appreciated at its proper value by those who know their Near East.

THE WAR IN ASIA.

The *New Statesman* recently devoted a long article to a study of the Asiatic theatre of war. After showing how the fate of Erzeroum opened up the way to the control of adjacent country to the north and south of it, the article continues:—

Now, the Russian movements hitherto reported are all on the northern side of the Armenian Taurus. There has, indeed, been a rumour that the Turks are evacuating Bitlis, and if this is followed by its actual capture by the Russians, the position will be somewhat different. Even then, it will be seen, our Allies would have a long way to go and another range to cross before they began to interfere directly with the Turkish line of communications to Mosul and Bagdad. Unless the forces at the Grand Duke's disposal are much larger than it is reasonable to suppose, he is unlikely to adventure far in this direction. It is more probable that he will make his main advances westward, pressing towards Erzingan and Kharput, for in that case his progress and communications are comparatively easy, and the high mountain walls protect his flanks. If the Turks attempted a flank attack with troops brought up from Nisibin, the natural obstacles would tell heavily against them, particularly if the Russians held the Bitlis Pass.

Turkish reinforcements may be summoned from any of three directions—from Constantinople, from the army massed against Egypt, or from Mesopotamia. The hope has been commonly expressed here that they may be withdrawn from Mesopotamia, and so ease the pressure on our forces there. That result of the Russian victory would certainly have its satisfactory features, but it would be still more satisfactory to learn that we have been able so to strengthen our Mesopotamian front as to render a Turkish withdrawal impossible. Presumably, we knew beforehand of the Grand Duke's advance, and took at least some measures to co-operate with it in our sphere. Be that as it may, it is obvious that Marshal von der Goltz's great relief expedition to Bagdad made the Russian victory possible, just as the locking up of the main Turkish army in the Dardanelles prevented the Turkish invasion of the Caucasus last summer. Whatever be the case in other theatres, there is no doubt that in Turkey by far the heaviest brunt of the fighting has fallen on the British armies.

The *New Statesman* does not consider it probable that reinforcements will be hurried to the cold of the Armenian mountains from Syria, as the forces available there are "sure to consist largely of Syrian and Arab elements accustomed to a warm climate." On the other hand, these forces are, in the opinion of the paper, the only ones with any chance of arriving on the scene of operations in time to be of any assistance to the Turks, as reinforcements from Constantinople would have to travel by train to Angora and then be faced by a five-weeks' march to Erzingan.

It seems probable, then, that the Russians will devote their first efforts to overrunning Armenia and consolidating their hold on it; that the Turks will draw most of their reinforcements from Constantinople; and that they will not arrive till Armenia is conquered. What, then, would result from the conquest? Armenia is the "key" to Asia Minor and Syria in the same sense as the Alps and Tyrol are the "key" to Provence and North Italy. It does not follow, above all under the conditions of modern trench warfare, that the districts opened up will be successfully invaded. Still, it will throw Turkey almost entirely on the defensive, and she may have to draw in her horns for that. At a certain point it would be necessary to abandon Mesopotamia, lest in trying to defend it she might lose Syria-Palestine too.

*** When communicating with Advertisers, Readers will greatly oblige by mentioning "THE NEAR EAST."

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VIRILE ROUMANIA.

(By Our Bucharest Correspondent.)

Statistics for the year 1914 supply us with interesting figures anent the increase in the population of the kingdom of Roumania. Thus in the course of this year 327,345 children were born, which represents a proportion of 42.1 per thousand, about 7½ per cent. being illegitimate. A curious fact is that there is an excess of males over females amounting to a round 10,000.

During the same year there were 182,949 deaths, which figure represents 23.5 per thousand. Infant mortality accounts for no less than 50 per cent. of the total deaths, which shows how much there is still to be done in the way of bettering the social conditions of the peasant class. In spite of this, Roumania holds the record in Europe as regards excess of births over deaths, for this is represented by the figure 144,396, or 19 per thousand.

If we assume an increase of 300,000 in the population during the years 1914-15, and add this to the census of 1913, we find that the kingdom of Roumania can boast to-day of a population of eight million souls.

It is interesting to note that during the year 1914 there were 65,325 weddings and 3,433 divorces, which makes about fifty-three divorces per thousand marriages.

When we come to examine the populations of the Austro-Hungarian provinces inhabited by Roumanians (Bukovina, Transylvania, Maramuresh, Crishana, and Banat of Temesvar) we are met by a series of difficulties, due mainly to the fact that the census taken at different times by the Hungarian authorities has been wilfully perverted by the latter for purposes of their own. This makes a long story, into which we need not enter here; but there is none the less sufficient evidence that the Roumanian race is no less prolific beyond the frontiers of the kingdom.

An official census made by the Austrian Government in 1857 (prior to the establishment of Austro-Hungarian dualism, and therefore at a time when the governing powers had no particular reason for being biased in the matter) determined that the Roumanians inhabiting the country between the River Tisa (Theiss) and the Carpathians numbered 2,641,700.

The surest way of arriving at an approximate estimate of their present number is based on a study of the census of 1910 dealing with the prevalent forms of worship. The Roumanians of the provinces under consideration belong either to the Greco-Oriental or the Greco-Catholic Churches. The Serbs belong to the former, the Ruthenians to the latter. If we deduct the number of Serbs and Ruthenians from the total number of Greco-Catholics and Greco-Orientals, we obtain the number of Roumanians, for the Hungarians are mostly Roman Catholics and, to a less degree, Calvinists. If to the figure thus arrived at we add the number of Roumanians inhabiting the Bukovina, we obtain a round number of three and a-half millions, which is considered by many to be a minimum.

Merutziu, who has made a special study of the question, starts from the official Austrian figures of 1857, and bases his calculations on the fact that the Hungarians themselves own to an increase of 10 per cent. in ten years among the populations of the Roumanian provinces. This must be looked upon as an under-estimate if applied exclusively to the Roumanian element, for mingled with this are other nationalities with much lower birth-rates. Merutziu thus estimates the total number of Roumanians between the Tisa and the Carpathians at the outbreak of the present war at 4,372,444. Deducting the odd hundred thousands as representing emigration to America and the kingdom, we are left with a total of four millions, which is his estimate of the number of Roumanians living under Austro-Hungarian rule.

And now we will produce a few facts and figures illustrating the value of Hungarian statistics:—

Roumanians in Transylvania and adjacent Provinces.

Austrian census, 1857 (reliable)	2,641,700
Hungarian census, 1910	2,949,032

i.e., an increase in 53 years of 11½ per cent.!

Total Number of Hungarians in Austria-Hungary.

Austrian census, 1857	5,400,000
Hungarian census, 1910	10,050,575

i.e., an increase in 53 years of nearly 100 per cent.!

With which the following facts may be contrasted, thereby enabling the reader to draw his own conclusions:—

1. Hungarian writers themselves refer to the Roumanian race as vigorous and prolific.

2. Roumanians have an excess of births over deaths far exceeding that of the Magyars.

3. In the course of forty years Roumanians have attained the numerical majority in 300 communes originally Hungarian, losing during this period only twenty-one to the Hungarians and two to the Saxons ("Magyarorszag," Budapest, 1904, quoted by Merutziu).

4. The *maternal language* was alleged to constitute the basis of the Hungarian census of 1910, whereas in practice the results were made to depend upon the answer to this question: "Which language do you speak in preference?" Pressure and intimidation were resorted to in order to extort a favourable reply. There were entered in the published results as using by choice the Hungarian tongue: Gypsies, Jews, *infants under two years*, and—*the dumb!*

THE SUDAN CIVIL SERVICE AND THE WAR.

(From a Correspondent.)

Although the serious financial situation in the Sudan has compelled the Administration to put a stop temporarily to official promotions and the creation of any new appointments, the members of the *personnel* concerned would seem to have accepted the decision with remarkable coolness and good nature. Nevertheless, it is impossible to doubt that very great disappointment must have been occasioned, and not a little hardship bravely endured. Usually, appointment under the Sudan Government is regarded as distinctly remunerative from the point of view both of salary and of pension. Upon first examination the salary paid is £E240 per annum, and thereafter an appreciably advancing scale of pay, as well as promotion, is enjoyed. At present, however, as indicated, no promotions are being gazetted, although no reduction in the amount of pay has yet been suggested. Indeed, such would prove wholly impracticable, as no official could well live as he should live in the Sudan upon any lower rate of salary.

Under normal conditions the young official, who commences his career as a third inspector (which means that he acts as a magistrate to deal with civil and criminal cases), may rise from third to second and from second to first inspector in a relatively short period—depending upon the ability, assiduity, and opportunities—with a salary increasing according to his class. Thus, a third inspector, who commences at £E240, may soon be earning £E480 or £E540; a second inspector, with £E600, may soon be receiving £E660 or £E720; while a first inspector, who commences at £E780, can rise to £E840 and £E900, according to the class to which he attains.

All Sudan Government officials are eligible for advance from one rate of pay to another in the same class every two years, and a third inspector, after serving for four years as such, stands every chance of being promoted to a second inspectorship and, after a further two years, to a first inspectorship. In order to qualify for an increase of pay or promotion a third inspector must, within two years of the date of his appointment, pass an examination in law and a further examination in Arabic. Mere length of service establishes no claim to either an increase of pay or promotion; everything depends upon the individual officer's abilities, his zeal, and the manner in which he carries out his duties, subject, of course, to the actual vacancies offering. No better test could be applied nor any more convincing proof afforded of the selection of the fittest throughout the Sudan Government service.

The actual financial loss arising to the present *personnel* of the Administration by reason of the unexampled economic stringency now being experienced can be better realised when it is remembered that in ordinary times the liberality of the Government in regard to pay does not end with the actual amount of salary earned. There are generous allowances for travelling expenses, rising in some unfavourable climatic provinces higher than in others; while grants are likewise made for forage and grooms, camel or pony hire, and some other small individual outlays. Officers permanently serving in Cairo, where the living conditions are considered to be somewhat more favourable than in the Sudan, suffer a reduction of 10 per cent. from their salaries.

Notwithstanding the present disappointing conditions, over which the Administration has really no control, and making every allowance for some few other drawbacks which may be allowed to exist in the Sudan Government Service, as in all other careers of this character, it is undoubtedly one of the finest that lie within reach of the educated and hard-working young Englishman. It has its lights and shades, like everything else in this world. Omitting all mention of the usually solid advantages in the way of pay and pension, and the less solid advantages in the opportunities which it gives for making a name, few who are acquainted with the Sudan deny that the Government Service possesses a distinct fascination for the typical English nature, owing to its exceptional powers and responsibilities, and even to its occasional loneliness and dangers.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Here is an interesting extract from a letter received two days ago from a valued correspondent:—

"I never had the honour of meeting the late Queen of Roumania; but by special favour I was admitted to visit her private apartments at Pelesh, in Sinaia. Nearly all the books in her boudoir and private library were English, and her attendants told me that she was a great admirer of our literature. The Minister here had standing instructions to send all notable English works that appeared to Bucharest for her Majesty's delectation.

"But when the war broke out, she discovered . . . . . that 'blood is thicker than water'; and her sympathies were wholly German. . . . It is only fair to add that she never interfered in politics, or endeavoured to influence her adopted son. . . Peace to her ashes!"

Personally, I admired "Carmen Sylva" greatly, as a pattern of wifely devotion and a woman of rare sympathy and unaffected goodness of heart.

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It is an ill-wind that blows nobody any good, and the occupation of the White Tower at Salonika—or, rather, of its upper portion—by the Allies is going to prove a good thing for that well-known landmark and its subsequent tenants. For the Allies, apparently in grateful recognition of the nice way in which the Greek authorities took the occupation, have been putting the Tower into a state of repair such as it has not known for many a long day. Its interior has been replastered, the steps have been refaced, concrete floors have been laid, drains have been installed, a bath-room has been fitted up, a water supply has been laid on, and the electric lighting has been much improved. And for all this, there will be no bill to pay! Lucky dogs, the Greeks! I almost wish the Allies would occupy part of my residence. There are a few modern improvements that I should like to see installed there. That, however, is by the way. The Greeks still keep a sentry posted at the White Tower—in order, I suppose, to make sure that the Allies do not run off with it bodily—and our men and these sentries, I am glad to learn, are chumming nicely, and swapping Greek and English conversation lessons.

***

A pessimist of the pessimists remarked the other day that, whichever way the war might end—you see he *was* a pessimist!—it was obvious that there would certainly be another war within ten years, and that it would come much more suddenly than this one. His idea was that the first intimation the world would have of it would be the appearance of a vast fleet of "Zeps." over London, which would proceed to wipe the city off the face of the earth; and he proceeded to argue that the only sensible thing for us to do would be to give up building houses, and take to living in dug-outs. This prospect has little attraction for me. I have never sampled a dug-out, but when I was in Turkey I lived for a short time in a house "built" of mud, which, I imagine, was not much unlike the genuine article, inasmuch as it was unpleasantly damp and earthy-smelling, and harboured vermin innumerable; and though my pessimistic friend may, if he sees fit, revert to troglodytism, I think I shall prefer to take my chances above ground. Nevertheless, after reading some notes in the *Architects' and Builders' Journal*, I am prepared to admit that the dug-out may have its advantages, even in times of peace.

***

The writer of the notes referred to is Mr. G. J. Howling, a former member of the *Journal's* staff, who is "now resting his nerves in the quietude of the Libyan desert," after having "experienced the full severity of the campaign at Cape Helles." It interested me greatly to see how his professional instincts stood by the writer, even when he was under fire, and to find him studying the architecture of the Sedd-ul-Bahr fortress and of the village of Krithia—the latter "through a periscope from our firing line"—and finding it uninteresting and lacking "the charm of the English farmhouse." But even more interesting is his description of sand-bag architecture—which, as he justly observes, "has a character all its own"—and of the Gallipoli Dug-out. I, for one, am prepared to take his word for it that "the only drawback" to the sand-bag style of building, as he saw it, is that it is "liable at any moment to be blown sky-high by a shell": that seems to me a sufficient offset to any charm that such buildings may possess. On the subject of the dug-outs Mr. Howling waxes quite enthusiastic, and he thinks that it is likely at least to supplant the wooden shed as an outhouse. "For one thing, it is economical; you dig your hole, roof it in, and the thing is done. The saving in timber is very considerable. A properly constructed dug-out serves all the purposes of an ordinary shed, it offers very little obstruction to the view, and, if planted with shrubs and flowers around it, it might conceivably become an object of no little attraction." There speaks—or writes—the born enthusiast! Mr. Howling should become the pioneer of dug-out architecture in this country, applying at home the knowledge acquired so painfully and pluckily at Gallipoli. Meantime, the *A. and B. Journal* gives plans and sections (but no elevation!) of "The Gallipoli Dug-out," which I commend to the study of would-be builders.

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Writing from Bucharest on February 8, a correspondent informs me that "King Ferdinand of Bulgaria will on the occasion of his name-day pardon all persons in the prisons capable of bearing arms." My correspondent adds, with what looks like unconscious humour: "In this way a considerable addition will be made to the Bulgarian army."

***

Those of my readers who remember my previous references to the *Exmouth Express* will be glad to learn that that lively journal still flourishes, though, I am sorry to see, an editorial note announces that "owing to illness of the staff, and pressure of work at the printing office," the January number was delayed, and that some contributions "have been unavoidably held over." The war seems to be creating difficulties for journalism even at—well, where the *Exmouth Express* is produced; but it does not appear to have damped the high spirits of the staff, or to have cut off those sources of secret information which must cause heartburnings to stay-at-home editors. As to the value of this information there can be no doubt, and it certainly seems unfair that the British Public should be kept in the dark about matters of such world-wide importance as, *e.g.*, (1) the confiscation of King Constantine's German uniform; (2) the "formation of joint Allio-enemy Commission for the administration" of Salonika, and resultant Greek protest; and (3) the annexation of that town simultaneously by Bulgarians, Austrians, and Turks. Again, why have we not been told by the home Press of Lord Haldane's appointment as Naval Attaché at Bolivia, "with the rank of Lieutenant-Commander, R.N.V.R.," of his being "submarined en route for Bolivia," of his rescue (after the appearance of his obituary notices), and of his resignation (after reading the obituaries) and his application "for admission as a monk in a monastery on Mount Athos"? It is all very well for the editor of the *E.E.* to endeavour to evade the Censor by describing these news items as "Intelligent Anticipations." But I shall be surprised if home editors do not make an outcry about preferential treatment in the matter of cabled news.

***

The most gorgeous feature of this number of the *Exmouth Express* is, however, a poem, "Spiawatha," modestly described as "Way back of Henry W. Longfellow," and signed "U.S." It describes how "Four young braves set forth together," and how, coming to Salonika—

> Forth they fared them through the darkness,
> Through the purlieus of the city
> . . . . . .
> Till a tepee they discovered.
> Very large and strongly guarded.
> 'Twas the tepee of a Paleface.
> Him they summoned to surrender,
> Using threats and yelling war-whoops.

The Paleface (I am hardly surprised to find) "took no notice, and maintained a fearful silence." But the trackers, thanks to "the wily Maxsekewiss making medicine with his lightning," burst into the tepee—

> Now, the first thing they encountered
> Was a Paleface, small and frightened.
> "Sirs, I have not your acquaintance,"
> Twittered he in Frankish accents,
> But they noticed 'neath his nightrail
> Leather mocassins and leggings,
> Most suspicious, very spy-like.
> So they gagged him and they bound him,
> Winding many thongs about him.

***

The poem goes on to tell of the approach of a squaw—

> Very old and very ugly,
> Who protested loudly, shrilly,
> How her innocence was virgin,
> How she had no thoughts of evil.

Modesty forbids that I should quote the description of the search conducted in this luckless lady's apartments. But it resulted in the discovery of—

> . . . . The Spy tribe secret Token,
> Tucked into a little wallet,
> Where she'd cunningly concealed it.

And the end of "both the Spy folk" was swift and terrible indeed:—

> Straightway then to stakes they bound them,
> Stakes they'd driven in the courtyard,
> And they piled great faggots round them,
> And they pierced them with pine needles.
> On their heads a copper brazier,
> Full of burning embers, rested.
> So in light and warmth and comfort
> They were gathered to their fathers.

A fitting end—though an unlikely one—for members of the hateful Spy tribe. The poet's ideas of comfort are, perhaps, peculiar; but his imagination—to adopt a duly critical tone—is clearly of no mean order, and he shows a fitting sense of dramatic justice by consigning "all the household of the Paleface" to captivity (in Salonika) "till they should be brought to judgment."

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A ROUMANIAN INTERIOR.*

An English nursery governess in the family of a well-to-do Roumanian *avocat* of Jewish race and probably of German extraction should be in a situation to seize traits of character and peculiarities of manners worthy to be known and recorded, provided she has an observing disposition and sufficient literary ability. She might produce a readable book. Such is "Domestic Life in Roumania." The authoress has adopted the epistolary form, the thirty odd letters purporting to be written by Millie Ormonde to her cousin, Edmund Talbot, Squire of Talwood, Devonshire. Indeed, the impression left after perusal is that they are genuine letters with the names of the principal characters disguised and a few other changes, conditions imposed on publicity by a decent reserve.

We are admitted into the privacy of this Judæo-Roumanian household and are introduced to as diversified a collection of housemates as ever were assembled together under one roof, it might well be believed. Besides the head of the family, Dr. Goldschmidt, his wife and four children, there are "Mademoiselle Duval, the French governess, small green-eyed and wicked-looking; Regina, the gentle Austrian housekeeper; the old German cook; the parlourmaid, upper and under-housemaid and kitchen ditto, all Hungarian or Roumanian-Hungarian—I am not sure which—and a handyman called André."

Miss Kirke is at her best when she is describing the minute details of her everyday life in this strange environment and the characters of the people with whom it brings her into contact. She has a knack of delineating character in such a way that it is not easy to forget her portraits, slight though they may be. There is Mademoiselle Duval, the French governess with a past, who loves "black coffee, cigarettes, and male society," reads a novel a day, dresses smartly, and is careful not to offend the "innocence" of her English friend; the housemaid, Amalia, handsome and licentious, in love with Dr. Goldschmidt's secretary, M. Alcalay, who is also one of Mademoiselle Duval's "flames"; and the German widow of the governess class, "suspected of savings," complacently confidential about her engagement to a Roumanian much younger than herself, which gentleman, it turns out, is none other than the fickle M. Alcalay. There is ample matter here for humour, pathos, and tragedy. "La Nurse," as the English lady is called by the family, the French alternatives missing a just description of her position, watches the development of the little drama from a distance until its dénouement, brought about by the elimination of the German widow.

The book is by no means a detailed or comprehensive study of domestic life in Roumania; it is merely an account of an English lady's experiences in a well-to-do middle-class house in Bucharest, though interesting sidelights are thrown on other sections of Roumanian society. It is chiefly the internal affairs of the Goldschmidt *ménage* that hold our attention. Perhaps the pose of a private correspondence is a little tedious, and the colloquial style occasionally descends to the slip-shod and the feebly facetious. But generally the writing is good, and often it is admirable. There are eight good illustrations from photographs.

FOR STUDENTS OF SERBIAN.†

It was a good idea of Messrs. Louis Cahen and Nevill Forbes to write an elementary book for the study of Serbian. The interest in Slavonic languages in general is growing, and a considerable part of this interest is for the Serbian. Of course, the Russian is the most important among these languages, but the Serbian has also a certain importance. It is spoken by about 14 millions, including Slovenes, and, with a knowledge of Serbian, it is possible to travel from Trieste to Salonika. The Serbian is reputed to be the most beautiful of all Slavonic languages. It is, in some way, the key to the rest of these languages, and he who knows Serbian can easily understand Bulgarian and also Russian. At least, "the Serbian"—say the authors of this book—"is much easier for English to learn than the other Slavonic languages."

We presume that the "English-Serbian Phrase Book" is written chiefly for the use of the British soldiers round Salonika, of the British nurses in Serbia, of everyone who comes in contact with Serbians during this war, and of everyone who has some literary interest in this language. It is not a complete grammar, as was that of W. R. Morfill ("Simplified Serbian Grammar," 1887); it gives only the very first notions of the language. We find first the alphabet, then the most important parts of speech: pronouns, nouns, adjectives, adverbs, numerals, and a very small number of useful verbs in their most common forms. We find also the most useful words and phrases, on Serbian money, time, food and drinking, travelling, etc. Some military terms denote the special purpose of the book. There is also a vocabulary at the end. Will this be sufficient? Probably it will be for many people, since the book is intended for elementary use.

The authors are right to give the Serbian language as it is spoken to-day in Serbia. Morfill, on the other hand, in his Grammar, gave the Hertzegovinian dialect. Although the difference between them is very small—in Serbia the letter *e* is pronounced as *e*, and in Hertzegovina as *ije* (je)—it is far better, and for many reasons, to adopt the *e*-pronunciation as the typical Serbian. The authors, however have not been entirely consistent upon this point, and we can find the forms *primjer* (example) and *djevojka* (girl), instead of *primer*, *devojka* (p. 45).

Messrs. Cahen and Forbes have studied the Serbian language very conscientiously, and possess a wide knowledge of it. But it is quite impossible for Englishmen to know all the subtleties of a language so different from their own, and there are some slight inaccuracies in their book which are inevitable. We consider it our duty to point them out, in order that they may be avoided in a new edition of the work. The inaccurate grammatical forms are: *s mojim ocom* (with my father, p. 7), *pola godina* (half a year, 25), *otvori ustu* (open your mouth, 38), *slomao* (broken, 38), *zubovi* (teeth, 39), *to bilo bi* (that would be, 14), *kako se vam dopada* (how do you like, 41), etc. The correct forms would be: s mojim ocem, pola godine, otvori usta, slomio, zubi, to bi bilo, kako vam se dopada. There are also incorrect words: *dockanj* (late, 12), *krumpir* (potato, 30), *prtljaga* (luggage, 32), *prvi klas* (first class, 42), while the correct forms would be: dockan, krompir, prtljag, prva klasa, etc. The accents are not always well given: vójnici (10), nikáko (12), Béograd (28), etc., instead of: vojníci, níkako, Beógrad, etc.

We warmly recommend this useful and cheap book to everyone who is anxious to learn Serbian.

Messrs. Sampson, Low, and Co. have published a new and cheaper edition (4s. 6d.) of "From Memory's Shrine: the Reminiscences of 'Carmen Sylvia,' Queen Elizabeth of Roumania."

MESOPOTAMIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

MRS. MARLING'S FUND

For Providing Comforts for Troops Serving in Mesopotamia.

Hitherto the subscriptions in this country to the above Fund, which subscriptions now amount to £1,583 10s., have been collected privately among those more particularly associated with the Persian Gulf.

In view, however, of the large augmentation of troops now operating in that theatre of war, and of the greatly increased difficulties of the task which they are called upon to perform, Mrs. Marling desires to extend the scope of the Fund by making an appeal to the general public, whose assistance in such a worthy cause will, it is hoped, be readily given

Mrs. Marling, when making her appeal wrote as follows:—

"There are many people who have personal experience who will realize how terribly trying to troops the carrying out of military operations in Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf must be at this season. The following paragraph, taken from the 'Near East,' quoting a letter from a soldier serving with our forces in those parts, brings home to us that the brave men fighting under such exhausting climatic conditions are not benefiting by the many organizations formed at home for the purpose of giving small comforts to our Armies abroad:—

"'The People of England seem to have forgotten us' is the pathetic cry of a soldier serving with the British Expeditionary Force at the head of the Persian Gulf; 'we have not had so much as a box of matches from England.'"

All money collected is being remitted to the credit of Colonel Sir Percy Z. Cox, K.C.S.I., Senior Political Officer to the Expeditionary Force, who is employing it in the purchase of comforts for the troops suitable to the local conditions.

All donations should be sent to:—

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA,

25, ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.,

and cheques should be crossed and made payable to "Mrs. Marling's Fund."

* "Domestic Life in Roumania." By Dorothea Kirke. Illustrated. (John Lane. 5s. net.)

† "English-Serbian Phrase Book, with Easy Grammar." By Louis Cahen and Nevill Forbes, M.A. Oxford, B.M. (Oxford: Blackwell, Broad Street. 1s. net.)

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Mar.	1916. Feb.		1334. Jumada I.	5676. Adar II.
10	26	Friday	5	5
11	27	Saturday.....	6	6
12	28	Sunday	7	7
13	29	Monday	8	8
	Mar.			
14	1	Tuesday	9	9
15	2	Wednesday	10	10
16	3	Thursday	11	11

Much regret has been caused, not only in Roumania, but throughout the world, by the death of the Dowager Queen of Roumania, better known as "Carmen Sylva." An appreciation will be found on another page.

The following notice was issued on Wednesday from the Lord Chamberlain's Office, St. James's Palace :—

"The King Commands that the Court shall wear Mourning from this day for One Week for her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth of Roumania.

"The Court to go out of Mourning on Wednesday, the 15th instant."

Under date of March 5, Reuter's Bucharest correspondent reports :—The Emperor of Russia, the German Emperor, and the Presidents of the French and Swiss Republics have sent telegrams of condolence to the Roumanian Royal Family. The telegram from the German Emperor was dated from the German Headquarters. The members of the Diplomatic Corps expressed sympathy to the Royal Family on behalf of their respective Governments, and sent a splendid wreath.

The will of the late Queen, dated October 14, 1914, leaves all her property in Roumania to Roumanian charities, and all her property in Germany to the families of Prince William and Prince Victor of Wied.

The Roumanian Court will be in mourning for three months for the Dowager Queen.

By the command of the King, the Hon. Sir Arthur Walsh, Master of the Ceremonies, called on M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister, at the Legation, 4, Cromwell Place, to offer his Majesty's condolences on the death of the Dowager Queen of Roumania. The Minister thanked Sir Arthur for the gracious message, the full text of which was telegraphed by M. Misu to King Ferdinand.

Among other callers at the Roumanian Legation to offer their condolences were the French Ambassador, the Russian Ambassador, the Italian Ambassador, the Japanese Ambassador, the Netherlands, Serbian, Swiss, Belgian, Brazilian, Chinese, Norwegian, Greek, Argentine, Chilian, Portuguese, Cuban, and Colombian Ministers, with the *personnel* of the Embassies and Legations.

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— EDUCATIONAL AGENTS, —

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A Reuter's message from Bucharest, dated March 6, states :—After a Funeral Service which was held here yesterday morning in the presence of the Royal Family, the Ministers, and the Diplomatic Body and high dignitaries, the body of the late Queen Elizabeth was conveyed with much ceremony to the monastery at Curtea del Argesh, where the interment took place at four o'clock in the afternoon in the presence of the Royal Family, the Ministers, and high dignitaries. The Diplomatic Corps followed the funeral procession as far as the railway station at Bucharest. The Princesses of Wied, owing to an accident in Hungary to the train preceding theirs, arrived at Bucharest too late to be present at the obsequies. One of the sons of the German Emperor telegraphed that he had been informed of the death too late to be able to attend the funeral.

Reuter's correspondent at Bordeaux telegraphs under date of March 8 :—The King and Queen of Montenegro and the members of the Royal Family arrived here by special train this morning, and were received by the Prefect, the Mayor, and the General Commanding the District with military honours and cheers from the crowd. Their Majesties then proceeded by motor to a chateau at Merignac, where they were warmly received by the Mayor and the inhabitants of the commune.

A telegram received in London on Monday announces that Viscountess Quenington died in Cairo on Saturday. She was the daughter of Mr. Henry Dent Brocklehurst, of Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire, and married Viscount Quenington in 1909.

H.H. the Aga Khan, who had the honour of being invited to luncheon with the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace last Friday, postponed his departure from London last week. He left for the Continent on Wednesday.

H.E. the Serbian Minister called at the Foreign Office on Monday and saw Sir Edward Grey.

Earl Kitchener visited Mr. Asquith at Downing Street on Monday. He also called at the Foreign Office and conferred with Sir Edward Grey.

Sir Edwin Pears arrived in York, the city of his birth, last Saturday, as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Cross, 2, Driffield Terrace, the Mount; and on Monday evening he lectured at the Tempest Anderson Hall on Constantinople.

M. Edmond Carton de Wiart, Directeur de la Société Générale, Brussels, formerly Private Secretary to the late King Leopold, has returned to London from Washington, where he has been on a special mission.

Dr. Ninchitch, the Serbian Minister of Finance, has left Paris for Corfu to meet members of the Serbian Government.

Dr. Herbert Adams Gibbons, whose historical study, "The Foundation of the Ottoman Empire," has recently been published by the Clarendon Press, has been on a visit to Cairo, and has been received by the Sultan. He is leaving Egypt shortly for Greece.

Dr. J. B. Christopherson, Director of the Civil Hospitals at Khartoum and Omdurman, arrived in London recently from Austria. Dr. Christopherson, it will be remembered, left the Sudan early last year on leave of absence in order to help Mr. Berry with his Red Cross in Serbia. Tuesday's *Morning Post* contains an interesting interview with Dr. Christopherson, published under the heading "Life in Budapest and Vienna."

On February 10, at Assiut, the wife of Mr. W. D. L. Roberts, of the Egyptian Irrigation Service, gave birth to a daughter.

On February 16, at Beni Suef, the wife of Mr. J. R. Kinder, Egyptian Irrigation Service, gave birth to a son.

The engagement is announced between Captain Terence Desmond Murray, 1st Leinster Regiment, Salonika Force, son of H.E. Lieutenant-Governor H. P. Murray, of Papua, and Mrs. Murray, and Philippa Chevalier Kitchener, daughter of the late Lieutenant-General Sir Walter Kitchener, K.C.B., and Lady Kitchener.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Henry Hamilton Kitchener, R.E. and Royal Flying Corps, B.E.F., son of the late Lieutenant-General Sir Walter Kitchener, K.C.B., and Lady Kitchener, and Winifred Everest Bluck, daughter of the Hon. A. W. Bluck and Mrs. Bluck, of Bermuda.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in the autumn, between Ronald Evelyn Leslie Wingate, Indian Civil Service, elder son of General Sir Reginald Wingate, Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Governor-General of the Sudan, and Lady Wingate, and Mary Harpöth Vinogradoff, daughter of the late Mr. A. Harpöth, of Copenhagen, and of Mrs. Vinogradoff, Court Place, Iffley, Oxford, step-daughter of Dr. Paul Vinogradoff, F.B.A., Professor of Jurisprudence in the University of Oxford.

Our Athens Correspondent writes (February 20): The capture of Erzeroum by the Russians was celebrated here by a dinner given at the Grand International Restaurant by M. Sebastien Hovart, the Correspondent of the *Novoye Vremya*. The correspondents of the Entente Press were present, and toasts and speeches were marked by and received with the greatest enthusiasm.

Mr. G. Bettesworth Piggott, formerly a Judge of H.M. Supreme Court for the Ottoman Dominions, has been appointed a member of the Appeals Tribunal for the County of London.

We regret to learn that Mr. Arthur B. Geary, British Vice-Consul at Alexandria, has been suffering with fever, and has been removed to the Deaconesses' Hospital.

Sir Mortimer Durand, P.C., will preside at a meeting of the Central Asian Society, to be held at 22, Albemarle-street, next Wednesday (March 15), at 4.45 p.m., when Mr. Edgar T. A. Wigram will read a paper entitled "The Ashiret Highlands of Hakkiari (Mesopotamia)." The paper will be illustrated with lantern pictures.

Mr. E. T. A. Wigram is a brother of the Rev. W. A. Wigram, who is now detained in Constantinople, and whose conduct in replacing one of the British who were despatched to the Gallipoli Peninsula by the Turks last year as a "reprisal" aroused so much pride among his countrymen. The brothers are joint authors of "The Cradle of Mankind: Life in Eastern Kurdistan," one of the raciest and at the same time one of the most instructive books of travel in Asiatic Turkey that has appeared within the past ten years. The lecture referred to in the above paragraph is likely, therefore, to prove highly attractive and interesting.

The *Cyprus Gazette* of February 21 announces that his Excellency the High Commissioner has been desired by the Marquess of Lansdowne, in acknowledging the sum of £542 18s. 2d., collected in Cyprus, to convey "to all who helped, either with work or with money, to make this magnificent contribution, the very grateful thanks of the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John for the practical help they have thus received in their work for the sick and wounded."

MRS. FRANK BARKER wishes to recommend MANOLI CORBETTI, 22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street, W., to anyone wishing to purchase YAOURT, HALVA, TOMATO PASTE, BLACK OLIVES, ORIENTAL JAMS, or CIGARETTES, all of which he gets direct from Salonika and other parts of Greece.—[Advt.]

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The same issue of the *Cyprus Gazette* states:—His Excellency the High Commissioner has received with much regret the intelligence of the death on or about November 17, 1915, of Mr. Alexandre Lapierre, Draughtsman and Record Keeper, Public Works Department, who proceeded to France on the outbreak of war for military duty, and fell in the Balkan campaign when serving with the 175th Regiment of French Infantry. His Excellency desires to record his feeling of the loss sustained by the public service in the death of this capable and deserving officer.

The Hon. Richard J. Wilkinson, C.M.G., who has been appointed Governor of Sierra Leone, is a brother of the late Mr. James Wilkinson, formerly U.S.A. Deputy Consul in Smyrna, whose death occurred at Chios last October. The Wilkinson family of Smyrna is one of the best known in the Near and Far East, another brother, Mr. F. Wilkinson, C.M.G., being H.B.M. Consul-General at Foochow, China. Mr. Richard Wilkinson is probably the greatest authority of to-day on the Malay languages, and has published several works on the subject.

The death occurred on Wednesday, at Streatham Hill, of Mr. Robert McGuire, a well-known journalist and special correspondent. He represented the *Daily Telegraph* in the first Balkan war in Montenegro. Mr. McGuire was fifty-six years of age.

The *Sudan Times* of February 16 announces that the death took place on the previous Monday night at the Civil Hospital, Khartoum, of Mr. B. A. Sharland, of the Finance Department. The deceased had a severe attack of typhoid about two months ago, but had recovered and was making satisfactory progress, when he had a relapse to which he succumbed.

According to a telegram from Vienna, which reached London on Sunday, King Ferdinand of Bulgaria was better, although he was still obliged to remain indoors. The symptoms of bronchitis had been reduced to small proportions, and the pulse and temperature were normal.

Sir Edward Boyle has left England for Ajaccio, Corsica.

We regret to announce the death, which took place at Meadi, Cairo, on the 5th inst., of Mr. Reginald Quixano Henriques, who was until recently manager in Egypt of the Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Co., Limited, and a director of the Salt and Soda Co., Limited. Deceased, who was the second son of the late E. M. Henriques, J.P., of Manchester, was in his forty-eighth year, and had been in failing health for some time past, suffering from heart trouble. It was as a consequence of this that he recently resigned his post with the Egyptian Delta Land Co., which he had occupied with success since 1907, taking a keen interest in the development of the company's estates at Meadi. An old resident in Egypt, Mr. Henriques was very popular with all sections of the community. He leaves a widow and one child.

In recognition of the important part played by the Italian Navy in the withdrawal of the Serbian Army from Albania, the French Government has conferred on Admiral Corsi, the Italian Minister of Marine, the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour.

Dr. James Berry, who has been in charge of an Anglo-Serbian hospital unit since January, 1915, has cabled the following message to the Secretary of the Royal Free Hospital from Buchstgallen: "Free at last. Home in a few days. All well." The unit was captured by the Austrians last November, and, with the exception of Lady Paget's hospital party, which is in Sofia, will be the last of the Anglo-Serbian units to return home.

Information has reached the Serbian Relief Fund in London that an office has been opened by the Vatican, in Rome, by means of which Serbians in exile can enter into correspondence with relatives and friends in Serbia. It is intended that letters shall be sent through the intermediary of the Papal Nuncio, at Vienna.

Sir Thomas Jackson, first Baronet, of Stanstead House, Stanstead, Essex, chairman and director, and late chairman of the Imperial Bank of Persia, and a director of the London County and Westminster Bank, the Union Discount Company, of London, the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation, and the Yorkshire Penny Bank, who died on December 21 last, aged seventy-four years, has left unsettled estate of the gross value of £121,715.

According to members of the Anglo-Serbian Hospital under Dr. J. Berry, who passed through Vienna on their way to London, Slatin Pasha is now at the head of the war-prisoners department of the Austrian Red Cross.

The death occurred on Wednesday, in Ireland, of Major-General Andrew Smythe Montague Browne, in his eightieth year. He served in the Crimea and was at the siege and fall of Sebastopol, receiving a medal with clasp and a Turkish medal. General Browne was Colonel of the 3rd Dragoon Guards from 1903 to 1905, when he became Colonel of the Royal Scots Greys.

A telegram from the Salonika correspondent of the *Petit Parisien* states that the Jewish Alliance has given a concert there in aid of various charities, at which General Sarrail, General Mahon, and Generals Moschopoulos and Zimbrakakis were present. Three French soldiers—the pianist Schwab, the violist Bentz, and Mazeno, the baritone of the Grand Opéra of Paris, who all three obtained first prizes at the Conservatoire—were among the artists.

A Constantinople message viâ Berlin states that Enver Pasha, accompanied by Djemal Pasha and various high dignitaries, arrived in Medina last Thursday, and paid a visit to the Prophet's Tomb.

At the request of the Serbian authorities, the Wounded Allies Relief Committee, Sardinia House, Kingsway, has this week dispatched a medical mission to the island of Vido, near Corfu, where a number of Serbian soldiers suffering from sickness and wounds are in need of assistance. The *personnel* of the expedition, which is only a preliminary one to find out what is actually needed, consists of an administrator, Mr. Maude, his niece, Dr. Dorothy Maude, and three nurses, and they have taken with them about £1,000 worth of stores in food, clothing, medicines, blankets, tents, etc. The committee has made itself entirely responsible for the upkeep of the mission for a minimum period of six months. Contributions of money and stores for the mission will be gratefully accepted by the committee. Foodstuffs, clothing, etc., should be sent to Sardinia House; cheques and donations should be addressed to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. T. O. Roberts (manager), London County and Westminster Bank, 217, Strand, W.C.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

The *Cyprus Gazette* of February 11 contains the announcement that Mr. H. Antrobus, Chief Computation Officer, Land Registration and Survey Department, Nicosia, has passed the Turkish (Ordinary) Examination.

The Sultan of Egypt has been pleased to confer the Order of the Nile, 3rd Class, upon Miralai G. F. Pridham Bey on his retirement from the Egyptian Army.

The Sultan of Egypt has been pleased to approve the promotion of El Bimbashi (Temporary Kaimakam) P. B. Stafford, 2nd Battalion, to be Kaimakam, and to be O.C. 2nd Battalion.

El Bimbashi B. H. H. Spence, M.B., has been transferred from the Sudan Government to the Medical Corps, Egyptian Army.

El Bimbashi F. W. L. Edwards, Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, Egyptian Army, and Aide-de-Camp to the Sirdar, has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

El Bimbashi G. F. Raper has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

The Egyptian *War Office Gazette* of January 30 announces that the appointment of El Bimbashi C. W. W. Sandes, 12th Sudanese, to be a Deputy Assistant Adjutant General is approved.

Captain R. G. Archibald, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army, with the rank of Kaimakam, and posted to the Sudan Government.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

ALLAN.—On February 15, at Maison Cambassos, Sporting Club, Alexandria, the wife of Mr. Geo. Allan, of a son.

PEARSE.—On February 17, at Tantah, the wife of Geo. H. Pearse, Egyptian State Railways, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

KHATCHADOURIAN—DARNEVILLE.—On March 7, 1916, in London, by special licence, Alexandre B. Khatchadourian, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Khatchadourian, of Cairo, to Mrs. Lucy Darneville, youngest daughter of the late L. Collet de Créquy, of St. Omer, France.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1916.

TURKEY AND THE COMMITTEE.

At no time since Turkey entered the war against the Allied Powers have the affairs of that country been a sealed book to her enemies. The violence done to the popular will by such an act and Turkey's geographical position have alike facilitated the leakage of useful information. In this category there is no idea of including all the reports purporting to describe conditions in Constantinople and elsewhere which have never ceased to find their way into the European Press. It has, indeed, been necessary from time to time to utter a warning note against the undue optimism created in some quarters by these picturesque messages. At best accounts of dubious origin regarding the degree of popular depression in the capital had no bearing on the military operations so long as there was no chance of the feeling reflected gaining a hearing in the war councils of the State. Now, however, a stage has been reached at which there is good reason to suppose that the Turkish Government finds as much cause for anxiety in the internal situation as in the military position. It would be strange if this were not the case. Turkey has been at war for sixteen months. Whatever credence may have been given to the reasons advanced at the time for her entry into the struggle, they have clearly ceased to carry weight with any section of the people. All the inconveniences of war have been suffered without that belief in the justice of its cause which heartens a nation to endure great sacrifices. Even the army, as was proved on Gallipoli Peninsula, fights from a sense of discipline and the instincts of self-preservation rather than with conviction. The war stands revealed as a plot hatched by a governing clique in Constantinople and the Germans, and we shall not be far wrong in supposing that, outside the Committee of Union and Progress, the one subject exercising the minds of thinking Turks is how to deprive that organization of the power which the control of the army mobilised for war gives it. The circumstantial account published of the murder of Prince Yussuf brings out the fact that the late Heir Apparent was regarded by the Committee as a formidable opponent not only of their present schemes, but of their continued existence. Although the subject of his assassination was originally mooted last summer, the fact that the deed was carried out only recently suggests that the Committee realized that it would be folly to allow his hands to be further strengthened by the growing popular distaste for the war.

It is at this point in the fortunes of the Committee that the signal victories of the Russians in Armenia have occurred, and must inevitably add to its embarrassment. The retention of power by Enver Pasha and his colleagues depends on their successful prosecution of the war; for so long as they can justify the German alliance by holding out prospects of ultimate victory, they have a strong argument against those who might be tempted to urge that the game is not worth the candle. While the Franco-British forces remained at the Dardanelles, the steady stream of Turkish casualties prevented the Government from claiming special merit for a successful defence; but the evacuation must necessarily have given them prestige. The fall of Erzeroum will not only have affected that prestige, but will have brought the Turks and their German allies to a parting of the ways. Henceforth their interests lie in different directions: those of the Turks in Asia Minor, those of the Germans in Europe. Nothing will satisfy the former but to throw their whole strength against the Russian advance. If, however, they do that the German position in the Balkans is at once affected, and only a compromise, satisfactory to neither and particularly unsatisfactory to the Turk, can be arranged between the conflicting requirements of the two parties. This clash of interests must ultimately prove the undoing of the Committee. It cannot afford to break with the Germans, who will not hesitate to abandon their dupes as soon as the Turks prove unable to play Germany's game for her; at the same time, the overrunning of Armenia by the Russians, which may eventually lead to the Baghdad lines of communication being cut, is a phase in the war the importance of which cannot be disguised from the Turkish public. The question, What does Turkey stand to gain by the war? is bound to be raised again. At the outbreak of hostilities the Committee of Union and Progress justified its action by asserting that the Allied Powers were in league to destroy the independence of the Ottoman Empire. The statement was shown to be false; in any case, it would not supply a strong enough argument for continuing the struggle indefinitely, as Turkey by her action will have justified the Allied Powers in any course they may decide to adopt. By now the great mass of the Turks must be prepared to pay the price for their senseless adventure, and, if they could, would only ask to be told the extent of the penalty in order that they might take steps to pay it.

There is no reason to suppose that the terms on which the Allied Powers will be willing to make peace with Turkey will grievously disappoint Turkish expectations. That they will be unpalatable to the Committee of Union and Progress goes without saying, but that body has ceased to represent Ottoman opinion. It would strengthen the hands of those in Turkey who have been opposed to the Committee's policy to learn now the fate that is in store for the Empire as the result of yet another unsuccessful war. It is to be hoped, therefore, that while the Allies continue to prosecute the different campaigns as vigorously as ever they will not lose sight of political conditions in Turkey. The task of making good the greater part of the damage done to the world by Germany through this war will devolve upon the Allied Powers, and it is to their interests to curtail, if possible, the extent of the damage in any given country. To the German view that Turkey's whole future, politically and economically, is inseparably bound up with that of the Central Powers we do not subscribe. It is a doctrine which the Germans are careful to inculcate at this time in Constantinople, but with the end of the war it will disappear for obvious reasons. The future of Turkish territory has a greater interest for the Allies than for the Central Powers, and the former can have no wish to see it more impoverished than it has been already. We do not for a moment urge that anything is to be gained by overtures for peace. Such a move would not only be useless, but would defeat its own ends. But we should like to see the Allied Governments overcome their known reluctance to frame conditions of peace for Turkey and Bulgaria while war is still being waged. The fate of these two countries has nothing to do with that of the Central Powers, and the claim of the latter to a voice in regulating the position of Turkey and Bulgaria at the close of hostilities cannot be admitted. The conditions of peace would not be a subject for bargaining, but, like the restoration of Belgian independence, their acceptance would be a necessary antecedent to the cessation of hostilities. Sooner or later the moment must come when the Turks and the Bulgarians will want to know the terms which their abandonment of the struggle will entail. The Allied Governments owe it to their armies in the field to see that their military efforts are not stultified by protracted negotiations over a subject which ought to have been settled long before.

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"CARMEN SYLVA."

AN APPRECIATION.

Elizabeth, Princess of Wied, Princess and, since 1881, Queen of Roumania, was born on December 29, 1843, in the ancestral demesne at Neuwied. She belonged to an old-established princely family which had given the German world a series of distinguished clerics, soldiers, artists, and writers. Since the Vienna Congress had divided the principality of Wied between Prussia and the Duchy of Nassau, all courtly splendour had been banished from the family seat of Wied, giving place to the simple atmosphere of the homely fireside, whereat art and science were honoured guests.

In such surroundings were spent the early years of Princess Elizabeth, whose vivid imagination and a liveliness which found picturesque expression in speech and gesture gained her the nickname of "The Whirlwind." Possessed of a great love for Nature, to which the parents allowed free play, the child used to ramble at leisure among the wooded hills overlooking the Rhine, and at so early an age as ten she had already begun to record the impressions she brought back from her walks in imperfect but sincere verse. She received very careful education in classics, science, literature, drawing, painting, and music; while travel in France, Switzerland, Italy, Sweden, Russia, etc., and intercourse with the most brilliant personalities of the time, gave the finishing touch to the shaping of her admirable gifts.

Such was the Princess whom Prince Carol of Roumania chose for consort. They had only met once or twice before in Berlin society, but they knew one another well through their friends, and so well after a short meeting in Cologne as to decide to spend their lives together. The marriage was celebrated with great solemnity on November 15, 1869, in Neuwied, and a few days later the young couple left for Roumania in answer to the call of their high duties. The enthusiastic welcome which all classes of the population gave their new mistress so deeply moved Princess Elizabeth that she wrote in a letter to a cousin: "I have now but one desire more: that when I pass away all the poor shall follow my coffin."

There was one thing above all which the princely couple had in common—namely, an unlimited ardour for work, and for this plentiful opportunity offered in the needs of a young country. From the first day of her arrival Princess Elizabeth entered bravely and unflinchingly upon her difficult apprenticeship as sovereign, visiting hospitals, asylums, and schools, helping everywhere with word and deed, and stimulating everybody by her enthusiasm. The political situation, as well within as without the country, was giving cause for much apprehension, when the birth of a daughter, Maria, in September, 1870, created a happy diversion from the unending worries of politics. The child seemed to have inherited in a remarkable degree the gifts of her parents, and was the delight of all at Court. There was no greater relief for the young Prince from the weariness of rule than to spend an hour in playing with his child on the floor. It can well be imagined, therefore, how terrible was the affliction of the parents when, as a result of a short illness, their only child was borne to the grave in the spring of 1874. The sincere sympathy shown by the mass of the people was their sole consolation. "Though the dearest and most intimate bond of our family circle," wrote Prince Carol to his Prime Minister, "has been severed, a still stronger tie now unites us with our greater family, the Roumanian nation, which joins with us in mourning the loss of our and their child."

Princess Elizabeth henceforth made the constant care of the poor, the orphans, and the maimed her one thought, and columns would be needed to mention all the charitable work in which she engaged. Especially did she devote her attention to institutions for improving the social position and for developing the educational standing of women, whether it were an asylum for children, like the "Elizabeth Crêche" or a school for young girls, like that of "Elizaveta Doamna," or an institution like the society "Furnica" ("The Ant"), founded to maintain and develop the home industry of the peasant population, whose products, the rich and admirably coloured embroideries, are everywhere so greatly admired. The spirit which animated the late Queen is well expressed in one of her own sayings: "One can never be grateful enough to those who accept one's help."

The great heart of this great woman had many an opportunity of showing its qualities in the cloudy hours of Roumanian history, especially during the Roumanian War of Independence (1877-78). Notwithstanding the precarious state of her health, the Queen gave herself courageously and unsparingly to the task of soothing the sufferings of the victims of the war. A look from her kind eyes, a word of sympathy from her did much to alleviate the pains of the wounded. Once, when called to the side of a young soldier who had one of his legs amputated and was in despair at its loss, the Queen sat for half an hour on the side of the bed comforting the patient, who was smiling all the time, but never uttered a sound. When the Queen rose the nurses in charge discovered that she had been sitting all the time on the maimed leg. "But, my poor boy, it must have been agony for you." "I would have stood it for hours if only to listen to your voice." In gratitude for such devotion the wives and widows of officers presented the Queen with a statue, representing her in the act of giving drink to a mortally wounded soldier; and this image of "Muma Ranitilor" ("Mother of the Wounded") will never fade in the memory of the Roumanian people.

With as much justice could Queen Elizabeth have been spoken of as "Mother of the Blind," for in this direction also did she accomplish admirable pioneer work. She founded in Bucharest the "Vatra Luminoasa" ("The Home of Light") as a refuge for the unfortunate blind, wherein they were taught such work as enabled them to lead a comfortable life without depending completely on charity. The results were so satisfactory that the Queen cherished the idea of founding near the royal residence of Sinaia a small city for the blind, with model dwellings, clubs, church, concert hall, etc., where the blind, independent of nationality, creed, or class, might create a life of their own—but will the idea ever take form and being now that the Mother of the Blind has gone?

All through her life did Carmen Sylva's pen give beautiful expression to joy and sorrow, whether these feelings were embodied in a lyric or a tale, in a novel or a play; nor did she leave the domain of philosophy unexplored. Her beautiful "Pensées d'une Reine" found highest recognition, being honoured by the French Academy in 1888 with the Prix Botta; while during a visit paid to the British Isles in 1890 she was acclaimed by the Welsh bards as one of themselves. Though deeply attached to her country of origin, she was a profound admirer of French literature and genius, and often appealed passionately in her writings for the reconciliation of the Latin and Germanic peoples (as, for instance, in "Feldpost," or in the Introduction to her translation of Pierre Lotti's "Pêcheurs d'Islande"). Queen Elizabeth also earned for herself great merit for the stimulus she gave to the revival of Roumanian folk-song, and for the encouragement and assistance which literary men were always sure to meet at her hands. There are no words, however extravagant, that can over-estimate what the

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Queen did for the advancement of music in Roumania. "My dream," she wrote, when a young girl, to her brother, "is to have money enough one day to gather round me a circle of artists and scientists," and that dream at least she was able to realise. The musical "At Homes," both at the royal palace in Bucharest and at the "Castel Pelesh" at Sinaia, the summer residence, at which all the best Roumanian and foreign musicians participated, were offerings of the highest kind to the divine art of Music.

Never once did Queen Elizabeth abate her activities until the death of her husband, in the autumn of 1914. According to his last wishes, King Carol was buried in the monastery of Curtea-de-Argesh, the masterpiece of Roumanian architecture; and thither the Queen retired to spend the rest of her days in the solitude of the mountains. There has now peacefully passed away to find rest at the side of her husband one who was a great woman and a great Queen. And many a tear will have been shed for the Mother of the People, and many a Roumanian peasant will have murmured, as of ancient custom, the familiar prayer: "Fie-i tarâna usoara"—"May the earth rest lightly upon her."

D. MITRANY.

PRESS TRIBUTES.

It is almost as difficult to think of "Carmen Sylva" as Elizabeth Queen (and subsequently Queen-Dowager) of Roumania as to think of George Sand as Madame Dudevant. It is also difficult, in the light of recent events, to think of her as a German, though her German origin and associations are understood latterly to have impaired her popularity with the Roumanian people, and made her position in her adopted country embarrassing. Her interests and her friendships were certainly cosmopolitan, and she gave one, for a long time, the impression of belonging to the kingdom of literature rather than to any narrower fatherland.

So far as is known, the Queen of Roumania did not meddle with Roumanian politics, but devoted herself to becoming a good Roumanian and encouraging native arts and industries. She often wore the native costume, which she made *de rigueur* at the Court Balls, and she founded, among other valuable institutions, the "Queen Elizabeth School," where the pupils were taught the old Roumanian industries, including the embroidery for the national costumes, executed in quaint Byzantine patterns of great beauty.—*The Times.*

The death of the Dowager Queen of Roumania removes one of the most gifted of the crowned heads of Europe. Born on December 29, 1843, the eldest child of the mediatised Prince Hermann and Princess Marie zu Wied, in the Castle of Neuwied on the Rhine, the Princess Elizabeth zu Wied grew up amid romantic surroundings, the influence of which was scarcely counteracted by the strict education of a German provincial Court. From earliest infancy she was nourished with stories of the deeds of her ancestors, and her hereditary taste for music, painting, and poetry obtained full play.—*Morning Post.*

To the Western world the Queen of Roumania was little more than a name, but "Carmen Sylva," the poetess and novelist, has been a not undistinguished figure in the republic of letters. Sovereign personages have been no more exempt than other men and women from a craving to win fame outside the Royal occupations to which fate has destined them, but, with hardly an exception, they have been remembered as kings and queens first, and, in the second place, as brilliant amateurs only. With the talented lady who has just passed away the position was reversed. Though she was the consort of the first monarch of a new dynasty, which had been established during one of the great crises of European history, and though she fulfilled her Royal functions with success, her name will probably suggest the woman of literary gifts, who spoke from a full heart to the cultured circles of all lands, rather than the Queen who did much for the civilisation of the little Danubian State.

The Queen of Roumania was often and sorely tried, and, judged by any ordinary standards, her life could not be called a happy one. But it was singularly full of noble and beneficent activity, and blended the practical and the ideal in a union that is all too rare. Her artistic endowment was unusually varied—for though it was her pen which made her famous, she played, sang, and painted with a skill far above the average of the assiduous amateur. Yet she played her part as a Queen truly and well. Moreover, her life was all of a piece. Fine feelings and lofty purposes guided her in the commonplaces of existence, as well as inspiring her writings. The poetess and the woman were one and the same. Like all well-intentioned people she sometimes made mistakes, but no one ever dared to question the purity and disinterestedness of her motives. The good, the true, and the beautiful were ever her beacons, and where she failed it was through seeing things where they were not, and ascribing to others too much of the sublime spirit with which she herself was fired. But some slight remoteness from realities was a small price to pay for the honest merit of her work and the bright example of her character.—*Daily Telegraph.*

The death of Queen Elizabeth of Roumania removes a curiously picturesque figure from the circle of European Royalty. No German born can have had fewer of the narrow German traits than this Wied princess, though latterly her birth had seemed in some measure to alienate the esteem of the Roumanian people. So it is that the innocent are made to suffer for the guilty. As "Carmen Sylva" she was widely known in the literary communities throughout the world. Her poetry and poetical prose, some of which was written in English, had a mild and naive outlook, which was wholly remote from life, especially German or Balkan life. But she had some gift of mystical insight, and for a few her work has a definite and beautiful meaning.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

The death of "Carmen Sylva" is an incalculable loss to Roumania. Renowned abroad as a talented authoress, she was best known to the people of this country for her whole-hearted devotion to their welfare and for the untiring support she lent to every good work. Many charitable institutions in Roumania owed their origin to her initiative. She was familiar with the minutest details of their organization, and personally superintended their activity. She took a special interest in home industries for the peasantry, and lent her aid to societies formed for the support of cottage industries and for the preservation of the picturesque national costume. Her influence over the pleasure-loving aristocracy of the Roumanian capital was employed in promoting a serious view of life and a sense of responsibility among the upper classes, which gave an impulse to many philanthropic movements, while her highly cultivated appreciation of the fine arts, especially music, set a standard of good taste which is now higher in Bucharest than in any other capital of South-Eastern Europe.—*The Times'* Correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula.

"Carmen Sylva's" marriage with Prince (afterwards King) Charles was celebrated on November 15, 1869. On the way to Bucharest, every town through which she and her husband passed was profusely decorated, and the enthusiasm of the Roumanian peasants appeared to surpass even that with which they had welcomed Prince Charles on his accession. Immediately after her arrival in the capital she began to take an active share in her husband's labours, visiting with him the various charitable and educational establishments. It is told, also, she lost not a moment in setting the Roumanian ladies a strong example in simplicity of dress, equipages, and entertainments; severity of outward decorum; the visiting of the sick and poor, and instruction of the ignorant; the revival of moribund industries; and the founding and supervision of sewing schools and fancy-work classes, in which Roumanian girls of the humbler orders could be gratuitously taught to earn an honest and independent living. It was entirely due to the initiative of her Highness, to her own dexterity with the needle (which she utilised to illustrate her personal teachings), and to the indefatigable pains and inexhaustible cheerfulness with which she encouraged her pupils to persevere in their labours, that the old ornate Roumanian embroidery upon muslin and linen was rescued from oblivion, and resumed its former place in the front rank of decorative hand-work.—*The Scotsman.*

Despite her birth as a German Princess, the Dowager Queen Elizabeth of Roumania, known all over the world as Carmen Sylva, will be widely mourned. The misfortune of her origin, indeed, has of late seemed to alienate the esteem of the Roumanian people, whom she had long and faithfully served in prosperity and adversity. She was, in this respect, made to suffer for faults quite alien to her own nature. . . . To the world she was known as a poet of kindly and gentle, if not very deep, genius, and a writer of popular stories. Her art, however, was undoubtedly handicapped by the unhappy notion that, as the thought springs from the brain, so it must remain, which prevented her from revising her MSS.—*Nottingham Guardian.*

PERSIAN PREMIER RESIGNS.

Under date of March 7, Reuter's Teheran correspondent reports:—Prince Firman Firma has resigned. He has been succeeded by Sipah Salar as Premier and Minister of the Interior, who is a Russophile.

Reuter's Agency is informed by the Persian Legation that his Excellency the Sipah Salar is the well-known statesman hitherto described as the Sipahdar. He has now received the higher title of Sipah Salar, and should be described as the Sipah Salar Azam.

INTERVIEW WITH M. PASHITCH.

M. Pashitch, interviewed at Corfu by a correspondent of the *Russkoye Slovo*, declared that without the treacherous aggression of Bulgaria, Serbia would not have been crushed by the Germans. He recognised that military reasons prevented the Allies from sending reinforcements in time; and, referring to the present situation, said that the condition of Serbia under the yoke of Bulgaria was dreadful.

If the Central Empires triumphed, Bulgaria would become a German province; but if the Quadruple Entente was successful, Bulgaria would be dismembered, but Serbia would live in peace with her neighbours. It was incorrect that the Serbian Army would be directed to any other point than in the Balkans. M. Pashitch expressed the gratitude of Serbia towards the Allies.

According to a Constantinople telegram (says Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent) the Chamber has adopted a Bill extending the time of military service to men of fifty.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

British Prisoners in Bulgaria. March 2.

Sir E. GREY informed Mr. R. Gwynne that the United States Chargé d'Affaires informed the United States Ambassador here by telegram on February 17 that all the British prisoners of war in Bulgaria were to be transferred to Philippopolis, that an American physician had been placed in attendance, and that the present arrangement was very satisfactory. The Chargé d'Affaires has also reported that there are sixty or seventy British prisoners of war in different hospitals in Sofia, and that they are well treated.

Montenegro and the Allies.

Sir W. BULL asked the Prime Minister whether it was the intention of the British Government to include Montenegro in the promise that had been made to Belgium and Serbia.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: The hon. member may rest assured that the interests of Montenegro will not be lost sight of by the Allies in the final settlement.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

Mr. TENNANT, answering a question put by Mr. Macmaster, said that British prisoners of war in Turkey were interned at Angora, Afion-Kara-Hissar, and Bozanti. There were also wounded in the hospitals at Constantinople and Smyrna. He understood that the majority, if not the whole, of the prisoners captured by the Turks in Mesopotamia were at Mosul. Letters and parcels could be despatched to the prisoners. They were sent through the Swiss Post Office, and it was believed that the majority of them reached their addresses.

The Danube Commissioners. March 7.

Commander BELLAIRS asked whether the European Commission of the Danube still meets, and, in view of the fact that the commission consists of representatives of seven belligerent powers and one neutral, whether reports indicate that business is harmoniously conducted.

Lord R. CECIL said the answer to the first part of the question was in the affirmative. As regards the second part, it appeared that the business of the Commission was conducted as harmoniously as can be expected in the circumstances.

British Prisoners at Ahram.

Lord R. CECIL informed Colonel YATE that the latest information received, though not from an official source, was that British subjects detained at Ahram were not being so well treated as they were at first. Mrs. Christmas had reached this country, but he had no information as to the whereabouts of Mr. Christmas, of the Indo-European Telegraph Company.

Comforts for the Mesopotamia Force.

Major NEWMAN asked Mr. Chamberlain whether he was in communication with the General Officer Commanding the Mesopotamia Field Force as to the possibility of providing better accommodation and a larger supply of surgeons, nurses, and medical comforts for the wounded who had to be evacuated by boat to Busreh, and whether he had information as to the sufferings of the wounded owing to such deficiency on the road to Busreh.

Mr. TENNANT, who said he had been asked to reply, stated that the Army Council were communicating with the Commander-in-Chief in India on this matter. He might say that all the requests for additional personnel which he had made had been met.

Italian Co-operation in the Balkans.

Lord R. CECIL, in reply to Sir C. Hunter, said his attention had been drawn to certain newspaper articles attacking Italy, and he deplored their inaccuracy and injustice. He was glad to have that opportunity of asserting once again the entire confidence of his Majesty's Government in the loyal co-operation of Italy in the joint efforts of the Allies to bring succour in circumstances of extreme difficulty to Serbia and Montenegro. A warning had been issued to those responsible for the publication of the articles in question.

The Fighting in Mesopotamia. March 8.

Sir J. JARDINE asked the Under-Secretary for War if he was in a position to give an account of the battles of January 14 and February 7, and later battles in which troops belonging to the garrison at Nasriyah on the Euphrates line had been engaged.

Mr. TENNANT replied that information required about an action on January 14 could be obtained from the India Office, who were at that time in control of the operations. With regard to the operations of February 7, information had already been given. A small punitive column set out on February 22, and four miles north of Nasriyah engaged the enemy, who fled, suffering severely, whilst we had no casualties.

Lord Kitchener's Salary.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE, replying to questions asked by Mr. COWAN and Mr LYNCH, said:—On the outbreak of war Lord Kitchener was in receipt of £6,140 a year, which was the salary drawn by the British Agent and Consul-General in Egypt while on leave. On his acceptance of the post of Secretary of State for War, this salary was continued.

Mr. COWAN: Do I understand that the salary paid to the Secretary for War is guaranteed for the term of the war?

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: Certainly, as long as Lord Kitchener holds the office.

Replying to Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LLOYD GEORGE said: On Lord Kitchener's departure from Egypt the business of H.M. Agency and Consulate-General was, as is customary, conducted by a Chargé d'Affaires. Subsequently it became necessary, in view of the altered status of Egypt, to appoint a High Commissioner, and Sir Henry McMahon was appointed to this position on December 18, 1914.

The Situation at Aden. March 9.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, in a written reply to Major Newman, says the situation at Aden remains unchanged, and since February 21 no operations have taken place except a brush with the Turks on February 24, in which a small flying column inflicted casualties on them.

THE MYSTERY OF YUSSUF IZZEDIN.

Writing on February 29 from Constantinople, a correspondent of the *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant* (according to Reuter) gives some details regarding the death of the heir to the Turkish throne, Prince Yussuf Izzedin. He accepts the official version that the Prince's death was caused by his own hand, and bases his view on the argument that murder would have been unwise because the present heir to the throne, Prince Wahid-Eddin, is even more hostile than was the deceased to the Committee of Union and Progress.

Prince Wahid-Eddin, he says, has never concealed that the meddling of the Committee was not to his liking. Between the present powers that be in Turkey and Wahid-Eddin Effendi there have already been quarrels, in which the Prince always got the worst of it. This never happened in the case of Yussuf Izzedin, who always maintained good relations with the Committee and the men at the head of the Administration. The writer, however, mentions circumstances that seem hardly to accord with the theory of suicide. He says that the Prince was just about to accept an invitation of the Kaiser to visit Berlin, and then to accompany the Kaiser on a tour of the various fronts.

"After long and troublesome preparation, everything was ready for this journey, to which also a certain political importance was attached, and the Prince was to leave Constantinople with his retinue on Tuesday, at five minutes past twelve noon, by the Balkan train. On the morning of the very day fixed for his departure the Prince was found dead in the vestibule of his 'hammam,' having bled to death."

This tragic and sudden occurrence, according to the correspondent, was kept so secret at first that the Balkan train remained a full hour waiting for the exalted traveller, and only when the saloon carriage was uncoupled and information was sent to Nish and Sofia, where formal receptions had been organised, was the news given out that the Prince's journey was "deferred." During the night the diplomatic representatives at Constantinople were informed of the Prince's death. At the same time, there was communicated to the diplomatic body a written declaration, signed by twenty well-known Turkish medical men, that the Prince had met his death by his own hand by the severance with a curved razor of an artery on the left arm. This finding of the medical men was "confirmed" by a *procès verbal* framed by the judicial authorities.

It was known, says the correspondent, that the Prince never was a warm friend of the Committee of Union and Progress, and the rumour was spread that the promising future of the Prince, who was about to emerge from his former seclusion and about to occupy a far more brilliant position than heretofore, was cut short by his enemies.

The correspondent then explains that the Prince's successor is even more hostile to the Committee, and gives the views of the Prince's friends, which practically amount to a declaration that it was "just like the Prince" to take his own life in this dramatic way at such a dramatic moment. The correspondent continues that after Abdul Hamid's deposition, Yussuf Izzedin had cast off to some extent his former reserve and began to take an interest in public and, in particular, military affairs. Owing to his kindness and generosity, he became more and more known and more and more popular. This free and frank disposition, which showed itself also towards opponents of the Young Turk regime, did not, however, suit the Committee, and the Prince was provided by the Young Turks with a household, both civil and military, on whom it was enjoined to watch over the Prince's behaviour. That the relations of the Prince with those set to watch him were not pleasant was apparent from continual changes in the appointments, which were then ascribed to the increasing ill-temper and neurasthenia of the Prince.

The Balkan war, says the correspondent, affected him, and also the menace to Constantinople through the presence of British troops at Gallipoli. When the British departed, the Prince received the news with the greatest joy. The doctors took advantage of this welcome change of disposition to suggest a journey abroad, and the opportunity presented itself in the form of an invitation from the Kaiser. The Prince at first accepted the invitation gladly, but his objection to the idea of official receptions soon reasserted itself. When the journey could, however, no longer be postponed, he appeared to accept the inevitable, and everything was ready for his departure on the Tuesday.

On that day the Prince was found dead. The correspondent says that those closest in touch with the Prince (the correspondent, it should be noted, has already said that the heads of the Prince's household were imposed upon him by the Young Turks) are of opinion that the Prince's objection to the journey became so strong at the last moment that in order to escape it he killed himself. Prince Yussuf Izzedin, adds the writer, was more inclined towards the French and the Italians (with whom he considered the Turks could best get on) than the Germans.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Position of Turkey.

British papers of all shades of opinion have devoted considerable attention to the position of Turkey during the past few days, while reports from all sources agree that the internal affairs of that nation show increasing signs of disturbance. The *Manchester Guardian* (March 6), in a leading article entitled "The Rumours About Turkey," says:—

Enver is identified more than anyone, in the eyes of the Turkish people, with the policy that now threatens Constantinople with famine and pestilence and the whole Turkish Empire with dismemberment. He has ruled by terror, and has not scrupled to use the knife. He may well fall by it. But the capture of Bagdad, though likely enough now, can hardly be thought "imminent." But, pressed from several sides, the defenders of the city, unless more heavily reinforced than seems now likely, cannot permanently hold it. Should it be captured, Von der Goltz might well resign, and even an Austrian bodyguard will not save the Sultan from the dread consequences of Young Turk policy. So we may take good cheer from rumour after all.

The *Daily Telegraph* (March 6), in the course of a leading article which deals thoroughly with Turkey's position in the war, says:—

Turkey, on the edge of the precipice, sees her Asiatic dominions disappearing like the baseless fabric of a vision, and her European Empire threatened by sea and land. To such a pass have the insensate ambitions of Enver Pasha and the Young Turk party brought a nation which once could count on the friendship of Great Britain, and ask, not in vain, for sympathetic help from France. It may even be true that she is now asking for peace—unless this interesting rumour only voices the intrigues of competing politicians in Stamboul, among whom Talaat Bey is conspicuous.

Our next quotations are the first and last paragraphs of a leading article in the *Globe* of the same date:—

While there is no single rumour of the crop which comes in from the Near East to which we attach complete credence, we can hardly believe that there can be so much smoke with no fire. The rumours are all irresponsible, and not one of them need be true in itself, but it is a remarkable fact that they all point in the same direction—the repentance of Turkey for having allowed her new masters to use her against her old friends. . . . To the Turks, to whom our Book is of almost equal authority with their own, we commend the saying, "Make terms with thine adversary quickly whiles thou art in the way with him." If Turkey should make peace now some remnants of the Ottoman power may still be left; if she waits until the Russians are at the Sweet Waters and the British at the Gates of Baghdad, not the shadow of a shade will be left.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* (March 6) remarks:—

We are hearing a good deal about the Turks' alleged weariness of the war, and, as it is an agreeable subject from the Allies' point of view, we are, no doubt, destined to hear a good deal more. In taking note of the various stories of mutiny and plotting against Enver and his German friends, we should do well to consider how far the wish is father to the thought. One factor may be relied upon—namely, the unexpected length of the war. There are grounds for believing that those who accepted war in the name of the Turkish people were fully convinced that a few months would see them justified. Disillusion has come in other forms, too, such as the Caucasus *débâcle*, the Mesopotamia offensive, and the unsubstantial backing of Germany. Hence we may conclude that if the Smyrna rumour is too much to credit, the tendencies are, nevertheless, in that direction.

The *Daily Express* (March 6) thinks that much of the responsibility for Turkey's alliance with the Central Empires lies with our diplomatists, and concludes:—

The Turk has fought like a gentleman. He has earned the respect of his opponents, and peace might be made without rancour. The awful massacre of the Armenians is not easy to forget, but the ultimate responsibility for that crime belongs to Germany, its instigator. Peace now would ensure him a continuance of his empire, and it would be a bitter blow to the arch-enemy of Europe. Germany may be safely counted upon to leave nothing undone to counter any Turkish attempt to make terms for herself. The Goeben is still in the Golden Horn, and her guns may force unwilling loyalty from Turkey—until it is too late.

The Serbian Army.

A recent number of the *Manchester Evening News* contains the following tribute to the Serbian Army, and incidentally to the valuable part that Italy played at the time of Serbia's greatest distress.

The heroic Serbians, though driven by overwhelming numbers from their native hills, have retained their original formation, and to-day they number 160,000 men, admirably trained, brave as lions, requiring nothing but rest, re-equipment, and some measure of reorganisation to make them once again a fighting force as formidable as any that can be found anywhere. The Allies will watch with the keenest interest and the highest anticipations the re-entry of the Serbians into the fighting-line. Our enemies, the Bulgarians in particular, will dread the advent of that hour. It should not be forgotten that in the measures which were taken to secure the rejuvenation of the Serbians the Italians played a notable part. Putting aside their old jealousy and choking down inherent prejudices, the Italians, mindful only of the supreme interest of the Allied cause, did invaluable work in transporting the Serbians to their place of rest in Corfu, and their services in this emergency will count heavily when the adjustment of Italian and Serbian claims come to be made after the declaration of peace.

Italy's Part in the Balkans.

The *Fortnightly Review* (March) contains an article on the above subject by Mr. Julius M. Price. The material upon which Mr. Price's article was based has already grown old, where in this war the centre of interest swings with such rapidity from one point of the compass to another, but his principal arguments are as valuable now as they were when they were first written. He shows that the Italian campaign was originally planned to be one of invasion, with Trieste as the objective, in the first or second month of the war, and he thinks that nothing more solid or impressive than the dogged determination of united Italy to see the thing through in the face of disappointment could be seen.

Meanwhile, pending the anxiously awaited advance in the direction of Trieste, the situation is becoming more and more involved in the Balkans, and one has the growing impression that Italy's part in the operations, which are a direct consequence of the loss of Serbia and the surrender of Montenegro, will have considerable influence on the final result.

In reference to the new phase of affairs which was brought about by the surrender of Montenegro, the writer says:—

It is so easy to see now what ought to have been done months ago, and even in Italy it is admitted that had a strong contingent of troops, with heavy artillery, been dispatched at the very beginning of the war to Montenegro, and Austria attacked from that direction, it would have altered the situation completely, and doubtless have relieved the pressure on the Isonzo front; but there is nothing to be gained by "jobbing backwards," to use a Stock Exchange aphorism, and it is realised that now is not the time for repining, but for action.

He shows the natural strength of Austria's position in the Adriatic, where the Austrian coast is endowed with numerous deep-water inlets which provide excellent harbours.

It has been frequently remarked that this coast-line in itself was likely one day to bring about a European war, and there is certainly no gainsaying that its possession is of vital interest not only to Italy, but to the Entente in general. Its passing out of the possession of Austria would mean the final check to all German aspirations in the Adriatic. Of that there cannot be a shadow of a doubt, and every effort should, therefore, be made to accomplish it. A barrier would *ipso facto* be constituted between the western world and any attempt on the part either of Pan-Slavism or Pan-Germanism at dominating the Mediterranean.

The question of the supremacy of the Adriatic, therefore, whilst concerning the interests of all the Allies, affects Great Britain even more particularly, as it means the safeguarding of the Mediterranean as the key of the Empire. In the re-making of the map of Europe Italy's legitimate ambitions with regard to the Dalmatian coast will have to be taken into account, and that they will be very seriously supported by England there can be no doubt. With Italy indisputably mistress of the Adriatic the position on the Mediterranean would be assured. Any other proposition that would in the least tend to weaken Italy by circumscribing her sphere of naval development would sooner or later allow free play to forces which are or might be antagonistic to the British Empire. . . . By lending a strong hand to Italy at this juncture we would not only help to solve the Balkan tangle, but also prepare a real guarantee for our own position in the Mediterranean.

Italy's part in the Balkan operations must necessarily be subordinated to the exigencies of the war she is waging on her own frontier.

Mr. Price attaches great importance to Valona, as will be seen in the following paragraph, quoted from the concluding portion of his article:—

One would not be surprised if Italy's prescience in occupying Valona on her own initiative were to prove an important factor in the settlement of the Balkan side of the war. In any event, the effort she is making to take a serious part in the operations in Southern Albania are an earnest of her steadfast co-operation with the Allies, and her determination *coûte que coûte* to see the war through to a successful finish.

Turkey and Egypt.

We take the following quotation from a dispatch of Mr. George Renwick, special correspondent at Salonika to the *Daily Chronicle* (March 7). After analysing the ability of Turkey to carry out her threat against Egypt, Mr. Renwick thinks that she still possesses a fairly large army to gamble with. He then turns to the question of canal defence:—

A year ago I had several opportunities for seeing the canal

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defences. They were undeniably very strong then. During the year the defences have undoubtedly been made infinitely stronger, and the forces defending this important part of our Empire's greatest highway have certainly been greatly added to. General Maxwell is not the man to remain idle, and two very important appointments give evidence of his activity.

Sir George Macauley, Under-Secretary of State for Railways, and Sir Murdoch MacDonald, Under-Secretary for Public Works, have been gazetted colonels in the Royal Engineers. That Sir Murdoch MacDonald has been given such a commission is excellent. Few men have such a fine record of work to their credit as that achieved by Sir Murdoch since he has been connected with Egypt. He had a great deal to do with the building of the Assouan Dam, and the enlargement of it is his work. He may be called, indeed, the civilian Kitchener of Egypt.

Meanwhile, with all these factors in the Near Eastern situation, the Salonica Expedition daily increases in importance. Germans, Austrians, and Bulgarians, with the addition of Turks, are, it cannot be denied, a very formidable combination, and the Entente would do well to make General Sarrail's army one which will be able to sweep north to the Danube. That, if the Russians continue their Asia Minor advance, would be the end of Turkey; Bulgaria would quickly collapse, and the presence of a strong army on the Danube, linked up, as it would most likely be, with the Rumanians and Russians, would greatly tighten the grasp we have on the Duplicu.

The Jugoslav Question.

Writing under the above heading in the *Asiatic Review* (February 15), Mr. Francis P. Marchant says that "German *Drang nach Osten*, if unchecked in its progress to the Persian Gulf, would ruthlessly crush out of existence numerous nationalities to whose support the Entente Powers are pledged. . . . Among the victims of the Teutonic sledge-hammer would be the Jugoslavs." The writer proceeds to explain that the Jugoslavs comprise the Serbo-Croatians, Bulgarians, and Slovenes, but as Bulgaria has now estranged herself from her Slav neighbours, he does not in this article concern himself with her fate.

We are left with about ten millions of Jugoslavs subject to Austria, Hungary, Turkey, Serbia, and Montenegro. The creeds professed are Christian, Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Greek Uniate, and Protestant, and Islam. The Cyrillic alphabet is used by Serbs and Bulgars (Orthodox), and the Latin by Croatians and Slovenes (Roman Catholics), while in the Dalmatian islands a Slav-Roman liturgy is still printed in the cumbrous, antiquated Olagolithic signs. . . . The wonderful tenacity of national peculiarities and languages under about four centuries of Oriental sway is remarkable. Though the defeat of Kosovo, aggravated by the capture of Constantinople by Mahomet II. in 1453, was of a decisive character, the memories in Serbia of Dushan, and in Bulgaria of Simeon, were still alive. The Serbs are racially and linguistically less affected by foreign strains than their Bulgar neighbours; but though definite boundaries are indicated on maps, it is not easy to say in some districts where the one begins and the other ends. The name Slav or Slovene was common to all members of the extensive race, but Slovene is the name given to the Slavs of Stajera (Styria), Koroshko (Carinthia), and Krajnsko (Carniola), whose independence was destroyed by Charlemagne. The name Serb belongs to the Serbians and to the so-called Wends of Saxony and Brandenburg. (Little reference to the future of these or the Pomeranian Slavs, long surrounded by Germans, has been made as yet.) The Serb and the Croat (Hrvat) are absolutely identical in race and language, and occupy, broadly, the whole area between Trieste and Salonika, with the long Adriatic littoral from Venetia to Albania, the Danube forming a rough boundary as far as the Bulgarian frontier on the Timok, but a large number of Serbs live in Hungary, whither their ancestors fled from the Turks.

Mr. Marchant thinks that no satisfactory settlement of the Jugoslav question can be carried out except on a basis of compromise, perhaps of several compromises. In his concluding sentences he deals with the claims of Italy in the paragraph which we quote below:—

It must be remembered that a large Italian population has inhabited Trieste and the islands of the Adriatic littoral from the days of the Doges, and that our brave ally Italy has political and economic claims in this territory which must be recognized. The forces of General Cadorna are engaged in an arduous winter campaign against the Austrians in the Julian Alps, and the Italian navy performs valuable services along the whole coastline. The authors of the "Southern Slav Programme" urge that the Eastern Adriatic coast and hinterlands should form part of one and the same State, while admitting that Italy must be compensated for her sacrifices. They fear that a joint possession of the coast would lead to conflict which would afford Germany an opportunity of future southern aggression. However, as they write, "an understanding between Italy and Jugoslavs would obviate this disastrous possibility." It is not practicable for a settlement to be reached which ignores substantial Italian claims.

The General Situation.

The following quotations are taken from a leading article in the *Daily Telegraph* (March 6). This paper is inclined to discredit the story of the attempted assassination of Enver Pasha, but it thinks that there are unmistakable signs that Constantinople is becoming aware of the forlorn state into which it has fallen by alliance with the Central Empires.

Turkey now in her need is asking the Central Powers to send her help in men and munitions, and it is beyond the competence of Berlin or Vienna to accede to her request. How can her allies help her? In the north at Riga, farther south in the Pripet Marshes, farther south still in Bessarabia and Galicia, every man and every gun is wanted to hold the line against the increasing pressure of the great Northern Empire. If Turkey proposes to remove some of her troops from Thrace and Macedonia, she is told that the menace at Salonika is too urgent to admit of any such depletion of force, and that Bulgaria must be supported against an all-too-probable Franco-British initiative.

The truth of the matter is that no appeal, however piteous, from Turkey can be attended to. Germany has her hands full elsewhere. After pointing out that with the capture of Bitlis our Allies have cut the Turkish line, and have gained control over the central plains of Asia Minor, the article concludes:—

By their steady progress in Persia, the Russians have scotched German intrigues in a country which Berlin was attempting to overrun by pacific penetration and other methods; while in Mesopotamia the horizon has cleared, and we may now look forward with some confidence to the junction of General Aylmer and General Townshend and a victorious advance towards Bagdad. But it is especially in their relation to the general situation in the Near East that we must regard the startling events of the last ten days. The capture of Erzeroum gave us the first streak of light in a darkened sky; the stout resistance of the French at Verdun announced the coming dawn. We may be sure that politicians in the Balkan Peninsula are watching the position with the keenest interest. They see that the game is up in Asia Minor; they discover that the German hosts, even in the fiercest of their onsets, are by no means invincible on the Western front; they are learning to suspect that the Central Powers do not possess that enormous reserve of power which can at once protect their allies and win martial triumphs on the stricken field. What will be the effect in Athens, in Bucharest, in Sofia, in Constantinople? . . . If Germany's great strategic move in the Balkan Peninsula is threatened with failure, and German troops, despite costly and desperate attacks, are held up in France, the Entente Allies have every reason for confidence and hope. It may be a long and difficult struggle yet, with alternate success and defeat and many vicissitudes in the arduous campaign. But we can already descry the beginning of the end.

The Problem of Constantinople.

Writing in the *Fortnightly Review* (March) Mr. J. A. R. Marriott gives a very complete and interesting article on the "Factors in the Problem of the Near East: Russia and Turkey." As, however, the article is mainly historical it does not lend itself to quotation for the most part, but we would recommend it to our readers. Mr. Marriott regards our characteristic lack of foresight in diplomatic matters as being more than ever conspicuous in dealing with the Near East. He shows the all important part that Constantinople has played in the Near Eastern history of the past, and concludes with the paragraphs which we quote below:—

The future of Constantinople cannot be determined until the close of the present war. The solution of an historic problem must form part of the general settlement which peace, it is hoped, will bring. Meanwhile, very great mischief has already been wrought in the Near East, and even in the Farther East, by the premature, and apparently gratuitous, announcement as to the destination of the Byzantine capital. It goes without saying that, presuming the victory of the Entente Powers, the claims and wishes of Russia will deserve, and will receive, the most cordial and sympathetic consideration at the hands of her Allies. But Sir Edward Grey's announcement affords one more illustration of the tactlessness, the short-sightedness, the complete lack of perspective or consistency which has from first to last characterised English diplomacy in regard to the problem of the Near East. We counted on the neutrality of Bulgaria; we hoped for the active assistance of Roumania and Greece. Which of these expectations was likely to be furthered by the definite announcement that the custody of the Straits was henceforth to be confided to a powerful commercial competitor and political rival? Russia has sustained her part in the common cause with superb gallantry; if that cause is crowned with victory there is no reward for which Russia may ask to which she is not, by common consent, entitled. But victory is pot yet attained. To attain it we have need not only of irresistible force, but of wise and far-seeing diplomacy. Least of all can we afford to alienate any possible allies. In the meantime, therefore, the less said by responsible statesmen as to the ultimate division of the spoils the sooner we may be in a position to divide them.

Articles to Note.

"The Isles of Greece," by "A Special Correspondent," in the *Sunday at Home* (February).

"The Mystery of King 'Tino's' Attitude," in the *London Magazine* (March).

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Two Salonika Railways.

In the course of his lecture before the Royal Geographical Society on the 7th ult., Mr. H. Charles Woods referred to the Nish-Salonika and Salonika-Monastir lines. He said:—

Nish—Salonika.

Second only in significance to the Belgrade-Sofia line, and even destined now to play a more important *rôle*, is the railway which connects Nish and Salonika. The length of this line is 278 miles. The northern section, that is the section from Nish to Raistovats, was built by the Serbians and opened in the year 1888. Its length is seventy miles. The remaining 208 miles were constructed for the Ottoman Government by Baron Hirsch, the greater part being opened in 1872. The Turkish section, which had no kilometric guarantee, was worked by the Oriental Railway Company until the Balkan wars of 1912-1913. As a result of these wars the Serbians secured, and subsequently took over the working of, the line between Raistovats and Gevgeli—a section which has a length of just over 250 miles. The remainder of this line, that is the part between Gevgeli and Salonika, has been in Greek territory since these wars, but the Hellenic section continued to be worked by the Oriental Railway Company until after the order for Greek mobilization issued at the end of September, 1915.

Salonika—Monastir.

Although it is not, strictly speaking, a main line, its geographical position, partly in Greece and partly in Serbia, makes it convenient here very briefly to refer to the railway which connects Salonika with Monastir. This railway, which has a total length of 136 miles, was opened in the year 1890. It is of considerable importance, because it serves an area of country which would otherwise be far from accessible—the proposed line from Kuprulu (Veles) to Monastir running entirely through Serbian territory has never been constructed—and because for years it has been part of the programme of Balkan railway construction to prolong it through Albania to some point on the Adriatic. Moreover, as it runs through Gida, Verria, and Florina, it will soon provide through communication with Athens by a line which now connects, or soon will connect, Larisa with Gida.

Smaller Lines.

There are only two railways in Serbia which have no connection with the main trunk routes from Belgrade to Constantinople. The first of these is a recently constructed line in the extreme north-western corner of the country. The second is that which runs through the district best known as the Sanjak of Novipazar—that narrow tongue of formerly Turkish territory which up to the time of the Balkan wars separated Serbia from Montenegro.

At Sofia and from the main trunk route a railway branches off in a south-westerly direction, and runs by way of Radomir and Kyustendil to Gyuveshevo absolutely on the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier. Opened by sections, this railway, the length of which is about ninety miles, was only completed in the year 1910. It is important because of the facilities which it gives for a military concentration in this part of Bulgaria, and therefore for a Bulgarian advance upon Uskub, and also because it was intended as the Bulgarian section of line finally to link Sofia with that town and, perhaps, to form part of a great line from the Danube to the Adriatic.

Greek Routes.

There are three principal routes by which Greece maintains communications in and with her new provinces, and between them and the remainder of Europe. To begin with there is a good road about fifty-five miles long from Preveza at the entrance to the Gulf of Arta, and another through Arta to Joannina. The former route was constructed by the Turks at about the same time as that from Santi Quaranta. A new road, some fifty miles long, either has been or is about to be built from Gumenitza, the natural port of Joannina, to that city. Further to the north-east there is a route which connects Kalabaka—a Greek railway terminus—with Joannina by way of Metsovo.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The Central News Agency reported from Amsterdam last night that the Ottoman Chamber of Deputies has passed a Bill allowing the free importation, until the end of the war, of a number of necessary articles, including petroleum, sugar, coffee, matches, beans, peas, certain drugs, linen and yarns.

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A correspondent writing from Athens on February 24, said:—"A local Greek, in touch with Constantinople, has given me a list of prices ruling in the Turkish capital; it may interest your readers." The list, in piastres per oke, is as follows:—Coffee, 100; soap, 40; sugar, 60; paraffin, 90; grease (used as butter), 50; cheese, 50; haricots, 14; biscuits, 40; milk, 6; lemons, 2-3; olives, 12-14; meat, 20-25; alcohol, 120; oil, 20; and paper, 25.

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Prices in Greece, writes another correspondent, are also higher than last year. Thus, sugar is now 1.90-2.10 drs. per oke, as against 1.15 drs. last April, and bread 0.80 drs.-0.90 drs., as against 0.45 drs. before the war. Matches also are dearer. Some kinds of wood have doubled in price, and are almost unobtainable. Coal is 100 drs. per ton—when it can be got, which is not often, as there is hardly any in the country.

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The report issued by the Council of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders, to which reference is made elsewhere, contains tables showing the position, at the commencement of 1916, of the Public Debts of the fifty-two foreign countries and States quoted on the Stock Exchange. These countries are divided into three classes—viz., (1) those paying their obligations in full, by which is meant that the States and countries concerned have made no declaration of any suspension of payment; in the case of those involved in the war no payment is made to enemies, and restrictions are imposed with regard to locality of payment; also, in certain instances, owing to *force majeure* or to difficulties occasioned by the war, it has not been possible to apply the sinking funds. This group comprises the following Near Eastern countries:—Bulgaria, Egypt, Greece, Persia, Roumania, Serbia, and Turkey. (2) Countries and States paying their foreign obligations in part, in which group there appear no countries covered by THE NEAR EAST; and (3) those which have entirely defaulted in the payment of their foreign obligations since the outbreak of the war, among which has been included brave little Montenegro, which has defaulted since (and including) the July, 1915, payment on its debt service. It is to be regretted that no measures were adopted whereby Montenegro could have been placed in the same category as Serbia—and Belgium for that matter.

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According to a Reuter message from Bucharest on February 29, the Roumanian Government has decided to build at railway stations and ports new warehouses capable of housing 400,000 tons of cereals. This decision has doubtless been taken as a result of our wheat deal with Roumania, one clause of the agreement stating, as has been previously mentioned in these columns, that the buyer has the right to leave the goods in the hands of the seller for a period not exceeding six months after the conclusion of a general peace, or, according to another version, until the Dardanelles are reopened. The effect of this was to incapacitate existing warehouses when required for the next harvest—a circumstance which was naturally fully exploited by the Boche agents in Roumania. In a recent interview granted by M. D. Greceano (*vide* last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST) to our Bucharest Correspondent, the eminent economist suggested that Great Britain, in order to put an effectual stop to Austro-German intrigues, should construct, or have constructed, in Roumania special warehouses for storing the purchased grain; but from the above it would seem that the Roumanian Government has chivalrously forestalled us, and confounded the subversive propaganda of the Huns.

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I am pleased to see that the Sultan of Egypt strongly advocates the creation of agricultural syndicates after the war, without which, he declared in an interview, the cultivation would never rise. He looked forward to happy days when the fellaheen, no longer weighed down with debts, would become proprietors of the lands they cultivated. This certainly seems to be the most rational scheme that could be adopted if the fellaheen are to reap the full benefits of their labour. In the hands of a strong committee the farmer would be enabled to dispose of his produce to the greatest possible advantage with a minimum of trouble to himself, and backed by the support of its advisers he would always be in the position to obtain speedy financial assistance for the development of his land in case of necessity. The suggestion is by no means a new one in its application to Egypt; the syndical system is known to have been greatly favoured by Lord Kitchener when he was in the country, and his Highness's interest will probably serve to make its adoption general. As long as such syndicates are rigidly safeguarded from the inclusion of unscrupulous members who might be tempted to exploit the ignorance of the fellaheen to their own advantage their formation could be followed by none but good results.

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I should like to draw the attention of our friends in the Near East to the fact that British £1 notes are circulating freely in Germany—a most suspicious circumstance, considering that our export of said notes is *practically nil*. The conclusion to be arrived at is that they are being forged by the German Government with a view to foisting them, instead of the valueless mark, on friends and neutrals. Roumania, especially, will be well advised to refuse payments offered by the Central Powers, Bulgaria, or Turkey, in British £1 notes.

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Writing on February 20 from Athens, our Special Correspondent confirms a previous report that the Ottoman Chamber of Deputies has passed a law increasing the loan of £T6,000,000 voted last October to £T20,000,000 to be raised in Germany. It is not clear what the object of this loan is (says our correspondent), unless it is to pay in some form or other Turkey's debts to German creditors. All these loans raised in Germany are shrouded in mystery. Of course, no coin comes into Turkey; in fact, on the same day the Chamber authorised another issue of paper money to the extent of £T1,340.000. The issue of so much paper of forced currency is naturally a matter of some concern to the banks, who may find themselves loaded with a lot of worthless "scraps of paper" at the end of the war. The mark is depreciated to the extent of about 35 per cent. in Constantinople, the exchange on Berlin being 24 marks to the Turkish pound.

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Last week, in the House of Commons, Colonel Yate asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the fact that so many British Consuls or Vice-Consuls (in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Holland) were aliens "it is now proposed to limit the appointment of British Consuls and Vice-Consuls to men of purely British descent." Sir Edward Grey replied: "All salaried Consular officers in the countries named are of British birth. Of the unsalaried officers the great proportion in the countries named are foreigners. These appointments are made in places where it is a choice between having an unsalaried officer or none at all. In such places where a suitable British candidate is forthcoming he is given the post, but British merchants and shipowners constantly employ foreigners as their agents, and it therefore often happens that there is no one of British birth resident and qualified for the unsalaried post."

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I wonder if these remarks of our Foreign Secretary apply to all Consular posts in the Near East? For some cities—even capitals—in the Balkans (I exclude Bulgaria, which fell until recently within the jurisdiction of the Levant Service) have no British-born Consuls. They are aliens. Are they salaried or unsalaried? Have they been appointed because no British-born subject was available—this is doubtful—or is it because we do not trade in these countries? The suggestion is fallacious; the Boches did not only appoint Consuls where trade was booming; they wisely appointed them where trade was slack, and, *as a result*, trade boomed. Can we not follow a similar procedure, and thereby get rid of some of our Consular "friends" who write "bush" as though it were spelt "busch." The difference in cost could surely be easily covered by introducing some minor Consular fees (a system of Consular invoices, for instance, as suggested by Colonel Yate), which would bring in several millions.

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A Proclamation is shortly to be issued prohibiting, as from March 13, the importation into the United Kingdom of canned, bottled, dried and preserved fruit, except currants. This prohibition will not, however, affect fruit of this description the produce of any part of the British Empire. Fresh fruits, it will be observed, are not affected by the proposed measure.

COMMENTATOR.

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Alexandria Prize Court.

S.S. Proton.

The following are extracts from the judgment delivered by Judge Cator on February 8, 1916, in the Alexandria Prize Court, *in re* s.s. Proton :—

This case raises difficult questions both of law and fact. The Proton is a vessel of about 530 tons burthen, registered at Syra in the name of Kouremetis, a naturalized Greek subject, and entitled to fly the Greek flag. She was captured by H.M.S. Kennet in the Turkish port of Kiuluk on May 16, 1915, while engaged in loading cargo. The Crown asks for her condemnation.

Kouremetis was a Turkish subject of Greek race from the island of Calymnos, one of those Greek-peopled islands in the Ægean which until recently formed part of the Ottoman Dominions, but were seized by Italy in the course of her war against Turkey a few years ago, when, as Kouremetis says, he became an Italian protégé and obtained an Italian passport. For a long time he had carried on business in Hamburg, but he left that city after the war broke out, and, on or about April 15, 1915, obtained naturalization as a Greek subject. On April 17 he purchased the s.s. Proton for the price of 150,000 drachmas, as appears from a Notarial Act which has been produced to the Court. On April 22 the Proton cleared from the Piræus for Adalia in ballast with Kouremetis on board.

According to her log the Proton reached Adalia, on the Turkish coast, on April 25, and proceeded to load cereals and flour for Samos and Piræus. On the 29th she sailed for Samos in the middle of the night, but, owing to rough weather, decided to put in at Calymnos in order to dispose of about ninety cattle which had been taken on at Adalia and were suffering from the effects of the storm. She made Calymnos at 3.30 p.m. on the 30th, and landed the cattle, and the log contains this entry: "The export of goods having been prohibited by the Italian authorities, we were obliged to sell a portion of our cargo of cereals and flour, and commenced unloading."

They proceeded to Leros but could find no local buyers there, and so were allowed by the authorities to sail for Samos, where the balance of the goods were disposed of. According to the log, the ship left Calymnos on May 5, touched at Leros on the 6th, and reached Samos on the 7th. On May 12 they left Samos empty, and reached Kiuluk. On the 14th they began to load cereals, and were so engaged when the ship was seized on the 16th.

The Proton was brought to Alexandria and placed in the hands of the Marshal on or about May 24, 1915. . . .

The Owner.

The questions of fact that I am called upon to determine relate to the ownership of the vessel. Was she really the property of Kouremetis, and, if not, to whom did she belong?

The Crown has produced a series of sworn statements by merchants, ships' captains, and others which seek to prove (1) that Kouremetis was a man of no means, and (2) that he bought the Proton with money supplied to him for the purpose by a third party, and with the intention that she should be employed to carry supplies to Turkish ports.

Testing the evidence of the Crown I am bound to point out that a great deal of it is mere hearsay, and that of a good deal more the means of knowledge of the deponents is not disclosed. But after making due allowance in this direction there remains a substantial substratum of testimony to which no exception can be taken.

The first important fact that I consider to be proved is that a little after the outbreak of war Kouremetis had practically no means, even if he was not actually insolvent, and that in the spring of 1915 he suddenly appeared in Athens with his pockets full of money. Kouremetis himself does not contest the fact that he brought a large sum to Athens in April. He seems even to accept the approximate figures named by witnesses for the Crown, but he claims that the money was his own, and he has given us certain particulars as to how it was acquired. This information is contained in a statement or complaint rated August 14, 1915, addressed by him to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Athens. This document is most unsatisfactory. I am asked to believe that Kouremetis, after the outbreak of war, realized in one way or another no less than 192,000 frs. from his business in Hamburg. But, even if his affairs had prospered, which is contrary to all the evidence filed on behalf of the Crown, it is ludicrous to suppose that he could have sold out upon advantageous terms when business in Hamburg had been brought to a standstill. Moreover, he might have had some difficulty in remitting the proceeds to Athens had there been any to remit. Frankly, I do not believe that part of his statement, and, in view of all the circumstances, I am not disposed to accept any other portion of it without corroboration. The statement is not on oath, though I do not attach much importance to that fact. What weighs with me much more heavily is that the claimant has not offered himself for examination. It is true that the Prize Court takes the bulk of its evidence by affidavit, but it can, and does, take oral evidence as well, and in a case like this if the claimant, who is the only person who really knows what has taken place, abstains from going into the box, I think the Court is entitled to presume that he cannot rebut the evidence proffered by the Crown. Moreover, the circumstances under which the Proton was purchased, and the use for which she was intended (as to which I will say something later on) are all factors which may legitimately be considered in weighing the value of the claimant's statement, and the upshot of my examination of the evidence is that I believe Kouremetis had no means when he left Germany on the outbreak of the war, and obtained no considerable sum of money by legitimate methods up to the time of his purchase of the Proton. I accordingly find that the ship was purchased in Kouremetis' name for the account of some other person who furnished the necessary cash.

Germany Suspected.

The next point that I have to consider is whether I may properly infer that the German Government provided the funds. On this point it can hardly be expected that the Crown should be able to produce direct evidence. . . . But there certainly is testimony which tends to connect Kouremetis with the German authorities in Athens, and as he does not deny the allegation I think I may assume it to be true, and bearing that fact in mind I turn to the evidence relating to the purchase of the ship, and her use by Kouremetis to see if any further light can be thrown upon the mystery of her ownership. I find that the purchase treads hard upon the heels of Kouremetis' naturalisation as a Greek subject, and I think I may fairly conclude that the naturalization was effected in order that Kouremetis might purchase the ship. I then examine the object for which she was acquired, and I see that it was to trade with Turkish ports. That is clear from her own log. But I have also come to the conclusion that she had a special mission to convey a particular cargo of oil to the enemy. The ship cleared from Adalia with flour and cereals for Samos, but put in at Calymnos on her way, on the pretext that it was necessary to land some cattle whose condition had been adversely affected by heavy weather met on her voyage. Her arrival in Calymnos coincided with that of a cargo of oil belonging to Kouremetis as to which he observed great secrecy. The evidence indicates pretty clearly that Kouremetis intended to carry on this oil to a Turkish port, and I infer that he had intended to do so in the Proton, and that her first voyage was primarily undertaken with that object, but that in order to conceal his intentions he went first to Adalia and then affected an intention to go from Adalia to Samos. I believe that this proposed voyage was a pretence and the landing of the cattle at Calymnos a mere blind to hide his real intention, which was to pick up the oil at Calymnos and carry it on to a Turkish port. I doubt if the story about the very heavy weather recorded in the log is true. If it were, and the cattle had really suffered, the ship would naturally have put in at Rhodes, and not having done so she could very well have reached Samos, having regard to the improved state of the weather as recorded in the log.

The Crown did not ask me to draw any particular conclusion from the fact that the Proton put in at Calymnos instead of pursuing her voyage to Samos, and it was not until I sat down to examine the evidence in detail that the full significance of the Proton's movements became clear to me. At first, I was in some doubt as to how far I ought to make an inference adverse to the claimant which had not been suggested at the bar, but inasmuch as it was not a question of admitting new evidence, but of appreciating what had actually been produced in Court, I felt that I could not ignore the results of my investigation. At the same time, it seemed only fair that Mr. Booth should have an opportunity of offering explanations, and for this purpose I had the case restored to the list, and recalled the Captain for further examination. The result has been that I am only the more firmly convinced that my inference is correct. The Captain could give no better reason for not putting his cattle ashore at Rhodes than that he passed that island very early in the morning, and he has offered as a further explanation for going to Calymnos that Kouremetis wanted to do a good turn to his fellow islanders by providing them with flour of which they stood in need, which hardly accords with the story about the sale having been forced by the Italian authorities. I have no doubt that the flour was to have made way for the oil, and when the oil could not be loaded there was no further reason for discharging cargo at Calymnos.

Now it may be said that the owner's intention to run a cargo of contraband, an intention which was foiled owing to the action of the Italian authorities, gives the Crown no right to confiscate his ship, and that is perfectly true. But I think this fact is a pertinent one in regard to the question that I have to determine in relation to the ownership of the vessel. I am dealing with circumstantial evidence, and this is a circumstance, which, taken by itself, might have no significance, but in collocation with other facts tends to establish the contention of the Crown.

The purpose for which the vessel was employed, the close relation of Kouremetis with the German Authorities, his unwillingness to testify before this Court, all point in one direction, and after weighing all the evidence to the best of my ability, I make the deduction that the real owner of the Proton was the German Government, and that although Kouremetis may have had some interest in the cargo he had none in the vessel, and was a mere agent for the German Government, whose orders he was bound to obey. I think it follows as a corollary that the Proton falls within either or both the exceptions (2) and (3) of Art. 46 of the Declaration of London, inasmuch as her nominal owner must be considered to be an agent placed on board by the enemy Government, and that she was in reality in its exclusive employment. Consequently, upon the assumption that this case has to be dealt with under the terms of the Declaration of London, I find that the Proton, although technically entitled to fly the Greek flag, is liable to condemnation and confiscation as lawful Prize, and I order her to be sold or delivered to the Crown.

A feature of considerable interest in cotton trade circles during the last few months (says the *Yorkshire Post*) has been the increased takings of the United States in Egyptian cotton. So far this season, that is to say, from August 1 last, the shipments from Alexandria amount to 145,693 bales, against 93,408 bales in the previous year, and 36,718 bales in 1913-14. Recently, the exports from this country to America have been larger, and substantial buying has occurred in the Liverpool market. It is evident from these facts that cotton manufacturers in the United States are spinning yarns of a finer quality. It is said that many concerns are very busy making canvas cloths suitable for motor tyres.

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ENEMY FIRMS IN EGYPT.

The *Official Journal* of February 14 publishes the following Proclamation:

1. The licences granted to the firms mentioned in the second column of the list set out below have been modified by the addition of the following clause:—

"(6) The operations of the firm under this licence shall be carried out under the supervision of a Controller appointed under the authority of the General Officer Commanding in Chief, and paid by the firm, the said Controller having power to take all such measures as may be necessary to ensure the speedy liquidation of the business."

The firms in question have been placed under the supervision of the Controllers named in the third column.

Number of Licence.	Name of Firm.	Controller.
26	Bayer, Brüder	Mr. R. E. Moore
29	Boehme and Anderer	Mr. R. E. Moore
31	Brach, Gustav and Co., Succrs.	Mr. C. E. Pheysey
44	The Colloid Wolfram Lamp Co.	Mr. F. H. Russell
47	Cotton Export Co.	Mr. F. H. Russell
74	Fix and David	Mr. R. E. Moore
85	Prima Fabbaica Birra di Graz	Mr. E. D. Joyce
97	Hess and Co.	Messrs. R. and J. Moss and Co.
118	Kortenhaus and Hammerstein	Mr. F. H. Russell
120	Kunzler and Co.	Mr. R. E. Moore
122	Langrebe and Leisching	Mr. R. C. Abdy
132	Lindemann, R. and O.	Mr. H. Bridson
135	Lion, Ludwig	Mr. R. E. Moore
167	Mulhauser and Co.	Messrs. Peel and Co.
182	Pollack and Co., Leopold	Mr. W. B. Delany
190	Protzman, Carl	Messrs. Peel and Co.
234	Schneider and Rothacker.	Mr. E. D. Joyce
235	Seeger, Albert	Messrs. Barker and Co.
236	Seeger Bros. and Co.	Mr. F. H. Russell
239	Siemens-Schuckert	Mr. R. E. Moore
246	S/A pour la Fabrication des Cigarettes Egyptiennes "Hadges Nessim"	Mr. E. D. Joyce
258	Stobbe, Rudolf, G.M.B.H.	Mr. H. Swinglehurst
261	Stross, Brüder	Mr. F. H. Russell
193	Riecken, Georg	Mr. H. Bridson
175	Orenstein & Koppel, Arthur Koppel	Mr. F. H. Russell
254	Steaua Romana	Messrs. Carver Bros. and Co., Ltd.

2. The firms mentioned in the second column of the list set out below have been granted licences to carry on business for the purpose of liquidation only with the additional clause (6) above cited, and the firms in question have been placed under the supervision of the Controller mentioned in the third column of the list.

Number of Licence.	Name of Firm.	Controller.
59	Egyptische Egrenir Fabriken	Mr. H. Bridson, Alexandria
67	Escher Jesumann and Co.	Messrs. Carver Bros. and Co., Ltd., Alexandria

3. The licence No. 75 granted to Mr. F. Flasch has been cancelled and replaced by a licence under the same number for the purpose of liquidation only with the additional clause (6) above cited.

The business has been placed under the supervision of Mr. F. H. Russell, Gresham House, Cairo.

GREEK TRADE WITH EGYPT.

A long report has recently been presented to the Greek Government by Mr. Sachtouris, the Hellenic Consul at Alexandria, on the development of Greek trade with Egypt, prior to the Balkan War of 1912-13. It contains much that is of interest.

It is noted, for instance, that whereas during thirty years the general imports into Egypt have trebled, imports from Greece have increased sevenfold. Exports to Greece have, on the other hand, diminished, mainly owing to the fact that Greece is now growing her own cotton, large quantities of which she formerly took from this country.

It is shown that two-thirds of our imports from Greece consists in tobacco, the balance being represented by oil, olive, cognac, wine, dried and fresh fruits, and chemical preparations for agricultural purposes.

Egypt's Trade in January.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 23.

By contrast with the state of affairs that existed a year ago the Egyptian Customs returns for the first month of the current year show a continuation in the improvement in Egyptian trade that has been noticeable for some little time. Imports during January amounted to £E1,695,054 and exports to £E3,248,369, as against £E990,166 and £E2,682,236 respectively twelve months previously—i.e., an improvement in total trade of over 33 1-3 per cent.

The main increases in imports were coffee by £E22,799, or 100 per cent.; construction wood by £E101,638—in January, 1915, only 2,901 cub. metres, worth £E6,198, came in—coal by £E70,589—the change in the market is evident from the fact that the quantity was 15,256 tons less—natural indigo by £E19874—last year none was imported—textiles by £E357,935—cotton tissue jumping from £E148,593 to £E341,124 and sacks from £E23,146 to £E63,988—and worked iron and steel by £E31,305. Decreases were recorded in rice from £E38,011 to £E105, petroleum from £E26,442 to £E841, chemical manures by 90 per cent. to £E7,344, and tobacco by £E1,988.

Under exports the most marked changes were eggs, which increased by £E75,718, though the quantity was only about thirteen million more; cotton, which rose by £E666,025, albeit the exports fell off by 257,746 cantars; cereals, which rose from £E18,445 to £E143,586—the quantities of wheat maize, rice, and beans were in the month several times those recorded for entire years prior to the war—and spirit, which hitherto has been exported in very small lots, and of which £E15,282 was sent abroad in January. Skins and tanned goods fell off by £E12,067, cotton-seed and oil cake by £E113,299, and sugar by £E46,216. The difficulty in securing freights had a great deal to do with the decrease in the export of the two last-named items. Exports of gold and silver bar also dropped from £E138.176 to £E14,250, but this was to be expected in view of the improved financial condition of the people. Cigarettes advanced by £E2,984, the quantity rising from 18 to 22 tons.

Great Britain's share in the imports rose from £E436,786 to £E781,287. She supplied over 60 per cent. of the flour, textiles, and iron and steel, and nearly 90 per cent. of the coal. British Posessions increased from £E110,684 to £E197,508. India just about doubling her share. The latter supplied all the sacks and natural indigo, 30 per cent. of the flour, more than half the cotton threads, whilst with other British Colonies in the East she provided all the tea. The United States have increased their sales to Egypt, skins, flour, mineral oils, coal, and iron and steel being amongst the more important items. France and Italy have both recovered from the first shock of the war and have increased their share by 170 per cent. and 40 per cent. respectively. Italy provided more than half the stone and masonry and a large portion of the stationery. Russia has made a welcome return with £E104,189, as against £E5,803 a year ago; practically all this was construction wood, of which none has come in for some considerable time. Japan, Switzerland, and China also improved their positions, the latter in silk textiles and the second-named in chocolate and machinery.

On the export side Great Britain dropped by £E95,198 to £E1,568,837, mainly in cotton seed; she took all the eggs, and practically all the wool (£E18.619). The United States doubled their purchases, France improved hers from £E29,486 to £E175,776, Italy hers from £E120.004 to £E219.206, Japan hers from £E30,140 to £E164,638, and Russia hers from £E85,404 to £E288,515. Most of these increases were due to cotton, of which 40 per cent. went to Great Britain, 26 per cent. to America, 12 per cent. to Russia, and 6 per cent. each to Japan and Italy. France and Italy between them took nearly all the maize (£E35,975), France all the spirit, Greece all the live stock, and India all the salt.

The Sudan.

In January, 1915, the Egyptian Custom statistics for the first time published details of the exchange of trade between the Sudan and Egypt and we are now able to give comparative figures. Goods to the value of £E73,920 were imported into Egypt from the Sudan in January, as compared with £E14,213 a year previously, and traffic the other way was £E70,575, as against £E53,052.

The chief imports into Egypt were live-stock £E17,812 (£E6,191), sesame £E23,145 (£E1,976), gum £E1,421 (£E353), maize £E5,630 (£E578), senna £E4,331 (£E898), and skins £E1,740 (£E703). Exports were cereals £E2,652 (£E4,307), sugar £E12,668 (£E14,293), cotton tissues £E15,232 (£E10,891), coffee £E2,045 (£E344), and sacks £E3,014 (£E464). The figures in brackets are those of the preceding January, and the comparison shows that the improvement in the economic situation of Egypt is spreading to her southern neighbour.

EGYPT AND MOROCCO.

The following are extracts from two short notes which appeared in the *Egyptian Gazette* recently:—

Sugar.

Of late, during a time of severe stress, Morocco has drawn from Egypt abundant supplies of excellent cane sugar in loaf to make up for the deficiency due to the temporary stoppage of the French refineries and to the total extinction of German overseas trade. This has been entirely due to the enterprise of a London firm of world-wide repute, Messrs. Harrison and Crosfield, whose initiative, backed by capable agents in both countries, deserves hearty recognition.

The exact figures have not yet been published, but they will be well worth examination by all who are concerned in strengthening the commercial links between the two great Protectorates of Northern Africa.

Banking.

A most hopeful event is the establishment at Tangier and Casablanca of branches of the Bank of British West Africa under the management of Mr. Biddulph, a gentleman whose twelve years' work in Egypt, is a guarantee of his realising the requirements and conditions of Egyptian as well as Moroccan commerce.

These, and other indications, all point to the speedy development of business relations between the "Far West" and the "Mid East" of the Anglo-Moslem World, a consummation devoutly to be wished. In this development sea transport will assuredly play a leading part, and it cannot be doubted that with sufficient initial encouragement, the existing steamship lines will rise to the occasion and provide facilities for carrying wares between Alexandria and the principal coast towns of Morocco, giving preference to business centres where there is a British banking establishment, nearly all shipments being now regulated in Morocco under hypothecation of documents.

The Chambers of Commerce of Egypt and Morocco respectively have before them a good opportunity to take time by the forelock and inquire thoroughly into the means of promoting economic relations between the two North African Protectorates—and in so doing strengthening and confirming the friendship between Great Britain and France, which humbly commenced with a diplomatic phrase, and to-day is cemented in the blood of Allies determined to vanquish the common enemy of civilisation and freedom.

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Engineering Notes.

Use of Tar-Oil in Diesel Engines.

The difficulties that are often experienced with Diesel engines when tar-oil is used as fuel—as practised in many districts in the East—can, apparently, be overcome by a new method recently described at a meeting of the Manchester Association of Engineers, by Mr. G. E. Windeler. For this purpose an auxiliary pump of special design is employed to inject a small fixed quantity of petroleum oil into the cylinder immediately in advance of the tar-oil; the effect of the "ignition oil," as it is called, being to increase the temperature and ensure immediate ignition and complete combustion of the fuel oil. The ignition oil, which amounts to about 6 per cent. of the total fuel consumption at full load, is delivered through a passage in the fuel-valve casing to the space immediately behind the valve just before the delivery of the fuel-oil takes place, so that when the valve opens the ignition oil enters the cylinder first. Tests have been made, and very satisfactory results have been obtained, with coke-oven tar and tar-oil, blast-furnace tar-oil, and vertical-retort tar, using in each case a small quantity of crude oil for ignition. No difficulty has been experienced with either of these fuels, and equally satisfactory results have been obtained with alcohol, which has proved one of the most difficult fuels to deal with in the ordinary way. According to Mr. Windeler, the exhaust gases were in all cases invisible, and the valves, pistons, and combustion spaces showed a remarkable freedom from deposits after long continuous runs. A very useful feature of this ignition oil apparatus is that it can easily be fitted to existing engines, and the cost of adapting one to an engine for the use of tar-oil would be, according to the inventor's estimate, about £1 per horse power. It is also calculated that, with tar-oil and petroleum at their present prices, the cost of conversion would be recovered in one year's ordinary working from the saving effected in cost of fuel-oil. This new method will be of great interest to Diesel engine users in the East, where tar-oils, from coke-ovens, gas producers, gasworks tar, etc., have recently been introduced and used as fuel. Of equal interest is the assertion that very satisfactory results have been obtained with alcohol, which, in many districts of the Near East, is preferable as fuel.

Linking Up the Greek and European Railway Systems.

According to reports from Athens the new railway line between Gida, on the Salonika-Monastir line, and Pappapuli on the Thessalian frontier will be opened for public use this week or next. The distance is about fifty-six miles, and the line runs along the Vistritza valley and the sea coast to Kraterina and Pappapuli, where it joins the line to Larissa, of the Piræus-Athens-Larissa Railway. The chief importance of this new line running along the coast lies in the fact that it links up the European railways with those of Greece. Thus passengers from Paris or any other continental capital will be able to go by train to Athens in sixty to seventy hours, and thence to Alexandria by boat in forty to forty-four hours. The construction of the new line has been, it must be admitted, rapidly completed. Twenty-new locomotive engines and the rest of the rolling stock have been ordered in America, and are now on the spot. Owing to the war, several iron bridges which had been ordered in France, could not be ready in time, and for that reason temporary wooden bridges have to be constructed where needed.

Beersheba Railhead.

The Suez Canal is a long way from Constantinople, and a still longer way from Berlin, says the special correspondent of the *Times* in Cairo, but recent events in the Balkans have brought them closer together by opening almost through railway communication to the frontier of Egypt, south of Beersheba, the present railhead. The greater part of this line would render great services

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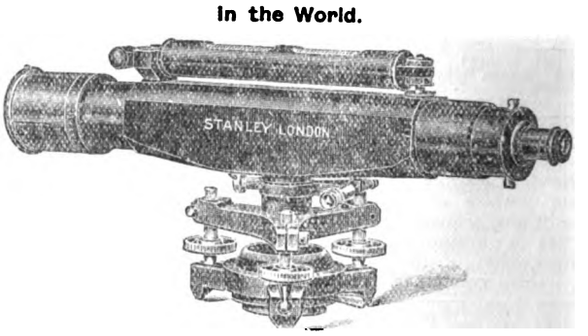

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to the enemy. Fortunately, it has never been completed, and various gaps and changes of gauge exist between its European terminus at Constantinople and the linehead in Southern Syria. At the Taurus mountains there is a gap of some twenty miles, where the tunnelling has not been completed. Roads, however, connect the two rail ends. A gap of about the same extent exists a little farther to the south, in the immediate region of the Gulf of Alexandretta. From here the line proceeds without a break *viâ* Aleppo and Damascus to Deraa, on the Hedjaz Railway, whence there is a branch *viâ* Jerusalem to Bires-Sepa, or Beersheba, the extreme southern limit of habitable country in Palestine. Here the railway ends, though some preparation has been made to continue it to El-Auja, fifty miles farther on in the desert in the direction of Egypt. Between Beersheba and El-Auja there is practically no water, which will increase the difficulties of laying this portion of the line. It appears that considerable railway stores have been collected at Beersheba, where roads have lately been constructed. It is between Deraa and Beersheba that a change of gauge has to be faced. The total length of the railway from Beersheba to the Canal would be 170 miles. In times of peace, with all the necessary material to hand, the construction of this line would present no very great difficulties, but a considerable period would be required, far longer than the Turks have at their disposal if they desire to attack Egypt within reasonable time.

Alexandria's New Breakwater—Caisson versus Block.

The criticism levelled against the structural system of Alexandria's new breakwater by M. Nicolaou, a local engineer and an exponent of the "caisson" system, has inspired the *Egyptian Gazette* to an examination of the controversial question, with the result that one of its representatives has visited the works and reports as follows:—

"When the breakwater project was first mooted both the system of construction actually adopted and the caisson system were considered. As it was urged that not only was the caisson system more expensive, but it was only of real use when a mole had to be constructed in deep water, whereas the water in the immediate neighbourhood of Fort Kaid Bey is very shallow, the present block system was finally decided upon. The plan adopted was to place rows of forty five-ton blocks symmetrically one upon the other on a special grooving system to a width of 25 metres up to 2 metres 50 cm. above sea level. A wall was then constructed 4 metres 50 cm. high on the inland side, i.e., 7 metres above sea level, and about 2 metres 50 cm. high on the seaward side. The width of the wall is to be 3 metres 50 cm. at the base, 7 metres two metres 50 cm. higher up and 3 metres 50 cm. at the top, leaving a sheltered walk on the land side 2 metres 50 cm. wide, to be used as a promenade. In addition to this already formidable structure, on the outward side there have been thrown out to a distance of eleven metres a great number of forty-five ton blocks, the heaps gradually rising in a gentle incline so that one angle of the bases of the highest blocks rests on a level with the base of the superstructure. By this means, it is impossible for a green sea to strike the base of the mole; on the contrary, meeting with no resistance whatever as the sea face side of this wall is also inclined inwards and upwards, the wave simply slides up the slope of blocks, falling over the wall into the gully beneath. The blocks upon which the superstructure is built are placed on a heaped stone foundation and are so placed as to allow for fifty centimetres of settlement before the superstructure is commenced. Thus, in theory, the breakwater ought to be strong enough to face any storms in this part of the Mediterranean."

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of Public Works for the purchase of the following steamers; (1) Rameses the Great and (2) Tewfik, both damaged by fire at Bulac, Cairo, and (3) Rameses, lying sunk off Messrs. Cook's yard at Bulac.

Separate tenders will be received for each of these steamers, which will be sold as they lie in their present position and condition with boilers, machinery, etc., on board. Tenders should be addressed to the Director-General of the Mechanical Service Ministry of Public Works, Cairo. The Rameses the Great and the Tewfik will have to be removed within three days, and the Rameses within one month of acceptance of tender. No date for the receipt of tenders is mentioned.

A cash deposit of £E10 must accompany each tender.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade is in receipt from the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior of copies of the statement of conditions, etc., in connection with a call for tenders for the supply of Ghafir clothing required by the Stores Department during 1916, including blue drill belts, drawers, and qamis. Two metres of cloth of the kinds which the tenderer intends to use must be submitted to the Director of Stores, Bulac, Cairo, at least ten days before the adjudication. Copies of the specifications with forms of tender, etc., may be obtained at a cost of 2s. per copy, from the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W., where also sealed samples of the articles required may be inspected. Sealed tenders, on the proper form, will be received, up to noon on April 22, by the Under-Secretary of State (Personnel and Equipment Department), Ministry of the Interior, Cairo.

The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of equipment, clothing, material, paraffin, milk in tins, etc., necessary for Central Stores for one year from April 1, 1916, to March 31, 1917. Date, March 20.

Tenders are invited by the Army Finance Department, Ministry of War, Cairo, for the supply of 350 tons of Rangoon rice, No. 3, into the stores of the Egyptian Bonded Warehouses Company, Alexandria. Date, March 14.

The Egyptian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of "53,080 manches en bois" and 500 cannes en jonc de 1 metre et 60 centimetres de long." Date, April 3.

The Ports and Lights Administration, Alexandria, invite tenders for the supply of petroleum and benzine required for the financial year 1916-1917. Date, March 20.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-18). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Date, June 1.

Sudan

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on March 22, 1916, for the supply of oils and lubricants required by the above department for 1916. Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, Agent Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria, or Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on March 29, 1916, for the supply of paraffin and petrol required by the above department for 1916. Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, or to the Agents, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria.

Cyprus.

Importers are warned that goods which originated in an enemy country, even though they may have left enemy territory and become neutral property before the war, are liable to seizure if imported without the permission of the Government.

Tenders are invited for the supply of boots for the year ending March 31. All boots to be supplied before October 31, 1916. All tenders should be sealed, and should be addressed to the President of the Tender Board, the Office of the Treasurer, Nicosia. Tenders should reach the Office of the Treasurer not later than 11 a.m. on March 11, 1916.

Greece.

The attention of the Board of Trade has been called to a practice on the part of shippers of consigning their goods to his Majesty's Consular officers in Greece and sending to them bills of lading and invoices for delivery to third parties, and even requesting them to make arrangements for transhipment where necessary. It is impossible for his Majesty's Consular officers, who are already overburdened with other duties, to undertake work of this character, and shippers are accordingly warned not to consign their goods to his Majesty's Consular officers in Greece unless expressly so authorised or directed by his Majesty's Government.

Mail advices from Roumania to *Oil News* state that the production of crude oil during the first half of February was approximately 4,300 tons per day. The demand for the better qualities of crude was very satisfactory up to the 11th of the month, when the railway authorities suspended accepting further consignments of oil products for despatch *viâ* Predeal, Verciorova and Caineni, on the ground that the lines were congested with traffic. Bustenari crude fetched between 41 and 42 fr. per metric ton, and in cases where urgent delivery was required half to one france more was paid.

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Greece and Egypt.

Report of the Council of Foreign Bondholders.

The forty-second annual report of the Council of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders has just been published (price 2s. 6d. net), and is a useful compendium of the loans, etc., of the countries coming within the Corporation's sphere of activities. Near Eastern countries include Egypt, Turkey, and Greece.

Egypt.

Though the report contains few financial items that did not appear in these columns during the course of 1915, their compact publication in book form, together with the history of Egyptian loans, will be found handy for reference. The following table of the external debt is one of the many included under the above heading :—

4% Unified Debt. Issues of 1877 and 1880	£60,958,240	
Less Redeemed to 30th June, 1915	4 986,280	
		£55,971,960
3½% Preference Debt. Issues of 1877, 1880, 1890 and 1901-3	31,681,200	
Less Redeemed to 30th June, 1915	553,420	
		31,127,780
3% Guaranteed Loan of 1885 ..	9,424,000	
Less Redeemed to 30th June, 1915	2,494,900	
		6,929,100
Total		£94,028,840*

NOTE.—In addition to the foregoing, the Egyptian Government has certain direct liabilities with regard to guarantees given in connection with the Nile barrage, the Keneh to Assouan and Port Said to Ismailia Railways, and the service of the Alexandria Municipality Loan. The annual charge on these accounts amounts at present to about £E200,000. The Government also pays an annual sum of about £E665,000 for the service of the Ottoman Loans of 1855, 1891 and 1894, formerly secured on the Egyptian Tribute to Turkey.

There are, besides, sundry contingent liabilities; but the conditions under which these would become effective vary, and, as a matter of fact, the Government has hitherto been practically exempt from having to make any payments in respect of them.

* Including the following Bonds held by the Caisse de la Dette and by the Government for their respective Reserve Funds, etc. :—

4% Unified Debt.....	£3,080,220
3½% Preference Bonds	2,476,000
3% Guaranteed Loan.....	83,600
	£5,639,820

The total amount in actual circulation is therefore £88,389,020.

Of the sum appropriated for the service of the guaranteed loan, there was applied to sinking fund, in respect of the intermediary period, January, February, and March, 1914 (prior to the establishment of a new financial year running from April 1 to March 31), £51,939. For the financial year, April 1, 1914, to March 31, 1915, a further sum of £106,161 was devoted to the same purpose. With the total of £158,100 thus applied, £173,700 bonds were redeemed.

The following statement, revised to date, shows the total amounts received by the Caisse from 1910, the sums required for the debt service, and the surplus remaining :—

Years.	Total Amounts received by the Caisse.	Sums required for Interest, Sinking Fund, and Expenses of Administration.	Surplus.
	£	£	£
1910	3,858,816	3,678,809	180,007
1911	3,707,367	3,679,232	28,135
1912	4,073,887	3,679,222	394,665
1913	4,962,938	4,943,073	19,865
1914 (3 months) ..	175,544	166,472	9,072
*1914-15	4,864,667	4,776,033	88,634

* Fiscal Year altered to 1st April—31st March.

The movement of the general reserve fund (which is entirely at the disposal of the Government) during the financial year 1914-15, was as follows :—

Balance 1st April, 1914	£5,234,409
Expenditure to cover Deficit in 1914-15..	1,505,317
Balance in hand, 31st March, 1915 ..	£3,728,092

Greece.

In the year 1914 the gross receipts from the Monopolies and Piræus Customs assigned under the settlement of 1898 amounted to 63,087,551 dr. as compared with 55,021,654 dr. in 1913, and with 61,763,494 dr. in 1911, which was previously the best on record.

The receipts on which the plus-values are based were 36,193,454 dr., or 7,344,615 dr. more than in 1913, the chief increases being about 5,000,000 dr. from stamps, 4,000,000 dr. from tobacco, and 600,000 fr. from Naxos emery, the last-named being due to the termination of the miners' strike. During the last nine months of 1914, the International Financial Commission also collected 15,148,042 dr. from the Customs of the six ports (outside of the Piræus) and 3,974,339 dr. from the surtax on tobacco assigned to the service of the 5 per cent. loan of 1914, bringing the total sum collected by the Commission up to 82,209,932 dr.

As regards 1915, the receipts from which the plus-values are derived showed a considerable falling off in November and December, and it is expected that for the year they will amount to about 885,000 dr. less than in 1914. On this basis it is probable that the increases payable in 1916 will be, for Group 1, 24 per cent. for interest and 14 for sinking fund, and for groups 2 and 3, 22 per cent. for interest and 16 for sinking fund.

[Group 1, it will be remembered, consists of the 4 per cent. 1887 (Monopoly) Loan and the 5 per cent. 1893 (Funding) Loan; group 2 of the 5 per cent. 1881 Loan, the 5 per cent. 1884 Loan, and the 5 per cent. 1890 (Piræus-Larissa Loan; group 3 embraces only the 4 per cent. 1889 (Rentes) Loan.]

The following is a table of the Greek External Debt outstanding on December 31, 1915 :—

5% Loan of 1881	£3,534,720
5% Loan of 1884	3,082,020
4% Monopoly Loan, 1887	4,669,920
4% Rentes, 1889	5,268,840
5% Loan, Piræus-Larissa Railway, 1890-1....	2,033,910
5% Funding Loan, 1893.....	329,880
2½% Loan of 1898 (guaranteed by the Powers)	4,774,800
4% "Greek Railways Loan" of 1902	2,219,680
5% Greek National Loan of 1907	743,920
4% Loan of 1911	4,279,020
6% Loan of 1913 (repayable in five years)....	2,000,000
5% Greek Government Loan of 1914 (authorised amount, £19,850,000)	13,352,460
Total.....	£46,289,100

Note.—The above table does not include advances made to Greece in the course of the European War of 1914.

The net receipts from all the assigned revenues collected by the International Financial Commission since May, 1910, are given in the annexed table. For the sake of convenience, the receipts in gold from Naxos emery have been converted into drachmæ at the mean rate of exchange for each year.

Year.	Stamps, Tobacco, and Monopolies	Piræus Customs.	Customs of six other Ports and Surtaxes on Tobacco, assigned to the service of the 5 % Loan of 1914	Total.
1910	30,661,702	24,951,891	—	55,613,593
1911	31,997,144	27,148,367	—	59,145,511
1912	30,397,068	24,241,561	—	54,638,630
1913	27,936,169	26,081,042	—	54,017,211
1914	33,302,079	26,803,823	19,071,189	79,177,091

The report contains a list of Greek loans and ample extracts from the 1914 (presumably the most recent) report of the Greek International Finance Commission, from which the following statement is reproduced :—

The total sum required in 1914 for the service of the gold debt, including the plus-values, and of the "Greek Railways" Loan, the 2½ per Cent. Guaranteed Loan of 1898, and the 5 per Cent. Loan of 1914, together with the annuity payable to the Powers in respect of the Guaranteed Loan of 1833, was 33,605,702 fr.

Below we reproduce a table which, giving a summary of the payment, in 1914, of coupons on the gold loans classified according to countries, is of special interest at the present moment.

Turkey.

"Since the entry of Turkey into the European War on the side of the Central Powers," says the Report, "no statistical information of any sort of interest to Turkish bondholders has been available for use in the present Report."

The latter, therefore, merely contains a statement of the external debt outstanding on March 14, 1914, together with a history of Ottoman loans up to and including the 5 per Cent. Loan of 1914. Mention is also made of the £600,000 5½ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds of the Imperial Ottoman Docks, Arsenals, and Naval Construction Company of 1914, the issuing of which is attributed to the Imperial Ottoman Bank, when in reality they were issued by the National Bank of Turkey. Of these bonds, states the Report, only about one-third have been paid up.

PAYMENT OF 1914 GREEK COUPONS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRIES.

Loans.	Germany.	England.	France.	Egypt.	Greece.	Total.
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
4% Monopoly, 1887	523,506	1,137,094	391 090	—	485,882	2,542,462
5% Funding, 1893	12,181	121,118	14,070	—	31,260	178,629
5% 1881.....	113,506	551,213	307,962	—	933,016	1,905,697
5% 1884.....	372,459	484,771	415,499	—	389,795	1,662,524
5% Piræus-Larissa, 1890 ..	97,398	303,561	223,358	—	377,469	1,001,786
4% Rentes	259,715	805,770	486,498	—	742,909	2,295,342
	1,383,765	3,403,467	1,838,927	—	2,960,281	9,586,440
2½% Guaranteed, 1898	—	2,470,568	484,031	—	27,000	2,981,594
4% "Greek Railways," 1902	28,160	1,449.940	553,820	3,140	135,870	2,170,930
5% of 1914.....	—	—	2,395,859	—	—	2,395,859
Total	1,411,925	7,323,970	5,272,637	3,140	3,123,151	17,134,823

MOROCCAN TRADE.

The December issue of the *Boletin de las Cámaras de Comercio* (Madrid) publishes the following particulars of enemy imports into Moroccan ports previous to the European war, on the authority of the Spanish Consuls at the places concerned :—

Saffi.—The following goods were imported into Saffi from Germany: Tea, sugar, candles, textiles, iron, hardware, and iron goods. Austria-Hungary sent textiles, sugar, ironware, timber and cement.

Mogador.—Before the war the following goods were imported from Germany and Austria-Hungary: Woollen goods, iron goods, enamelled ironware, cutlery, zinc goods, green tea, coffee, sugar loaves, pine timber, wood for egg boxes and shavings, industrial alcohol, syrups for drinks, cement, watches and clocks, and chemical and pharmaceutical products.

Fez.—Many articles which came exclusively from Germany and Austria are now lacking at Fez. For instance, there is a great scarcity of glassware (especially vases). The Spanish Consul states that invitations to Spanish firms to compete in the Fez market have met with the reply that the manufacture of glassware in Spain is not sufficient to meet the needs of the Peninsula itself. The Consul gives the following list of articles imported into Fez from Germany and Austria before the war: Both countries sent sugar, lampware, essences, toys, glassware, steel, enamelled ware, nails, and clocks and watches; Germany alone sent paper and envelopes, packing paper, inks, hardware, soap, mirrors, typewriters, caps, hosiery, fine porcelain utensils, tinplates, ironmongery, etc.; Austria alone sent imitation jewellery, petroleum, furniture, fez caps, razors, medicinal waters, and cloths.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, February 15.

Conditions during the last two weeks have been excellent. Rain has alternated with fine sunny days, and reports from all parts of the island—including portions of the central plains and the Carpas, where there had still been anxiety—show that there is good ground for a favourable forecast. The late heavy snowstorms and winds wrought some havoc in the hill villages, especially in the picturesque group belonging to the Nicosia and Limassol districts, called Pitsilia. Here, in places too where locusts last year did no little mischief, heavy damage has been done to fruit trees, including walnuts, almonds, and olives; not a few trees being uprooted by the violence of the gales. The villagers are, consequently, in some distress.

PRODUCE REPORT.

Currants. London, March 9.

Owing to the large speculative business during the last two or three weeks, the market has been more or less quiet this past week, although the expected official notice that the importation of currants was not prohibited has caused some activity, and prices advanced a little. The discouraging reports from Greece that the scarcity of sulphate of copper and of sulphur, which are used against peronosporoes and other vine diseases, combined with the scarcity of labour are causing anxieties as to the prospects of the coming season and a further advance of prices may be quite probable. The stock of currants in London on February 29 was 8,411 tons, against 6,714 in 1915, the same period. The steamers which were meeting with so much difficulty in discharging their cargoes are doing so, now, more freely to the relief of all concerned.

Sultanas.

The demand is moderate, and prices are well maintained. The stock in London at the end of the last month was 2,528 tons, of all kinds of sultanas, against 1,657 tons the same period last year.

Figs.

Only small business is passing at late rates.

Dates.

The market has been firm and dearer this past week; Egyptian 32s. to 37s., and Persian 20s. to 32s.

Seeds.

Linseed is dull and cheaper. London-Calcutta spot is quoted 79s. 6d., afloat, March-April and April-May 79s. 6d.; La Plata Hull, February-March, 74s. 6d.; March-April, ditto. Cottonseed remains very dull. London-Egyptian spot is quoted £14 per ton. Rapeseed is only nominal. Rangoon beans are held at last quotations. Canary seed remains slow, but prices are firm.

Oils.

Linseed oil is quiet and easier, spot pipes £44, barrels ditto £45 landed: March-April, £45; May-August, £46; September-December, £47. Cotton oil is quiet, crude spot in pipes being offered at £42 10s., refined, pipes pale £47 10s., and barrels sweet £51 to £52, as to make.

Egypt's Finances in December.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 22.

The State accounts for December, published last night, reveal a most satisfactory situation. The revenue at the end of the month stood at £E13,261,937 and the expenditure at £E11,856,709, as compared with £E11,940,961 and £E13,447,195 respectively at the close of 1914. Thus the revenue is £E1,320,976 better and the expenditure is £E1,590,486 less than at the same date a year ago.

During the month Direct Taxes maintained themselves, £E9,794 more being collected than in December, 1914; Customs improved by £E87,401, Tobacco Dues by £E87,859, Legal Fees by £E10,004, Railway Receipts by £E69,242, Telegraphs by £E5,455, Post Office by £E3,230, Domains Receipts by £E45,305, and Investment of Funds by £E51,643. The sole decrease of any importance was £E12,019 in Port Dues.

It is to be noted that at the end of December Customs receipts were only £E30,408 behind the total estimate for the entire financial year, and that Rent of Government Land, Extraordinary Receipts, and Domains Receipts were respectively £E38,997, £E29,126, and £E3,316 above the sums set down in the Budget for the full twelve months. Most of the other items were also well over their average for the period. On the expenditure side Irrigation, Railways, Buildings, War Office, Interior, and Public Instruction were very much below what they should have stood at according to the estimates. In these circumstances it is not surprising to find that at the end of December the accounts showed a surplus of £E1,405,228. Compared with the position a year previously, when there was a deficit of £E1,506,234, this is highly satisfactory and may be taken as an earnest of what we may expect to find at the end of the financial year three months hence.

Exactly what that position will be it is exceedingly difficult to predict at the present moment. One thing is certain, the deficit foreseen in the estimates last April will be replaced by a surplus, but it must not be taken for granted that that surplus will be based on the excess of revenue over expenditure already recorded at the end of December.

There are many factors affecting the accounts that have specially to be taken into consideration when any attempt at forecast is made at the present juncture. In the first place it will not do to estimate the receipts of the coming three months entirely on the basis of those of the preceding nine. It is not likely that Direct Taxes will increase in the same ratio, for the simple reason that payments have in a great measure been made in advance. Domains, on the other hand, will most probably continue to pile up the receipts owing to the sales of cotton that have still to be made. Railways and Customs depend in a great measure on the shipping facilities afforded to and from abroad, though there is every reason to expect that both heads will be up on the estimates. Tobacco, again, is a very unreliable item. If, however, all these items progress as anticipated—and there is really no reason why they should not—then we may expect the revenue to touch £E16,250,000.

Turning to the other side of the account, the task of forecasting is even more difficult. Expenditure has in the main been kept within its present moderate limits by the restriction of public works. Irrigation alone is £E600,000 down on a programme of £E1,170,000, Railways are £E600,000 below their total budget of £E2,310,000, Buildings and other public works £E164,000 down on theirs of £E430,000. Whilst it is scarcely likely that work will be undertaken during the last quarter of the year for the balances in question it is quite possible that the concluding months will see heavier bills settled than during the other part of the year; for instance, it is probable that the railways will have to foot a big bill for coal. Even allowing for proportionately heavier expenditure during the last three months it is difficult to see how the year's outgoings can much exceed the figure of £E15,000,000. Under these circumstances the minimum surplus that ought to result from the year's working should be in the neighbourhood of £E1,250,000, albeit it would not be at all surprising if the result were round about £E1,500,000.

A BANKING VIEW OF EGYPT.

In his report submitted to the General Assembly in Cairo towards the middle of February, the president of the Credit Foncier Board of Directors dealt with the economic situation of the country after 18 months of war. He stated that although last year's crop was inferior to the average crop of 7,500,000 kantars obtained during the four preceding years, still it has attained the figure of 6,878,000 kantars. The average results per feddan were 3.92 kantars only, namely, half a kantar less than the average obtained during the last four years. This fall is due to the cotton worm. The average price obtained per kantar was 12 dollars against 18½ dollars between 1910 and 1914, and the total price obtained for the crop was £E19,715,000, namely, £E13,000,000 less than the average of the last four years.

This marked fall in the crop and in the prices has naturally affected the receipts of the mortgage banks, as the mortgagees found themselves compelled to pay first either wholly or partially the advances taken for short terms which in ordinary times would have been renewed. The house rents in towns also suffered considerably on account of the many houses becoming vacant owing to the mobilisation. The cost of raising cotton has also increased after the war, and the agriculturists are naturally compelled to settle their expenses first.

The Government, on the other hand, in order to develop the culture of cereals, decided to reduce the cotton growing area for the 1915 season from 1,755,270 to 1,186,004 feddans. The results obtained from the wheat crop were not as good as anticipated, but the crops of rice, maize, barley, and sugar cane were very satisfactory, and the rise of the prices of foodstuffs last summer reacted favourably on the economic situation. The new cotton crop will naturally be affected by the limitation of the area and by the ravage of the cotton worm in certain districts, but the prices ruling have compensated all this.

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BULGARIAN FINANCES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, February 17.

It is stated that during the debate on the Budget in the Sobranje, M. Tontcheff, the Finance Minister, stated that the country's floating debt will amount at the end of the year to 1,640,750,000 fr. This figure includes 200,000,000 fr. which the Bulgarian Government had received from Germany from September 8 to December 8 in monthly instalments of 50,000,000 fr.

In 1916, Bulgaria is to receive a further sum of 300,000,000 fr. as an advance on a new loan of 500,000,000 fr.

The President of the Council referred to a statement made by M. Theodoroff, a former Minister, to the effect that the war of 1912-1913 had increased Bulgaria's indebtedness, including loans and requisitions, by 100,000,000 fr. He argued that the present war would be equally costly.

If these fiures are correct, Bulgaria will find herself at the end of the war saddled with a public debt—consolidated and floating—of 2,446,750,000 fr.

ROUMANIA'S FINANCE.

The hesitation of Roumania to join in the war has had one notable result, says the *Westminster Gazette*. It has enabled the Finance Minister, M. Costinesco, to produce a Budget in which the ordinary expenditure is balanced by the revenue, in spite of the heavy charges against the latter occasioned by the war. As a Bucharest correspondent of the *Temps* points out, the infantry has been increased by eighty battalions; considerable additions have been made to the artillery; several of the State railway lines have been doubled and provided with additional sidings; the State warehouses have been erected to take the grain which cannot be exported to Western Europe, owing to the closing of the Dardanelles. The Customs and stamp duties show a heavy decline; but the price of grain for export has advanced by 150 per cent., and both groups of belligerents have paid for their purchases of it in gold. A tax on war profits and the increased yield of the State monopolies have made good the deficiency in the ordinary revenue; but the floating debt is increasing, and a deficit can hardly be avoided after another year of war.

THE GREEK EXCHANGE.

Advices from Athens state that, in order to prevent speculation in exchange in the form of the presentation of coupons to be cashed in Athens by holders of the Greek Debt who reside abroad, the Greek Minister of Finance has deposited in the Chamber a Bill which will render necessary the presentation of the bonds on every occasion when coupons are offered for payment. The object of this measure is, of course, to prevent holders of the bonds, residing abroad, from obtaining the premium which exists on Greek exchange at the present time. Owing, no doubt, to the presence of the large masses of French and British troops in Salonika and its neighbourhood, the exchange for some time has stood about 24.80, which is a distinct premium, and evidently the Greek Government does not see the force of paying the coupons of its foreign debt held abroad at this premium.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Maikop Corporation.—The secretary announces that Mr. W. W. Rutherford, M.P., has not been associated with the Anglo-Maikop Group since 1913, and that the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields never had any connection with the Anglo-Maikop Corporation.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Receipts for the ten days ended February 10 amounted to £E6,842 as against £E5,702 for the corresponding period of 1915.

Ionian Bank.—A final dividend is announced of 2s. 6d. per share, tax free, for the half-year ended December 31/January 13, making five per cent. per annum for the year 1915.

COMPANY NOTES.

Anglo-Maikop.

The report of the Anglo-Maikop Corporation, Ltd., shows a credit balance on the year's transactions of £8,724, the Russian revenue having been taken at the exchange of 13.3. With the balance brought forward, the sum available is £25,813. After provision for depreciation, etc., the directors propose to carry forward £24,160. The financial position at July 13, 1915, shows an excess of cash assets and sundry debtors over liabilities of £63,154. (This compares with £46,663 at the close of the preceding period.) The total output of crude oil was 113,756 tons, as compared with 72,337. Meeting, 10th instant, at noon, Winchester House, E.C.

Credit Foncier Egyptien.

At the meeting held in Cairo on February 17, the report for the financial year ended October 31, 1915, was adopted, and the following resolutions were passed :—(1) The distribution of a dividend of P.T.75 and 15 m/m per share, to be paid on Coupon No. 42; and (2) the distribution of P.T.1,065 per founder's share on Coupon No. 18.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Food riots in Constantinople have resulted in the prohibition of further exports of meat to Germany.

Scarcity of foodstuffs is causing grave anxiety in Syria and the restlessness of the people is increasing daily owing to the menace of famine.

It is stated that the Bulgarian Government has handed over to the German authorities the exploitation of the Serbian Bor copper mines for the duration of the war.

There is a scarcity of footgear in Bulgaria, and the Government is buying for the army hemp sandals in Roumania.

The Turkish Chamber of Deputies has adopted a new general Customs tariff, which comes into force on September 14, 1916, and will remain effective for three years.

M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, accuses Roumania of holding a huge quantity of foodstuffs for Bulgaria which she refuses to allow to be transported.

Berlin reports that the Turkish Government has decided to exploit several deposits of sulphur which have been discovered on Turkish territory.

According to reports from Athens, a powder magazine has exploded at Sivas, in Asia Minor. The explosion was followed by an outbreak of fire.

Two Armenians and a Roumanian have been sentenced at Cairo to various terms of imprisonment or a fine of £60 each for trading with the enemy. These are the first sentences for this offence, which the authorities have determined to stamp out.

Most severe penalties are to be imposed under a proposed Bill on Roumanian merchants found guilty of speculating in foodstuffs. Every merchant will be obliged to furnish the Government with an exact list of his goods, and the Government will have the right to requisition such foodstuffs as it may consider necessary for the needs of the people.

At the end of 1915 the total nominal capital of the oil companies of Roumania was 482,163,237 frs. in shares and 37,356,011 frs. in debentures and other obligations, a total of 519,519,248 frs. The total issued capital was 357,489,932 frs. in ordinary shares, 15,908,949 frs. in preference shares, and 31,258,588 in outstanding debentures and other obligations—a total investment of 404,657,469 frs.—*Oil News*.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%: 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93⅛	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	77½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	65
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	65
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	54½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	46
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	43½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	51½
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	68
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	78
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	69
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	4⅛
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6⅜
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	9½
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	11⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	—	⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	½	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2⅛
Do. Do. Def.	½	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	5½
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/-
Do. Def.	½	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	8/9
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	⅜
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅞
" " Founders	½	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	98	—	6½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	70
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	6/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	—	⅞
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	10½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	103	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	¾
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	23/-
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	15/9
Do. 6 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	—	17/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	—	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	21/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	—

OIL.	Price on July 30.	Mar. 8.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	⅛	7/-
Anglo-Persian	22/1½	19/3
European Oilfields	4/9	2/6
Roumanian	20/-	11/10½

PARIS BOURSE.

	Jan. 4.	Mar. 8.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	—
Canal de Suez	4060	3800
Credit Foncier Egyptien	639	606
Turkish Unified 4%	59.95	—
Egyptian Unified 4%	87.75	—
Serbian, 1895	—	—

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 254.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Russian pursuit of the Turks along the Black Sea littoral continues. From Rizeh they have pushed on westwards, and thrown the enemy back beyond the River Kalopotamos. This line, reached on March 8, brought our Allies within thirty miles of Trebizond. A preliminary bombardment of the town from the sea revealed no great strength in the defences, and its capture ought not to present any special difficulties to the victorious Russians. Meanwhile the columns advancing from Erzeroum are moving in the direction of Erzinjan, keeping in touch with the retreating Turks. The line Trebizond-Erzinjan, bearing thence south-eastward, will offer a natural halting-place for the Grand Duke Nicholas' forces until the intentions of the enemy are more clearly indicated. At present the Turkish military command is probably engaged in sending as many men as it can spare and can despatch to Angora, the railhead of this region. If circumstances compel the Turks to try to counter the Russian successes by a vigorous offensive, they will be operating at a greater distance from their base than the Russians, at any point east of Sivas. Our Allies, who can hardly hope to serve any practical purpose by continuing their advance westwards indefinitely, will not want to assist the Turks by meeting them at a point which will shorten their lines of communication by one mile. Until, therefore, the chance of a Turkish offensive is finally removed, we need not look for further striking developments in this theatre.

The movements of the Russian forces in Persia, on the other hand, grow in interest daily. An official *communiqué*, issued in Petrograd, announces the occupation of Kerind, "on the way to Baghdad." The Russians have followed the caravan route from Kermanshah, and are thus only 155 miles from the capital of Mesopotamia, with all the natural features of the road favouring the force advancing from the east. From the wording of the Russian statement, it may be inferred that the Russian troops under General Baratoff are regarded as strong enough to deal with any opposition that may be encountered from Baghdad. Whether they are prepared to continue their advance right up to that city regardless of events on the Tigris remains to be seen. It is inconceivable that the Turks should leave fewer troops to defend Baghdad than they have sent to oppose the British advance up the Tigris. Sooner or later, therefore, when the menace to the city from the north-east is fully realized, there must be a rearrangement of the Turkish forces. If, when that moment arrives, General Lake still finds himself unable to force the enemy's position, there can be only one deduction, that the whole expedition has been inadequately equipped for fighting under modern conditions.

On March 8 General Aylmer was reported to have attacked the Es Sinn position, which extends on both sides of the Tigris, about seven miles east of Kut, but to have been unable to dislodge the enemy. The fighting, it appears from a subsequent statement, took place on the right bank at a distance of from seven to eight miles from the river. In consequence of lack of water General Aylmer was obliged to fall back on the river, after having evacuated all his wounded. Two points emerge from this brief account. The first is that the strength of entrenched positions is still inadequately appreciated by the relief expedition; the second, that, in spite of having passed up the river once and occupied the Es Sinn lines, and in spite of two months' enforced idleness less than a score of miles away, the British command is still imperfectly informed regarding the water conditions of the country. The force that attacked the Turks on March 8 apparently ran short of water before twenty-four hours had elapsed. This means that either it was misinformed about wells in this district or it was unable to carry with it a sufficient water supply for one or two days, even with the river only seven miles away. If inadequate provision for water exists, it is not a matter for surprise that the expedition should be short of aeroplanes, bombs, and even hospital requisites.

A later *communiqué* states that on March 11, in consequence of information received that "the Turks had occupied an advanced position on the Tigris," a column was sent out to eject the enemy. The infantry assaulted the position and bayoneted a considerable number of Turks. The column then withdrew, with two officers and fifty men as prisoners. Whether the enemy were "ejected" or not is not stated, nor is any indication given of the locality of the "advanced position." According to a Turkish report, the British Expedition, as a

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result of its failure to turn the left flank of the Turks on March 8, retired to its old position, twenty-three miles from Kut. To-day is the 100th day of the siege of Kut. We cannot help thinking that if more good will and intelligence were brought to bear on the issue of *communiqués* dealing with the situation in Mesopotamia, greater justice could be done to General Lake's forces, and the British public would be reassured.

Reference is made elsewhere in this issue to the reports of the inadequacy of the medical arrangements in connection with the Mesopotamian Expedition. From an official statement now issued it appears that during the last fortnight the subject has engaged the attention of the Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, which has placed itself in communication with the authorities concerned, with a view to giving further Red Cross help in Mesopotamia. Large consignments of hospital stores and comforts have now been shipped to Busreh, and no doubt in due course the medical service in that theatre of the war will be improved. There has been a strange fatality attending these Indian expeditions in so far as the medical arrangements have been concerned. In November, 1914, an expedition sailed to East Africa with, we believe, a single doctor to the whole force. When the expedition came to grief at Tanga the German doctors, it is stated, had to lend a hand with our wounded. This experience, it would be thought, would have prevented the authorities concerned from being caught napping again. But the Mesopotamian force has throughout been confronted with a shortage of hospital requisites. In this connection it may be pointed out that a timely admission on the part of the authorities that things were not well with the medical equipment, and that it had been found necessary to concentrate attention on this point, would have avoided the storm of criticism now let loose.

When a force is obviously starved in regard to the most ordinary requisites, there is some ground for uneasiness that its more technical requirements will also have been overlooked. The whole record of the advance up the Tigris points to the intelligence at the disposal of the successive Commanders-in-Chief being utterly inadequate. The Ctesiphon fiasco was due to ignorance of the strength of the Turco-German forces; a mishap near Nasriyah on February 7 implied that the force was not in touch with the so-called friendly tribes; General Aylmer on March 8 pleads ignorance of water conditions seven miles from the river. It would reassure public opinion if the War Office could announce that every possible step had been taken to collect men knowing the country and its inhabitants, in order to place their services at the disposal of the Expedition. The number is not unlimited, but we are by no means satisfied that the material available has been put to the best possible use. As an instance may be quoted the report that one man with a peculiar knowledge of Arabs and their language was for a long time engaged in a map-room of the War Office, where, for all we know, he may be still.

Apart from the immediate requirements of the Mesopotamian Expedition, there is a special reason why as close touch as possible should be kept at this juncture with the Arabs. They play an important rôle in the Ottoman Empire, and in any quarrel between Great Britain and Turkey there was an antecedent probability of their preferring to make common cause with the British against the Turks. But both in Mesopotamia and Arabia they have not lived up to the expectations formed of them. Even in the Yemen, although there is no need to credit the enemy accounts of what has happened in the hinterland of Aden, it is evident that the tribesmen, apart from one or two friendlies, are more inclined to favour the Turks than the British. It may be that the Arabs, being confronted with the Turks on the spot, have had to make the best of the situation. When it is realized that the Turkish sun has begun to set they will be more ready to give play to their predilections. They should then be able to feel sure of British support.

An atmosphere of mystery has suddenly enveloped the person of Enver Pasha. From time to time it has been reported that an attempt on his life had been made, but on the last occasion the report was almost immediately followed by the announcement that, accompanied by Jemal Pasha and various high dignitaries, he had arrived at Medina on March 2 and paid a visit to the Prophet's tomb. The incongruity of the Turkish War Minister choosing such a moment for carrying out a devotional exercise of this nature has naturally given rise to the belief that the statement is intended to conceal his actual whereabouts. If the story of the visit to Medina be not true, there could be only one explanation of such an elaborate falsehood—that Enver is dead and the Turkish Government require a little time before announcing the fact and the name of his successor. If by chance Enver should have gone to Medina, it will not be merely an act of devotion on his part. Either he will have been compelled to give a public exhibition of the genuineness of his Mohammedanism, which has been repeatedly called in question, or he will have gone for a political purpose connected with the Arabs. Speculation on the point may not be very profitable, for at any moment the facts of the case may be known. But if Enver should still be alive, and if it can be shown that he actually went to Medina, his object may well have been to endeavour to stir up one of those military movements among the Arabs which have occasionally swept across Arabia, in the hope of retrieving the fortunes of the Turkish forces that are now in danger of being cut off and surrounded by the Russians and British in the neigbhourhood of Baghdad.

Persia promises to make a rapid recovery from a rather bad attack of German fever. So long as Prince Reuss and his fellow conspirators remained in Teheran to hold up German spectacles before its eyes the Persian Government could not fail to have a distorted view of things in general. The Germans fled, at first as the great leaders of formidable armies waiting to escort the Shah and his Ministry to Ispahan, but presently as fugitives in the midst of a freebooting horde. Their prestige even among their followers did not long survive their discomfiture. Most of the bands have melted away before the vigorous pursuit of the Russians. The main Turco-German strength was concentrated at Kermanshah, but, in spite of stories of reinforcements from Baghdad, it has been unable to offer any effective resistance to the Russian advance. In other parts of the country the Persian irregulars themselves are dealing with the Germans, whose dupes they have been. Meanwhile, the Persian Government is making a fresh start. Prince Firman Firma has resigned the Premiership, and has been succeeded by the Sipahdar, a strong believer in the maintenance of friendly relations with Russia, who is now to be known by the higher title of Sipah Salar. German influence had been instrumental in bringing about the resignation a year ago of M. Heinsens, the Belgian Treasurer-General. He has now been recalled to his post, and will be able to rely on the support he previously lacked in the arduous task of introducing order out of chaos in Persian finances.

The failure of the British authorities to announce that the Aden garrison had had a small skirmish with the enemy in the hinterland has imposed upon them the invidious task of whittling down the Turkish version of the incident. It is typical of Turkish methods that, after maintaining silence on the fall of Erzeroum for some days, and then dismissing it in half-a-dozen lines, they should devote three paragraphs of an official *communiqué* to describing the fighting near Aden on January 12. The British version is that a "reconnaissance was made from Aden to ascertain the strength of the Turkish forces about Sarar and Wáht, and was successfully accomplished." Our casualties on this occasion were five killed and thirty-five wounded. As the Aden garrison is fighting the Empire's battles in the same way as any other British force is, there is no reason why its work should be ignored and pass unchronicled until a particularly mendacious enemy report extracts a denial from the War Office. The garrison is not called upon to undergo a heroic siege or to maintain a terrific

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struggle in trenches, but it is performing its part, and deserves to have its work brought to the notice of the Empire on its own merits, not merely by way of correcting the enemy's inaccurate reports.

The two engagements in January and February at Mersa Matruh and some fifteen miles south-east of Barani respectively have sufficed to break the back of the Senussi invasion of Egypt. When the Anglo-Egyptian frontier post was withdrawn to Mersa Matruh the invaders followed, swelling their ranks with Bedouin who were attracted with promises of loot and an easy triumph. They secured neither. In a series of fights they received considerable punishment, and, in spite of the artillery and machine-guns with which they were supplied, were unable on any single occasion to make a stand against the British troops opposed to them. The latter have now worked their way back to Sollum, which, after being for four months in the enemy's hands, was occupied on March 14. The Bedouin are reported to be demoralized and suffering greatly from hunger and disappointment, numbers of families flocking to the British lines for food and shelter.

It is announced that an agreement has been reached between the French and Italian Governments by which the latter agrees to renounce for its Consulates, establishments, and subjects in the French zone of Morocco the privilege of the Capitulations. This arrangement is not only of happy augury for the ultimate elimination of the Capitulations in Egypt, but affords an interesting commentary on the hitch in connection with the Mixed Courts in that country. It will be remembered that Italy recently withheld her consent to the renewal of the Mixed Court mandate on the ground that she was entitled to one more representative on the Bench. No grave principle was at stake, as will be readily inferred from Italy's abandonment of her rights in Morocco. Of two ways of doing a thing the wrong one had been chosen, and the Italian Government was left no alternative to a formal protest. The matter is still a subject of negotiation. Possibly the delay in its adjustment is an index of its relative unimportance; but the inability to avail themselves of the Mixed Courts must prove a serious inconvenience to the Italian community in Egypt.

An interesting chapter in an unofficial Bulgarian history of the war could be devoted to the Germans in Bulgaria, and we hope that a staunch patriot is at present collecting material for it. Some of the Bulgarian grievances are already being told in Roumania. A correspondent in Bucharest relates in a letter published on another page two typical stories of the German *régime* in Sofia. There is nothing inherently improbable in either of them, for they are borne out by the evidence of deserters who daily reach Salonika from the Bulgarian lines. It is well that Germany's allies should have this testimony to bear against her, for it will help to convince neutrals of the justice of a fate that eliminates the Prussian system from European civilization. In contradistinction to the Bulgarian laments of German treatment, we may record a recent order issued by the French Commander-in-Chief at Salonika imposing upon the Allied troops the necessity of looking out for and reporting at once any archæological finds that may be made in the course of entrenchment work. The historic custom, adopted throughout the ages and still continued in a modified form to-day, of burying *objets d'art* with the dead renders archæological discoveries possible in any part of Greece. Some appear to have been made already in the neighbourhood of Salonika, and in due course are to find their way to the White Tower. The thoughtfulness of General Sarrail is said to have much impressed the Greeks of Salonika.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 28.

H.H. the Sultan.

It was with much pleasure that everyone heard that the Sultana-Mother was out of danger and on the high road to recovery. Her Highness had been in bad health for some time, and the Sultan had been extremely anxious, so much so that he abstained from holding any ceremonies excepting the most strictly necessary. Now that his mother is improved in health, his Highness has resumed his Court functions. This week he has given several dinners, notably one to the ulema and one to the Diplomatic Corps, and during the coming weeks banquets will be given to notables from the provinces and Government officials.

Anglo-Egypt and the War.

A stupid and profitless correspondence has been going on in the columns of one of your local English contemporaries under the heading "Anglo-Egyptian Slackers." It was started after there had appeared in the local European Press an authoritative notice—all the authorities, however, have since disclaimed the authorship—to the effect that the G.O.C. the British troops in Egypt, in response to the oft-expressed wishes of members of the Anglo-Egyptian community, had decided that special armlets, which should, however, have no validity outside the country, could be worn by all those males of military age who were either regular members of one of the rifle clubs or could produce certificates from their employers that their services were absolutely indispensable for the work which they were carrying out, and that they could not be spared for military service.

It was most unfortunate that this notice should have been allowed to appear, not only because of its tactless wording, but also because it has given rise to a correspondence which should never have been permitted to see the light of day in this country, and which is quite uncalled for. It may be taken as an absolute fact that to-day—nineteen months after the outbreak of war—there is not a single Britisher of military age in this country—be he married or single—who is not doing war-work of some description or another. To the casual observer, and to some of those who have seen fit to "cast stones" indiscriminately in the correspondence above referred to, it may appear that Jones or Smith or Robinson is not doing "war-work," as they understand it, and that he could well throw up his billet and join the Army without any serious loss or inconvenience to this country. It is, however, not for the individual to judge. He or she cannot possibly know in what manner the work that Jones or Smith or Robinson is doing is or is not assisting the authorities. Very often, indeed, the critic would be profoundly astonished if he or she knew the true facts.

Moreover, it must not be forgotten that the British community in Egypt is an exceedingly small one; its members are all marked down, and if they are slacking they could not possibly hide the fact from the military authorities, who are ever on the look-out for "local blood" for one or other of the jobs which have to be undertaken out here for Imperial interests, and who would not hesitate to give the hint to any slacker or to his employers if they wanted his services. The extreme difficulty which was recently experienced in getting recruits for the camel transport is proof positive that there is in Egypt a dearth of men fit and available for active service. The delay in appointing controllers and receivers to all the enemy firms is authoritatively declared to be in a great measure due to the dearth of men; while I know for a fact that more than one civil administration would give anything to find some able-bodied men to carry out important temporary work that it has before it. Slackers might shy at joining camel

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transport, but they would surely jump at controllerships and temporary Government billets, since these would give them the claim to exemption from military service which they are accused of trying to avoid.

In THE NEAR EAST of January 28 you published an article wherein were explained the peculiar position in which the Anglo-Egyptian community has been placed and the "war-work" that it is doing.* I commend a perusal of that article to all those who are inclined to think that Anglo-Egypt is not doing its share for the Empire. Any further inquiries which that article may prompt them to make will, I am certain, but confirm the facts stated therein and convince them that the Britishers who are still in Egypt are far from being the "slackers" that some of your contemporary's correspondents declare them to be.

With regard to the notice to which I refer, I would say that Anglo-Egyptians do not yearn to don the khaki, which to so many is the only indication of a man's patriotism, and which, no matter what work they might be doing, would protect them from the criticism of our amateur recruiting agents; neither do they clamour for the "armlet" which will publish from the housetops the fact that they are doing "war-work." They are quite prepared to continue to "carry on" as they have done during the past nineteen months without distinctive badges or such-like paraphernalia, conscious that they are, each in their own way, helping their country to victory, and content to find in the eventual triumph of right over might the recompense for their labours.

THE SEASON IN EGYPT.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The outbreak of war made all those in Egypt who depend in any way on the tourist season very pessimistic about their immediate prospects, and caused them to wonder how they would be able to make up the loss which they were bound to suffer. It was not long, however, before one and all realised that, as far as Egypt was concerned, the war was a blessing in disguise; for the arrival of thousands of troops, amongst them Australasians with plenty of money to spend, wrought a complete change in the situation.

Dealers, who had made up their minds that there would be no use opening up for the winter, hastened to take down their shutters; dragomans found that, if there were no tourists to show round and fleece, there was plenty of money to be made either by acting as interpreters to the strange troops or by engaging in one or other of the trades which they had so despised in the days when their gay flowing robes acted as the most effective "open sesame" to the pockets of American tourists; the *arbuggies* and taxi-drivers discovered that the Millennium had arrived, and that a fortune was to be made in taking officers and Australian troopers to and from their camps, the most profitable period of the day being the small hours of the morning, when, owing to their habit of either exceeding or running their leave very fine, the men would pelt back to Mena, Meadi, or Heliopolis at top speed, invariably getting up a race en route with other late birds. The tramway companies, too, have simply coined money owing to the extra traffic brought by the troops; while the hotels, although they have reduced their prices to less than summer rates, have not been idle from the first moment that the new armies landed in the country, and have turned over more money than they ever did during previous seasons, in addition to sub-letting as hospitals and staff quarters those of their hotels that would otherwise have been closed. Wherever you go, too, you find new shops opened, perhaps not in the old flamboyant style that one associates with "season" ventures, but, nevertheless, out to cater for the new class of client that the war has given us; hawkers throng the pavements even more annoyingly than ever, and even the bootblacks and newspaper vendors have increased in number in response to the demand. Cairo, even in its palmiest days, has not known a winter season like the present or its predecessor, and, what is more important, the "season" has not stopped with the advent of the hot weather. The demand for accommodation and for services has continued right through the summer, so that there has been no break, and consequently no need to strain to make all the profits during the six months of the cool weather.

The same has been the case with regard to Alexandria and Port Said. But whilst Cairo and Egypt's twin ports have had nought to complain of—have, in fact, had much to be thankful for—the Upper Egypt resorts have been neglected. Except for occasional visits from those of the troops who could afford the trip and could get the leave of absence, neither Luxor nor Assuan had up to last autumn seen anything of the life that had proved so profitable to their more fortunately situated sisters. This year, however, the former has quite come into her own.

The hospital situation last autumn having been very different from that of the preceding one, when no work worth speaking of had to be done, the military authorities decided to make a convalescent station at Luxor, which, owing to its position, was considered to be just the place for such an establishment. I have just returned from a short visit to that town, and I found it even busier than I had seen it at the height of the tourist seasons of bygone years. All the hotels have been taken over by the military. There is some accommodation left for the general public at the Luxor, but beyond that everything is in military occupation. The Winter Palace, with its magnificent gardens, has been turned into the central hospital; its corridors are now wards, with a row of neat cots down each; the bedrooms are either offices or dormitories for the men; the music-room now serves as a concert hall during the week, and as a chapel on Sundays and feast days. In the front of the hotel has been erected a cinematograph, where performances are given every night to the troops.

In addition to the Winter Palace, the Hotel du Nil, the Karnak, the Grand, and the Savoy have also been requisitioned, but they are used by those officers and men who are not in need of constant medical attention, which is required by practically all those who are at the Winter Palace. But it is not only the hotels that have changed. Cook's office is now the military post office and the Commandant's office, and even the little stores on the front have been transformed to meet the wants of the 2,000 odd officers and men who are quartered in Luxor, one-time booksellers' being converted into tea-rooms, and photographic shops into canteens, etc.

The convalescents seem thoroughly to be enjoying their stay, and, to judge from the remarks of the men to whom I spoke, they are very grateful for the complete change that is being accorded to them. From early morning they throng the river bank, watching either the barques come down from south and unload or the convicts who are engaged in laying out the new esplanade. Out on the road to Karnak they are to be met in groups, whilst almost daily they drive or walk out to visit the temples. All the monuments have been thrown open free to the men, and the resident conservator gives up many hours of his valuable time to take parties round the temples and explain the various sights to the officers and men.

Very few restrictions are imposed on the men who are able to get about by themselves, and they have responded to the confidence reposed in them by conducting themselves in a most exemplary fashion ever since the first batch went up to Luxor. They appear to be on the best terms with the inhabitants, who in many cases have never before seen a British soldier, and who, from my inquiries, I found firmly believed that the striped pyjamas which all wear were the garments in which they fight! It was most entertaining to watch the men during their strolls about the place. They were just like a lot of schoolboys out for a holiday, and they seemed always on the lookout for a chance to play a practical joke on each other or on anyone they met.

The camp is to be broken up at about the end of March, and we may be certain that if the men who have been privileged to stay there this winter will be sorry to come down, the people of the district will bitterly regret the disappearance of this huge station, for it has spelt positive prosperity for them, one and all.

L. M.

MORE HUN ART COLLECTORS.

In a letter, dated February 21, a Bucharest correspondent writes:—The German military authorities in Belgrade have just informed the Bucharest police that a picture painted by the famous Serbian painter Jovanovitch, and valued at 30,000 francs, has disappeared from the museum there. It is thought possible that it may have found its way into Roumania, though it is believed more likely that it is somewhere in Hungary.

The painter Jovanovitch is the leader of the modern Serbian school of painting. His son, who was in Paris at the beginning of the war, volunteered for service with the French Army, and was shot six weeks ago on the Champagne front.

*On page 552 will be found a list of Anglo-Egyptians who have joined H.M. forces since the outbreak of war.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, February 27.

The Government's Changed Attitude.

The change which seems to be coming over the Balkans is making itself felt in Greece also. Encouraged by the great concentration of French and British troops at Salonika and by the Russian victories, Roumania now seems to contemplate participation in the struggle with less misgiving; the reports from Constantinople appear to indicate a rising against the Young Turks and the Germans as becoming more likely day by day; while the Bulgarians are beginning to realize clearly the grave dangers that will menace them if they take part in the attack on Salonika, and are, therefore, greatly embarrassed. In Athens, too, one notices a certain change in the situation since General Sarrail's visit. Without seeming ready to abandon the policy of neutrality which they have pursued for the past five months, governing circles are following developments in the Balkans with much anxiety; and foreseeing—or rather, fearing—that an ineluctable fate may sooner or later compel them to a policy of action, they are taking steps to improve their relations with the Entente in order to prepare the ground. In other words, the Government now seeks to repair the many faults and blunders committed since it has been in power. What seems to cause it the greatest concern—though it seeks to hide its uneasiness—is the possible eventual adhesion of Bulgaria to the Entente in return for "compensations" at the expense of Greece. Yet they fail to see that if there should be any such danger the best way to ward it off would be for Greece to range herself promptly on the side of the Entente.

The Military View.

The *Nea Himera*, which is supposed to reflect the opinions of inner military circles, maintains that Greece cannot decide to co-operate with the Entente against her neighbours — Bulgarians, Turks, and Albanians—while the latter are allied to Austria and Germany; for even should she, with the French and British, vanquish them, she would find herself in a very precarious situation after the conclusion of peace. Then Greece, her Franco-British Allies having withdrawn from Salonika, would be unable to maintain her preponderance in the Balkan Peninsula and to hold her own against her neighbours. What assistance, asks the *Nea Himera*—in order to demonstrate that Greece will always have need of Germany's protection—will Great Britain and France be able to give her then? To this paradoxical argument, which assumes that the aggrandizement of Bulgaria and Turkey is a matter of indifference to Greece, since she will be assured of German protection, the Venizelist Press replies by observing that if Greece co-operated with the Franco-British troops she would rid herself of Turkey, which would cease to exist in Europe, and would be strong enough to have no further fear of Bulgaria, who, on the other hand, would be weakened and reduced.

The *Neon Asty*, the organ of M. Gounaris, Minister of the Interior, who is considered a convinced Germanophil, also maintains that Greece should on no account abandon her neutrality; and, referring to the declarations of M. Sazonoff, recalls the fact that Russia rejected the co-operation of Greece when the advance on Constantinople was in question. From this it goes on to argue that Russia and her Allies are aiming at a reconciliation with Bulgaria.

Germany's Promises.

However, in spite of the tone of these semi-official journals, which represent the fate of Greece as depending entirely upon Germany, it is beginning to be realised, even in these same circles, that Germany's attitude towards Greece up to the present has not been what they expected. Thus one journal, which is in touch with Court circles and has hitherto supported the policy of neutrality based upon German guarantees, writes that, unfortunately, in spite of the formal promises given by Berlin, in which everybody believed, the Bulgarians have occupied not only Monastir, but also Doiran and Ghevgeli, which constitute the key to the Greek frontier; and that they are oppressing the Greek inhabitants, and have even gone so far as to expel the Greek Consul from Monastir. After all this, says the journal referred to, it is not possible to put any faith in assurances and promises, no matter by whom they may be made—meaning the Kaiser; and in these circumstances, if Roumania should decide to throw in her lot with the Entente, Greece should no longer hesitate to do likewise, in order to be in a position to liberate her brethren. In this connection it may be recalled that at the very beginning of the Bulgarian attack M. Venizelos sounded the alarm, and from the Parliamentary tribune advised the Government to occupy Doiran and Ghevgeli with Greek troops without delay. Unfortunately his advice was disregarded.

Greece and Roumania.

It has been noticed that during the past few days the Roumanian Minister has had frequent audiences of the King and interviews with M. Skouloudis, and this has led to the belief that an exchange of views between Greece and Roumania is taking place. In Germanophil circles it was stated yesterday that it had been decided to remain neutral, and that the two countries had agreed that if either should later decide to abandon its neutrality it would let the other know. But this story appears to be an unlikely one, and it is generally believed that if there have been any *pourparlers* they can only have concerned the question of united action against Bulgaria. The result of the attack upon Verdun will certainly have much influence upon these negotiations and upon the course of events in the Balkans generally.

RED CROSS WORK IN MESOPOTAMIA.

The Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John have for the past fortnight been in close touch with the India Office and the War Office as to the best way in which further Red Cross help can be given in Mesopotamia. Large consignments of hospital stores and comforts have already been shipped to Busreh, and more are being despatched this week. Among other goods already sent was an ample supply of cases of surgical dressings, 10,000 square yards of wire mosquito netting (obtained for the purpose from the United States), ice-making machines, etc. The Joint Committee has also sent to the Persian Gulf river boats of shallow draught for the Tigris, and further boats suited to this navigation are being transferred by the Joint Committee from Mediterranean waters to Mesopotamia.

Mr. E. A. Ridsdale, vice-chairman of the British Red Cross Society, who has just returned to England from Salonika, where he has been acting as the Commissioner of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, left on Thursday as their Commissioner for Mesopotamia, proceeding to India on the P. and O. Kaisar-i-Hind.

The Joint Committee are officially informed that as regards the recent operations the General Officer Commanding has reported that he was extremely satisfied with the arrangements made for the wounded in the field and for their removal from the scene of action. All those wounded in the fighting of March 8 had been collected by the night of the 9th-10th, and all cases which had to be transferred to general or base hospitals were despatched down stream by the 11th.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, February 19.

Situation Steadily Improving.

The political as well as the military situation here is improving every day. The fall of Erzeroum, which was definitely announced here yesterday, has given immense satisfaction to the Allied troops at Salonika, and they are beginning to hope that some really definite move will soon be made here. I have spoken to many British and French soldiers, and they one and all are impatient to get into touch with the enemy. They are equally unanimous in their desire to quit this town. The general feeling is that as the enemy shows no signs of making the much advertised attack on Salonika the Allies will very soon forestall him by advancing to join hands with the Russians and Roumanians. One result of the fall of Erzeroum is that, according to persistent reports here, Turkey now desires to make peace with Russia, and that Mr. Morgenthau, the American Ambassador at Constantinople, has gone to Russia at the request of the Turks to submit their proposals. It is very unlikely, however, that Mr. Morgenthau would leave his post at the present moment; although he would no doubt be willing enough to communicate to the Russian Government the proposals referred to. It is still more unlikely, too, that Russia will listen to any suggestions of a separate peace in view of the solemn agreement already come to between the Allies in regard to any such proposals.

Another outstanding feature of the past week has been the repeated successes of the French aviation corps. They have made two daring raids into Bulgarian territory, causing enormous damage, and in both cases the aerial squadron returned unscathed, with the exception of a slight wound suffered by one of the pilots. In aerial combats with enemy aircraft the French have also shown their superiority, and one indisputable proof thereof is provided by the second German aeroplane captured the other day, which is at this moment on view at the White Tower in Salonika, where large crowds of people gaze upon it with the greatest interest. It differs very little in appearance from the one captured a few weeks ago.

Greeks Becoming More Friendly.

Another feature of the past week has been the arrival of large numbers of additional British and French troops. I must not go into details on this point; but one cannot help noticing for one thing that the Greeks seem to be more and more impressed with the military power here displayed by the Allies, as well as by the continued successes of the Russians. This rapprochement is clearly manifested in the conversations which I have had with leading Greeks as well as by the altered tone of the Government newspapers, which are now turning against their own masters. It is nothing unusual now to find even anti-Entente journals severely criticising the present so-called Government, which the majority of the people undoubtedly believe is leading the country to ruin.

"Music Hath Charms."

Whether or not the Salonicians fully appreciate all the military operations of the Allies, there can be no doubt that they thoroughly enjoy the feast of music which their visitors regularly provide. British and French bands usually play three times a week in the gardens adjoining the famous White Tower. This (Saturday) afternoon the crowd was exceptionally large, as there were no less than three centres of attraction—two British bands and the newly captured German aeroplane, which had only been placed there yesterday afternoon. I visited the brute, as in duty bound, and found it surrounded by a very large crowd. The aeroplane occupied the centre of a large fenced-in space, and at the time of my visit was being inspected by British, French, and Serbian officers, some of whom took photographs of the creature. I also tried to expose a plate, but it was impossible to reach a suitable position.

After listening to one of the bands for a time I moved on to another part of the ground, where the second played an excellent programme to another big crowd. The concluding item consisted of the national airs of Greece, Serbia, France, Russia, and Italy, followed by "God Save the King." It is only during the last few days that the Italian air has been added to the long list of similar airs, and some people consider this significant, as indicating that Italy has at last decided to work in closer union with the other Entente Powers.

"Amerikan Lisaninola Muharrer!"

These words are Turkish, and I find them stamped upon a letter which has just arrived here from Smyrna. What do they mean? Anyone can guess the meaning of the first word, but the complete translation: "Correspondence in the American language," may sound oddly to Englishmen or even to some Americans. This correspondent writes from Turkey in excellent English, and as he is a neutral he is allowed to use his own language. But it would never do for the Turks to recognise the existence of such a barbarous language as English. To them the only real live Western tongue is German, and our language is to them as dead as Latin or Sanskrit. So they get over the difficulty by ignoring English altogether, and pretending that the Americans possess an independent language of their own. I don't think many Americans would like to go so far as that. This reminds me of the notice said to have appeared in a certain Continental shop window: "English spoken, American understood"!

Bulgarian Deserters.

Scarcely a day passes without the appearance in Salonika of Bulgarian deserters brought in from the frontier by Greek soldiers. These men look very miserable and poorly clad, and tell many tales of the hunger and hardships they have had to endure in their own country. They say the war is most unpopular among the people, but that the King and his taskmasters, the Germans, by terrorism, accompanied by numerous executions, manage to enforce obedience. They have tried to stop these desertions by severely punishing the families and relatives of the deserters, but even that is not always effective.

Local Place-names.

Many of the places in and around Salonika still retain their Turkish names, and the transliteration of these into Roman characters varies according to the language in which they are represented. Now the Germans and Austrians, while they were reckoned among the civilised nations, were excellent mapmakers, and they naturally represented the names of the places in accordance with the rules of pronunciation of their own language. When, however, these German names are copied without change into English they sometimes look decidedly queer; and the Englishman, in trying to pronounce them according to his own ideas, makes many blunders. I am told that our own military authorities here are entirely dependent upon the Austrian staff maps of this district, and it is doubtless for that reason that, for example, they write and speak of Hortakioi as Hortakoj, and Jumaya as Djumaja.

This question of the representation of place-names is certainly a difficult one, and although the general rule is to indicate the native pronunciation, there are many exceptions established by usage. In any case, in order to avoid the slightest doubt as to the most appropriate name to apply to this ultra-dirty town, the French soldiers have now christened it *Sale-unique*.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, February 22.

The University Strike.

The strike among the students of both universities continues, and up to the present we detect no signs of slackening. The students' position has been much strengthened by the great sympathy which they find among many of their professors and the general public, and also by the political importance which has been attributed to the movement. The differences, which existed at first only between the Rector of the Jassy University and the student body, have acquired considerable extension. Many professors have written in terms of eulogy concerning the spirit of patriotism and solidarity displayed by the students, and have addressed words of scathing criticism against M. Stere and M. Virgil Arion. The former has retaliated by expressing his regret that he is unable to take measures against the professors who have signed articles supporting the attitude of the students. A manifestation of an orderly character took place in the streets of Jassy on Sunday last, in which a number of professors and politicians participated, together with some seventy students from Bucharest, who had travelled to Jassy for that purpose. The long and short of the matter is that we have before us another flagrant example of the harm which results from the introduction of politics into institutions which ought to be entirely outside its sphere of influence.

The Parliamentary Week.

Interpellations on the subject of the university disturbances have been made in both Houses. MM. Take Jonescu, Greceanu, Cuza, Toma Jonescu, Istrati, and others have called upon M. Duca, Minister of Education, to exert his authority in the matter, and find a speedy solution of the difficulties that have arisen. He has disclaimed any right to interfere, on the ground that the universities are autonomous; but, as there is no prospect of concessions being made on either side, he will in all probability be obliged to assume a responsibility for which he has no taste.

There have been further interpellations with regard to some recent university appointments. It is difficult to see quite clearly in this matter, but it is evident that there are some legal clauses which require revision. There is a lively movement among the younger members of the Medical Faculty, who urge that university appointments shall be made on the basis of competitive examination, a system against which there is a good deal to be said in those States which possess a maturer civilisation.

During discussions which occurred in connection with the subject of cattle export it was stated that the number of head of cattle in the country this year is less to the extent of some 200,000 than in the previous year. This is due in great part to the contraband across the Austro-Hungarian frontier practised in the course of last summer.

Political Leaders' Journeys.

M. Nico Filipescu, most ardent of "Ententistes," President of the Unionist Federation, and leader of the Conservative party, has undertaken a journey into Russia for the purpose of visiting the Russian front, at the express invitation, it is rumoured, of the Tsar's Government. A special train will convey him from Ungheni to Petrograd. M. P. P. Carp, whose sympathy for the Central Powers is well known, has but recently returned from a visit to Vienna, to which great importance was attributed in the German and philo-German Press. Taking into account the fact that these two public men represent views in the matter of foreign policy which are absolutely opposed, one cannot avoid the thought that M. Filipescu's journey, following so closely on that of M. Carp, stands in some sort of relationship to the former.

This Winter's Weather.

The records of the astronomical and meteorological observatory show that the month of December, 1915, was the warmest that has occurred in Roumania during the last twenty-five years. The mean temperature was 4.2 degrees higher than that observed during this month in previous years. At Fokshani and Calafat the temperature rose to 20 degrees Centigrade above zero. The mean snowfall and rainfall for this month was 11 mm., which is 23 mm. less than the normal. Only once before in the last 25 years has the figure fallen so low (1898).

Though we have had no real winter this year, the weather has been unusually fine. In view of the lack of coal this is most fortunate. The comparative dryness has been a godsend to those who have to foot it through the streets of Bucharest, for the fortnight following a thaw in this city is a thing to remember. There has also been but little wind, so that we have been able to enjoy many a bright sunny day without its accompaniment of dust.

Consuls Recalled from Monastir.

There had been some speculation regarding the reasons for the recall of the Roumanian and Greek Consuls at Monastir. It appears that, having exequaturs from the Serbian Government, they could not continue in their functions until fresh exequaturs had been issued by the Bulgarian Government. The Roumanian and Greek Governments apparently preferred to recall their consuls. M. Pitishteanu has accordingly returned to Bucharest. This looks as though the neutral Balkan States do not regard Monastir as having passed definitely into the hands of the Bulgarians.

Converts to Orthodoxy.

Nineteen Mussulman families, pewterers by occupation, who have been settled in the town of Zimnicea for thirty years, have been received into the Orthodox Church. A number of other families are reported to be on the point of embracing the Christian religion.

Sickness in the Bukovina.

The Bukovinean population is ravaged by epidemics. Typhus, small-pox, and scarlatina are claiming hundreds of victims. The mortality is very high on account of the neglected state of the civil population. The sanitary service is devoted almost exclusively to the needs of the Army. The lack of drugs is also making itself felt. This seems to be the case in Bulgaria, too, where the military hospitals have run short of medicines.

ENGLISH DIPLOMACY IN THE BALKANS.

On Monday last the Hon. W. P. Reeves concluded his course of lectures at the London School of Economics by one in which he briefly reviewed events in the Balkan States since the earlier half of the Nineteenth Century. One influence, he said, that had greatly affected the history of those countries had been the diplomacy of the Great Powers. Here the guiding principle of each Power had been either to gain something for itself or to prevent a rival gaining something. To this rule there were exceptions, and during the last twenty years, since England gave up the attempt to bolster up Turkey, the policy of Sir Edward Grey had been mainly directed to the attempt to maintain European peace. The characteristic fault of our diplomacy during the period alluded to had not been that it was always selfish or wrong, but that it was unsuccessful. It had alienated nation after nation, until it could be said that not a single people in the Balkans respected or trusted England. This had been partly through ill-luck, partly because of the great difficulties of the position, and partly because we had let it be seen too plainly that we did not consider anything that might happen in the Balkans was worth going to war about. In the Near East, confronting the Turk on the one hand and the rival Great Powers on the other, if England let it be seen that she would not fight, the chances were that she would have to give way.

As instancing the unsuccessful course of English diplomacy, Dr. Reeves said that when the Balkan War of 1912 broke out Mr. Asquith said that one of the tasks of statesmen would be to prevent the allies being robbed of the fruits of victory. That was bold, and the right thing to say, but it did not conciliate the Turkish Government. Later, when it was evident that Austria and Italy, backed by Germany, were determined to prevent Serbia getting access to the Adriatic, England gave way in the interests of European peace and joined in the opposition to Serbia. This did not conciliate Serbia. When it became evident that Bulgaria was meditating an attack on her late allies we deprecated anything of the sort, but did not join with Russia in preventing it. That did not endear us to Serbia or Greece. When Turkey took advantage of the shattered state of Bulgaria to repossess Adrianople, we ordered the Turks to leave, but when they did not leave we allowed them to remain. That did not recommend us to the Bulgarians. Other things that had offended the Greeks were our allowing Italy to take possession of certain islands in the Ægean, and our deciding, along with the other Powers, that the inhabitants of northern Epirus should not be allowed to remain with Greece, which they regarded as their country, but should be joined to Albania. Sir Edward Grey's desire to subordinate Balkan affairs to the maintenance of good relations with Germany was not a wrong one, but it lost us prestige in the Near East, and did not finally prevent war.

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THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN TURKEY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 29.

Your enterprising Arabic contemporary, *Al Mokattam*, is publishing a series of articles giving details of recent Turkish events and of the trend of affairs in Constantinople, as narrated to its editor by a well-known and trustworthy notable who has just arrived here from the Bosphorus. The following summary of his remarks in the two articles published so far will prove interesting:—

The Murder of Prince Yussuf.

Prince Yussuf Izzeddin did not commit suicide; he was murdered, by German orders. It appears that there has always been friction between the late Turkish Heir Apparent and the Unionists. Prince Yussuf had become the centre of all opposition to the latter, and had formed a party which consisted of a large number of Arab and Turkish officers and members of both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, and which was daily growing in power and prestige. The Prince was for ever urging the Sultan to put an end to the German *régime*, dismiss the Unionist Cabinet, and appoint another which would completely alter Turkey's present policy and save her from her doom. The Sultan, whose inclination was towards his heir, at last agreed to hold a secret council at Dolma Bagtché Palace to decide on what measures should be taken, and at the meeting there were present the Sultan's secretary, Prince Yussuf, and the prominent members of his party.

The German Ambassador got to hear of this council, and advised Von Sanders, who was at the time in Gallipoli, and who, as soon as he received the news, left for Berlin, where he submitted the matter to the Emperor, and explained to him the serious menace that the Prince constituted. No one knows what was decided upon, but the fact remains that a few days after Von Sanders' return to Constantinople Prince Yussuf was seized, gagged and bound by his servants, who opened a blood-vessel in his arm, and left him to bleed to death.

When the Sultan heard the news he was terribly upset; he refused to receive Enver or the German Ambassador, or to sign any papers, on the plea that he was ill. The Kaiser's representative intervened at once, and informed the Sultan, through his secretary, that if he persisted in his attitude he would have to choose between abdication and deposition. Mohammed V., realising that he was in the power of Enver and the Germans, had to yield, and he resumed the transaction of State business. As soon as Prince Yussuf was dead the Unionists arrested nineteen officers who were of his party, sent sixteen to prison, and threw the rest into the Bosphorus. They also wanted to arrest Ahmed Riza Bey, but Khalil Bey objected, as that would have proved that the Prince was murdered.

Jobbery and Dissatisfaction.

Everyone in Constantinople is aware that Prince Yussuf was made away with, and this fact, combined with the dearth of foodstuffs and the dearness thereof, has considerably added to the public dissatisfaction. The Unionists tried the German ticket system in Constantinople, but it failed hopelessly, as they had no idea of organisation. Recently a society named the "Bakali Gamiati" (Associated Grocers) was founded to regulate the supply and sale of foodstuffs, but as, in addition to leading Unionists, its chief members belonged to the "Dolma," it is not surprising to hear that the net result of their efforts was the cornering of all supplies and the driving up of prices.

The popularity of Enver and Talaat is very much on the wane. The former used leisurely to motor through the city, and the people who would line the streets would acclaim him as the great hero of Turkey. Now he goes in constant fear of assassination and motors at a furious pace, no one bothering to salute him, and people spitting after him when they see him, provided they are sure none of his spies are about. Talaat, who was wont to boast that his life was perfectly safe, and who always used to go out unattended, now takes the very greatest precautions, and only goes out riding with a substantial escort. Recently shots were fired at him, but they missed him, and only killed his secretary, the son of Ismail Hakki Pasha.

Both Enver and Talaat are particularly afraid of their lives because of the large fortunes they have amassed. Talaat's fortune is put at several million marks; that of Enver it is not possible to estimate, but it is known that a very short while ago he removed twenty million marks from a German to an American bank. Is this an indication that he is aware that he has backed the wrong horse?

Talaat's Peace Terms.

Whether that be the true deduction or not, the fact nevertheless remains that the Unionist leaders are far from feeling at ease. Talaat a month ago sent two deputies and a high Government official to Switzerland to discuss with the Allies peace terms that would save Turkey's honour and yet not jeopardise the Unionists. The terms were, of course, refused, but it is interesting to note that they were the following:—

1. Re-establishment of the Khediviate in Egypt, with Prince Said Halim, the present Grand Vizier, as Khedive.
2. Russia to evacuate Armenia, which was to have autonomy, under Russian protection.
3. The evacuation of Mesopotamia by the British.
4. The (inevitable!) loan from the Allies to enable Turkey to carry on her administration.

On the rejection of his terms Talaat sent another deputation to Switzerland and France, with certain concessions, but, as might be expected, they were likewise refused.

Effect of the Fall of Erzeroum.

The fall of Erzeroum was not unexpected, though it came as a terrible shock to the Ministry. In certain circles it was known on January 29 that the town could not hold out for long, and that it would fall about the middle of this month. Abdel Karim Pasha, the Commander-in-Chief of the Turkish forces, had asked for reinforcements, but they were not sent. Enver tried his best to send him help, but the Germans obstructed him. They had removed 60,000 Turkish troops, the flower of the army, from Gallipoli, where there are now 25,000 German troops, and sent them, under Sabri Pasha, to Adrianople, where there are, in addition, 5,000 Germans. A similar number are at Baghdad, whither four new aeroplanes, making ten with those already on the spot, have been sent. Enver wanted to send Abdel Karim Pasha 30,000 men from Sabri Pasha's army in Adrianople, but the Germans would not hear of it, as they said Turkish troops could not possibly leave the Balkans until their enemies had been driven out of them. All Enver has been able to send are about 16,000 men from Jemal Pasha's army in Syria and a few thousand from Smyrna, but the senior officers in Constantinople are convinced that, owing to the lack of proper supplies and the unfavourable climatic conditions, these reinforcements, with any others that Enver has managed to scrape together, will reach Abdel Karim Pasha far too late to be of any use to him.

The fall of Erzeroum has shaken the foundations of the present Government, and has caused Enver to lose the best part of his prestige. If we are only successful in our advance in Mesopotamia next month, and can bring off a brilliant victory like the Russians have done, then the Unionist Government will fall and a different one will succeed it, and will sue for peace and try to save as much of the Empire as it can. The officers in the army are divided more than ever into two camps. The one, consisting chiefly of the Unionists and their friends, is loyal to the Germans; the other, which is growing daily, is strongly anti-German, and desirous of getting rid of them, and of putting an end to the war. This division in the army has counted for much in the resistance which the Turkish troops have put up against the Russians and ourselves.

The Germans Unmasked.

The people also are getting furious with the Unionists and the Germans, and the following incident is illustrative of this growing feeling. At the usual Friday prayers a week or so ago the "Kutba" at the Ain-i-Sophia Mosque was delivered by one Sheikh Hafez. The preacher offered up the customary prayer for the Khalif, and concluded by asking the Almighty to shower His vengeance on the Germans and Unionists, and keep the Khalifate secure from their evil machinations. The Unionist agents in the mosque tried to arrest him, but the Sheikh got clear, and was smuggled out of the country by his friends. That such a prayer should be offered up in the most important mosque is significant of the popular feeling, and there is no doubt that if any more reverses are suffered by Turkey the Government will be overthrown, and that if the Germans try to oppose this the army will rise against them and turn them out.

The Germans realise this, and it is their chief cause of preoccupation. The recent frequent journeys to and from Berlin of prominent Germans—Von Jagow was recently in Constantinople, and barely had he returned to Berlin than the German Ambassador made a flying trip thither by special train and returned one night later to the Turkish capital—are entirely due to their anxiety to prevent any revolution in Turkey, but the situation is becoming far too serious for them to be able to control it.

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, February 21.

Plunder.

A Committee, consisting of the directors of the National Library at Sofia, the National Museum, and the Ethnographical Museum, has been formed and entrusted with the opening of the boxes containing the books stolen from the libraries at Belgrade, Nish, and Pirot. The number of boxes is 240. Besides this, M. Jordan Ivanoff, Professor of the University of Sofia, who has just made a journey in Macedonia, has "discovered" several precious historical documents, which he has transported to Sofia.

The Arrogant Teutons.

Since the "occupation" of Bulgaria by the Germans an order has been issued to the effect that when groups of German soldiers are walking in the streets all Bulgarians, military or otherwise, must keep close to the wall, so as to allow full room for the former to pass. This order is enforced with great severity, and nothing must stand in the way of the "conquerors."

On Thursday last, before the Panah Café at Sofia, a large motor wagon, driven by some German soldiers at its fullest speed, came rushing along just as a tram passed. Without hesitation or warning of any kind the motor was let go full tilt into the tram, wrecking it, and severely injuring many of the passengers. It proceeded on its way, no notice being taken of the protests of the bystanders, except that the soldiers called out, "Let them learn not to get in the way of Germans!"

Suppressing the Truth.

In spite of the great vigilance of the military censor, the truth regarding the state of despondent misery reigning in the Bulgarian army sometimes leaks out. Occasionally letters manage to pass the authorities, and these give pitiful pictures of the life which is being endured by the rank and file, whose hearts are so little in the present struggle.

This state of things is not at all relished by the authors of the present military situation in Bulgaria, and further efforts are being made to prevent news of the real state of things reaching the soldiers' friends at home. A communiqué published by the Ministry of War states:—

The Ministry of War is informed that carters returning from the theatre of military operations bring uncensored letters from soldiers. These letters being of a pessimistic nature, orders have been given to the Chiefs of Divisions that all carters shall be searched, and when found carrying uncensored letters they shall be proceeded against in accordance with Par. 10 on Order No. 7 of January 7 in regard to the state of war.

White Bread Prohibited.

The people of Sofia are no longer allowed to eat white bread. The Committee of Public Supply having been informed that certain bakers are in the habit of baking white bread, which they sell to those who are willing to pay a higher price, has published a notice stating that any baker making other than the two qualities decided on by the Committee will be proceeded against.

For some little time, in the greater part of the articles published in the Bulgarian Press, the word "corruption" recurs like a *leitmotif*. It is the Opposition papers which use the word most freely, without, however, indicating precisely to what the expression refers. One constantly finds such phrases as "corruption must be punished," and the like.

Interior politics in Bulgaria are passing just now through a difficult crisis. MM. Daneff and Gueshoff keep in the background. M. Malinoff alone maintains an extremely defiant attitude towards the Government, but he does not refrain from taking an active part in politics. It is to him that the Bulgarians anxiously turn their gaze at present, for the fear of the punishment which Russia reserves for them becomes daily more acute; and M. Malinoff is looked on as the only plank that may lead them to safety.

Deserters' Reports.

Several Bulgarian soldiers, accompanied by a German, from Varna, have just deserted and come into Roumania. They declared to the Roumanian authorities that the Bulgarians are wearied, that they desert in numbers day by day, and that on account of the continued German requisitions famine is seriously threatening Bulgaria.

Both the people and the army demand peace. The number of victims claimed by the war has frightened them. The Germans supply any quantity of ammunition, but the Bulgarian officers want food and—more than all—an end put to the war.

The German deserter also made interesting statements. He said: "I feel I shall go mad if I am sent to the attack once more. I took part in the fighting on the Mazurian Lakes; then I was sent to the French front; then into the Balkans, against the Serbians; and at present we are at Varna, probably to be sent against the Roumanians. But what are we that we fight against all these different peoples? It is enough that the survivors of this remain in such a state: maniacs, infirm, or beggars. Our army has never suffered so much as in the Balkans. I have suffered the most terrible tortures, and yet should not have deserted—for Germans do not desert—if I had not seen madness threatening me. So I preferred flight."

A Significant Incident.

Not a single Bulgarian officer accepted the invitation to attend the inauguration of the German Officers' Club at Sofia, and the municipal and other authorities likewise absented themselves. This significant fact—news of which was not transmitted by the Agence Bulgare—is the subject of considerable comment in German circles at Sofia, where there is fear of some serious move on the part of the Bulgarians.

Soldiers' Rations.

The Sofia correspondent of the *Nationalul* writes that the Bulgarian soldier's daily ration of bread has been reduced to 450 grammes (1 lb.). This is the consequence of the extensive exportation of cereals into Germany. The Sofia papers state that the Government has bought considerable quantities of grain in Roumania. Nothing has been heard of this transaction in the latter country. If true, it would be additional evidence that the Germans have drained their ally of most of her resources.

The Parliamentary Opposition.

The Bulgarian Government has not yet sent in its reply to the speech from the Throne. The Opposition, which was not consulted when Bulgaria went to war, refuses to be represented in the Commission which is to present the reply of the Sobranje to King Ferdinand. The latter had particularly requested that the leaders of the Opposition should not stand aloof in this matter, as proof that the country supported his foreign policy.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent writes that a marble sarcophagus has been found at Mataria, near Cairo, and that, from the inscriptions and other indications, it would appear to date between 2000 to 2500 years B.C. The infiltration of the Nile prevents work for the present, but, with the fall of the river in May, it is thought not unlikely that excavations will reveal an important necropolis. The sarcophagus is thought to contain the body of a powerful steward of one of the ancient Pharaohs.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The occupation of Sollum by General Peyton's force, coming on top of other recent events on the western frontier of Egypt, is eminently satisfactory. We must still wait a little while, as the Cairo Correspondent of THE NEAR EAST reminded us last week, before we can be quite sure whether the Tripolitan Arabs have "had enough"; for when they have got their crops in it is possible that a certain Unmentionable Person may find "some mischief still" for their "idle hands to do." But we may reasonably hope that the back of the trouble is broken; and those who have broken it deserve our hearty congratulations and our best thanks.

***

Whether the unrest simmers a little longer or not, the hammering that the Men of the Desert have received at the hands of the troops—British, Colonial, and Indian—has surely served one purpose: it has pricked the great Senussi Peril bubble. Perhaps it would be fairer to write the Senussi Mystery than the Senussi Peril; for though the Young Turks and their German friends have sedulously cultivated the idea of a terrific force sweeping up from the desert and dealing out death and destruction to all who declined to accept the Enver-*cum*-Wilhelm-Kultur programme, it has always been a little difficult to some of us to respond with suitable creeping of the flesh to these appeals to our fears. We have been told of the great cities of the Senussi far, far away in the trackless desert, of their arsenals stocked with rifles, machine-guns, and ammunition; of their countless hordes of fanatical warriors, longing to die—lately for the benefit of the Turco-Germs; of their courage, their dash, and their invincibility. It has all been very, very pretty, but—well, we have wondered just why the Senussi should be so ready to sacrifice themselves in order to help a lot of suspects like the "Young Turks" and scallywags like the Huns. For, after all, the one well-established fact about them appears to be that they are the great Passive Resisters of the Arab world: a body after the heart of Dr. Clifford and his friends. As Mr. G. F. Andrews wrote in the February number of the *Geographical Journal*, "The Senussiya teaches that no Mohammedan should continue to live in a country ruled by a non-Mohammedan Power. . . . Sheikh el Mahdi sent the call to the faithful, not to revolt, but withdraw into the desert." If that is not passive resistance, what is? For the rest, the "mystery" surrounding the sect appears to me to have been worn decidedly thin of late.

***

A traveller just home from Egypt tells a racy story which I for one am quite prepared to accept as true, for it reminds me of more than one incident that fell within my own experience when I was living amongst the Arabs. It runs thus:—The daughter of a certain Sheikh got married, and not long after the marriage her husband gave her a beating. She, having been a spoilt child, hurried off to her father and complained bitterly. "My husband," said she, "has beaten me severely, and as I am your daughter he has dishonoured your house. It is not meet that the daughter of a Sheikh should be beaten thus. Therefore it is incumbent upon you, oh, my father, to avenge the insult!" The Sheikh sat thoughtful for a while, stroking his beard gravely. Then he rose, took a stick, and gave the astonished bride a second drubbing. "Now," said he, when he had finished the operation and she had dried her tears, "go to your husband and tell him that I am much annoyed with him for smirching the honour of my house by beating my daughter. But add that I have got even with him—and more than even—by beating *his wife*."

***

Another delightful story, equally typical, but this time of a Turk, comes from Mesopotamia. There, as we know, the Arabs have been faithfully following their own old notions of warfare—hanging on the flanks of both armies and "nipping in" on either side whenever they see a chance of securing any plunder without too great risk. These tactics much annoyed the Turkish commander, so he sent a message to the British commander, saying: "I am tired of these Bedouin robbers and their treachery, and you must be so, too. Let us, therefore, make a truce with one another for two or three days, and mete out to these Arabs such punishment as will put an end to their tricks."

***

Some jottings by a submarine officer who has been serving down at the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmora, and the Bosphorus have found their way into my hands this week. Two incidents which they mention seem to show that even in those placid waters the life of the naval officer is not entirely free from care. On one occasion the submarine was basking quietly in the Golden Horn when a Turkish boatman, anxious to tie up to something and enjoy a quiet snooze, observing her periscope, promptly hitched on to it with a boat-hook. On another day the submarine having touched at a quiet spot undetected, some of the younger members of her happy family took advantage of the occasion to slip ashore and go shopping in the Pera quarter. The Commander was naturally annoyed, fearing that he might be held guilty of encouraging "trading with the enemy." Truly our Navy has its own small worries.

***

The death of Lady Baker last week is an event which will be keenly regretted by all who have ever taken an interest in the Sudan. The part she played in the travels of exploration undertaken by the late Sir Samuel Baker was a very real one, so much so indeed that the regions described in her husband's writings are even yet redolent of her memory. To-day, when we read of the naval fight on the lakes of Central Africa, it is especially interesting to think back to the time when all those regions were as a closed book to the white man. Sir Samuel and Lady Baker were the first white man and woman to set foot in the region of the Albert Nyanza. Not so many years ago, after all—Lady Baker only breathed her last on Saturday—but what changes have been wrought since then. There are few white women, too, who could have survived the hardships which fell to Lady Baker's lot in those days, when the hand of God and man seemed to be against the exploring party. Anyone who has visited the Sudan in recent years, and has seen the naked country from the deck of a comfortable tourist steamer, can judge of travel in the country before the hand of the White Man had been placed upon it. Yet Lady Baker, carried for seven days through torrential rains in a condition that was at first thought to be of death, survived it all, to reap a full benefit of years in civilisation and to die at last in the tranquil setting of her Devonshire home. I hope that her memory will be honoured by a tablet in the Cathedral at Khartoum, for never devoted wife and intrepid pioneer deserved one more.

***

According to a message from Athens this week, the Bulgarians have already been given a joy-day to celebrate the fall of Verdun. In all those towns where there are German garrisons fêtes were held in honour of the glorious "news," manufactured by the most kultured Germans in Berlin for the benefit of their Bulgar allies. There is nothing surprising in this "news" when one considers it. If, for internal reasons, the German high command does not hesitate to report to its own country the wholly fictitious news of the capture of the fort of Vaux, a fort that had not even been attacked when the report announcing its fall was circulated, it is scarcely likely that any consideration of truth should stand in the way of placating restless Bulgarians in case of necessity. That necessity evidently arose a week or more ago, for it was then that this great lie was imposed upon them. Germany will now trust to luck. If, after sacrifices which stagger one's imagination even now when it is so thoroughly tuned to horror, Verdun is captured—an extremely unlikely event in my opinion—the date of its capture can be withheld from Bulgaria; if, on the other hand, the German attack fails utterly, it can be said that the French counter-attacked and recaptured the city. But truly things cannot be very well with the Teutons when they sink to such methods in order to retain the support of their allies.

***

In the meanwhile what of Turkey? Apparently there are only two things quite certain in her regard. The one is that the fate and whereabouts of Enver Pasha remain a matter of mystery; the other, that a Turk captured in Gallipoli wore a belt made from the strap of a London and North-Western Railway carriage. The latter item of news is perhaps unimportant except that it shows how little things strain out to grip one's interest even in the midst of Armageddon, for the fact was recorded in most of the daily newspapers with all the honour of a separate paragraph. The question of Enver Pasha is, however, another matter. The whole future of Turkey may depend upon whether Enver is at the Tomb of the Prophet, as official reports state, or whether he is in a tomb of his own elsewhere. I hope, for the sake of Turkey, that he is dead, but I do not expect we shall know definitely one way or another for some time to come. If, as one London paper asserts, it is true that semi-official reports in Turkey state that he died fighting in Armenia, then it is tolerably certain that he was assassinated in Constantinople, but time alone will show.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

EGYPT THE WONDERLAND.*

It is not probable that many tourists will enter Egypt this year, but the fascination of Egypt remains. War clouds may burst and threaten to destroy all our carefully nurtured products of civilisation; the Pyramids may echo with the clang of arms and the shout of armed men, the clean face of the desert may run red with blood, but Egypt will remain the unchanged and the unchangeable. "The study of Egyptian history has at least this merit: it teaches us to think not in centuries, but in the longer periods which make the history of dynasties of nations." So wrote Mr. Todd concerning Egypt, and his words are full of truth. What difference, after all, do any of the changes which ruffle the face of civilisation make to Egypt? They are no more to her than the winds that scatter the sands of her deserts, and she treats them with the same indifference. Therein lies her fascination; she is the one country that the newer civilisations may not mould; she is, as it were, a pivot on which history swings. This fact, and Mr. Todd's remarks thereon are peculiarly apropos at the present moment, when Egypt the Eternal has just witnessed scenes of fresh bloodshed, and is placidly awaiting the shock of a "great invasion."

When it was published the book was a decidedly pleasing addition to the long list of books on Egypt, and in saying, as we unhesitatingly do, that it has improved with keeping, we are conscious of giving it high praise. Illustrations such as it contains seldom depreciate, but the same cannot be said of the work of all authors who write on Egypt. The illustrations are exceptionally good, for Miss Du Cane has evidently so steeped herself in the atmosphere of Egypt that any or all aspects of the country come easily to her brush. It is, however, in her treatment of water effects that the artist excels. These are instinct with the soft lights which are so much a part of Egypt that the simple memory of them lightens the fog of a February day in London. Some of her landscapes, too, are much above the average; it is only in dealing with buildings and, rather strangely, with flowers and garden scenes, that her art is seen in a less favourable light. Even here, however, there is no distinctive fault to find. The pictures are undoubtedly good and faithful reproductions of the scenes depicted; but they lack the charm and individuality that are so pronounced in her other work. Many of her pictures of streets and mosques might be signed by other artists well known for their work on Egypt and no one would be a penny the wiser. They are too photographic in setting and in colour, and we look in vain for the imagination which touches her other work. The same thing may perhaps be said of the sketches wherein flowers are the principal subject. You can touch and feel the water and the mists in some of Miss Du Cane's pictures; her flowers are true and beautiful in colour; but they are painted things on paper, not the soft velvety sprays that other work might have led us to expect from her. If we may judge by the generous supply of illustrations with which this book is filled, we would say that the artist's chief and most abiding impression of Egypt was of peace and calm. It is evident in almost all her work. On the few occasions, however, when troubled vision of coming storm assailed her, she has done all that an artist could do in its portrayal. "A Grey Day on the Nile," may be taken as an instance. How often have we seen the same blended tints of the sky scarred by deepening purple as evening draws in, and watched the ripples scurry across the face of the waters, alert and eager for the part they were about to play in the coming storm. Some of these pictures, indeed, lead us into a grievous state of indecision. On the one hand we want to cut them out and frame them; on the other we wish to preserve the book in all its original charm.

It would be interesting to know whether the script was written to the pictures or the pictures painted to the words; or whether author and artist went through the scenes of their work together. It is certain, at all events, that the work of both artist and author combines in a manner that is unusually satisfactory. Mr. Todd has set out with the avowed intention of attempting to lay before the reader an impression of the "outstanding features of the history, or rather, procession of histories, which is passing before him," when he contemplates Egypt. It is certainly the case that visitors to Egypt, and even students of the country, are liable to overlook many of her claims of interest in their enthusiasm for one point. The archæological attraction is of paramount interest to one; the commercial possibilities an absorbing claim to another, and so on. Mr. Todd looks at the country as a prospector looks for coal. Every geological indication is of value to the prospector, but coal does not lie upon the surface. It is hidden beneath the crust of centuries, and until those crusts are removed the mineral will remain untouched. So with Egypt. Mr. Todd attempts to unravel the successive layers of history under which the heart of Egypt beats. To this author the various phases and changes through which the country has passed since those remote times when, "probably centuries before the Garden of Eden," the world's civilisation began, are mere layers of only relative importance to the ultimate destinies of the country. He is obsessed by the wonders which centuries of history have combined to produce, and he has written a book at the promptings of this obsession. That, at least, is the impression which this volume leaves upon the mind of the reviewer.

Professor Todd starts where all books on Egypt should properly start—the Nile. The country exists by its favour; in the old days, before its wilful moods were tamed, the people of Egypt faced alternate plenty and famine at its caprice. There are still in the upper regions of Egypt to be found men and women who place implicit belief in the Spirit of the Nile, a spirit which materialises in the mists about the river towards nightfall, and which rewards its devotees for their belief by whispered warnings of coming danger, or lightening their hearts by presages of joy. It has always seemed to the reviewer that we must look to these things if we want to master the question of Egypt and other lands of the Orient. Professor Todd refers to the fact that the facial characteristics of the ancient Egyptians are to be seen in almost every street in Cairo. Here again is food for thought. Can the spirit of the people have so greatly changed while the physiognomy is left unaltered? We are inclined to think not. Just as in the individuals of Upper Egypt to whom we have referred there remains an abiding faith in an ancient superstition that the world would denounce as pagan to-day, so among the hearts of the people there may still be latent the germs of greatness that carried the country to the front of civilisation ages and ages ago. Occasionally during recent centuries a spark has fluttered here and there, giving promise of a flaming soul, and although so far no light strong enough to battle with the illumination of modern civilisation has appeared, there is no need to despair. It may be, too, that the resurrection of the country will be gradual; that it will be brought about by many influences each working to the one end, and that no giant personality will be directly responsible. It is probable in the nature of things, however, that prosperity, if it comes to Egypt as a settled and certain thing, as a result of closer intimacy with Western ideals, will retard rather than hasten the reincarnation of the spirit that marked the Ancient Egyptians. Reappearing during a period of smug prosperity, it would have to overcome the prevailing tendency to avarice on the part of the Egyptians before any great change could be wrought.

In the concluding pages of his book, Mr. Todd asks, "What is to be the future of Egypt?" and continues in the following paragraph, touched with prophecy in its first phrase:

> A British Protectorate seems the natural answer, but it is no answer at all. Suppose it were that to-morrow, what next? What is to be the final fate of the attempt of one Western nation to rule Eastern nations with whom it can never amalgamate? "Never" is a big word, but here it seems really the only word, for as long as Englishmen will not marry native women, or, still more impossible, allow native Egyptians to marry English women, there can never be any relation between England and Egypt but that of conqueror and conquered. What is to be the end of it all? Civilization has pretty well gone the round of the world now. Is it going to begin again, and where, or is it going to work backwards now from West to East?

This question, persistent during the time the book was published, is even more so now, when civilisation itself is in the melting-pot. At the present moment it is, indeed, almost impossible to predict its future after even the short period of a year. It is quite certain that the civilisation of the early months of 1914 has gone for ever, although it is hard to realise that yet. We hope and believe that this ordeal will leave us strengthened by the elimination of the disordered state of luxury at which we had arrived, and by the reincarnation of the vigorous ideals that led Britain to the forefront of the nations. Should this be the case, we may regard the future, especially our future in the East, with equanimity. The civilisation of the Easterns always found strength in the mystic side of existence. We do not; in other words, East and West apply at different founts for their doles of greatness. As long as this remains the case all should be well. Egypt, for instance, could spring again to heights of civilisation, rivalling all her previous achievements, and yet not cross the path of the West at all. The two are so widely different, there is no reason why they should ever meet except for mutual good; and while we lead, with due regard to the susceptibilities of the Eastern temperament, all should be harmony. Therefore we think that Mr. Todd errs when, in the passage which we have quoted, he sees only the possibility of the strained relations of conqueror and conquered between West and East. In the "Federation of the World," the old world and the new will probably be found to be moving harmoniously side by side with characteristics unchanged, the ideals of each working to the support of the other. This, at least, is the conclusion that we arrive at in probing the questions put by Mr. Todd, in a book which has given us unqualified enjoyment.

* "On the Banks of the Nile." Painted by Ella Du Cane, described by John A. Todd. (London: A. and C. Black.)

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Mar.	1916. Mar.		1334. Jumada I.	5676. Adar II.
17	4	Friday	12	12
18	5	Saturday.....	13	13
19	6	Sunday	14	14
20	7	Monday	15	15
21	8	Tuesday	16	16
22	9	Wednesday	17	17
23	10	Thursday	18	18

It is reported from Bucharest that Queen Marie of Roumania is ill.

Sir A. K. Muir has returned to Blair Drummond House, Perthshire, from Egypt, and the Eastern Mediterranean. He went there (says the *World*) at the beginning of the year to help with the distribution of the supplies of comforts which his sister, Lady (Ian) Hamilton, collected for the men of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Essad Pasha returned to Rome from Nice last Thursday.

According to news arriving by way of Amsterdam, King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, after visiting the Emperor Francis Joseph on Wednesday, left for Hungary.

The *Sudan Times* of February 23 reports an interesting ceremony at Khartoum. It says :—"H.E. the Sirdar held his annual prize giving at the Military School on Saturday, 19th inst. The prize giving was held at the back of the Military School, and H.E. presented prizes to those who had done well in the examinations. Many officials, officers, relatives and friends of cadets were present, numbering about 250, amongst whom were El Lewa H. Drake Pasha (Adjutant-General E.A.), El Lewa F. F. Carroll Pasha, Mr. Crowfoot, Mr. Simpson, El Miralai R. Rees Mogg Bey (Military Secretary), and El Kaim. F. W. Edwards Bey."

The Crown Prince of Serbia arrived in Rome yesterday morning. His Royal Highness was received at the station by many Serbs and civic authorities and was cheered by a large crowd. After a short stay in the city the Crown Prince will pay a visit to the King at the front.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (February 23) :—

The members of the Russian Sanitary Mission, "Alexandrowskaia," who had been kept prisoners by the Bulgarians, having received permission to quit Sofia, passed through Bucharest a few days ago on their way to Petrograd. The mission was composed of several medical men, with a Pole, Dr. Kurkowski, at its head, and a staff of forty-seven Sisters of Charity. The Roumanian Government authorized the transport of their luggage free of charge on the Roumanian railways.

An Amsterdam telegram announces that Dr. Sven Hedin has arrived in Constantinople.

Colonel Charles J. A. Yates, late of the 28th Bombay Pioneers, who died at Falmouth last week, took part in the Sudan Expedition of 1885, and received the medal with clasp and the bronze star.

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Colonel Richard Patrick Ferguson, late of the Royal Army Medical Corps, has died at Southsea, at the age of seventy-six. He joined the Medical Service of the Army in 1862, and served with the Bhootan expedition of 1864-5, for which he had the medal with clasp. He was in the Afghan war of 1878-9 and with the Egyptian expedition of 1882, for both of which he had the medal and for the Egyptian expedition also the bronze star. He retired in 1899.

On Monday evening Mrs. O. M. Aldridge delivered a lecture at the National Liberal Club on "The Retreat from Kragujevatz through Montenegro and Albania."

According to Constantinople rumours current in Athens, Ismail Hakki, Chief of the Commissariat Department, has been appointed Turkish Minister of War in the room of Enver Pasha, who continues to be "reported dead."

H.H. the Sultan of Egypt has been pleased to confer the Order of the Nile, of the Third Class, upon Dr. Llewellin Phillips, Physician to his Highness; Dr. F. B. Brossard Bey, Consulting Physician to his Highness; and Izzet Bey Shukri, Director of the European section of his Highness's Cabinet.

The following announcements are from the *London Gazette* :—

The King has been pleased to give and grant unto Field-Marshal the Right Hon. Horatio Herbert, Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, K.G., K.P., G.C.B., O.M., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., Secretary of State for War, his Majesty's Royal licence and authority to wear the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, which decoration has been conferred by the President of the French Republic, in recognition of valuable services rendered by his Lordship.

The King has been pleased to give and grant unto Captain Ernest Nathaniel Bennett, Territorial Force Reserve, his Majesty's Royal licence and authority to wear the Insignia of Third Class of the Order of the White Eagle, which decoration has been conferred upon him by his Majesty the King of Serbia in recognition of valuable services rendered by him as Commissioner in Serbia of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

The King has been pleased to give and grant unto the undermentioned gentlemen his Majesty's Royal licence and authority to wear decorations (as stated against their respective names) which have been conferred upon them by his Highness the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered by them :—

Second Class of the Order of the Nile.

Brevet-Colonel Herbert William Jackson, C.B., retired pay, formerly of the Gordon Highlanders (Lieutenant-Colonel Reserve of Officers).

Third Class of the Order of the Nile.

James Brian Christopherson, Esq., M.A., M.D., B.Ch., Sudan Civil Service.

Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile.

Major Hugh Shuckburgh Hearn, Royal Artillery.

Major Charlton Watson Spinks, Royal Artillery.

Major Stanley Edmund Hercules Giles, the Army Service Corps.

Major Cecil Hunter Little, Prince Albert's (Somerset Light Infantry).

Major Roland Charles Greenwood, the Highland Light Infantry.

Major Henry Beaumont, the Lancashire Fusiliers.

Captain Arthur Gordon Cummins, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps.

Captain Godfrey Henry Patrick Boyle, Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, the Duke of Albany's); and

Arthur Lennox Butler, Esq., Keith Vivian Gurney, Esq., Cyril Havercroft, Esq., Harold Preece Hewins, Esq., Vincent Sutherland Hodson, Esq., M.V.O., M.B., Harold Alfred MacMichael, Esq., John Godfrey Matthew, Esq., and Charles Armine Willis, Esq., members of the Sudan Civil Service.

Lieutenant H. D. Cumberbatch, 6th Buffs (E. Kent), is reported wounded in the latest casualty lists.

Temporary Sec. Lieutenant Frank M. Stout, attached 20th Hussars, who, with his brother, is well known in Cairo, has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and resource. When he heard of an enemy working party in the vicinity, he took a corporal and light machine-gun down a sap, mounted the corporal on his back to enable the latter to fire over the parapet, and opened fire. Later, mounted on the corporal's back, Lieutenant Stout opened fire, although by this time they had been discovered. Next morning, fourteen dead enemy were counted and more must have been wounded.

We regret to learn that Lord Edward Cecil, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, who is at present in England, is indisposed. His condition, however, gives no cause for anxiety.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that an interesting exhibition of pictures of leaders and incidents of the Serbian campaign, by the Serbian painter, Vuketich, was opened at Rome a few days ago. Among the portraits are those of Admiral Troubridge and Dr. Ryan.

A sum of £8 2s. 6d. was realized as the result of a whist drive held recently in Derby in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund.

Colonel Robert Baring, of Chapel Street, Belgrave Square, brother of the Earl of Cromer and of the late Lord Revelstoke, who died on November 21, aged eighty-one, left property of the value of £155,210. The testator gives an annuity of £100 and £300 to his servant William Major, and £400 to Isabella Forbes, if still in his service.

Mrs. Grant Duff, President of the Bureau de Secours aux Prisonniers de Guerre, British Section, British Legation, Berne, Switzerland, announces that arrangements have been made to send parcels of food and clothing from Berne to British prisoners of war in Bulgaria and Turkey, thus saving a considerable amount of time in transmission and providing a more certain method of despatch. Particulars can be obtained from the Bureau de Secours or from the Prisoners of War Help Committee, 3 and 7, Southampton Street, Strand, W.C.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces that both Captain E. T. Peel and Lieutenant C. F. Beyts, members of the Alexandria staff of Messrs. Peel and Company, have been awarded the Military Medal. Bombadier D. Shimmin, also a member of the firm's Alexandria staff, has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

The following brief list of some of the articles just sent out by the Wounded Allies Relief Committee, Sardinia House, Kingsway, W.C., to sick and wounded Serbian soldiers at the Island of Vido, near Corfu, may serve as a guide to sympathisers desirous of contributing foodstuffs and clothing to be included with the next consignment of goods despatched by the committee :—The articles sent out with the first mission include two bales of blankets from the New Zealand Government, and from the committee's stores 120 overcoats, 120 body-belts, 200 slippers, 400 day-shirts, 300 cushions, 250 pillows, 200 tins of cocoa, 500 tins of chocolate, 20 dozen assorted vegetable soups, 100 lbs. of dried eggs, 10 cwt. of sugar, 200 lbs. of tea, 12 dozen tins of assorted jams, 20 dozen tins of marmalade, 11 cases of tinned milk, 5 cwt. of assorted biscuits, 54 bags (each 140 lbs.) of flour, and 5 bags (each 2 cwt.) of rice, in addition to coffee, margarine, bacon, and other things.

MRS. FRANK BARKER wishes to recommend MANOLI CORBETTI, 22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street, W., to anyone wishing to purchase YAOURT, HALVA, TOMATO PASTE, BLACK OLIVES, ORIENTAL JAMS, or CIGARETTES, all of which he gets direct from Salonika and other parts of Greece.—[Advt.]

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

Under date of February 22, our Bucharest Correspondent reports:—

M. G. Derussi, the Roumanian Minister in Sofia, who had been in Bucharest on leave, has now returned to his post.

Sabet Bey has taken over his new post as Secretary of the Ottoman Legation in Bucharest.

Colonel Tatarinoff, late Military Attaché of the Russian Legation at Sofia, has been appointed Military Attaché at Bucharest in the place of Colonel Semenoff.

It is officially announced that the King has been pleased to give directions for the appointment of General Sir Charles Monro, K.C.B., to be a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George; and for General the Hon. Sir Julian Byng to be a Knight Commander of the Bath, both for distinguished services in connection with the withdrawal of the Force from Gallipoli.

The appointment has been gazetted of Lieut.-Colonel Sir Percy M. Sykes, K.C.I.E., C.M.G., Supernumerary List, Indian Army, as temporary Brigadier-General while employed on special duty.

The following officers of the Egyptian Army have been promoted from Bimbashi to Kaimakam:—R. S. Worsley, Department of Supplies; P. M. Larken, Sudan Government; C. H. Stigand, Sudan Government; E. Gibbon, M.B., Medical Corps; R. P. Lewis, Sudan Government.

El Bimbashi E. H. M. O'Farrell, 1st Battalion, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

The appointment of El Kaimakam R. S. Worsley Bey, Department of Supplies, to be Assistant Director of Supplies, Egyptian Army, has been approved.

The following British officers attached to the Egyptian Army have been promoted to the rank of major:—

Captain Albert C. Hewitt, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Captain G. G. S. Brander, Suffolk Regiment.

Captain W. D. Kenny, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

The *Morning Post* Stockholm correspondent states that the Swedish Minister in Vienna, Count Beck-Friis, who has also been appointed Swedish Minister to Roumania, has left for Bucharest to present his credentials to King Ferdinand.

OBITUARY.

JUDGE SANDARS.

We regret to announce the death, which took place at Alexandria on the 9th inst., at the age of fifty-six years, of his Honour Judge Charles Lionel Sandars, President of the International Court of Appeal in Egypt. The late Judge Sandars was an old resident of Alexandria, where he arrived in the year 1881, when he commenced to practise there as a barrister. He entered into partnership with the late Mr. Chas. Royle, and after the "events" of 1882 took an active part in obtaining indemnities for British subjects whose property had suffered injury. Later he practised on his own account, and, after considerable experience of the British Consular Court, was given a seat on the Mixed Court Bench, a position he occupied with distinction for many years, ultimately being appointed President of the Tribunals. Apart from his profession, Judge Sandars' interests were centred in horticulture. He was one of the most prominent exhibitors at the annual flower show held at San Stefano, the success of which was largely due to his untiring energy and example. He was the second son of the late Thomas Collett Sandars, and was unmarried. His death, at a comparatively early age, will be regretted by a large circle of friends.

SIR CHARLES M. WATSON, K.C.M.G.

The Times yesterday announced the death of Colonel Sir Charles Moore Watson, K.C.M.G., C.B., R.E., the friend of General Gordon, and the captor of the Citadel of Cairo after the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. We extract the following particulars from the *Times'* obituary:—

Born in Dublin on July 10, 1844, he was the son of William Watson, a well-known civil engineer. After distinguishing himself at Trinity College, Dublin, in French, German, and mathematics, he entered Woolwich first in the list in 1863, and passed out in 1865 still at the top. In the next year he took his B.A. degree at Dublin, and was commissioned lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. . . . In 1874 General Gordon, who when commanding at Gravesend had noticed young Watson, invited him to join him in the Sudan for survey work, and the friendship between the two was cemented for life. Watson, however, was unable to bear the climate, and after surveying the White Nile to Gondokoro was invalided home in May, 1875. For the next seven years he was working at the War Office under the Inspector-General of Fortifications.

When the Egyptian Expedition went out in August, 1882, Captain Watson was appointed to the Intelligence Department of the Army with the rank of D.A.Q.M.G. When Sir Garnet Wolseley, immediately after the capture of the lines at Tel-el-Kebir, on September 13, 1882, ordered General Drury Lowe to advance on Cairo, Watson was directed to lead the advance column. He brought them successfully to Bilbeis, where General Lowe and Colonel Herbert Stewart soon joined them, having left the heavy brigade and horse artillery in difficulties with the numerous canals. Without waiting for them General Lowe decided to push on with only 1,200 men. They set out on the thirty mile ride to Cairo early on September 14, and came in sight of the city in the afternoon.

Watson had warned the general and Stewart of the danger that Cairo might be burned, and pointed out the importance of seizing the Citadel that evening. Accordingly, after the amazing scene at Abbasia was over and 10,000 Egyptian troops had laid down their arms before a thousand British cavalry, Colonel Stewart sent Watson in command of scarcely 150 officers and men of the 4th Dragoon Guards and mounted infantry to take the Citadel, which was known to be strongly garrisoned. They set out in the dark and presented themselves by an infrequented road at the Citadel gate. There Watson coolly ordered the officer of the guard to fetch the commandant, and when he came he was told to parade the garrison and march them out to Kasr-en-Nil Barracks. This audacious command was instantly obeyed. The keys were at once surrendered, bugles were soon heard sounding the "Assembly," and while the few English troops were kept in the dark near the upper gate to conceal their scanty numbers, 6,000 Egyptian soldiers marched out of the lower gate.

Next month Watson returned to England with a brevet majority and the Order of the Medjidieh, only to be sent back to Egypt in January, 1883, at the request of Sir Evelyn Wood to assist in creating an Egyptian Army, with the rank of Miralai (colonel) and the office of Surveyor-General. During Wood's absence up the Nile in the campaign of 1884 Watson reluctantly remained at Cairo as Acting-Sirdar. In 1885 he was decorated with the Osmanieh and promoted to be Pasha (major-general) in the Egyptian Army, and in 1886 he was for six months at Suakin as Governor-General of the Red Sea Littoral.

In 1902 he retired from the Army under the age clause, and was made a C.B. Sir Charles was a great supporter of the Royal Geographical Society, the Palestine Exploration Fund, and the Order of St. John, of whose Opthalmic Hospital at Jerusalem he was chairman.

Watson's most important publication was the "Life of Major-General Sir C. M. Wilson," a brother officer and personal friend, in which he gives a reasoned defence of Wilson's conduct of the Gordon Relief Expedition. Watson had been the last to see Gordon off from Cairo in January, 1884. One of Gordon's last letters (December 14, 1885) was addressed to him in Cairo, and the victim of Khartoum had no stauncher friend or advocate.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

HOOPER.—On March 12, at Maplehurst, Witney, the wife of G. H. F. Hooper, Busreh, Persian Gulf, of a son.

ROWNTREE.—On March 10, at 4, Royal Crescent, Scarborough, to Mr. and Mrs. Maurice L. Rowntree—a daughter.

WORRALL.—On March 12, at Richmond Hill Nursing Home, Aberdeen, the wife of Newton Worrall, H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul, British Residency, Bushire, Persian Gulf, of a daughter.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1916.

EN ROUTE TO BAGHDAD.

General Aylmer's force, which has now been three months on the road to the relief of Kut, is reported once more to have reached the Es Sinn position, some seven miles distant. An attack on the Turkish position failed, but no more precise information on the incident has been issued. As on the last occasion, when an official *communiqué* brought the two British forces under General Aylmer and General Townshend respectively within seven miles of one another, only to announce later that they had not been nearer than twenty-three miles, so now we need not imagine the Relief Expedition strongly entrenched at a point seven miles from Kut, with a large Turkish army in between the two British forces. What has probably happened is that General Aylmer has tried to turn the enemy's position on its left flank, where it is protected by marshy ground, and has been unsuccessful. The Turkish troops are, no doubt, based on the Es Sinn lines, but there is no indication, as might be inferred from the official reports, that General Aylmer is only seven miles from his objective. If the two British forces were only that distance apart, General Townshend would have to be very hard pressed and in dire straits to be unable to strike a blow on his own behalf in co-operation with the Relief Expedition. Considerable violence, indeed, is done to the optimism of the official *communiqués* in having to imagine the main Turkish position confronting General Aylmer's advance as so close to Kut, yet not within punishable range of General Townshend's artillery. The whole situation is perplexing, and the transfer of the conduct of the operations from the Indian Government to the War Office has not made for any new light on the subject. The meagre pittance of news doled out from time to time regarding the operations in Mesopotamia must be considered as eloquent of the official attitude towards this theatre of war—an attitude which the British public finds difficulty in understanding. The initial mistake of underestimating the task imposed upon a Mesopotamian expedition was comprehensible and readily condoned. General Barrett, however, made way for General Nixon, and the advance up the Tigris proceeded smoothly. A rude awakening proved to be in store for the expedition at Ctesiphon, and General Townshend had to submit to being shut up at Kut. But two whole months have passed since General Aylmer was able to gauge the strength of the Turkish forces. The interval may not be too long for the transport of large reinforcements, which may only now be coming into action, but there has been ample time to rush to the front, say, a flying squadron and a supply of bombs and grenades, which would at least rescue the expedition from the demoralizing inaction imposed upon it by the Turks' superiority in numbers.

The failure to do the obvious in Mesopotamia is a measure of the lack of driving power behind so many of the British military operations. We have seen what emphasis has been laid by the French on air raids over enemy territory in the Balkans. There cannot be the least doubt that, if General Aylmer had been adequately supplied with this arm, he would have found the Es Sinn position and the whole Turkish resistance far less formidable. As far as official statements are concerned, we are left to infer that such aeroplanes as he has have only been available for dropping packets of vegetable seeds in Kut and not for any searching bombardment of the enemy's lines. The whole expedition has the appearance of having been launched on the principle of "the best we've got," instead of having been equipped for the work that had to be done. This is especially the case, according to recent reports, in regard to the medical arrangements of the expedition. The field hospitals, it is stated, are too few, are badly equipped and inadequately staffed. Doctors and nurses are scarce, medical requisites and comforts are lacking, while the whole service is said to suffer from imperfect organization. There is not sufficient information available to determine where the blame for this regrettable state of affairs rests. No doubt the demands upon both the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Indian Medical Service have taxed their resources to the utmost, but there is clearly something at fault when a big expedition is allowed to get under way with defective medical equipment. It is not the first instance of the mismanagement of the medical services in connection with a special expedition. On a former occasion the trouble arose, as far as could be gathered, from the omission of the military authorities to reveal their plans comprehensively to the medical authorities. Something of the same nature may have occurred in the clash of responsibility for the Mesopotamian operations between the Indian Government and the War Office. It is incredible that either of these authorities should have had knowledge of the defective medical arrangements of the expedition, while they were deliberately refusing offers of service from civilians and retired army surgeons or exasperating numbers of doctors who had volunteered for the war by consigning them to the inaction of training or base camps.

If we emphasize the shortcomings of the Mesopotamian Expedition, it is in the hope that the military authorities will profit by the mistakes made in order to hasten now the successful termination of the campaign. The moment has come for the introduction of the maximum driving power, and it would be a disgrace to the country to learn that, after this long delay, General Lake was still not in a position to push back the Turks and resume the march on Baghdad. We should have been content to see the expedition remain at Busreh or Kurnah, but now that it has made the attempt to reach Baghdad it must see the effort through. The "Queen of Cities" must surrender to a British force, unless Great Britain is prepared to forfeit the respect of the tribes that will be passing under her jurisdiction. It is not a question of prestige in the Mohammedan world, about which there was much uninformed talk in connection with the Gallipoli venture; but we have to fear the effect on the minds of ignorant tribesmen who will be expected to look up to the British after having seen them defeated by Turks and unable to make good by their own unaided efforts. Some help has already been given to the Mesopotamian Expedition by Russia's successes in the North. There ought to be no thought of staying our hand below Kut until the task is made still easier for us. The collapse of the Turco-German movement in Persia has brought a Russian force within 150 miles of Baghdad. Its original purpose cannot have been to attempt the capture of that city, but the knock-out blow dealt to the Turks in Armenia has invested the Russian troops in Persia with an importance beyond their actual strength. They can thus play a large part in the capture of Baghdad, but the real attack ought to be delivered by British forces from the South. We owe it to ourselves to strike this blow; we owe it to our Russian Allies to strike it without delay, in order that their forces in Armenia may derive the maximum benefit from the embarrassment of the Turks in this theatre of war.

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THE ROUMANIAN ARMY.

(By Our Bucharest Correspondent.)

On the eve of a possible co-operation with the Allies, it may not be without interest to the British reader to have a few facts regarding the Roumanian Army, which is the most important in South-Eastern Europe. And this the more because most of the statements concerning the effectives of this army have been advanced without control, and some of them are very far from representing the truth.

In competent circles the value of the Roumanian troops is highly appreciated. Their endurance, courage, instruction, and spirit of discipline have been fully recognised. One need but recall the campaign of 1877 and the circumstances in which the little army of that day brought about the victory of the Russians.

Army Corps.

The Roumanian army comprises five army corps, which are doubled in case of mobilisation. These are:—First at Craiova, second at Bucharest, third at Galatz, fourth at Jassy, fifth at Constantza (to which must be added the two fortified regions of Bucharest and Fokshani-Galatz).

Each army corps is composed of two divisions (two brigades of infantry, each composed of two regiments, one battalion of chasseurs, one brigade of artillery, comprising two regiments), one regiment of cavalry, one battalion engineers. In addition, special troops and auxiliaries. Divisions of reserve are also ten in number. Independent divisions of cavalry, two (a third is said to be in process of formation).

With regard to troops of the first line, the Roumanian army is organised as follows:—

Infantry.

Eighty regiments infantry of the line, three battalions to a regiment, four companies, to a battalion, 250 men to a company.

Ten battalions of chasseurs, four companies to the battalion.

Two regiments of Graniceri (frontier guards), three battalions to the regiment.

Armament.—Roumanian Mannlicher, model 1893, calibre 6.5 mm. Machine guns, Maxims.

Artillery.

Twenty-five regiments field artillery, each of six batteries (with four guns), Krupp guns of 75 mm. (1908).

One regiment horse artillery.

Five regiments light howitzers.

Three regiments heavy howitzers (150 mm., three batteries).

One regiment mountain artillery.

One regiment siege artillery, nine batteries to the regiment.

One fortress regiment at Bucharest (twelve batteries), two battalions at Fokshani (eight batteries).

Cavalry.

Eleven regiments of Lancers (Roshiori), four squadrons to the regiment.

Ten regiments of hussars (Calarashi), of five and six squadrons.

One regiment Royal Escort (three squadrons).

Each regiment has attached to it a section of Maxims.

Engineers.

Five battalions pioneers.

One battalion fortress engineers.

One battalion railway engineers.

One battalion "pontonniers."

One battalion "specials" (telegraphy, aerostation, signalling, etc., etc.).

In addition, the aviation service of the army.

Gendarmerie.

Thirty-five companies.

Army Service Corps.

Five groups, each of two squadrons.

All the auxiliary and transport services.

The effective force in peace time numbers 132,000 men (including 5,750 officers and auxiliaries).

With the reserves of the first line, and adding the militia, the army in time of war numbers over 650,000 men.

There are about 15,000 officers, of which number the 11,500 combatants (active and reserve) are distributed as follows:

Infantry, 7,200; artillery, 1,900; cavalry, 1,350; engineers, 560; navy, 150; generals, 105. Non-combatants.—Surgeons and other sanitary services, 1,700; commissariat, 1,400.

The High Command.

There is still a word to be said concerning the high command, which includes many officers of value and tacticians of no mean merit.

King Ferdinand is the supreme head of the army and assumes the chief command in case of war. His sound knowledge of military matters has had a favourable influence on the actual organisation of the army.

In all probability the high commands would be given, in case of war, to Generals Culcer and Yarka (at present army inspectors) and to Lieutenant-General Averescu, formerly Minister of War and Chief of the General Staff, at present commanding the First Army Corps. He is a soldier of great value to whom important reforms are due. At the time of the Bulgarian campaign of 1913 he was Chief of the General Staff, which had its headquarters at Plevna. He has the further advantage of being one of the few ranker-generals of the Roumanian army.

Generals Coanda, Inspector of Cavalry; Georgescu, commanding the Fifth Corps (a great friend of the English); Aslan, commanding the Third Corps; Presan, commanding the Fourth Corps; and Cottescu, commanding the Second Corps, are all officers upon whose ability the nation can rely when the time comes for her to measure her strength with that of her neighbours. Among the cavalry chiefs must be mentioned Major-Generals Popovici, Bodgan, Bassarabescu, etc.

The Chief of the General Staff is Lieutenant-General Zottu, actively seconded by his subordinate, Major-General Cristescu, who enjoys a high military reputation.

To the Minister of War, M. Jean Bratiano, who is at the same time Prime Minister, aided by his general secretary, Major-General Iliescu, is due in large part the credit for having rapidly brought up the army to its present extremely efficient state.

No account of the Roumanian army would be complete without mention of M. Nico Filipescu, who, as Minister of War in the last Conservative Government, devoted remarkable skill and untiring energy to the needs of the army.

Remounts.

I hear from a very reliable source that the Roumanian Government are purchasing some 9,000 remounts in Russia. About 3,000 are said to have arrived up to the present by way of Reni.

TURKEY'S MILITARY STRENGTH.

The military correspondent of *The Times*, in an article entitled "The Caucasus Front," published on Thursday, gives some interesting estimates of the Turkish army strength, based on the best available information, at the time of our evacuation of Gallipoli:—

Between Adrianople, Constantinople, the Dardanelles, and Smyrna	350,000
On the Caucasus front	130,000
In Mesopotamia	50,000
In Syria	60,000
Scattered in garrisons and along coast lines (say)	110,000

The Turks may have raised a million men during the war, and some 300,000 men must be deducted for casualties, leaving probably not more than 700,000.

The commander of the Roumanian guards on the frontier in the region of Korabia, while on a tour of inspection on the Danube (says a Bucharest telegram), was arrested by some Bulgarian guards and taken to Bulgaria. The Roumanian authorities are making inquiries.

Arrangements have been made for five lectures and services on Russian and Serbian religion, to take place in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster. The dates fixed are Thursdays, March 16, 23, 30, and April 6 and 13, and the hour 6 p.m. Mr. Stephen Graham is the lecturer at the first two services, and at the last three Father Nicolai Velimirovic, priest of the Serbian Church, will be the speaker. The object of the services is to promote understanding of the Slav peoples on the deeper level of their thought and feeling. The musical accompaniments will be exceptionally interesting. The hymns, anthems, and devotions which will be used are in most cases part of the ritual of the Eastern Church, and many of them have come down from the early days of Christianity. The service and lecture will in each case last about an hour.

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H.M KING OF SPAIN

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BESIDE THE LAKE.

HADRA-ALEXANDRIA.

After a gale which banished sleep on Monday night and, though abating, endured throughout Tuesday, to be succeeded by cold grey days and lowering skies, this morning ushered in weather comparable with that of England in early June. The shallow waters of the lake were still enough to mirror perfectly the tall palm trees bordering the opposite shore. Allured by the scene, I wended my way through the cultivated land towards the fringe of rushes, and, seating myself upon a cement water-conduit, dangled my feet in the channel, which happened to be dry, and enjoyed the sunshine.

In the middle distance of the lake the water was broken by a long black line of duck, stretching for perhaps four hundred yards. Marvellous judges of distance their sentinels; for occasional reports of shot-guns, remote yet loud in the still air, left them entirely undisturbed. Reconnoitring the duck through field-glasses, two British officers, tall and straight as lances, passed me close by. Presently one of them headed into the reedy margin of the lake. A jacksnipe flew up almost beneath his feet, and then another. Regretting that they had not brought their guns with them, the officers strode away to the right and were soon hidden from view.

A kingfisher flew swiftly by, and was presently swaying in the sunlight on the very tip of a rush. There he remained, waiting for one of the small fish with which the lake abounds to come sufficiently near the surface. Two waterhens emerged, and circled round a small pool amid the rushes. Ricebirds and warblers flitted here and there, and a sparrowhawk crossed the lake going at a great pace towards the Nouzha Gardens.

Lighting my pipe, I basked in the sun, listening and watching.

Unafraid of criticism, for his fellows are too few and far between in this part of the world, a blackbird was trying his voice in a bare fig-tree behind me. Where would he realize his song's possibilities? In some Italian olive grove or Breton orchard? A flock of starlings maintained a noisy discussion in the tops of some neighbouring palms. A wagtail alighted beside a puddle a few yards away. Green and stagnant, the water was, perhaps, too forbidding, for he merely coquetted with his morning draught.

As I retraced my steps towards the house a number of crested larks flew up from among the furrows of some ploughed land. One sees clouds of these birds in the stubble fields at home. When the war is over, perhaps . . .

But the time is not yet!

G. H. L.

January 30, 1916.

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Smith, Elder and Co. have published quite recently "The Luck of Thirteen," by Mr. and Mrs. Jan Gordon. The book describes "Wanderings and flight through Montenegro and Serbia," and its price is 7s. 6d. net.

Mr. Blackwell, of Oxford, has published this week "Syria as a Roman Province," by E. S. Bouchier. The price of the book is 6s. net.

Amongst Messrs. A. and C. Black's spring announcements we note "The Seven Churches of Asia," by Christopher V. Johnston, LL.D., which is published at 2s. 6d. net. This work contains a short account of each of the seven cities of the Apocalypse based upon the results of recent archæological research. Each account is followed by an exposition of the text of the letter to the particular Church with special reference to the historical allusions therein to the circumstances of the city and the times. The work is illustrated from photographs of the cities or their ruins and sites. The great events which are now transpiring in the East give a special interest to this corner of Asia.

The influence of Arabic poetry upon the Jewish poets of the Middle Ages is one of the subjects dealt with in illuminating fashion in Dr. Buchanan Gray's "Ten Forms of Hebrew Poetry," which is published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, at 7s. 6d. net. Dr. Gray also points out how in certain forms of Hebrew poetry the rhythm "is identical with the rhythm of the Babylonian."

"The Dardanelles: An Epic Told in Pictures" is the title of a volume of reproductions of about a hundred full-page photographs of scenes in the war zone on the Gallipoli Peninsula, printed by Polsue (Limited) and published by the Alfieri Picture Service. The illustrations are supplemented by several pages of letterpress explanatory of the operations of the Australian and New Zealand Forces, together with copious extracts from General Sir Ian Hamilton's despatches. The price of the volume is 2s. 6d.

EARLY DAYS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

Lecturing at the Royal Institution recently on the results of recent excavations in Mesopotamia, Professor L. W. King said that as along the Nile so along the lower Euphrates the nomad adopted the settled life of agriculture and civilization arose. In one respect Babylonia differed essentially from Egypt: that was, that Egypt was so shut in by desert that she was able to work out her long career in comparative isolation, whereas the tragedy of Babylonian history was that no such isolation was possible in her case. To the north, on a fertile plain watered by the Tigris, but too far from lower Mesopotamia to be under the control of Babylonia, there arose Assyria—a late comer who wanted a place in the sun. Not content with the peaceful methods of Babylonia, Assyria sought from the first to acquire wealth by conquest. Her dreams led her to attempt a world domination based on force. Asshur, her tribal god, was a ruthless deity, and no atrocity was too cruel to be perpetrated in his name. During the latter period Assyrian diplomacy became a byword, and no other nation of antiquity showed such a sheer indifference to human suffering. Assyria's methods were portrayed in revolting detail by her own memorials sculptured in the arrogance of victory; and if we turn to the Hebrew prophets we see what one of the smaller nations around her thought of her. Yet Babylon survived her great rival. Though Assyria obtained her ultimate object, the conquest of Egypt, the effort strained her resources to the full, and she herself suffered defeat in turn.

In his second lecture Professor King said that ancient Babylon was a cosmopolitan city of many peoples and languages—Sumerians, Arabs, Kassites, and others.—The Kassites ruled the city for about three centuries. They introduced the horse—previously the ass had been the beast of burden—but made no other change of importance. From Babylon the horse spread westward to the countries around the Mediterranean. The remarkable fertility of the soil under irrigation resulted in the fact that from the first Babylonia produced more corn, dates, and wool than she could consume. She traded her surplus to other nations, and Babylon, lying on the path of one of the world's natural trade routes, became a great centre of exchange. Babylon has been called "the London of antiquity," and from the first her ideals were commercial rather than military, and led to an early respect for and development of law. Compared with other ancient communities woman in Babylonia enjoyed a remarkable degree of freedom. The alluvial soil, which was the basis of the country's fertility, had its natural effect on the city's architecture. The Assyrians further north used stone for the foundations of their walls and for the lining of their temples; but the stone-producing country was many days' journey from Babylon, and all building was in brick, either dried in the sun or burnt in the oven; bitumen brought from Hit being used as a cement. Oven-burned brick cemented with bitumen makes so strong a bond that the work defies the efforts of the quarrymen from neighbouring villages who want the bricks for their own buildings. The Babylonians used sun-dried bricks in their temples except for foundations, for floorings, and for temple towers, as at Borsippa; and such sun-dried bricks are made in the country to this day. In spite of the ruthless treatment of Sennacherib, who sought to blot out the city, traces of the oldest Babylon had been brought to light by the more recent digging, and showed that as early as the second millennium B.C. the main thoroughfares ran in lines parallel to the river with the other streets crossing at right angles. Undoubtedly this was the earliest attempt made at town planning on scientific lines; but no public buildings belonging to that period had been recovered. The Babylon of which considerable remains had been uncovered was that of Nebuchadnezzar. The great successes of the excavators had been the uncovering of the remains of Nebuchadnezzar's palace, of the temple of Marduk, the city god, and of the Gate of Ishtar; but the proposed identification of the Hanging Gardens was apparently a mistake.

Correspondence for the British Mission with the Royal Serbian Army should be addressed as follows:—Name (with rank or title), British Mission with the Royal Serbian Army, c/o General Post Office, London, E.C. The rates of postage are as follows:—Letters, 1d. per oz.; postcards, 1d. each; printed papers (including newspapers), ½d. per oz.; parcels not exceeding 3 lbs., 1s. 6d.; parcels over 3 lbs. and not over 7 lbs., 1s. 10d.

A semi-official denial is given in Rome to the Austrian assertion that Italian forces on the lower Someni river in Albania retreated before the enemy, blowing up the bridges as they retired. It is pointed out that there has been no encounter between Italian and Austrian troops in Albania since the voluntary evacuation of Durazzo in February.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of the "NEAR EAST" to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

Dardanelles Losses. March 9.

Mr. TENNANT, replying to inquiries by Sir A. Markham, announced that the total number reported missing in the Dardanelles among the British, Colonial, and Indian forces and the Royal Naval Division now stood as follows :—

Officers	333
Other ranks	11,221

The total number of prisoners so far as they could be identified was :—

Officers	32
Other ranks or ratings	470

A large number of names which were difficult to identify owing to very defective descriptions had been found to be duplicated and had been eliminated from the lists rendered by the Turkish Government, but some addition might have to be made for names not yet identified. The totals did not include officers or men who had died as prisoners of war.

The Allies and Bulgaria.

Mr. BOOTH asked whether the Government was in a state of war with Bulgaria, whether Bulgarian subjects were treated in this country as alien enemies, whether it was illegal to trade with Bulgaria or give her support in the present conflict, and whether it was intended to break the power of our enemies in the Balkans and succour our Allies.

Mr. ASQUITH : The answer to the first, second, and third parts of the question is in the affirmative. In the Balkans and elsewhere the policy of the Allies is to take the necessary steps to win the war.

Prisoners in Turkey. March 14.

Sir E. GREY, answering Mr. Malcolm, said that the American Government had taken charge of the interests of British prisoners of war in Bulgaria and Turkey, but he regretted to say that, in spite of pressing representations to the Turkish and the Bulgarian Governments for permission to the United States representatives to visit the prisoners' camps in these countries, such permission had been refused. His Majesty's Government would continue to press the matter.

Mr. TENNANT, who referred to the same subject in the course of his speech in connection with the Army Estimates, said that difficulties had been placed in the way of the American representatives in Turkey and Bulgaria visiting prisoners of war. Negotiations were in progress for the exchange of British prisoners in Turkish hands. The United States Ambassador in Constantinople had urged that we should not take up the question of the prisoners as a whole yet, but should limit our attention to the question of combatants. The latest news from prisoners in the Balkans was that they had been assembled in Philippopolis and American doctors put in medical charge of them. The question of granting posthumous honours was being reconsidered.

The Wounded in Mesopotamia.

Colonel M. LOCKWOOD wished to know what was the real position of our force in Mesopotamia, and referred to disagreeable rumours about the treatment of our wounded there.

General Howell.

Mr. TENNANT, replying to Mr. Booth, who asked if General Howell was at Salonika and was the person who issued a memorandum, dated October 12, 1915, called "Notes on the Balkans," and whether his advocacy of the desertion of Serbia and description of our failures in the Dardanelles and the Balkans was authorised by the War Office, said :—Yes, sir; General Howell is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, at Salonika. I have not seen the memorandum in question, but I believe a confidential note expressing General Howell's personal views was privately circulated. It had no official authority, and no disciplinary action is necessary.

The Egyptian High Commissioner, March 15.

Lord R. CECIL informed Mr. Ginnell that there was no foundation for the statement that the title of the British High Commissioner in Egypt was changed to Representative of the King, and the name of the British Agency to that of House of Protection. The title of his Majesty's representative in Egypt was that of High Commissioner. The name of the former Agency and Consulate-General had been altered to Residency.

The Mesopotamia Wounded.

Mr. LONG said, with regard to Mesopotamia, that nobody could deplore more than the members of the Government that there should have been any suffering in any part of the field of war that could have been avoided. Every effort that could be made, whether by the Government of India or the home Government, was being made to see that everything was done for the unfortunate victims of warfare in that part of the world. He was asked by the Secretary of State for India (Mr. Chamberlain), who was laid up, to say that the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief in India decided some weeks ago to send Sir W. Vincent, a distinguished Indian Civil servant, and General Bingley, who had returned from Egypt, to Mesopotamia to conduct an inquiry into the medical arrangements, and to take all necessary steps to remedy deficiencies. The War Office had supplied the Indian Government with two Indian general hospitals, with complete personnel and the personnel of two more Indian general hospitals, and also a British stationary hospital with 400 beds, and one British general hospital, in addition, with 1,040 beds, 100 doctors, and 100 orderlies. He hoped this would satisfy the House that the Government were doing their utmost to see that every possible alleviation was provided for the sufferings of those who were unhappily wounded. The War Office here had offered to meet any demands, and believed they were able to meet any demands, that might be made upon them.

COLONEL YATE : When were these doctors supplied?

Mr. LONG : About a month ago.

THE ASHIRET HIGHLANDS OF HAKKIARI.

On Wednesday last, Mr. Edgar T. A. Wigram read a paper before the Central Asian Society, describing what he had learned and experienced during a three months' sojourn in the wild Ashiret Highlands of Hakkiari. He said the Syrian desert and Mesopotamia were half surrounded by a great circle of mountain plateau, averaging five thousand feet above sea level and seamed all over the mountain ranges rising to ten thousand feet and more. Of this great amphitheatre, the Ashiret Highlands comprised that position included in a triangle formed by Van, Urmia, and Mosul. It is a singularly rugged country, presenting an almost impassable obstacle to a junction of the Russian troops at Bitlis with their British allies. The road consists usually of a track in a gorge strewn with boulders sometimes as large as a house, and the river has to be crossed by a crazy bridge which can only be used by one person at a time. The villages are built on the sides of hills so steep that the flat roof of one house commonly forms a terrace at the front door of another.

Among the inhabitants of this country are the Yezidis or devil worshippers, who have their principal shrine among these mountains. They are a quiet and orderly race, but looked upon by their neighbours, Christian and Moslem alike, as the vilest of outcasts. They believe in a supreme being, but he holds himself aloof from all created things; he has handed over the government of the world to Malek Taus, a fallen spirit who has to be propitiated. The Yezidis think it inconceivable that so great a spirit as Malek Taus should not at some time or other be restored, and they hope that then he will be mindful of those who did honour to him in the days of his disgrace. They worship him under the symbol of a peacock; one such peacock is kept at their great shrine, others are sent round the various villages. There is such a peacock in the British Museum, and Mr. Wigram said it was probably genuine, having been stolen by Kurds. The Yezidis reverence Jesus as another great spirit, whom they call Malek Isa, and who they believe will reign for a thousand years when the reign of Malek Taus is over.

Of the Christians who live in the fastnesses of the Zab gorge, Mr. Wigram said they live a semi-independent life under their hereditary Prince-Bishop, who bears title "Catholicos of the East." Their church is of very ancient origin, but they are not Nestorians. They claim to be descended from the ancient Assyrians, and a photograph which Mr. Wigram threw on the screen showed a striking resemblance. They are not much more law-abiding or peaceful than their Kurd neighbours, and no Kurd liked to meet them on equal terms; but of late years they are supposed to have been disarmed, and often had no better weapon than a flint-lock, whereas the Kurds, as "Government troops," were armed with modern rifles. On the outbreak of the present war they were assailed by a coalition of all the Kurdish tribes, assisted by artillery, and had to retreat over the mountain passes into Persia. The Kurds Mr. Wigram described as a people more pastoral than agricultural, and much given to raiding the villages of the other tribes than lie scattered among their own.

With regard to the country as a whole, even before the war the question of how it should be dealt with was a standing puzzle to the Young Turks. One suggestion as to its disposal after the war, was that its government should be entirely in the hands of European officials, no Turkish officials being allowed there at all.

THE STATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (February 22) :—A traveller who has recently returned from Constantinople states that the population is in a great state of excitement on account of the lack of many foodstuffs and the high prices commanded by others. Flour is very scarce, so that the authorities have been forced to limit the sale of black bread to two loaves per family of nine; rice costs 9 frs. the kilogram; a lemon fetches 1 fr.; meat can scarcely be found at all. Reference has already been made to the exorbitant prices charged for coffee and sugar.

Street disturbances are reported to be frequent. At one manifestation Talaat Bey is said to have been hooted and even mishandled by the crowd.

COMFORTS FOR THE WOUNDED.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Mufflers for the wounded on board the hospital ships are urgently needed at present. Nearly every ship asks for 200 or 400 at a time. I shall be very grateful to any of your readers who will be kind enough to send some, or money to buy them with, direct to Mrs. Anderson, Red Cross Hospital, Southampton Docks.—I am, etc.,

MARION LEE.

19, The Paragon, Bath.
March 10.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Mesopotamia.

The following quotation is taken from a leading article in *The Times* (March 14) on the campaign in Mesopotamia, a subject which is fully dealt with in another part of THE NEAR EAST to-day:—

We fear the later stages of the Mesopotamian operations have in many respects been very badly run. It seems to have been thought at first that the relieving columns advancing towards Kut would have a walk-over. Wrong conclusions were drawn from the swiftly successful actions of last year. Few casualties were expected, and no provision was made for a flood of wounded. Entrenched positions on the open plain were attacked in January without adequate artillery preparation, and the consequences were grave. To-day the transport is insufficient for the requirements of a large force, and the innumerable and ingenious expedients swiftly adopted at Gallipoli seem to find no parallel on the Tigris. Incidentally, we may note that bitter complaints are made about the deficiency of bombs and hand grenades, and also about the defective quality of such of these munitions as are manufactured in India. Our impression is that far too little has been made public about the trials of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force.

The Caucasus Front.

The Military Correspondent of *The Times* (March 14), writing under the above heading, deals first with the brilliant winter campaign of the Russian army. He lays stress, too, upon the value of Russian naval work, which "destroyed countless Turkish ships, and restricted their enemy to the long, difficult, and largely railless lines of communication on land." In referring to the Turkish forces in Armenia the writer says:—

It is always futile to apply to a Turkish army the standards and the estimates that we admit for the armies of European States. We cannot take into account the Arabs, Armenians, and Greeks who figure in the population. Much of European Turkey has been lost in recent wars, including Albania, which provided the Sultans with such good material for soldiers. Turkish administration is always bad, and we can usually be confident that execrable roads and an inept utilization of resources will injure Turkish armies more than a lost battle. Finally, the atrocities perpetrated upon the Armenian population deprived the Turkish command of a source which was invaluable for supply, and the nemesis for these outrages has come in the rout at Erzeroum.

Continuing, he gives an estimate, based on the best information available—"and the best is bad"—as to the strength of the Turkish forces to-day. He shows the transport difficulties which must be experienced by an enemy army sent to meet the Russian menace, and describes the effect which this menace has had and is still having upon the Turkish position. The following quotation is from the concluding portion of the article, and deals with the position to-day:—

The Russian right, after a successful landing of reinforcements on the coast at Atina on February 4, is some thirty miles of Trebizond. The Turkish centre is being hunted back towards Erzingan, while on the left the Russians are at Mush and Bitlis, and are making things warm for the Kurds south of Lake Van. At Bitlis the Russians are within 100 miles as the crow flies of the Aleppo-Mosul road, along which the Turks move towards Mesopotamia, and within 165 miles of Ras-el-Ain, which was the railhead of the Baghdad line—excluding the isolated Baghdad section—at the opening of the war. Mush is 500 miles as the crow flies from Kut-el-Amara, and though Yudénitch's stroke may not immediately affect our operations on the Tigris, it must already prove an anxiety to those in control of the Turkish lines of communication, for the Euphrates route is not at all good. The Terek and Kuban Cossacks travel far and fast, and here is one of the few theatres of the war where there is elbow-room, and where horsemen can still do great things.

We know neither the strength nor the plans of the Russian Commander, so it is useless to speculate upon coming events. We should like to believe that his movements in Armenia and ours in Mesopotamia are closely co-ordinated, but the co-ordination of our plans leaves something to be desired. But the Russian campaign is quite capable of standing on its own merits, and that it will tend to ease matters on the great rivers, as well as in Egypt, and was launched partly with that friendly intention, may be accepted as a strong probability. We have, therefore, every reason for gratitude as well as for admiration. As for the future, this depends upon the plans of the Higher Command on the Allied side, and into these it is injudicious to pry. But we can be sure that the Turks will desire to efface the memory of this defeat, and in order to do so they must utilize their railways, a part of which is, unfortunately for them, common to their fronts in Armenia, Mesopotamia, and Syria.

A Tribute to the Turk.

Lord Headley, writing in the *Daily Graphic* (March 11) regarding the conference to be held in Paris to decide upon the economic pressure the Allies should exert against Germany both now and after the cessation of hostilities, thinks that Germany will henceforth be degraded as a nation of "Pariahs and Pirates," and that "we shall soon witness a very decided slump in Teutonic spirits and a still further depreciation in the mark as well as the market on which our enemy depends to so large an extent."

In regard to Turkey, his lordship writes:—

I do not think that our misled and misguided friends the Turks will have any such fears as to the result of the Conference, as we have no quarrel with them and they have never shown any malice or hatred, and have behaved well as warriors in the field. They never engage in wanton cruelty, and are humane in their treatment of prisoners and of the civil population. Where we find cases of cruelty it is in ill-disciplined irregulars of the Bashi-Bazouk type, recruited from criminals and outcasts of many nations. The Turk is a good fellow all round; his trouble has always been that he has been ill-governed.

I make these few remarks anent the Turks because it is highly probable that at an early date the position of Turkey in this war may undergo considerable change, and in the near future the Baghdad line may not be in German hands. The sole reason why the Turk has been alluded to as the "sick man of Europe" is the incapacity and callousness of the Turkish Governments. Official corruption has brought a bad name on a people who are naturally excellent citizens—kindly, good-hearted, and honest.

The Suez Canal.

Mr. W. T. Murrey, who is special correspondent of the London Press in Egypt, considers that "a serious attempt at invasion is becoming very remote." In an article from his pen which appeared in *The Times* (March 10) he describes some of the precautions which we have taken to safeguard the Canal from attack. His conclusions may be summed up in the first part of the following quotation:—

Having seen the defences which thirteen months ago were sufficient to break the effort of 15,000 Turks to cross the Canal, I make bold to say that a quarter of a million of the enemy have less chance to-day. The enemy have not the faintest prospect of sending such an army against us. The Canal and Egypt are perfectly secure. Indeed, it is doubtful whether any part of the European battle front is so safe from the results of attack. If it has been necessary for Great Britain to make a vast expenditure in money and labour to secure the freedom of the waterway connecting the seas of East and West . . . how much greater must be the cost of adequate preparations to the enemy? He has to cross a practically waterless waste with nothing to sustain an army except what he can carry from his base, a hundred miles away.

Prudence prompted our Command to construct numerous light railways on the eastern side of the Canal, and to lay an elaborate system of pipe lines for the water supply. Unless the Turks make similar arrangements over ten times the mileage, they cannot bring an army equal in numbers to that which they have to meet, nor keep them opposite our lines for more than two days, even without a shot being fired at them.

Our preparations are planned to resist the most serious attacks that could in any circumstances be made against Egypt. We have stores carried miles into the desert by rapid little trains, and a hundred miles of metalled roads made for wheeled transport. The hum of the motor is carried far in the desert air, but even the aid of almost every modern appliance for speedy locomotion is not sufficient for our purpose. While long clouds of dust raised on the roads by self-propelled vehicles tell the story of an up-to-date transport service, you see camel trains, moving as in Pharaoh's time, larger perhaps than ever before in history, carrying different loads, but in the same slow, methodical, follow-my-leader way.

Mr. Murrey was much impressed by the splendid temper and condition of the veterans from Gallipoli who are now in Egypt:—

Some had held on to their duties longer than their health warranted, because they wished to see the quality of the reinforcements and impress upon them how vital it was that the Younger Nations should show the Mother Country that their stock was true. They came to Egypt with nerves unshaken, for the Gallipoli ordeals had merely tempered them. But jaundice and other forms of sickness which prey on troops had lowered their systems. After recuperating for three weeks in a desert rest camp they were ready for fresh trials. Indeed, the divisional commander told me that the news that his men were to prepare and occupy the first line gave them intense satisfaction; though the subsequent toil was heavy and the calls upon their cheerfulness and endurance were great, their health remained splendid. Their work for the Empire has acted as a tonic and the rate of sickness among these war-worn heroes has fallen to three per 1,000.

The Balkan Verdun.

Mr. George Renwick, writing from Salonika to the *Daily Chronicle* (March 13), reports that the Allies' position at that town has been greatly strengthened during the past month. His despatch includes the paragraphs which we quote below:—

It is no mere comforting phrase that is used when it is said that the positions are impregnable. During the past ten days

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or so all the world has watched with admiration how the positions of Verdun have held out against all the military weight thrown against them by Germany. Those positions are very largely the work of the same soldier who has created the Salonika defences—General Sarrail.

The French success in holding back the terrific onslaught of the Germans is regarded in no small degree as due to the skill of General Sarrail, and people here now think of Salonika as the Verdun of the Balkans.

All the indications which come from the other side appear to point to the fact that the enemy is more concerned with plans of defence than attack.

Information coming to hand from Turkey shows that the people regard the Empire as seriously menaced by the advance of the Russians in Asia Minor, and the situation in Constantinople, though it does not justify the alarmist statements which for some time have been current here and elsewhere, is gradually becoming worse. Food is becoming scarcer.

"Secondary Operations."

A recent number of the *Glasgow Herald* contained an interesting examination of the war in its various theatres; the following paragraphs are quoted from a portion of the article headed "Our Task in Asia":—

For some time past we have been hearing significantly less of those diatribes against "secondary campaigns" which a few months ago were so freely indulged in by the more dogmatic among our military "experts." Certainly the present moment is not one to choose for talking too loudly about the futility of secondary campaigns. The almost certain prospect of Turkey's detachment in the near future from the whole theatre of war in Europe is of course the result of purely secondary operations, and there can be no question as to the severity of the blow which this detachment, when fully effected, will have inflicted on Germany. We must not forget, moreover, the interesting revelation made by M. Sazonoff the other day that our expedition to the Dardanelles frustrated an early Turkish offensive against Russia which might have proved at the time extremely inconvenient.

The writer refers to a previous article, in which he dealt with Russo-British operations in Asia, and continues:—

But the present seems an appropriate juncture at which to correct the misleading idea now gaining ground that the work Great Britain has done and is doing in Asia in connection with the war is insignificant compared with Russia's brilliant and far-reaching performances. Our position at Kut-el-Amara may not seem to compare favourably with that of Russia in Asia Minor, illumined as the latter is by the captures of Erzeroum and Bitlis and the advance on Trebizond. But by our timely advance to Kut we prevented the Turks from eventually echeloning great forces down the Tigris, which might have caused the Russians in Northern Persia an infinity of trouble, and merely by "sitting tight" in Egypt we have absorbed a great deal of Teuto-Ottoman energy. From an early stage of the war, moreover, the western and southern coast of Asia Minor and the coast of Syria have been at the mercy of the British Navy, although it has not been necessary to demonstrate the fact at all obtrusively. Just now Russia holds the stage, and is winning all the applause. But Great Britain, too, is a star actor in Asia, and those "in front" may safely look forward to being similarly impressed with our performance when our own particular turn comes, as it soon will do in this "secondary theatre."

The State of Syria.

According to the Alexandria correspondent of the *Morning Post* (March 9), who contributes to his paper an account of the state of Syria given him by a lady recently in Palestine, vast military operations are still proceeding in that country.

The Mount of Olives has been fortified, and is said to have been rendered impregnable. The Turks fully expect the Allies to invade the country. Excellent military roads have been made throughout the country. Meanwhile, the economic situation of the country is deplorable. The American Relief Fund is doing its utmost to cope with the distress, and in Jerusalem alone 40,000 people have daily rations doled out to them by this fund. As it is impossible to export the oranges they have rotted on the trees. The villages are deserted, as the manhood of the country has either been forced to join the army or is at work on the military roads. Public executions are frequent. At Jaffa Aly Hamis, the chief boatman of Cook's and the Kavas of the American Consulate, who is well known to all tourists in Palestine, has been hanged on a charge of espionage for the cause of the British. A similar fate has befallen Mahmoud Effendi, the Mamour of the Passport Office, and formerly in the service of the Khedivial Mail Line, while Mr. Emil Knesevich, the young son of the British Consular Agent at Jaffa, was only saved from a similar fate by the intervention of Dr. Glazebrook, the American Consul at Jerusalem. He was accused of having received letters from his father, a refugee in Egypt.

A French General on Salonika.

General Cherfils, of the French Army, who contributes an interesting article on the general military situation to the *People* (March 12), includes the following reference to the presence of the Allied troops at Salonika:—

Short-sighted people say that if we had not gone to Salonika we should have 200,000 more men to place in line on the western front, and at Verdun if necessary. First of all, we do not need them on the western front, where we have all the men we require for the moment, as the Germans will find out to their cost when the time comes. These critics forget, too, that by occupying Salonika we have annihilated all the German dreams in the east and cut the roads to Egypt and Baghdad. They forget also that by remaining at Salonika we have effectively prevented any possibility of hostile action by Greece and Roumania, thus depriving the enemy of nearly a million additional soldiers, and that, on the other hand, we are hastening the day when this million men will pass to our side.

A truer observation—and one that the British nation will not fail to make—is that, seeing that by the occupation of Salonika the defence of the Suez Canal is assured the British Army in Egypt is free to operate at any other point which the Allied High Command may desire. Erzeroum has completely removed the possibility of any Turkish troops fighting in Europe, and only the saddened, if not wiser, Bulgarians remain in front of Salonika. The Bulgarians may shortly have to go home to defend their own soil. What a magnificent revenge is in preparation for the Serbian army when it lands at Salonika to assist in the reoccupation of invaded Serbia! Our occupation of Salonika was a stroke of genius. Late though it was, it is already bearing fruit.

Turkey and Peace.

The author of "The Anglo-German Problem," writing in *Everyman* (March 10), points out that, as he predicted in his book, written in 1912, the German Alliance has brought nothing but disaster to the Turks. He continues:—

And, if the Turkish Empire is to escape from complete annihilation, the only policy for the successors of Enver Pasha will be to come to terms with the Allies. And there are many indications that they will do so at an early date, if we are to trust what seem to be well-founded reports. Revolution is seething in Constantinople. Enver Pasha's life may not be worth two months' purchase. If Turkey does conclude a separate peace with the Allies the German game is up. Greece and Roumania would come in, the Dardanelles would be opened. Munitions would be poured into Russia, and the armies of the Tsar would again be able to take a triumphant offensive.

The writer's prediction regarding Enver Pasha would almost seem to have been already fulfilled if the persistent reports from Athens are well founded.

The Next Move in the Balkans.

A Budapest correspondent contributes a most interesting article regarding the recent operations in Albania to the *Evening Standard* (March 13), and concludes with the following paragraphs regarding the future of the Balkan campaign:—

The next move in the Balkans will be the advance against Valona, the Italian seaport, which is the next task of General Koevess. This move is expected to be a much more difficult undertaking than was the occupation of Durazzo, or, in fact, of Northern Albania, for the Italians have immensely fortified the place, and it is expected that it will not be such an easy booty as was Durazzo.

The positions around Valona on the heights which surround the city, something in the same way as it is at Salonika, have been fortified most perfectly, and great calibre guns have been put in position to defend them. Besides, Valona is a most favourably situated base, and its defensive lines are much more adapted for resistance than any other position on the Balkans, excepting Salonika.

It would be impossible for the Italians to find a better base for offensive or defensive purposes, especially towards Ochrida and Berat, than Valona. It is considered not to be improbable that even the Italians, after the reorganisation of their Serbian and Montenegrin forces, will begin an offensive move on the Balkans, using Valona as their base, and it is also considered probable that an offensive movement of the Italians from this direction will be carried out in conjunction with a similar movement of the Allies around Salonika.

Articles to Note.

"Military Position of Turkey," by Sir Edwin Pears, in the *Sunday Times* (March 12).

"The German Road to Egypt," by Harold J. Shepstone (illustrated), in the *Millgate Monthly* (March).

"Silence in Serbia," by E. Chivers Davies, in the *Manchester Guardian* (March 11).

"The Need for Closer Organisation," by Dr E. J. Dillon, in the *Fortnightly Review* (March).

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.

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ANGLO-EGYPT'S ROLL OF HONOUR.

In view of the remarks made by our Cairo Correspondent regarding the position of Britishers of military age in Egypt, we consider it opportune to republish the following list of Anglo-Egyptians who have joined H.M.'s Forces since the outbreak of war. The list was first published in THE NEAR EAST of January 28, and has since received several additions and corrections. It is still, however, necessarily incomplete, and the Editor would be obliged if readers and relatives would assist him in making it a comprehensive and accurate record of the services rendered to King and country by British residents in Egypt.

Akam, H., A.S.C.
ALBAN, 2nd Lieut. A. H. A., R.A.
ALBAN, 2nd Lieut. E. C. H., R.A.
ALDERSON, 2nd Lieut. A. R., R.E.
ALLARD, 2nd Lieut. W., R.E.
ALLISON, 2nd Lieut. L. G., R.E.
ALLISON, 2nd Lieut. G. N., R.E.
ANDREWS, 2nd Lieut. G. A., 9th Shropshire Light Infantry.
ANDREWS, Captain R. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
ANGEL, Lieut. A., Egyptian Labour Corps.
ANGUS, 2nd Lieut. R. B., R.E. (*Killed.*)
ARMSTRONG, 2nd Lieut. T. A., Westminster Dragoons.

Bacon, S.
BAILEY, Lieut. E. E., R.E.
BAILEY, M.
BAKER, E.
BAMBRIDGE, 2nd Lieut. H. G., R.E.
BARKER, 2nd Lieut. C. L., Gloucestershire Yeomanry.
BASE, 2nd Lieut. E. H., 3/17 London Regiment.
BAXTER, J.
BAYNES, 2nd Lieut. W. E. C., Coldstream Guards.
BEALE, R.
BENNETT, R., 2/1 Hertfordshire Regiment.
BENNETT, 2nd Lieut. S., 3rd West Yorkshire Regt.
BERNARD, R.
BEYTS, Lieut. C. F., 9th Suffolk Regt. (*Military Medal.*)
BIRCH, 2nd Lieut. C., Lancashire Fusiliers.
BLAIR, C.
BOULENGER, 2nd Lieut. C. R., 1/8 Lancs. Fusiliers.
BOWMAN, Capt. H. E., 18th Royal Fusiliers.
BOYCOTT, A. G., R.A.M.C., 3rd Field Ambulance.
BOYES, J. E. W.
BOYLE, C.
BRAMMALL, E. H., R.F.A.
BREWIS, 2nd Lieut. R. B., 6th Lancashire Fusiliers.
BROOKE, 2nd Lieut. G. T., R.E. (*Killed.*)
BROOMFIELD, 2nd Lieut. J., 12th Essex Regiment.
BROSCOMBE, J.
BROWN, C. C., R.E.
BRYAN, G. C., Egyptian Labour Corps.
BUCH, 2nd Lieut. C. J., 10th Bedfordshire Regt.
BUTLER, Lieut. W. J., R.E.

Cadman, 2nd Lieut. W. H., 6th Manchesters. (*Wounded, Gallipoli.*)
CAIRNS, Lieut. J. R., Egyptian Labour Corps.
CALLENDER, Lieut. R. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
CAMPBELL, G.
CAPES, Lieut. J. L., Royal Navy.
CARVER, 2nd Lieut. H. Q., 19th Liverpool Regiment.
CARVER, Lieut. R. B., 10th East Yorkshire Regt.
CARVER, Lieut. R. C., R.F.C.
CARVER, T.
CASSELS, A.
CHAMBERS, Lieut.-Col. E. L., 12th Yorkshire L.I.
CHAPMAN, Lieut. H. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
CHESTER, Lieut. S. C. R., R.A.M.C.
CLARKE, Lieut. J. B., Egyptian Labour Corps.
CLAYTON, 2nd Lieut. N. W., 14th Rifle Brigade.
CLOGSTOUN, 2nd Lieut. N. P. S., R.F.C.
COLES H. S., West Somerset Yeomanry.
CONSTANTINIDI, M.
COOK, R., R.F.C.
COOPER, A.
COOPER, F.
COOPER, Capt. L. N., R.E.
CORNISH, 2nd Lieut. P. E., 10th South Lancs. Regt.
CORNWALLIS, Capt. K., Intelligence Dept.
CRAMER-ROBERTS, 2nd Lieut. F. W., West Kent Yeomanry.
CRAWFORD, A. J. P.
CREE, A.
CREE, E.
CROSS, Lieut. S. D., A.S.C.
CULL, Lieut. A. T., 1st Seaforth Highlanders.
CUMMING, 2nd Lieut. W., 3/5 Highland Light. Inf.

Danby, 2nd Lieut. C., 13th Rifle Brigade.
DANIELL, 2nd Lieut. G. F. B., Royal Fusiliers.
DANKS, A. H.
DARTON, D.
DAVID, Lieut. A. G. M., R.F.A.
DAVIDSON, H.
DAVIS, 2nd Lieut. C. J., 8th Manchester Regiment. (*Wounded, Dardanelles.*)
DAVISON, Miss, Q.A.M.N.S.R.
DAWSON, 2nd Lieut. J. H. T., Worcestershire Yeo.
DAY, Lieut. H. B., R.A.M.C.
DAY, W.
DELANY, 2nd Lieut. A. S., Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
DE LISLE, M.
DEMPSTER, Lieut. F. E. R., Egyptian Labour Corps.
DEWAR, 2nd Lieut. A., R.F.A. (*Killed.*)
DICKINSON, Capt. H. E., R.F.A.
DOCHERY, J.
DOCHIE, 2nd Lieut. E. A., South Lancs. Regiment. (*Killed in France.*)
DOLMAN, 2nd Lieut. L. H., A.S.C.
DONNELL, 2nd Lieut. E. D., Yorks Light Infantry.
DOYLE, Lieut. T. M. S., A.V.C.
DRAKE, H. O.
DU BOULAY, Lieut. P. H., Egyptian Labour Corps.
DUFFIELD, 2nd Lieut. E. W., 2nd Hampshires.
DUFFIELD, Lieut. C. U., Egyptian Labour Corps.
DUFFIELD, Lieut. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.

Earle, Capt. J. K., 11th Yorkshire Regiment.
EASTWELL, Lieut. M. M., 1st Cambridgeshire Regt.
EBSWORTH, H.
ECCLESTON, A.
EDGE, 2nd Lieut. R. T., R.E.
ELGOOD, Lieut.-Col. P. G., G.S.O., Port Said. (C.M.G.)
ELLIOT, B.
ELMS, E. C.
ELSWORTH, Lieut. E. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.

Furguson, Major A. R., R.A.M.C.
FIELD, Q.-M.-S. J. G., Huntingdon Cyclists' Corps.
FIELDEN, G. St. Clair.
FISHER, 2nd Lieut. A. J., R.F.A.
FORDHAM, H.
FOX, 2nd Lieut. G. H., R.F.A.
FRASER, Miss.
FURNERS, Lieut. J., Egyptian Labour Corps.

Gardiner, Capt. P. W., 9th Cameronians.
GARNER, Lieut.-Col. C., R.A.M.C.
GARRATT, Private E. V., Machine Gun Section, 23rd (Sportsman's) Batt., Royal Fusiliers.
GARRY, Major G. G., R.A.M.C.
GILMOUR, Capt. J., R.A.M.C.
GLEAVE, 2nd Lieut. E. T., A.S.C.
GOODCHILD, Capt. T. P., A.V.C.
GORDON, Capt. A. de R., A.V.C.
GOSCHEN, Lieut. G. G., Grenadier Gds. (*Wounded.*)
GRIEVE, Lieut. J. H., A.O.D.
GRIFFITH WILLIAMS, Lieut. K. B., R.E.
GYE, D. A.

Hall, 2nd Lieut. F. G., R.A.
HAMBLEN, L. T., Egyptian Labour Corps.
HANWORTH, 2nd Lieut. W. C., 5th Royal Warwickshires.
HARKNESS, W. R., Embarkation Officer, Alexandria.
HARRIES, Capt. J., A.S.C.
HASELDEN, Capt. E. N., Intelligence Department.
HAUGHTON, A. J. (*Killed.*)
HAWKES, W. A.
HAY, Capt. J., Intelligence Dept.
HAYWARD, K. J., R.E.
HEATH, 2nd Lieut. W. R., Bucks Light Infantry.
HEBARD, 2nd Lieut. S. C., 15th King's Royal Rifle Corps.
HENDERSON, Capt. W. L., West Yorkshire Regt.
HENDERSON, J. E.
HENDRY, 2nd Lieut. W., 11th Black Watch.
HERBERT, Lieut. J. R., R.F.C.
HERBERT, P., A.S.C.
HERON, Capt. G. W., R.A.M.C.
HICKS PAULL, J., O.C. Egyptian Labour Corps.
HIGGS, Lieut. H. J., R.E.
HILLAS, Lieut. H. G., R.F.C.
HILLIER, G. N., Westminster Dragoons.
HINES, J. T., R.E.
HITCHCOCK, D.
HITCHCOCK, Lieut. G. E. W., R.E.
HODGES, Capt. W. A., R.E.
HODGSON, Capt. H., R.E. (*Missing, Gallipoli.*)
HOLLAND, Capt. E., Egyptian Labour Corps.
HORGAN, D.
HOUSDEN, H. J.
HOWARD, Lieut. F. E., R.A.
HOWELL, Miss, Q.A.M.N.S.R.

Illingworth, H. S.

Kaye-Parry, Lieut. E., R.E.
KEABLE, 2nd Lieut. H. C. L., 8th Royal Berks. (*Killed.*)
KEELING, B. F. E.
KEILL, A., King's Liverpool Rifles.
KEILL, WALTER, Liverpool Scottish.
KEILL, WILLIAM, Liverpool Scottish.
KENNY-LEVICK, Lieut. V. M., Intelligence Dept.
KERR, Lieut. Munro, Royal Irish Regt.
KIDDELL, J. H.

La Haye, N.
LAMB, E.
LAMBTON, E.
LAURENCE, R. M.
LIAS, Lieut. R. J. M., Royal Sussex Regiment.
LOWICK, Lieut. F. W., A.S.C.
LUCAS, Lieut. W., Sherwood Foresters.
LUCAS, 2nd Lieut. W. R., A.S.C.
LUISI, M.
LYSTER, Lieut. F. S., R.E.

Macaidin, 2nd Lieut. J. W., R.E.
MACAULEY, 2nd Lieut. T. C., R.F.A.
MCCULLOUGH, R. L.
MCCULLUM, J.
MACDONALD, Lieut. I. T. A., A.S.C.
MACDONALD, Major L.
MACDONELL, Capt. M. S., Intelligence Dept.
MCGILL, K. D.
MACGILLOWIE, Lieut. M., R.A.
MCKINSTRY, Lieut. A., 9th Royal Berkshire Regt.
MACKENZIE, Lieut. W. Egyptian Labour Corps.
MACLACHLAN, 2nd Lieut. J. A., 9th K.O.S. Borderers.
MCLAREN, Lieut. G., A.S.C.
MALCOLM, Capt. G. H., 8th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
MALDEN, 2nd Lieut. H. R., 6th Rifle Brigade.
MASON, Major H., A.V.C.
MASON, J.
MAUDE, Lieut. T. L., A.S.C.
MAULE, Capt. W. J., Essex Regiment.
MEAD, G. P.
MEADE-KING, R. E. B.
MEREWEATHER, Lieut. J. A., Rifle Brigade.
MILLINGEN, R. Van.
MILTON, E., Scottish Horse.
MITCHELL, Lieut. A. G., 17th Northumberland Fus.
MONTAGUE, 2nd Lieut. C. G. B., A.S.C.
MOORE, E.
MORRISON, Sub-Lieut. C. D., R.F.C.
MULOCK, H., R.N.D.
MURDOCH, F. J. T.

Newhouse, Lieut. F., R.E.
NICHOLLS, Lieut. G. B. I., A.O.D.
NIXON, M.
NORTH, Corporal W. G. B., 22nd Royal Fus.
NORTON, Capt. E. B.

O'Brien, J. F. C.
ORGAN, Lieut. P. C., R.F.A.
OSBORNE, W.
OTWAY, Capt. J. H., R.E.

Page-Roberts, F. W.
PARKER, Capt. A. C., Lieut.-Col., Intelligence Dept.
PARKER, 2nd Lieut. A. S., 5th Manchester Regt.
PARKER, H. L., A.S.C.
PATTERSON, Dr. T. W. S., Captain, R.A.M.C.
PAUL, 2nd Lieut. Sir R., R.F.C. (*Prisoner.*)
PAULL, J.
PEEL, Capt. C. W., Royal Dublin Fus. (*Killed.*)
PEEL, Capt. E. T., Egyptian Labour Corps. (*Military Medal.*)
PEEL, Lieut. W. E., Camel Corps.
PENNEFATHER, Lieut. E. C., Egyptian Labour Corps.
PERRY, Lieut. W. A. C., R.E.
PHILLIPS, Major L. L. P., R.A.M.C.
PLUMPTRE, Lieut. E. A. W., 17th Northumbd. Fus.
PIRIE, Major A. M.
PONSFORD, Lieut. F., Egyptian Labour Corps.
PREECE, 2nd Lieut. D. E., 10th Bedfordshire Regt.
PRICHARD, R. G.

Quentin, 2nd Lieut. G. A. F., 14th Rifle Brig.

Rawlings, Lieut. P. T., R.E.
RAWCLIFFE, 2nd Lieut. C. B., King's Liverpool Regt.
READING, C.
REES, H. C., Bedfordshire Regiment.
REID, Lieut. D. G., Egyptian Labour Corps.
RICE, A. S.
RICHARDS, Major O., R.A.M.C. (D.S.O.)
RICHMOND, Capt. T. S., Egyptian Labour Corps.
ROBB, Capt. C., R.A.M.C.
ROBERTS, 2nd Lieut. M., 17th Royal Welsh Fus.
ROBERTSON, Driver C., Red Cross.
ROBERTSON, 2nd Lieut. R. H., Black Watch.
ROBINSON, H. le W.
ROPE, C.
ROGERS, Colonel Sir J., R.A.M.C.
ROLL, A. W. C., H.A.C., Infantry.
ROLO, Lieut. C., A.S.C.
ROLO, Lieut. I., A.S.C.
ROLO, T.
ROSS, D.
ROSS, Temp. Capt. Ian, Liverpool Scottish.

Sanderson, 2nd Lieut. F. R., R.F.A., Garrison Adjutant, Alexandria.
SAVAGE, Capt. E. G., 5th Royal West Kent Regt.
SCOTT, Lieut. J. H., Scottish Horse.
SCOTT, Lieut. T. D., R.E.
SHIMMIN, Bomb. D., D.S.M.
SHINGLETON, S. R.
SHIRLEY, Lieut. F. W., Intelligence Department.
SIBETH, 2nd Lieut. C. G. A., R.E.
SIMONS, H. D.
SINCLAIR.
SKILL, H. G.
SMITH, Lieut. A. W., Camel Corps.
SMITH, Lieut. J. M., A.V.C.
SMITH, S. F. (*Killed in France.*)
SMITH, 2nd Lieut. W. G. R., 10th Yorkshire L.I.
SMITH, W. G. R., 1st Life Guards.
SONNENSCHEIN, E. J., Inns of Court.
SPITERI, S., R.A.M.C.
STAFFORD, R.
STAPLETON COTTON, Lieut. R., A.S.C.
STEPHENSON, Corporal G. B., Bedfordshire Yeo.
STEVENSON.
STEWART, R.
STIRLING, Capt. W. F., Dublin Fusiliers.
STOUT, Temp. 2nd Lieut. F. M., attached 20th Hussars. (*Military Cross.*)
STOUT, P. W.
STRANGE, R. F. J., Bimbashi, Coastguards.
STROLOGO, Lieut. R., Northumberland Fusiliers.
STUBBS, M. G.
STURGEON, H. C.
SUTER, Capt. H.B., Turkish Prisoners' Camp.
SUTER, Lieut. N.
SUTTON-PAGE, P., French Foreign Legion.
SWALLOW, Lieut. J. Leonard, 1/5th Lancashire Fusiliers, Acting Adjutant, Camel Transport Corps.

Tabor, Lieut. E. M., R.E.
TANKINS, F. A.
TAYLOR, Capt., A.A.C. (*Killed in Gallipoli.*)
TAYLOR, H.
TENNANT, J. A. (*Killed.*)
THOMSON, Capt. C. P., R.A.M.C.
THORNLEY, R. R.
TILLARD, T. A.
TODD, Capt. R. E., R.A.M.C.
TOYE, T. H.
TRAILL, G. H.
TRYDELL, Lieut F. W., A.V.C.
TURNER, 2nd Lieut. J. W., 12th Rifle Brigade.

Valentine, Rev. H. T., Chaplain.

Waddy, Granville.
WADMAN 2nd Lieut. A. J., A.S.C.
WALLER, Lieut. E. S., R.A.
WARD, 2nd Lieut. G. H., 7th Manchester Regiment. (*Missing.*)
WARNER, Lieut. C. W. C., Egyptian Labour Corps.
WARWICK, T. D.
WARWICK, Commandant D. C., School of Gunnery, Whitley Bay.
WASHINGTON, T. L.
WATERLOW, Major J. F., D.S.O. (Lieut.-Col.)
WEAVER, W. W
WEBB, H. O. T.
WELDON, Capt. L. B., R.F.C.
WHEATMAN, Lieut. H.J., R.N.R. Engineers
WHITE, E. F. C.
WHITE, F. R.
WHITE, S.
WHYTE, F. J.
WILKINSON, 2nd Lieut. C., 2/8th Middlesex.
WILLAN, Capt. R. H., R.E.
WILLIAMS, Lieut. C. A., R.A.
WILLIAMS, L. S.
WILLIAMS, 2nd Lieut. T. P., 3rd Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WILLMORE, Lieut. J. G., R.A.M.C.
WILSON, J W.
WOODS, H. E.
WOODS, N.

TEMPORARY COMMISSIONS WITH THE BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT.

MACDONALD, Colonel Sir M., K.C.M.G.
HARVEY PASHA, Colonel G. S. A., C.M.G., Provost Marshal, Cairo.
MOLESWORTH, Lieut.-Colonel H. W.
VERSCHOYLE, Lieut.-Colonel B.
PECKITT, Lieut.-Colonel R. G.
MACAULAY, Major Sir G., K.C.M.G., R.E., Colonel and Director of Railway Transport.
LIDDELL, Major J. S., R.E., Lieut.-Colonel and Director of Army Signals.
PLUMMER, Major A. H.
BURY, Major L. E.
TILLARD, Major E.
JACOMB, Captain F. B.
KEY, Captain H. F.
HOLDEN, Captain H.
COLSON, Captain F. H.
HODGES, Captain W. A.
WATKINS, Captain C. A. A.
SMITH, Captain T. H.
DREWITT, Captain G. D.
RAWDON, Captain N.
TERRELL, Captain G. G.
AYRES, Lieutenant H. F.
MARTIN, Lieutenant H. F.
PALMER, Lieutenant W. H. de B.
PENGELLY, Lieutenant R. B.
DELANOY, 2nd Lieutenant L.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

In connection with our recent grain deal with Roumania, the British Legation in Bucharest has opened an official Bureau to look after our interests. The personnel has already been organised, and includes a special legal staff, says the *Dimineatza*. The Bureau has been placed in the charge of M. Vasolopol, of the Chrissoveloni Bank.

***

From Reuter's Bucharest message the other day, it seems that the Central Powers' second grain deal with Roumania is now an accomplished fact. There have been so many contradictory reports about this second deal that, until further details of the agreement are known, the less said the better. It would appear, from our Correspondent's letter, that the Roumanian Government has insisted on the delivery of the locomotives and trucks which had been purchased in Germany before the beginning of the war.

***

With regard to Germany's first grain deal with Roumania, it is interesting—though not pleasant—to note that the enemy are in the eleventh hour hastening their imports of grain so as to have it all in the country within schedule time. The state of the Danube has favoured transit by barges, and has come as a godsend to the Boches, who would otherwise have been unable to import their grain by rail. There was a report at one time that the Roumanian Government had prohibited the transit of the grain by river, but either the report was unfounded or the ban must have been removed. It is a pity; but more unfortunate is the circumstance that we have done nothing practical to prevent the purchase by the enemy in Roumania of a further million tons of foodstuff. Surely we could have made a fair bid for a part, if not for the whole, of Roumania's available grain stocks? Did we? I do not know, but I remember that last week in the House, in reply to Mr. Booth, who asked if it is intended "to break the power of our enemies in the Balkans," the Prime Minister asserted that "in the Balkans, as elsewhere, it is the policy of the Allies to take such steps as are necessary to win the war." Surely Mr. Asquith was not thinking at the moment of Germany's purchase in the open Roumanian market of 1,000,000 tons of grain?

***

According to our Bucharest Correspondent, the Orient Railway Company and the Bulgarian Government are in negotiation for the sale by the former to the latter of the railway line to Dedeagatch. This, doubtless, refers to the line from the port up the Maritza Valley running through the territory ceded by Turkey, under German instructions, to Bulgaria last year with a view to induce her treacherously to attack the Serbs. May it do her a lot of good! But why should she wish to buy the railway line? It would surely be a more profitable plan merely to hire it for the duration of the war, as afterwards, when the Allies are at Sofia, it will be of little use to her. Perhaps, however, she has no choice in the matter, the Orient Railway Company being an enemy concern controlled by Austro-German financiers.

Before Lord Justice Swinfen Eady and Lord Justice Bankes, in the Court of Appeal, on Tuesday, the appeal of the Asiatic Petroleum Company (in *re* Asiatic Petroleum Co., Limited, v. Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Limited) against the order of Mr. Justice Scrutton adjourning until the trial the plaintiffs' application for further discovery and inspection of documents was dismissed.

***

Owing to the many requests we have received from readers, we resume this week the publication of prices quoted on the Egyptian share market. In view of the fact, however, that the Alexandria Bourse is still closed, the prices are those quoted on the Cairo Exchange.

***

I read that the Egyptian State Railways have purchased fifteen third-class carriages and ten trucks from the British Prize Courts officials, presumably at Alexandria. The news, as such, conveys little to my mind; but when I read that these vehicles were originally intended for the German Baghdad Railway I cannot help smiling. It is so appropriate that these vehicles should run on Egyptian lines (it was what they were intended for, was it not?) under British control.

***

The Eastern Bank, the youngest of the British banks working in India, is steadily making headway. Its gross profits last year went up £6,600 to £86,900, and the net profits, after deducting expenses of management and directors' and auditors' fees, showed an increase of £8,200 to £45,200. These are the best results achieved during the bank's career, which began in 1909. The dividend is unchanged at 5 per cent., but it requires £29,900, as compared with £23,600 a year ago, because the 50,000 shares issued in 1914 now rank for full dividend. A sum of £15,000 is again set aside for depreciation of investments or other contingencies, and while £6,500 was brought in, as against £8,100, the sum carried forward is a trifle more at £6,600.

***

We announce elsewhere that on April 5 the British Manufacturers' Association, 1915, hold their first annual meeting at the Cannon Street Hotel. The result of the meeting will be awaited with a certain amount of interest, and it is to be hoped that some of the great trade problems—fiscal, banking, and consular—that are preoccupying the public will come up for discussion at the meeting in question.

***

The London Fair and Market has been opened at the Royal Agricultural Hall, and promises to be a success. It is a pity, however, that we should now have in London two spring "Leipzig Fairs." Would it not be better for all interested to join hands and create one huge annual Fair, thus avoiding overlapping and unnecessary expenditure? I shall refer at greater length to this matter next week.

***

Three of the resolutions adopted by the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom are of exceptional interest to-day, as indicating the feeling which, in spite of all Government assertions to the contrary, is spreading over the country. The first of these resolutions deals with "preferential reciprocal trading"—in other words, with the introduction of a preferential tariff. Some people consider that the moment was inopportune for such a resolution, and that the Chambers would have done better to avoid all controversial topics; but, in view of the action of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, which yesterday, in the election of its new directors—the majority of whom are now anti-Free Traders—confirmed its conversion to preferential trade, it cannot be brought too powerfully to the notice of those who govern us that the country no longer intends to be the happy dumping ground for German trade. In normal times the conversion of Great Britain to Tariff Reform would have plunged us in a war with Germany, so dependent was the latter's industry on our free market. Therefore, let us now take the necessary steps to alter our fiscal policy, so that, when peace is restored, the Central European industries can be happily face to face with a *fait accompli*.

***

The second resolution dealt with banking, a subject frequently mooted in these columns. The resolution expressed "its opinion that it was important that the Government should consider the desirability of facilitating the establishment of a large credit bank, or banks, for the purpose of developing British trade abroad." It is to be hoped that those who govern us will seriously examine this question and do something positive to meet the unanimous wishes of practically all who are directly interested in Great Britain's foreign trade. The formation of the new Anglo-Italian financial combination, reported during the week, is a step in the right direction, though it is not yet clear whether it is intended primarily to promote financial relations between the two countries or whether the furtherance of Anglo-Italian trade is to be the leading feature of the new combine. However, I wish it success, and hope that it will be followed in due time by a proportionally powerful Anglo-Roumanian syndicate or bank, having for prime object the promotion of trade between the two countries.

***

The third resolution deals with the Consular Service and is as follows:—"That the present Consular arrangements are not of an adequate nature, and that steps be taken to reorganise the Consular Service with a view to providing better facilities for the maintenance and expansion of the trade of the Empire." On all sides—including, strange to say, the Treasury Bench—the need for reform is considered urgent, so that one may hope to see some changes introduced, though I am afraid they will be minor rather than major. Last Thursday saw a debate in the House on the subject, led by Colonel Yate and Mr. Pennefather, to which I shall have occasion to refer in an early issue of THE NEAR EAST.

***

On going to press we read a Central News message from Rome to the effect that the Bucharest correspondent of the Agenzia Nazionale telegraphs that Bulgaria has forbidden the passage across the country of all merchandise destined for Roumania, all commercial relations between the two countries having been broken off. I think that this is, if true, a case of cutting off one's nose to spite one's face, as few, if any, goods destined for Roumania can be in transit through Bulgaria—the latter country being assuredly as efficaciously blockaded as Germany!

COMMENTATOR.

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Enemy Firms in Egypt.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, February 28.

Matters are moving in connection with the control and liquidation of enemy firms still existing in this country. During the last fortnight numerous new controllers have been appointed, and a number of B licences have been cancelled and replaced by one for liquidation only, in each case a controller being also nominated. The firm of Diemer, to which reference was recently made in this correspondence, has now received a licence for liquidation only, and has had a controller appointed. The reason it was not ordered to liquidate earlier was that a petition in bankruptcy had been presented by a creditor. The authorities had already appointed a receiver, but nothing further could be done until the Courts had decided whether they would intervene or not. Their decision having been in the negative, the military and civil authorities proceeded to deal with the firm as stated. Boehme and Anderer have been sold lock, stock, and barrel, to an Italo-Egyptian firm. With these two stationers in the market, it is a wonder that some enterprising British bookseller, paper-maker, or stationer has not stepped in and seized this unique opportunity, and it is to be hoped that we shall not hear that Diemer's also has had to be sold to a foreign firm, owing to the slackness of our home traders.

Methods of Liquidation.

With regard to these liquidations, it is very desirable that if the authorities are going to adopt the policy of selling the assets as a going concern, instead of piecemeal, they should take every precaution to ensure that the new purchaser is not likely to keep the place warm for the original owners against the end of the war. Personally, since we are carrying on a trade war, I should have thought it would have been better to close up the enemy shops, confiscate their assets, and sell them off piecemeal in satisfaction of the allied and neutral creditors, holding any balance for the settlement at the end of the war, than to sell off the concerns as they stand. The trade being carried on on the same site even by a "neutral" or "allied" purchaser preserves the connection, and there is nothing to prevent an enemy trader, not necessarily the original owner, but quite possibly his nominee, after peace has been declared, from buying out the "neutral" or "allied" purchaser, and resuming business. If, on the other hand, the business were broken up, and any new tenants were forbidden to take up the same line, the connection would be broken, and it would become all the more difficult for the enemy trader to pick it up again. Of course, if British traders can be found to buy up the concerns so much the better, for they will then get the reversion of their enemies' connection, and it is not likely that they would eventually allow themselves to be bought out by Teuton competitors. If an allied firm wants to purchase the business, however, it is to be hoped that the most extensive enquiries will be made, and the most rigid conditions re future resale will be imposed before the transfer is permitted; purchase by neutrals should not for one moment be entertained, for it is thanks to them that the Germans have been able to continue to carry on the war, and they would probably not mind acting as "straw-men" and "locum tenens," provided it was made worth their while—and it would be certainly to the interest of, and be possible—through the neutral country concerned—for the Germans to make it worth their while. Similar remarks apply to purchasers of "local nationality," who, in many cases, are not to be trusted where profit-making is concerned.

No doubt the authorities are alive to the possibilities of the situation, and will do their best to cope with it in a manner satisfactory to British Imperial interests. It is just as well, however, that their attention should be drawn to these points and to the fact that no consideration of what Germany may do with our assets on her territory should be allowed to interfere with the terms in which we are waging the trade-war against her throughout the Empire. Germany would make any sacrifice, in so far as our assets situated in her territory are concerned, to regain some of the commercial leeway she has lost in the British Empire, but if, as we hope and intend, we emerge victorious from this war, we shall be able to impose what conditions we like as to the return of our property seized by our enemies. The one point we must bear in mind is that now is our chance, once and for all, to eradicate the Teuton canker that has tainted commercial principles wherever it has entered, and, if it is not possible to replace it by healthy British members of the commercial community, at any rate so to contrive matters that after the war the German and Austrian trade pirates will not be able to resume their pernicious machinations.

The *Official Journal* of February 24 publishes a further list of firms whose licences have been modified by the addition of the freight clause, the terms of which were published in last week's issue of The Near East. The following are the firms in question :—

Number of Licence.	Name of Firm.	Controller.
1	Abel and Schellenberg	Mr. E. C. Widdows
19	Austro-Orientalische H.A.G.	Mr. F. H. Russell
25	Barkowsky, H.	Mr. E. L. Bristow and Mr. R. T. Prioleau
46	Continental Caoutchouc and Gutta Percha Co.	Mr. F. H. Russell
52	Gasmotoren Fabrik Deutz..	Mr. R. E. Moore
76	Flick, H. and C.	Mr. A. E. Mills
84	Ganz, Soc. Anon. d'Electricité	Mr. F. H. Russell
86	Geiger and Co., W.	Mr. E. C. Widdows
100	Holz and Co.	Mr. W. B. Delany
109	Kirchmayer and Co., R.....	Mr. F. H. Russell
130	Lichtenstern, J. M.....	Mr. J. W. Eady
171	Bornstein and Co., L.....	Mr. J. W. Eady
268	Union Export, G.m.b.H. ..	Mr. J. W. Eady
269	Upper Egypt Artesian Boring Co.	J. W. Beasley

A further list gives the names of firms whose original licences have been cancelled and replaced by a licence, under the same number, for the purpose of liquidation only, with the additional effect of Clause 6 :—

Number of Licence.	Name of Firm.	Controller.
162	Mohr and Fenderl, Alexandria	Mr. J. F. Luard
107	Mohr and Fenderl, Chebin el Kanater, Agent: T. D. Kaiopoulos	
256	Mohr and Fenderl, Toukh, Agent: Stellio Mavridis	
185	Poppel and Co., C.	Mr. A. C. Hann
191	Reiser, Lucien	Mr. A. E. Mills
204	Ruelberg, Georg	Mr. A. E. Mills
237	Seidemann, A.	Mr. H. Bridson
260	Stross, A.....	Mr. E. D. Joyce
266	Trapp and Co., W.	Mr. O. J. Finney
282	Werner and Co.	Mr. H. Bridson
318	Mochonoff, E.	Mr. A. E. Mills

The following firms have been granted licences to carry on business for the purpose of liquidation only, with the additional effect of Clause 6 :—

Number of Licence.	Name of Firm.	Controller.
66	Entreprises Foncières et Immobilières, Soc. An. Egyptienne	Mr. R. E. Moore
347	Bindernagel, H.....	Mr. A. C. Hann

The firm of F. Diemer, Finck and Baylaender Succrs., have been granted a licence, No. 53, for the purposes of liquidation only, with the additional effect of Clause 6. The business has been placed under the supervision of Mr. R. E. Moore, Savoy Chambers, Cairo, whose previous appointment as receiver has been cancelled.

On February 28 the *Official Journal* published a notice to the effect that licence No. 29, granted to the firm of Messrs. Boehme and Anderer, Cairo, has been cancelled, and that Mr. R. E. Moore, Savoy Chambers, Cairo, has been appointed receiver of the business of the firm, with power to liquidate the affairs thereof; further, that licence No. 347, granted to the firm of Messrs. H. Bindernagel, Alexandria, has been cancelled, and that Mr. A. C. Hann, National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria, has been appointed receiver of the business of the firm, with power to liquidate the affairs thereof.

**Clause 6 to which frequent reference is made above reads as follows :—

"(6) The operations of the firm under this licence shall be carried out under the supervision of a Controller appointed under the authority of the General Officer Commanding in Chief, and paid by the firm, the said Controller having power to take all such measures as may be necessary to ensure the speedy liquidation of the business."

OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

Reuter reports from Amsterdam that, according to a Constantinople telegram, an Austrian subject, Herr Philip Arslan, has been appointed Director-General of the Ottoman Public Debt. Mr. Bötzkes, a German, has been appointed Secretary-General and Riza Bey Director.

*** Philip Arslan, the new Director-General, an Armenian by birth, but an Austrian protected subject, is one of the oldest and most capable of the Public Debt officials, having served chiefly in the Inspection since the Administration was founded in 1882. He rose to the rank of Inspector-General, and for the past three years has been the Director. He is a thoroughly able and honest man, and well acquainted with all the details of the Administration. He played a prominent part in the negotiations for the renewal of the Tobacco Régie Concession. He was destined to become Director-General, and has been appointed to that post, which became vacant on the outbreak of war by the departure of Monsieur Abonneau, a Frenchman who, of course, was unable to remain in Turkey when that country went to war with France. No better or more natural choice could have been made under these circumstances.

Mr. Bötzkes, who has been appointed Secretary-General in the place of Monsieur Grasset, a Frenchman who was called to the colours when war broke out, is a man of about thirty-five, who was employed first in Constantinople in the Deutsche Bank. He entered the Debt Administration about four years ago as Secretary to the German Delegate. He was a man of exceptional ability and ambition, and took a deep interest in all the branches of the Administration, and it was felt that he was destined to progress rapidly.

Riza Bey.—It is impossible to identify the Riza Bey in question—there are so many—but he is probably a Bash Mudir of one of the provinces, a Debt official, and his appointment as Director is quite in keeping with Turkish ambition. For many years the appointment of a Turk to this post has been strongly advocated in certain Turkish quarters. He will very likely play quite a subsidiary *rôle*.

It will be seen, therefore, that whilst the posts vacated by Frenchmen, owing to the war, have been filled, naturally enough, by officials of German and Austrian nationality, a good choice has been made, and two capable men have been chosen, the case of Mr. Arslan being, indeed, a right and natural one. Bondholders may be assured, therefore, that, in spite of all adverse conditions in the country, their interests are in the hands of capable and trusty officials.

ALCOHOL REGULATIONS IN EGYPT

The *Egyptian Gazette* understands that the following regulations are to be imposed in order to regulate the sale of alcohol in Egypt:—

Alcohol of 90 to 92 deg., the tariff price of which is fixed in Cairo, will be sold at Alexandria at four piastres per oke, but, in order to avoid any over-buying on the part of perfumers or distillers, the quantity necessary for hospitals or chemists will be sold at the above price by the Alexandria Municipality. The alcohol must be pure and unadulterated.

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Roumania's Grain Deals.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, February 22.

In compliance with the terms of the first sale of wheat to the Austro-Germans, some 4,000 truckloads of wheat have left the country up to the present. At one time we predicted that the Germans would never succeed in removing the stock in time, but they have been favoured to an unexpected degree by the weather. Owing to the Danube having remained navigable, they will be able to export the bulk of the grain by means of barges. Twenty of these have so far arrived. When these have been loaded, about half of the 50,000 truckloads will have been disposed of.

The Second German Purchase.

The contract for the further sale of cereals to Germany is reported to have been signed. The amount is to be in the neighbourhood of 100,000 wagons, but the exact figures will not be determined until the British sale has been completed. One condition insisted upon by the Roumanians, to which the German representatives have agreed, is that the locomotives, railway carriages, and other accessories ordered in Germany before the war shall be delivered. A further clause, signed by both parties, stipulates that the transport of Roumanian goods ordered in neutral countries shall not be impeded. This does not include war material.

Sale of Wheat to British Bureau.

The Central Commission of Export has at last taken steps to remove the objections raised by Roumanian agriculturists in the matter of the sale of 80,000 truckloads of wheat to the British Bureau. The chief of these, it will be remembered, was that concerning the difficulty of finding space for the storage of so large a quantity of grain, in view more especially of the coming harvest, and the question of the responsibility, for the wheat will without a doubt suffer some deterioration, more or less in proportion to the duration of the war.

The following resolutions have now been taken:—

1. The Government will construct additional warehouses in the stations and docks, those available at present having a capacity of only 300,000 tons (30,000 truckloads). The new warehouses are to be ready by the time the next harvest is gathered.

2. Responsibility for the insurance of the wheat falls to the lot of the buyer.

3. The seller will suffer a loss of only 25-30 fr. per truckload. This sum to be deducted from the price at the moment of payment.

4. The wheat sold remains in the care of the seller, who will give it all the solicitude "of a good parent."

5. The seller will not be held responsible for normal diminution in the weight of the wheat (and consequently in the quantity of the goods) and damage provoked by weevils, unless there has been obvious ill-will or culpable negligence on his part.

February 29.

Reserve Sales.

The Central Commission of Export has decided to oblige agriculturists who wish to sell part of the reserve of cereals (40 per cent.) destined for internal consumption to first lay aside 10 per cent. for local use in their district and 10 per cent. for the needs of the army. With this proviso they will be allowed to sell, within the country, the remainder of the grain of which they dispose. Under no circumstances will its exportation be permitted.

The German Purchase.

The contract for the second German sale has not been signed up to the present, the terms of payment not having been completely settled between the contracting parties. There is disagreement with regard to the rate of exchange.

*** Reuter reported from Bucharest on March 6 that a definite agreement had been reached on that day between the Roumanian Central Export Commission and the Austro-German syndicate for the sale to the syndicate of a million tons of cereals on the following terms:—The cereals to be paid for at the rate of 1.17 fr. per paper mark and 1.239 fr. per gold mark. Of the total value of the sale, amounting to £14,400,000, a third is to be deposited in gold, half in a Berlin bank for the account of Roumania, and the other half in the National Bank of Roumania, the remainder of the account to be paid in lei at a fixed rate. Delivery of the cereals is to be made after the execution of the British contract for 800,000 tons of corn.

ROUMANIAN TRADE NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, February 29.

The Council of Ministers have appointed a Commission, formed by MM. C. Halauceanu, Dr. N. Lupu, and Engineer Dan Costinescu, who are to visit Italy, England, and France for the purpose of buying materials of first necessity for the industry and commerce of the country to the value of 15 million francs.

Imports.

The recently constituted Commission of Imports has obtained the consent of the German Government for the importation into Roumania of materials of first necessity to the value of 150 million francs. Roumania is to deliver materials of the same value in exchange.

Demand for Brass Utensils.

Householders have been notified that they have to make a declaration concerning the number and nature of brass and copper articles in their possession, with a view probably to their eventual requisition on the part of the military authorities. Since the publication of this regulation individuals have been introducing themselves into the humbler private houses and attempting to persuade owners to part with their goods at a low price, on the ground that they will otherwise be confiscated by the State.

Flax and Hemp Cultivation.

At the instigation of the Minister of Agriculture it has been decided to cultivate flax and hemp on a larger scale. A credit of 800,000 francs has been granted for the purchase of seeds and necessary materials.

Prohibition of Certain Exports.

A project of law has been laid before the Chamber of Deputies for prohibiting the exportation of cereals, vegetables, linseed oil, and colza oil, this project to come into force from the date of its presentation. Exception is made for the sales which have already taken place through the medium of the Central Commission of Export, or have received the approval of this Commission. Exception is likewise made for future sales which may be effectuated through the medium of the Central Commission of Imports as compensation for imported goods. The export taxes are to remain unchanged. The purpose of this project is to guarantee a sufficient quantity of grain for internal consumption.

Speculation.

A crowd numbering 3,000 men and women assembled a few days ago before the mayoralty building of Bucharest to protest against the speculation practised by merchants and others who have acquired large quantities of foodstuffs. The mayor was presented with a memorandum formulating the following demands:—

1. The requisition of sugar and lard and their re-sale through the medium of the communal administration.

2. The requisition of cattle.

3. The importation of colonial produce in exchange for Roumanian produce.

4. The appointment of a delegation for the purpose of controlling the strict application of the maximum tariff.

5. A law in virtue of which all speculators shall be liable to punishment by imprisonment.

The mayor promised to lay before Parliament a legal project for the punishment of speculators by imprisonment and fine.

In connection with this subject we may mention here that it has been decided to requisition a certain proportion of the cattle in the districts adjacent to the frontiers in order to reduce the contraband, which is responsible for the insufficient quantity of meat now making itself felt. The authorities have in view more particularly the New Dobrudja districts, where the Bulgarian population is very assiduous in driving cattle over the frontier, so that the difficulties of provisioning the army there concentrated are much increased.

TRADE NOTES.

Egypt.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade is in receipt from the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior of copies of the statement of conditions, etc., in connection with a call for tenders for the supply of Ghafir clothing required by the Stores Department during 1916, including blue drill belts, drawers, and qamis. Two metres of cloth of the kinds which the tenderer intends to use must be submitted to the Director of Stores, Bulac, Cairo, at least ten days before the adjudication. Copies of the specifications, with forms of tender, etc., may be obtained, at a cost of 2s. per copy, from the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W., where also sealed samples of the articles required may be inspected. Sealed tenders, on the proper form, will be received, up to noon on April 22, by the Under-Secretary of State (Personnel and Equipment Department), Ministry of the Interior, Cairo. Date, April 22.

The Egyptian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of "53,080 manches en bois" and "500 cannes en jonc de 1 metre et 60 centimetres de long." Date, April 3.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-18). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Date, June 1.

Tenders are invited by the Director of the Police School, Abbassia, for the supply of clothing and accoutrements required for the officer cadets. Date, April 15.

Sudan.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on March 29, 1916, for the supply of paraffin and petrol required by the above department for 1916. Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, or to the Agents, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria.

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Greece.

The Minister of Commerce at Athens has announced a public auction sale of the steamer Macedonia, the award to be made at Athens Tuesday, March 28, 1916.

Persia.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Teheran reports that a firm of merchants in Teheran wishes to get into touch with United Kingdom manufacturers of silks, cottons, woollens, taffetas, satins, hardware, and ironmongery. British firms desirous of doing business in Teheran should send their catalogues (in French) to the firm. United Kingdom manufacturers of the goods mentioned, and exporters of U.K. goods, may obtain the name and address of the firm referred to on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. In making application the reference number (82) should be quoted.

Morocco.

H.M. Consul at Fez suggests that the following hardware line of articles will be in demand shortly in the capital owing to the planned construction of a European suburb :—Portable cooking stoves for burning wood or roots, fire-place suites, register grates, interiors, dog grates, verandahs, balconies, porches, bandstands, shelters, columns, brackets, crestings, friezes, gates and railings, lamp pillars, general constructional ironwork, electric light columns and brackets, section pillars, castings of every description for electrical engineers, garden rollers, seats, vases and pedestals, feeding troughs for cattle, pigs, poultry, etc., portable boilers, umbrella stands, rain-water goods, air bricks, gratings, ventilators, cart bushes, plough castings and fittings and enamelled iron advertising signs.

H.M. Consul adds that as soon as the building projects come to be realized, the makers of these goods who have already studied the market, and have selected suitable agents, will clearly have the best chance of sharing in the trade which will then arise.

The Secretary of the British Chamber of Commerce for Morocco reports that his Committee has received from its members at Fez an application for the names of United Kingdom manufacturers who will supply articles hitherto imported from Germany and Austria. These articles belong to the following classes :—Birmingham goods, brass plates, cheap razors and knives, cheap enamelled ware, packing and sewing needles, ironmongery, cheap glassware, sewing machines, cheap toilet soaps, writing paper and packing paper, imitation gold thread, superfine cloth of various colours, and woollen cloths of inferior and of good quality.

It is stated that in nearly every case, except that of cloth, cheapness even more than quality is desirable. Communications regarding the above should be addressed by United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of U.K. goods to the Secretary, British Chamber of Commerce for Morocco, Tangier, Morocco.

H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier has forwarded a copy of a Dahir, dated January 3, which appeared in the Cherifian *Bulletin Officiel*, providing for establishing the title of the Makhzen to lands it may claim, and delimitating their area.

The Dahir requires one month's public notice to be given of the Makhzen's claim and a period of three months is allowed within which any person having a claim on the lands in question can make opposition, provided such person resides in the country or has some representative in Morocco in charge of his interests. Absent proprietors, who are unrepresented, will lose their title to the land, as no provision is made for enabling such persons to postpone their claims after the expiration of the term of notice. United Kingdom firms interested may consult the text (in French) of the above-mentioned Dahir on application to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

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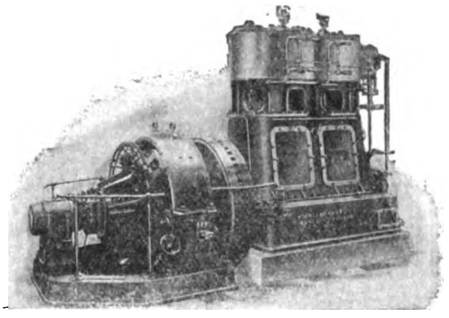

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Engineering Notes.

Trade After the War.

It has been admitted that the preparations for the forthcoming trade war are not quite what might be expected in present circumstances. The dogmatic opinions and criticism which, during the last eighteen months, have appeared in the Press have developed in a way that, whilst, on the one hand, they confuse and procrastinate the advancement of an urgently needed campaign, on the other hand they tend seriously to decry abroad the undisputable efficiency of British science, industry, and commerce. The result is that foreigners who have been traditionally accustomed to recognize the British as endowed by nature with an industrial and commercial spirit of the highest order, and to believe that their supremacy in the world's industry is due to this circumstance and to their scientific training, are undoubtedly puzzled and surprised at such an unwonted admission of faults and shortcomings which, if nothing else, indicate a remarkable lack of self-confidence. Criticism ought, in present circumstances, to be restricted, and British scientists and others, in commending the bombastic German progress in science, should not forget that nearly all the great inventions, discoveries, and engineering achievements are owed to British proficiency in science and technics. In all branches of engineering, in textile machinery, electrical machinery, electric telegraph, shipbuilding, navigation, etc. the British have been and are the pioneers. But to find fault with them because they do not pay sufficient attention to the study of chemistry in its application to commerce, or that manufacturers are not inclined to co-operate with scientists, or that the British workman is lacking in necessary technical education, or that unless these and some other things are done there will be no chance for success in the approaching trade war, is wasting time in academic arguments, while prompt action is needed to organize the campaign and strike before the enemy organizes his own. It is well known that he is already doing that by storing up goods, and especially machinery, to flood the markets as soon as peace is concluded.

Agreement With the Allies.

An idea prevails that the Allies should also co-operate in the forthcoming trade war, and the Italian Chamber of Commerce in London has already signified that it is desirable that the Allied Governments should arrive at an agreement to institute a reciprocal preferential tariff, and in that case all goods imported from countries which are not parties to the agreement should painly indicate their origin. The shipping and railway services between the Allied countries should be improved and extended, the shipping lines subsidized and granted special facilities, including reduced port and dock dues. The principal commercial laws of the Allied countries should be made uniform so as to correspond with the needs of international trade. In regard to all supplies for, and contracts with, the Allied Governments and public bodies, only the Allied countries should be allowed to tender. The scheme is good, but for reasons that cannot be dealt with here, very difficult, if not impossible, to be adopted. Concerning engineering products and contracts, in the Allied countries, as well as in friendly countries, there will be rights and claims which under such a scheme could not be satisfactorily arranged. On the other hand, the Russian Minister at Athens has organized the establishment of a Russo-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce for the extension of commercial relations between Greece and Russia. M. Demmidoff, the Minister, arranged the first meeting at his Embassy, where, a fortnight ago, under the presidency of the ex-Minister of Finance, M. Michalacopulos, several prominent bankers, politicians, and others, after an address from M. Demmidoff, discussed the scope of the new Chamber of Commerce and elected the necessary committees. At the meeting it was mentioned that the imports from Russia into Greece vary, in normal years, from thirty-five to forty million francs, whereas exports are from four to five million. But it was pointed out that Greek shipping gains considerable amounts from Russian commerce. It is evident, therefore, that our Allies are not losing time, but with a keen eye to business, are preparing for the approaching struggle.

CAIRO MAIN DRAINAGE.

In our issue of March 3 we published an article descriptive of a visit to the sewage farm at Khanka, which has arisen in the desert as the result of a carefully prepared scheme for the disposal of sewage under the new system of drainage in Cairo.

At a recent meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers Mr. Charles Carkeet James, M.Inst.C.E., who is responsible for the inception and carrying through of the Cairo main drainage scheme, read a paper on this most important subject.

Mr. Carkeet James, who was then engaged upon the drainage of Bombay, was appointed by the Egyptian Government to prepare and carry out a scheme for the drainage of Cairo in 1906.

In a résume of the history of the steps taken by the Egyptian Government for the drainage of Cairo from 1885 to the time of his appointment in 1906, Mr. Carkeet James showed that in the former year there were only 8,420 yards of ancient storm-water drains in the city, together with the famous Khalig el Masr, which was an open ditch 7,220 yards long and 9 to 13 yards wide. For a great part of its length it passed between houses, and was used as a dumping-ground for foul matter. For only three months in the year was Nile water available for the flushing of this drain; the "Cutting of the Khalig," which is still celebrated in Cairo, had its origin in the ceremony of which the Nile waters were formerly admitted into the channel. A "Commission d'Assanissement du Caire" was nominated by the Ministry in 1885 to study the various questions relating to the public health and the best means for improving the sanitary conditions of the city, and the recommendations of this Commission resulted in many improvements, among them being the filling in of the historic Khalig. The sewage disposal system was, however, still very defective, and four years later Mr. Baldwin Latham, M.Inst.C.E., was appointed to prepare a scheme for the drainage of Cairo. This resulted in the production of a scheme based upon a population of 500,000, and provided for dealing with 14,400,000 gallons per day, with a capital cost of £E565,700, and the annual working cost, with water obtained from bores, at £E47,680. An International Commission, consisting of one English, one French, and one German engineer, was appointed to consider the scheme, with the result that a much more detailed scheme was required before anything could be done. Mr. Carkeet James points out that this was "hardly to be wondered at, as the period allowed for the submission of the plans was only one month."

The same Commission subsequently recommended a "combined system" by gravitation, with one main pumping station, as the only one suitable for Cairo, and eventually Mr. J. Barois was appointed to prepare the project on the broad lines suggested. Specifications and detailed plans, and estimates amounting to £E1,010,000, were prepared, but for some unnamed reason the whole matter was abandoned at that stage. Then other schemes were prepared in 1898-9 by Mr. (now Sir) William Willcocks, but although one of them was approved, it was also dropped. The next move was in 1902, when the Tanzim Department laid about 870 yards of surface water drains to deal with the flooding of the streets in the better-class quarter of the city. These drains have now been extended, and serve as the basis of the surface-water drainage of Cairo.

The scheme for which Mr. Carkeet James is responsible covers an area of 7,538 acres, and its estimated cost when completed amounts to £E1,971,821, of which about £E1,541,000 has already been spent, leaving £E430,820 to be expended on the completion of 167 miles of sewer reticulation. The work may be delayed on account of the financial stress consequent upon the war, but the detailed plans and estimates necessary to the completion of the work are in the hands of the Government, to be proceeded with when the opportunity occurs. Basing the population as one million, the cost of the work is less than £E2 per head; the maintenance of the scheme, exclusive of interest and amortisation of capital expenditure, is estimated at £E32,440.

Of the 7,538 acres to be treated, 1,704 acres will be dealt with by gravitation into the main collector, and 5,734 acres of the sectional system. Sixty-three ejector stations, in cast-iron tubbings have been erected for the drainage on the sectional system. An air-compressing station has been established in Sharia Abbas; the sewage is discharged at Ghamra, and, after passing through hydrolytic tanks and filters, is used for irrigation purposes on a sewage farm. The four steam-driven compressors which comprise the air-compressing plant are each capable of compressing 1,770 cubic feet of free air per minute to a pressure of from 22 lbs. to 25 lbs. per square inch. The heated sewage mains have been tested to a hydraulic pressure of 50 lbs. per square inch. Mr. Carkeet James describes the construction of the main collector, the plant used, and the pump in operation necessary to unwater the trenches. Approximately one ton of coal was consumed for every 11 cubic yards of excavation, but in the year 1913 unexpected progress was made owing to a reduction in trench floods due to a low Nile.

In dealing with the screening chamber, sewage, and main pumping station at Kafr-el-Garnus, the engineer gave details of their design and working. From this station the sewage is pumped a distance of seven and a-quarter miles to the purification works and power station at Gebel-el-Asfar, where the sewage farm is situated. It is estimated that this farm, which, as we have already said, was described in a previous issue, will eventually yield a net revenue of at least £E30,000 per annum.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, March 16.

Currants.

Only moderate business has been done during this past week, but prices, owing to the continued speculation, are very firm. Provincial, 41s. to 43s. 6d.; Amalias, 44s. to 46s.; Patras, 45s. to 47s.; Gulf, 46s. to 50s.; Vostizza, 44s. to 48s.; smalls, 42s. to 53s.

Sultanas.

The demand continues steady at firmer prices.

Figs.

There is only a moderate demand at more or less steady prices.

Dates.

There has been a good demand this past week, and prices are gradually advancing. Egyptian sell at 32s. to 36s., and Persian at 19s. to 31s.

Seeds.

Linseed has been dull and easier during the week. London Calcutta, spot, quoted, 78s. 6d.; afloat, March-April and April-May, 78s. 3d. La Plata to Hull, March-April, 73s. 6d.; April-May, 74s., whilst February-March was sold at 73s. 6d. to 73s. 3d. Cotton-seed is steady. London Egyptian, spot, is quoted £14 per ton. Rapeseed is rather dull at nominal values.

Oils.

Linseed oil has been quiet. Spot pipes are quoted £44, and barrels, landed, £45. Cotton oil has been also quiet. Crude, spot, pipes, are quoted £42 10s.; refined, pipes, pale, £47 10s., and barrels, sweet, £51 to £52. Rape oil remains steady. Ordinary brown, naked, is only nominal, whilst English refined, barrels, is offered at £55 to £56.

Oilcakes.

Cotton cakes.—The comparatively heavy arrivals of Egyptian had the effect of easing prices slightly, best brands being offered at £9 10s. to £9 12s. 6d. English makes are also easier at £9 12s. 6d. to £9 17s. 6d., and Bombay £9 5s. per ton. Linseed cakes.—There has been only a very moderate demand, and that, more or less, from country consumers, while quotations are more in buyers' favour. Best London-made offered at late rates, £12 12s. 6d. to £12 15s. East Indian seed, pure, sells at £12 15s. to £13 per ton.

Under the auspices of Enver Pasha, the Kaiser and the Sultan, the newly-formed "German-Turkish Union," which is considerably more German than Turkish, will shortly erect in Constantinople a building to be known as "The House of Friendship," which is to be the "centure of Kultur" in Turkey.

ROUMANIAN OIL OUTPUT.

The metric tons of crude oil produced in Roumania for each month during 1915 and 1914 are as follows (December, 1915, figures are estimated) :—

	1915.		1914.
January	168,811	....	139,974
February	138,286	....	132,473
March	162,408	....	161,833
April	150,716	....	147,975
May	149,738	....	147,486
June.....	136,605	....	148,775
July	134,451	....	148,905
August	128,774	....	137,220
September.....	128,755	....	129,517
October	135,051	....	161,247
November	126,025	....	147,884
December	113,000	....	180,658
Total	1,672,620	....	1,783,947

SUDAN COTTON.

The British Cotton-growing Association, in its last monthly meeting, reported as follows concerning the Sudan :—

The natives are not discouraged by the low prices last season; the Government arrangements secured cultivators satisfactory prices, and there was a record crop in the Tokar district. The reduction in the area planted in cotton this season in the Tokar district is merely due to a smaller flood. The Government continues to strongly encourage cotton cultivation. The area planted, apart from Tokar, has increased. The only difficulty is as regards high freights and scarcity of shipping.

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GREEK AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS.

Duty-Free Imports.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of translation of a Greek Royal Decree, dated October 18/31 last, which provides that the following articles, when imported into Greece by Agricultural Associations for their own use or for sale or loan to members of the association, shall be exempted from State import duty, and from municipal, communal, harbour, or any other tax :—

Tools, machinery, instruments and utensils of agriculture and the branches of industry connected therewith, viz. :—

1. Ploughs, hoes and mattocks;
2. Harrows, clod-crushers and horse-hoes;
3. Machines for sowing, potato-planting machines, and machines for distributing manures;
4. Harvest machines, *i.e.*, reaping machines, mowing machines, hay-turning machines, hay-gathering machines, machines for digging up potatoes and threshing machines, as well as implements for reaping and threshing;
5. Machines for cleaning and sifting seed, ginning machines, machines for preparing food for animals, hay-pressing, straw-pressing and straw-lifting machines;
6. Implements and machines for combating vegetable and animal parasites;
7. Implements, machines, utensils and tools for wine-making;
8. Implements, machines, utensils and tools for the milk, butter, and cheese industries;
9. Implements, machines , utensils and tools for the olive oil industry.
9. Implements, machines, utensils and tools for agricultural and sericultural industries, poultry farming, viticulture, arboriculture, and for fruit and vegetable packing;
11. Motors of agricultural machines—*i.e.*, motors worked by horse, steam or electric power, crude petroleum and benzine (petrol) motors;
12. Means for the conveyance of motive power—*i.e.*, belts (for machinery), signals, cogged wheels, chains and wire for transmitting electric power;
13. Puhmps.

Articles for agricultural exploitation, viz. :—Seeds for sowing; animals; manures; sulphate of copper, sulphur and other insecticides, or parasite-killing articles and other drugs; and all essences useful for the work of any agricultural association.

TURKISH STRATEGICAL RAILWAYS.

Reuter's reported from Amsterdam on March 14 as follows:

"The Turkish Chamber of Deputies has adopted a Bill whereby the advance of £T5,000,000, at 6 per cent., on the basis of the treaty (?) of February 14, 1915, for the construction of certain strategical railways is increased to £T7,112,000, while the interest is reduced to 5½ per cent. The Chamber and the Senate have further adopted a Bill approving the agreement concluded on November 6, 1915, between Turkey and the Baghdad Railway Company concerning the construction of the sections of the railway in the Taurus and Amanus mountains."

ROUMANIAN FINANCES.

Some interesting information upon the financial situation in Roumania is published in the Paris *Temps* from its Bucharest correspondent. M. Costinesco has admittedly a difficult problem to solve. On the one hand, the ordinary expenditure has risen considerably, for apart from the increased military expenditure, it has been necessary to provide storage accommodation for the accumulation of crops, and to incur extra expenditure on the railway system. On the other hand, the ordinary revenue has diminished owing to a much smaller commercial movement both by land and sea, whilst the revenue from Custom receipts and stamp duties has greatly diminished. The present time has not been considered opportune for the institution of the long-projected tax on incomes, and it has been necessary, therefore, to fall back upon an export tax. It is argued that this tax can readily be borne by the country, having regard to the advance in the price of cereals, the agriculturist getting £120 per waggon for wheat as compared with £48 per waggon previously. and as the tax is payable in gold, there will, it is argued, be a corresponding benefit to the national bank, whose note issue is limited by law to three times its holding of gold. Although the times are troublous, the financial situation of Roumania is declared to be much more satisfactory than might be imagined.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

According to Reuter's Agency (Bucharest, March 6), the report of the general meeting of the Roumanian National Bank shows that £23,750,000 was lent to the State for the Army, £800,000 was advanced to the banks for the assistance of farmers, £1,980,000 was set apart for the formation of institutions to make advances on the security of the crops, and £398,000 was assigned to the erection of elevators capable of storing 300,000 tons of cereals. The gold reserve of about £6,400,000 was increased during 1915 by about £2,680,000. The services rendered by the State in improving the economic conditions of the country have made an excellent impression.

PERSIAN TREASURER-GENERAL.

A telegram from Teheran states that the Persian Government has reappointed M. Heinsens as Treasurer-General.

M. Heinsens is a Belgian subject. Last March he had to give up this post as the result of the activities of the Germans, who, by their influence, induced the Mejliss and the Ministry, which was at that time Germanophile, to pass a law which deprived M. Heinsens of all power of control. Now the Persian Government, realising that the existing financial chaos cannot be allowed to continue, has requested M. Heinsens to resume his post. M. Heinsens has always declared that the economic situation of the country can easily be ameliorated, provided there is serious control.

Greek shipowners residing in Athens and Piræus have formed a union, the object of which is the protection of the interests of Hellenic shipping, including all those who are engaged in shipping enterprises wherever their centre of business may be. The seat of the Union is Piræus, and Mr. Leonidas Embiricos, Director of the National Greek Navigation Co., has been elected president.

COMPANY NOTES.

"Financial Times."

The directors of the Financial Times, in their report for the year 1915, record, with deep regret, the death last June of Mr. F. M. Bridgewater, chairman and managing director. The profit for the year is £9,486, and, adding £26,061 brought forward, gives a total of £35,547. Debenture interest for the year and managing director's remuneration have been paid, and the directors now recommend payment of the preference dividend for the six months ended December 31, making, with the interim dividend, 5 per cent. for the year. An amount of £2,500 has been set aside as reserve for income-tax, leaving £24,991 to be carried forward. The directors regret that the profits do not justify the recommendation of a dividend on the ordinary shares. While the profit earned during the past year is the smallest in the history of the company, it must be borne in mind that the year has been one of absolute stagnation with regard to financial operations, which has adversely affected the revenue-earning capacity. In the face of the unprecedented conditions it is a matter for congratulation that the company has stood the strain so well, and although the profit is small, all fixed charges have been fully earned and provided for. Adequate allowance has been made in writing off depreciation, plant and maintenance charges, and the necessary redemption of debenture stock has been effected. The directors have every confidence in the future, of the company's operations, and look for a return to normal financial prosperity when the war is over. Mr. William Graham has been appointed a director and chairman of the company in place of the late Mr. F. M. Bridgewater, and Mr. F. F. Bridgewater has been appointed managing director. To fill other vacancies on the board the directors have elected Mr. Thomas Willerson and Mr. H. A. Randall.

Eastern Bank.

The report of the directors states that the gross profits to December 31, including the balance brought forward, amount to £93,384 15s. 11d., and after deducting expenses of management, directors and auditors' fees, there remains a balance of £51,660 13s. 5d. available. Out of this sum the directors propose that £15,000 be set aside to meet any possible further depreciation of investments, or other contingencies, and now recommend the payment of a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, absorbing £30,000, carrying forward £6,660 13s. 5d. to the next account.

THE FIVE FEDDAN LAW.

The Ministry of Justice has drawn up a draft law modifying the Five Feddans law, and providing for the renewal of mortgage contracts that were drawn up before the promulgation of the Five Feddan law for another five years. This draft law has been submitted to the Mixed Court of Appeal, sitting as Legislative Assembly, by which it has been approved.

The Powers interested have three months to make any objections to the terms of the new law, if they so wish, so that it will not be laid before the Council of Ministers before that period has expired. Should no objection be made the law will apply to both natives and Europeans.

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GREEK EXTERNAL DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders have received information that the surplus of the revenues assigned to the service of the Greek Debt in respect of the year 1915 will permit of the increase of the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund in 1916 by the following percentages of the original interest:—

Loans of Group I.—Interest, 24 per cent.; Sinking Fund, 14 per cent.
Loans of Group II.—Interest, 22 per cent.; Sinking Fund, 16 per cent.
Loans of Group III.—Interest, 22 per cent.; Sinking Fund, 14 per cent.

With the addition of the above percentages the total interest payable in 1916 in respect of 1915 will be:—

2.68 per cent. on the Four per Cent. Monopoly Loan.
2.80 per cent. on the Five per Cent. Funding Loan.
2.70 per cent. on the Five per. Cent Loans of 1881, 1884, and 1890.
2.16 per cent. on the Four per Cent. Rentes.

The whole of this additional interest is payable on the first coupon falling due after the present date.

The following are the principal figures on which the above results are based:—

Receipts.	Drachmas
The gross receipts in 1916 from the assigned revenues from which the plus values are derived were	35,308,588
As compared with the gross receipts in 1914	36,193,454
Showing a decrease of	884,866

Plus Values.	Drachmas.
The receipts of the assigned revenues, after deduction of 18 per cent. of the plus values for expenses were	34,155,042
And the amount fixed by the law of control being	28,900,000
There was a plus value of	5,255,042
Of which the bondholders are entitled to 60 per cent., equal to	3,153,025

Benefit from Exchange.	
Net profit on exchange, equal to 6,039,630 drachmas, of which the bondholders are entitled to 60 per cent., equal to	3,623,778
Total plus values applicable to the service of the Debt	6,776,803

	Francs.
Of this amount there is available for interest the sum of 3,299,800 drachmas, equal to	3,557,520
Being half the above amount of 6,776,803 drachmas, less a net sum 88,601 drachmas, representing the deficiency, due to the fall in the rate of exchange, in the equivalent in drachmas of the amount assigned by the law of control for the expenses of the Commission, and for the sinking fund, the other half without deduction, viz., 3,388,401 drachmas, equal to	3,653,042
Adding to the above amounts balances brought forward from 1914, and, in the case of the former, interest saved on bonds amortised, the following result is shown for 1915:—	
Total amount available for increase of interest	4,850,362
Total amount available for increase of sinking fund	3,830,021
Carrying forward a balance of	212,402

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Bulgarian Minister of Commerce announces that the Government will neither recognise existing nor grant new mining licences in the newly acquired territories for the time being.

The Sultan of Egypt has decreed the Indian rupee to be legal tender in his domain at a fixed rate of 65 milliemes (1s. 4d.) a rupee as a consequence of the presence of Indian troops in that territory.

H.M. Minister at Bucharest telegraphs that the Roumanian moratorium in respect of debts due abroad has been further extended until April 23.

It is stated, says the *Egyptian Gazette* (February 21), that the stock of petrol at Alexandria consists of 4,500 tons, while there are another 2,500 tons at Port Said. In addition to this stock, 9,000 tons are expected to arrive from America at any moment.

Sir John Wolfe Barry, past president, has been elected an hon. member of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah: Week, 1,106 tons (last week, 321 tons). Hurgada: Week, 625 tons (last week, 600 tons).

British Manufacturers' Association, 1915.—The meeting will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, on April 5, at 2.30 p.m.

Eastern Bank.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held on March 30, at 12.30 p.m. at the offices of the bank.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Receipts for the ten days ended February 20 amounted to £E6,090, as against £E5,291 for the corresponding period of last year.

Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company.—The annual meeting of the shareholders will be held in Cairo on the 31st inst.

Financial Times.—The annual meeting of shareholders will be held on the 22nd inst., at noon, 72, Coleman Street, E.C.

Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway.—Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons, Austin Friars House, announce the numbers of 4½ per cent. bonds drawn for repayment at par on the 15th prox.

Suez Canal.—Receipts of the Suez Canal for the 2nd and 3rd inst. amounted to 170,000 fr., as compared with 430,000 fr. for the corresponding days last year.

NOTABLE SHARE APPRECIATIONS.

Even in normal times the difficulty experienced by the average investor in anticipating the trend of the market will be readily appreciated. In these strenuous times it is a *sine qua non* that the public should be fortified with the best of inside knowledge. Formed about a year ago and established at 4, Broad Street Place, London, E.C., the London and Provincial Industrial Securities, Ltd., has filled a big void in this respect, and the Managing Director, Mr. R. A. Stewart Hollebone, may be justly complimented upon the success which has attended the undertaking. A large number of investors will have had good reason to be gratified by the consistent upward movement of Johore Rubber Lands and Straker-Squire motor shares, which Mr. Stewart Hollebone has successfully recommended to his numerous clientèle. His lengthy personal connection with Stock Exchange matters before the war peculiarly fits Mr. Hollebone for the rôle which he has taken up with such excellent results. He is now recommending the Way Halim Sumatra Rubber low price share. At the present price of 1s. 7d., they are expected to double in price.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

CAIRO EXCHANGE.

Côtes du 25 Février, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt	£	11 7/16	at	11½
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	91½	,,	93
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11	,,	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5	,,	5⅛
priv.	L.E.	3 1/16	,,	3⅛
oblig.	L.E.	—	,,	—
Lots Turcs, oblig	Frs.	125	,,	126
Bons de Panama	Frs.	96½	,,	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs.	45½	,,	46
Privilégiée	Frs.	92	,,	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	71	,,	72
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2⅛	,,	—
Comptoir Financier and Commercial d'Egypte	£	3/32	,,	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	⅛	,,	3/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	7/16	,,	⅜
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	4	,,	—
Bonded Warehouse	L.E.	4⅜	,,	—
Unifiée	LE.	80⅜	,,	80½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4	,,	—
Fondateur	£	18	,,	—
Pressage et dépôts	£	27½	,,	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	2	,,	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	3/16	,,	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3 1/16	,,	—
Ord.	£	14/6	,,	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3⅛	,,	—
Egypt. Delta Light Railway	£	5	,,	5⅛
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£	108	,,	—
Jouissance	£	155	,,	—
Egyptian Markets		22/-	,,	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	155	,,	—
Div.	Frs.	95	,,	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	65	,,	70
Egyptian Salt and Soda		15/-	,,	15/1½
Crédit Foncier Egypt	Frs.	585	,,	—
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	308	,,	309
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	248	,,	—
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	245	,,	245½
Delta Land	£	3/32	,,	—
Port Said Salt		28/9	,,	29
Cotton Ginners	£	1/32	,,	—
New Egyptian	£	7	,,	7/3
United Land	P.T.	5	,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.		24/-	,,	—
Fondateur		95/-	,,	—

Marché nul, très peu d'opérations.

LONDON EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt, Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	77½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	65
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	66
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80¼	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	53	55
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	—
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	46
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	44½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	52
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	60
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £50p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94⅛	—	78
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	69
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47 1/16
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	4 1/16
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	—	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10⅛
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅛	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	11½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅛
Do, do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	—	⅜
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	96
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	⅜	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2⅛
Do. Do. Def.	⅜	—	—
Béhéra Co.	⅜	—	5⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅛	—	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/-
Do. Def.	⅜	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	8/9
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	88	—	84½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	3/16
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅜
,, ,, Founders	⅜	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5 % Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	70
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	6/6
Sidi Salem Co.	1/16	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1⅛	—	⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	—	23/-
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	—	16/-
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	17/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3 1/16
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (£r.500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2⅛	—	—

Oil.	Price on Mar. 8.	Mar. 15.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/-	8/3
Anglo-Persian	19/3	19/3
European Oilfields	2/6	3/3
Roumanian	11/10½	12/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Mar. 8.	Mar. 15.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	—	432
Canal de Suez	3800	3940
Credit Foncier Egyptien	596	605
Turkish Unified 4%	—	57
Egyptian Unified 4%	—	86.55
Serbian, 1895	—	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 255.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The present lull in the Near East betokens, it is to be hoped, the coming storm, in the form of a general advance on the part of the Allies. In the meantime we have the satisfaction of knowing that the period of enforced inaction is proving to our enemies only less embarrassing than a series of military reverses. The constant changes among the German and Bulgarian troops on the Greek frontier, and the desertions from the latter, emphasise the well-known fact that the Bulgarians have no liking for a protracted war. Reports of mutinies in the army are probably exaggerated; but they confirm the evidence of the Bulgarians who escape to the Anglo-French lines that the task of rationing the troops is taxing the resources of the Government to the utmost. Even the Germans who have replaced Bulgarian regiments on the frontier have been compelled to raid the neutral zone in a search for fuel and provisions. Some skirmishes have resulted, but the immediate retreat of the enemy before the French indicated that the incursion was not part of any formal military operations.

Recent reports of the Russian advance in Armenia have dealt mainly with the captures of prisoners. Progress in the direction of Trebizond has necessarily been slow, as the configuration of the hilly country, which here runs north and south, is against the Russians. To the west of Erzeroum the country is more favourable, but the precipitate flight of the Turks, which followed the fall of the fortress, has been checked, and they are able to oppose some resistance to our Allies. The town of Mamakhatun, sixty miles from Erzeroum and between twenty and thirty miles to the south-west of Ashkala, was occupied after an engagement on March 16. This success brings the Grand Duke Nicholas's force halfway to Erzingan from Erzeroum. It is probable that the Turks attempted something more than a rearguard action at Mamakhatun, for their defeat has been followed by a more rapid advance on the part of the Russians. But as these approach Erzizngan they can hardly fail to come into touch with the first Turkish reinforcements, which have had two months within which to accomplish the journey from Constantinople, since the Russians crossed the frontier and threatened Erzeroum.

In Persia the Russian force that occupied Kum on December 21 has now reached Ispahan, which became the centre of Turco-German influence in Central Persia after the German Minister left Teheran. The Germans, however, had abandoned Ispahan several weeks ago, when they finally realised the hopelessness of their position in Persia. Their further capacity for mischief in the country may now be quite limited; but the work of the Russians will not be completed until the individual agents are captured or make good their escape into Turkey. Ispahan, or, rather, a line running through it to Yezd, represents the southern limit of the Russian sphere of influence, as defined in 1907. The Turco-German agitators may make their way to Shiraz in the hope of eluding the Russian troops. Here they would find the tribesmen hostile to the British, and so far enjoying complete immunity from British aggression. If they should make the attempt to try their fortunes anew here, it remains to be seen whether the Persians will lend themselves to the intrigues of people who are clearly discredited, and whether Great Britain would not be compelled to take steps to restore her prestige in this region.

The unsatisfactory state of affairs which has characterised the Mesopotamian operations since November continues. In the House of Commons Mr. Lloyd George, in reply to a question regarding the responsibility "for the failure to supply General Aylmer with sufficient troops for the relief of the British garrison" at Kut, stated that it was undesirable to say more at present than that there had been no failure to supply the relieving force with reinforcements. The fact remains, however, that General Aylmer is still 23 miles from Kut, where the garrison has entered upon the sixteenth week of its siege. Such "liveliness" as the relief expedition has been showing of late, though not productive of any concrete results, points to the gradual arrival of the reinforcements referred to in Mr. Lloyd George's statement. There may have been no failure to send reinforcements; the whole trouble lies in the failure to supply General Townshend with an adequate force for his advance on Baghdad, and again, in the failure to have General Aylmer's force properly equipped

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before it was dispatched. Reinforcements for a relieving column is a contradiction in terms implying grave mismanagement somewhere.

The operations in Mesopotamia were the subject of what must be regarded in the circumstances as a candid statement by Mr. Austen Chamberlain in the House of Commons on March 22. He admitted that there had been a lamentable breakdown of the hospital arrangements. An abundance of hospital supplies seemed to have been accumulated at Busreh, but there had been an inexcusable shortage above that town. The whole matter was now being investigated, and Mr. Chamberlain quoted a reassuring telegram from General Aylmer expressing extreme satisfaction with the arrangements now being made for the wounded in the field. In regard to the military aspect of the operations, the Secretary of State for India was naturally reticent. He repudiated, however, the suggestion that the advance on Baghdad was ordered in defiance of military opinion as to the sufficiency of the resources with which it was undertaken, and added:—"On the contrary, all the military authorities, the General Officer Commanding in Mesopotamia, the military authorities in India, and the military authorities at home, concurred in the orders for the advance towards Baghdad with the troops which were then at the disposal of the General Officer in command." This is, of course, a most lamentable admission of all-round ignorance, and we are still left wondering whether all these military authorities were in full possession of the facts known in regard to the strength of the Baghdad command in men and munitions.

A picturesque detail in the occupation of Sollum, in Western Egypt, is supplied in an account of the pursuit of the enemy by armoured motor-cars. Overtaking hundreds of the Bedouin fleeing westwards, the cars, under the Duke of Westminster, pressed on until the enemy's main camp was sighted, a mile south of the road. The cars turned and advanced in open line. As they approached, fire was opened upon them with one gun and two machine guns; but the gun teams were shot down while the cars were 400 yards away. The cars dashed into the camp and continued the pursuit of the enemy until there was a danger of the petrol supply failing. By far the most satisfactory feature of this raid is that it enabled our troops to rescue the 91 British prisoners, who formed part of shipwrecked crews landed on the Cyrenaica, who had been seized and detained by the Senussi since last November. The report that Nuri Bey, the brother of Enver Pasha, had been killed during the previous engagement between the tribesmen and General Peyton's force was proved to be untrue, as he was seen leaving the battlefield on March 14.

The presence of three German officers with a Turkish force which attacked a British outpost ten miles from Aden on March 16 indicates how completely the Germans have taken control of affairs in Turkey. It is the more satisfactory to learn that this particular force met with a severe repulse and was pursued for four miles. Seventeen of the enemy were found dead on the field the next day, while the British losses were one Indian soldier killed, one British officer and sixteen rank and file wounded. No doubt the recent activities of the Turks near Aden may be attributed to the stimulus supplied by the German officers. Germany, realizing the advantage to her of having as many British troops as possible kept occupied by the Turks, carries out her schemes so thoroughly that she even detaches officers for the purpose of administering pin-pricks to the Aden Protectorate.

Prince Alexander of Serbia, accompanied by the Serbian Prime Minister, M. Pashitch, has arrived in Paris, and will afterwards come to London. The French public has accorded the representatives of Serbia an enthusiastic welcome, which we have no doubt they will also receive in England. Serbia's fate has not made the same appeal to the British public as the misfortunes of Belgium, partly because the latter country is better known and partly owing to the fact that the common disaster experienced by the two States must fall more heavily on the one which had attained the higher stage of development. But a large number of Britons and Frenchmen have the uncomfortable feeling that, whereas nothing could have saved Belgium on the outbreak of war, something might well have been done fifteen months later to spare Serbia the horrors of the Austro-German invasion. Their desire to make up as far as possible for the Serbian tragedy is only enhanced by the entire absence of any complaining on the part of the Serbians. The Allies one and all recognise that in regard to this matter what is past is done with, and that what they have to do now is to concentrate their efforts on restoring the Serbians to their own country.

The visit of the Crown Prince and the Serbian Prime Minister is believed to be not unconnected with the settlement after the war. As a result of negotiations in Italy it is hoped that some understanding has been reached regarding Italian claims to Dalmatia, which in the form in which they were originally advanced, and indeed admitted by the Powers of the Triple Entente, were most prejudicial to Serbian and Southern Slav interests. If the Serbian Government has any anxiety on the question of Serbia's southern or south-eastern frontier, it is to be hoped that advantage will be taken of the coming visit to settle the matter once and for all time. Neither our admiration for the Serbians nor possible contempt for the existing administration of any other Near Eastern State should cause us to shut our eyes to the supreme necessity of trying to arrive at a settlement of the Balkan question in the interests of the Peninsula as a whole. Much has been wiped off the slate by recent events; but the problem remains very much in its original form, and it is only to be solved by recognising the Near East as a geographical entity which must sooner or later learn to overcome the racial antipathies that bad government has fostered in the past.

Russia has once more struck one of her sledge-hammer blows on the Austrian front, and the particular portion where the blow fell has given way. The thrust across the Dniester at Uscieczka has caused the Austrians to fall back more than ten miles at one stroke, and promises to bring the struggle for the possession of the Bukovina again into prominence No success at any other point in the long Russian line could have so much significance at the present moment. Roumania's military preparations are being pushed on with increased vigour. A telegram from Bucharest announces that all those exempted in previous years from military service, as well as the Roumanian refugees from Transylvania, numbering several thousand, have been summoned to the colours. The lists of officers have been revised, and the War Office has requisitioned all available copper and linen, as the importation of these goods is impossible. Readers of these Notes have been prepared for Roumania's entry into the war as soon as the military situation on the Eastern front justified the action. So long as the Austro-German forces could hold the Russians in comparatively slight strength owing to the latter's shortage of munitions, Roumania single-handed could bring little assistance to the Allied cause; but directly Russia is in a position to advance, and there is no longer any fear of Germany and Austria co-operating to overwhelm Roumania left entirely to her own resources, the support of the Roumanian army becomes an important factor in the war. If Russia's progress in the Bukovina is maintained, the moment for Roumania to strike on her own behalf will have come.

General relief will be felt in this country over the news that Lady Paget and her medical mission have at last been allowed to leave Bulgaria, and are on their way home, through Roumania and Russia. Although not subjected to ill-treatment, the members of the mission were kept for some time under close surveillance, amid conditions that must have made them eager to get away.

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When finally they reached Sofia, a long delay followed, owing to the attempt made to secure them a passage through Austria. By the time the Austro-Hungarian Government had consented to give the whole mission a safe conduct, the frontier was closed. They are now returning by a longer route, but, judging by the hospitality shown to them in Roumania, a more congenial one.

The proclamation of Prince William of Wied as King of Albania at Durazzo, if it actually took place, belongs to the lighter side of the war. That, with his previous experience behind him, the ex-Mpret should once more return to the scene of his failure and solemnly be re-proclaimed ruler of a geographical expression which has no political existence, proves him to be of the stuff of which kings ought not to be made. The future of Albania may be obscure, but the one thing that may be regarded as tolerably certain is that a German princeling, who has already shown himself to be wholly unfitted for the post, will not be allowed to govern it. When Prince William was first installed as Mpret, certain financial arrangements were entered into, and possibly the Austro-Hungarian Government sees little chance of recovering its money unless its debtor remains in possession. That is an aspect of the question which is not likely to appeal to other Powers anxious to put an end to German influence in the Balkans.

The transfer to Rome of the question of Italy's attitude towards the Egyptian Mixed Courts has speedily led to a satisfactory settlement of the points at issue. According to Reuter's information, the British Government declared that it had always recognised the importance of Italian interests in Egypt, and formally accepted the principle that there should be complete equality in Egypt between the treatment of Italian subjects, colonials, and interests and that of the subjects, colonials, and interests of other Powers. The Italian Government thereupon consented to agree to the eventual abolition of the Capitulations and the transformation of the Mixed Tribunals, if the other Powers also consented. The latter proviso, we hope, is strictly limited in its application, as there can be no question of Great Britain asking for the approval of those who are her enemies in the present struggle, unless the point is made a stipulation in the terms of peace.

It is a matter for regret that the military authorities have not yet seen their way to modify the ill-considered veto imposed on the admission of all ladies into Egypt, unless they are in military service. There may well have been too many visitors to Egypt in the winter of 1914-15, and again in 1915; but the present prohibition affects the wives and daughters of civil servants and residents in the country in a way that can never have been intended. A number of residents are now forced to maintain two establishments, one in Egypt and one elsewhere, because their wives are not allowed to return to the country. Again, the people primarily affected are just those who came to the rescue of the military authorities, when their medical arrangements broke down, and by voluntary work kept hospitals going until there was time for effective organisation. A number of lady residents are being compelled to risk injury to their health by remaining, it may be, a second hot season in Egypt, because they will not face banishment from their husbands or families for the remainder of the war. It is to be hoped that unwillingness to admit that a mistake has been made will not be allowed to perpetuate a manifest injustice. There can be no difficulty in making exceptions to the rule in favour of bona-fide residents.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, March 8.

Bread Difficulties in Nicosia.

The supply of bread to the poorer classes has given much trouble. The Commissioner, Mr. C. S. Cade, has notified all bakers who obtain their wheat from the Government stores that they must conform strictly to regulations recently determined. These include limitation of price, the stamping of loaves with special marks, and inspection of the making and sale of bread by municipal and police agents. After meeting the needs of regular customers, of whom lists have been prepared, all the bread available for sale is collected at appointed places—police-stations—when it is disposed of to purchasers from 6 a.m. at the fixed price of 4d. per oke.

Increased Emigration of Cypriots.

Some hundreds of Greek natives, chiefly young men, have lately left the island, and there is still a noticeable increase in the number of emigrants to Egypt, America, and other parts. Some seventy left the Nicosia district by the last mail steamer for America, and about 200 more are about to follow their example. The local Press regrets this loss to the island community, attributing it to the prevailing depression. Some papers endeavour to throw the blame on the Government on account of "its callousness and neglect of agricultural and industrial development," which offers no openings for young men. The sparseness of population is one of the obstacles to progress in Cyprus, and no doubt it is the poverty of the island which causes such a steady outflow to richer countries, especially, as a rule, to Egypt.

The Court of Administration.

In each of the six districts there is a Court of Administration (*Mejlis Idaré*), which consists of the Commissioner, the Kadi, the Greek Bishop, the Treasury Clerk, and four elected members—two Moslem and two Greek—who sit for two years. The election is now approaching. The village communities choose representatives under the presidency of the mukhtars. These deputies then meet at the Commissioner's office and elect four nominees, of whom two are selected by the High Commissioner. The meeting at the Commissioner's office is fixed for April 13. The same course is pursued in the other districts. Besides these bodies there is a Central Mejlis, to which appeals can be made, both by the people and the Government. It consists of the High Commissioner, the Chief Kadi, the Archbishop, Chief Secretary, Receiver-General, the Controller of Evkaf, and two Moslem and two non-Moslem elected members. The functions of these councils have been largely diminished. Amongst their duties is that of issuing warrants for the compulsory collection of taxes against defaulters.

Collection of Taxes.

There has been a good deal of grumbling in connection with tax collection in many parts of the island. At Nicosia the Commissioner has found it necessary to publish notices reminding defaulters that imprisonment for debt does not operate as a discharge of the defaulter's liability to pay any sum or instalment in respect of which imprisonment was awarded.

The Sinking of the Evangelistria.

The four sailors of the sunken sailing vessel Evangelistria, mentioned in a recent note as landed at Papho, have been released, the owner having deposited a sum of money to cover the expenses of their journey to their homes. There is no official information regarding the circumstances which attended the sinking of the vessel.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 8.

The Western Frontier.

The death of Nuri Bey*, reported in the *communiqués*, and the capture of Gaafar Pasha and of several officers —amongst the latter a cousin of the Grand Sheikh of the Senussi, who was given a commission by the Turks during the Italian War—are bound to have a salutary effect on the future attitude of the Tripolitan and other Arabs who are opposing us on the Western frontier. Nuri Bey, who was the brother of Enver Pasha, and was sent by the latter to Tripoli to stir up the tribes against the Italians and ourselves, has, together with the other Turkish officers, been solely responsible for all the trouble we have had. Certainly if it had not been for their instigation and the supplies brought over by German submarines and other craft these tribes would never have been seduced from their allegiance to the Senussi. The loss of their most important leaders, coming on the top of the serious losses in men and material suffered by them recently, should tend to complete their discouragement and facilitate our task of clearing the enemy out of Egyptian territory and of keeping intact henceforward the Tripoli-Egypt frontier. Already we are in possession of Sidi Barrani, and we may expect at any moment to hear that the advance post at Sollum has been retaken. When this has been done, our frontier force will have crowned its success with a noteworthy achievement; for the retaking of Sollum will mean not only that we have re-established our authority in this region, but also that another German supply station has been closed, for it is undeniable that Sollum has been used by German submarines as a base from which to draw fuel supplies and through which to pass money, officers, and munitions to the Arabs.

The Legislative Assembly on the Canal.

This week the members of the Legislative Assembly accepted an invitation from the military authorities to visit the Suez Canal. The guests, who numbered seventy-seven, and included sixty-nine delegates, the Under-Secretary of State for the Interior, and the Secretary-General of the Legislative Assembly, proceeded by special train to Ismailia. On the way the train slowed down at one spot in order to allow the guests to see the great camp that has been installed there. This camp covers a large rectangle running west to east parallel to the railway line on a length of a little over three miles. At Ismailia the delegates were met by the Governor of the Canal, Heddaya Bey, a British officer specially deputed by Sir Archibald Murray, and several Staff officers. Luncheon was served at the Governorate. Afterwards the guests embarked on anti-submarine boats and proceeded, one-half to the south-east and the other to the east, to two cruisers, which they boarded and over which they were conducted by the officers. They were shown how the guns and turrets were manipulated, and appeared exceedingly interested in the manœuvres. From the warships they proceeded to the house of the G.O.C., where Sir Archibald Murray received them and entertained them at tea. Two incidents that seemed to impress them very much occurred during their visit to the G.O.C. One took place on landing, when two aeroplanes flew over them and dropped a message of welcome in Arabic wrapped in a red and yellow flag; the other was the passage through the Canal of the enormous Cunard liner ———, which presented a very fine sight as she steamed along. After tea the delegates were taken in military motor-cars to the station, and they returned to Cairo by special train. All the guests expressed themselves as greatly touched by the graceful compliment paid them by the invitation, and as delighted at what they had seen and at the manner in which they had been received and conducted over the Canal.

The Mixed Courts.

There is still no settlement of the question pending between the Egyptian and Italian Governments, but since last I wrote there has been a development which may impel the authorities in Rome to fall in with the propositions made by the Anglo-Egyptian Governments. The Procureur-General of the Mixed Court of Appeal has delivered his "conclusions" in the case of Ades *v.* Stagni, in which, as reported at the time, the question of the competence of the Mixed Courts in cases where Italians are one of the parties was raised. The Procureur-General gave it as his opinion that the Mixed Courts have now no jurisdiction over Italian subjects, whether they appear before them as plaintiffs or defendants, and also that the Italian judges have not any longer the right to sit in those Courts. He added that the Egyptian Government would take all the necessary steps to ensure that justice should be done to their subjects and those of other Powers in all cases where Italians are concerned, and that those steps would have been taken already if it had not been thought that the acceptance by Italy of the extension of the mandate of the Mixed Courts would be forthcoming at any moment. The position now is—that Italians cannot sue persons of other nationalities, since the foreign Consular Courts have no jurisdiction in civil and commercial matters, except where both parties are of the same nationality; while anyone can sue Italians before their Consular Courts, which have now been empowered from Rome to deal with all commercial and civil cases where Italians are the defendants. At first glance, it looks as if the Italians alone are being made to suffer; but, as a fact, even in commercial and civil cases against Italians the other communities will suffer as much, if not more; for, in addition to the inconvenience and hardship of having to go before an Italian Consular Court and have their disputes settled according to Italian law, of which they know nothing, they will be forced later on to go before the Ancona Courts, if they or the other party wish to appeal against the decision of the Consular Court in Egypt.

The Publication of Communiques.

The home papers of February 22 contain a *communiqué* from the War Office giving details of an air-raid made east of Suez, in the course of which the Turkish power station at El Hassana was destroyed. This is the first and only official intimation we have had out here of this exploit, and no little surprise has been expressed at this action on the part of the military authorities. Last year, when there was only the eastern frontier to be considered, all official announcements with regard to fighting in that region were made simultaneously in Cairo and London. To-day, when there is fighting on both fronts, we find that what takes place on the far distant western frontier is communicated to us with praiseworthy promptitude, whilst news of the progress of affairs on the eastern and nearer front is solely communicated to London, and we are left to await the arrival of the home papers to obtain our official information therein. We are quite aware—we have had many indications of this of late—that the command in Egypt has been split up, as far as the frontiers are concerned, into two distinct divisions, the western frontier and Egypt with headquarters in Cairo, and the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, which looks after the eastern frontier, with headquarters at Ismailia; but that is no excuse for this cavalier differentiation of treatment of the local public. The latter is as interested in the trend of events on the eastern as it is on the western frontier—probably more so. When the M.E.F. was engaged in a campaign outside Egypt it was no doubt fitting that its reports should first go home, and be communicated to this country through London. But now that a sequence of events has transformed it from an "expeditionary" into a "local" force a corresponding change in procedure imposes itself, and it is to be hoped that some means will be found whereby the M.E.F., without any loss of dignity, will be able to communicate to the population of Egypt an account of any of its doings that are worthy of record, in a similar way and as promptly as details of the fighting on the western frontier are made public in this country by the authorities responsible for the force engaged there.

* This report has now been contradicted.—[Ed.]

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SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, February 28.

Influenza Epidemic.

The weather has continued pleasantly cool for an unexpectedly long period, and it is more than six years since the inhabitants of Khartoum enjoyed so long a winter. The result, however, has been not altogether fortunate, owing to the appearance of a lowering form of influenza, which has had a series of victims, one of the first of whom was Colonel E. E. Bernard, C.M.G., the Financial Secretary. Several ladies have also caught the infection.

A few cases of meningitis are still reported from Omdurman.

Earthquake Shocks.

Slight shocks of earthquake are reported to have occurred in Mongalla Province in January; but there was nothing like the shocks of last year, and no damage was done.

Destructive Fire at Talodi.

Talodi, the headquarters of the Nuba Mountains Province, has been practically annihilated by fire. The whole village is built of dry millet straw or dry grass, and the accidental burning of one hut, fanned by the strong north wind, causes a conflagration too sudden and too fierce to be combated. Some loss was incurred by merchants whose stores of goods were destroyed, but no loss of life has been reported.

Cattle and Camel Trade.

The appearance of foot and mouth disease in a mild form in some of the animals in transit north for the Egyptian market, and in the quarantine camp, Khartoum North, caused a temporary setback to the cattle trade. Apart from the inconvenience to individual merchants, whose animals were inevitably delayed, this was not wholly disadvantageous, as the demand for camels in Egypt for Imperial purposes is insistent, and the whole of the rolling stock available could be applied to the transport of camels pending the abolition of disease in the cattle. The supply of camels continues to exceed the capacity for moving them north up to date.

ANIMAL WORSHIP IN ANCIENT EGYPT.

Speaking last Monday in the rooms of the Royal Society at Burlington House, Miss Emily Paterson said that in pre-dynastic times animals had no religious significance in Egypt; they were totems such as are found among primitive peoples at all times and in all parts of the world. Worship of animals did not exist until the gods took a human form—towards the end of the second dynasty. In spite of the human form, it remained an animal that was worshipped, but an animal that had become a god. The animal worship of the ancient Egyptians took two distinct forms; there was, first, the worship of individual animals; and second, the setting aside as sacred of certain species. In the first case, the sacred animal was distinguished from others of the same species by certain marks known to the priests. When found, it had to pass through a special training before being introduced into the temple. The death of the sacred animal did not involve the death of the god incarnate in it; he at once sought incarnation in another animal of the same species. Should a layman kill a sacred animal, even by accident, he was condemned to death. The respect in which whole species of animals were held in different nomes was quite another matter to this. Such animals were not honoured as gods themselves, but respected as being favoured by the gods. It was believed that a certain deity inhabited one animal of a particular species, and the whole species was respected for fear the one animal should meet with any injury.

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THE MILITARY GEOGRAPHY OF THE TROAD.

On Monday last Dr. Walter Leaf read an interesting paper before the Royal Geographical Society on the military geography of the Troad, the north-western bastion of Asia Minor. He said that this district possesses an importance out of all proportion to its area and wealth, and due solely to the command it holds over the Dardanelles; for which it forms a natural defence even more formidable than the peninsula of Gallipoli on the European side. It is a rhomboidal mass, in the main a replica on a very small scale of Asia Minor; the proportions being different but the relations of land and sea being similar. In both cases there is a straight southern coast, a somewhat shorter western one, a great outward curve on the north; and on the east the peninsula is joined to a much larger land mass by a wide neck. The mountain structure shows an analogy. As with Asia Minor, we see that the great mass of the interior was once a plateau, with a scarp near the shores on the west and north, and a system of inland drainage. In Asia Minor several large inland basins are still left. With the Troad no internal drainage now remains, but every main river passes in the middle or lower part of its course through a gorge showing where a torrent on the outer scarp has cut its way backwards through the hills and captured a drainage basin in the rear.

Dr. Leaf then went in great detail into the geographical features of the country, showing how they had affected the most famous campaign ever carried on there in historical times—that of Alexander against the Persians. He said that the insignificant little town of Zeleia, which the Persians chose for their headquarters, was exactly the right place for the defence of the one weak point in the natural frontier of the Troad, and, moreover, had the natural advantage of abundant supplies. It covered each of the two roads by which alone the army of Alexander could cross the hills lying between him and the plains of Asia Minor. They were right to await him there; their great mistake was that they never had any conception of the power which their fleet gave them. Memnon, the commander of the Greek mercenaries who formed the best part of their infantry, urged them to retire, luring Alexander on and clearing the country behind them of supplies, while at the same time making an attack by sea on Macedonia. That policy could hardly have failed to foil Alexander. But the Persians were not themselves sailors; they had to depend on their Phœnician subjects, whom they probably mistrusted, and Marathon and Salamis were not encouraging precedents.

In the course of the discussion which followed,

Lord Bryce said that the lecturer had explained the natural features of the Troad not only as related to Alexander more than twenty centuries ago, but also as related to the situation which confronted our own naval and military authorities when they planned an expedition to pass the Dardanelles and open a passage from the Ægean to the Black Sea. He (Lord Bryce) gathered that, great as were the difficulties that had confronted us in Gallipoli, they were not so great as would have been encountered on the other side.

The Chairman, Dr. Freshfield, said it was impossible to discuss the geographical features of any part of the shores of the Dardanelles without thinking of the tragedy of the past year. Two facts stood out clearly as the result of our experience: the first, that the problem of the Dardanelles was incapable of a naval solution; the second, that the peninsula of Gallipoli was a practically impregnable natural fortress. But it appeared to him, from the lecture and photographs, that the difficulties of an advance through the Troad would be much less than those the Russians had faced at Erzeroum. A landing might be made at the head of the Gulf of Adramyttium and a force marched round the coast to Lampsakos.

Dr. Leaf, replying to this point, said that the march would be about 115 miles long, exposed for the first seventy miles to a flank attack from the East, and afterwards to a flank attack from the Sea of Marmora. He did not think any general would take such a risk.

RED CRESCENT SOCIETY IN EGYPT.

The Egyptian *Journal Officiel* of March 6 publishes the following notice, dated March 2, and signed by the General Commanding the Forces in Egypt:—

"I, John Grenfell Maxwell, hereby give notice that, in exercise of the powers vested in me as General Officer Commanding the British Forces in Egypt, I have appointed, with his consent, H.H. Prince Ahmad Fouad, to act as sequestrator and administrator of the Red Crescent Society, with full power to apply the revenues of the said society to the upkeep and maintenance of the hospital for Turkish prisoners established by the society, and that I have further appointed H.H. Prince Youssef Kamal, H.E. Ismail Sidky Pasha, H.E. Mohammed Chafik Pasha, H.E. Ismaïl Hassanein Pasha, El Saïd Abd el Hamid el Bakry, H.E. Gallini Fahmi Pasha, Henri Naus Bey, Dr. Abbas Helmi Bey, Dr. Aly Ibrahim Bey, Dr. Soliman Azmi, to serve as an Advisory Committee for the purposes of the management of the said hospital."

A letter of the same date, addressed to Prince Fouad by General Sir J. G. Maxwell, and also published in the *Journal Officiel*, specifies the powers with which his Highness is invested. It also mentions that the request to act as sequestrator is addressed to H.H. "in view of the difficulties which have arisen in connection with the administration of the Red Crescent Society," with which, it adds, his Highness is acquainted.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Athens, March 12.

Looking towards Verdun.

The phases of the great struggle in France are followed with the most lively anxiety by the Greeks, who, in spite of the German propaganda and the errors committed by the Entente Powers, still retain their friendship for and their interest in their liberators and benefactors. These feelings, moreover, accord with the natural instinct of an intelligent people, who, notwithstanding all attempts to distort the truth, perceive quite clearly that the triumph of the German arms would mean the triumph of the traditional enemies of Greece—the Turks and the Bulgars. Germanophil circles and their Press organs exert themselves to magnify the smallest German success, and, representing the French resistance as worn out, counsel General Sarrail and his troops to hasten to the relief of Verdun.

The Financial Strain.

The enormous expenses caused by the mobilization have brought about a financial situation that amounts to a deadlock, from which there appears to be no way out. The Minister of Finance, M. Dragoumis, hopes, however, to be able to balance the Budget which he is going to present to the Chamber, and which shows a deficit of sixty-five millions, independent of the deficits of previous years, which amount to 200 or 300 millions. With this object M. Dragoumis is elaborating a series of taxes, described as provisional, and falling principally upon war profits, more particularly those of the shipping world, up to 20 or 30 per cent., with retrospective effect. These shipping profits for 1915 and 1916 being estimated at 520 million frs., M. Dragoumis hopes to obtain from this source and from other taxes which he is going to impose enough not only to meet the deficit of 1916, but also to provide sufficient revenue to secure a loan of about 500 millions required to make good the deficits mentioned and to provide for other requirements, military and otherwise. It remains to be seen whether such a loan can be launched, since the Entente Powers do not seem disposed to grant the present Government any loans in order to enable it to keep up a mobilization which serves only German policy. For the rest, these estimates are considered rather optimistic.

The Venizelist Press regrets the imposition of this taxation, and recalls the fact that M. Venizelos conducted two wars and filled the military depots without any fresh taxation.

The Mobilization and the State of the Army.

The *Patris* has published two articles which, being attributed to General Danglis, formerly Chief of Staff and Minister of War during the Balkan War, have made a deep impression. In these articles General Danglis strongly condemns the Government for the way in which the army has been mobilized for the past five months, which tends to exhaust it, to make it stale, and to demoralise it; and deplores the great expense in which it has involved, and continues to involve, the country. The army corps and the various divisions, he says, are scattered and far from one another, and the troops, badly housed and badly provided for, are left to stagnate, which leads them to believe that they will not be called upon to fight. Moreover, as they lack much in their equipment, they would not be in a position to take action should the need arise. If the present Government prolongs the mobilization in view of the chance of such action—action which the course of events in the Orient, the situation at Salonika, the progress of the Russians and the British in Asia Minor, and the attitude of Roumania will finally impose upon Greece, according to General Danglis—its first duty is to take energetic action by utilising, as Roumania has done, the short time remaining to fill up the gaps in the army, and, by keeping the troops in condition, enabling them to maintain their moral and inspiring them with the belief that they will shortly be called upon to act.

General Danglis concludes by advising the Government to call to the colours without any further delay the classes of 1915 and 1916, and to train them, which will add 60,000 men to the army. Without these measures he considers that it is useless to continue spending 30-40 millions a month on the mobilization, and that it would be far better to disband at least half the troops, so that with the money thus saved what the army lacks would be provided, and the classes referred to above could be trained. Thus the military cooperation of Greece would be more useful to the Entente Powers at the right moment, and therefore more highly rewarded.

In response to these suggestions the *Neon Asty* issues a kind of official *communiqué*, stating that there are reasons, which the Government cannot divulge, that compel it to keep all the troops with the colours; and declares that "if the Liberal Government mobilized the army to make war, the present Government keeps it mobilized in order to avoid war."

Internal Policy.

The internal policy of the Government is hardly any better than its foreign and military policy. Everything is out of gear in the governmental machine; everything is going wrong; and there seems to be a return to the worst state of the days of old party government run mad. The *Hestia* draws a sorry picture of the state of affairs, which it describes as anarchical. "Every branch of the administration," it says, "is paralysed, laws are twisted under the auspices of the Government, and the different authorities indulge in all kinds of abuses. The simoom of corruption rages over the land and desolates it."

The Carnival.

In spite of the circumstances amidst which we are living, the Carnival at Athens this year was extraordinarily lively, owing largely to the presence of many Greeks from Smyrna, Constantinople, and elsewhere who have been residing here since the beginning of the war. The spring weather that we have enjoyed for the past month also contributed to the enjoyment. Athens has never before seen so many *masqués*. They paraded the principal streets and made merry throughout the night. The last day the gaiety took on a character of general jollity, in which all classes joined. Athens, with its wonderful climate, certainly seems to be becoming the Nice of the Orient.

The papers narrate an amusing incident which occurred on the last day of the Carnival, and which shows the result of the German propaganda and of the money it has cost in Greece. The head of this propaganda, the notorious Baron Schenk, entered one of the principal restaurants of the city wearing a mask. But presently he was unwise enough to remove his covering, and then, being quickly recognised, he was greeted with a storm of hootings and hisses from all parts of the restaurant—which was filled by a fashionable crowd—and had to seek safety in flight.

FROM "MPRET" TO "KING."

The *Morning Post's* Rome correspondent reports, in a message dated March 19, that Prince William of Wied has been proclaimed King of Albania at Durazzo, in the presence of German and Austrian representatives. The correspondent adds:—"The Bulgarian Minister was conspicuously absent."

A new weekly journal, the *Kyrix* ("Herald") has been started in Athens. Its policy is Venezelist.

Two Italian corporals, who have escaped to Roumania from Serbia, declare that the Austrians in Serbia forced the prisoners of war to work at fortifications. In the district where they were confined 500 Italian prisoners were employed in the construction of trenches and railways.

M. Skouloudis, the Greek Premier, replying to a question put to him in the Greek Chamber as to the protection of civilians in the event of an attack on Salonika, said the Government could only urge the local authorities to warn the inhabitants to take such measures as they might consider effective for their protection. In the event of the evacuation of Salonika, however, all transport measures had been taken.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, February 26.

Improved Relations with Greece.

In my last letter I indicated that there were signs here of improved relations between the Allies and the Greek military and other authorities, and I am glad to record that my anticipations are now being realized. This sudden turn for the better occurred about the time of General Sarrail's visit to Athens, and all sorts of rumours have been circulated as to the real object of that visit. Everyone assumed that it meant more friendly relations with Greece. Indeed, on Monday last the whole town was in a state of great excitement, as it was persistently reported in many quarters that Greece had at last thrown in her lot with the Entente. One could not help remarking how joyfully this news was received by the people of Salonika. One of my own Greek friends suddenly rushed into my room in the late afternoon of that day, shook hands with me in a most hearty, even violent, manner, and shouted, "Good news for you and me; Greece is going to fight; everyone says so in the town." The rumour was, of course, not confirmed, but ever since that day I have observed a much stronger feeling of *camaraderie* between the Greek and Allied officers and men.

A fortnight ago I dined with a high Greek officer, who is acting as one of the intermediaries between the Greek and British Headquarters on account of his perfect knowledge of English, and it is worth while repeating what he told me. "You may rest assured," he said, "that Greece is coming in, and I expect it will be officially announced within a fortnight. Whatever may have been the feelings of the King and certain sections of his officers some months ago, I am in a position to know that the strength of the Allies at Salonika has now removed all fears as to harm from Germany or her allies. The King has been invited to come to Salonika to inspect the defences, and I am sure he will come. He is a good soldier, and as such he will, upon seeing the strength of these defences, at once announce the intention of Greece to join the Entente. Indeed, I believe he has already made up his mind, and that this formal visit is to be made merely in order to give this momentous decision all the more *éclat*."

Declaration of General Moschopoulos.

What I have stated above is further confirmed by the declarations which have just been made by General Moschopoulos, Commandant of the 3rd Greek Army Corps, now occupying the Salonika district, to a representative of the *Independant*, the leading French evening paper in Salonika. Hitherto the General has been most reticent and careful in giving expression to his own views, and this makes his statements all the more significant. It will be remembered that a short time ago he inspected the defences on the invitation of the Allied military authorities, and that at that time, while expressing admiration of the work done, he by no means thought the position impregnable. Much work has been done since then, and the Greek Commandant, having again visited the fortifications a few days ago, declares his last doubts removed. His words are well worth recording:—"The defence works executed by the Anglo-French are magnificent, surprising," he declares. "The Allied engineers have accomplished marvels, and the work carried out during the past three months around Salonika corresponds to the usual labour of a whole year." The following words are still more significant:—"In my capacity of General of the Greek Army I know the fortified regions well, and *I can now declare that Salonika is safe from all fear of invasion;* and if by any chance the Germano-Bulgarians should undertake an attack against the town they would be hurling themselves against a rampart of iron."

With regard to the relations between Greece and the Allies, the General added:—"I am extremely pleased to see that our relations with the Allies have become more cordial. . . . This recent *rapprochement* between the Powers of the Entente and Greece is a happy augury; it will definitely dissipate all misunderstandings and bind more firmly still the traditional bonds which unite us with the Allies." It is also significant that the General announced the receipt by him of telegraphic instructions from the King to afford the Allies every facility possible, and that he had communicated that telegram officially to the Allied military authorities.

It is well known here that General Moschopoulos is personally very friendly towards the Allies. It is said that for this very reason the Government at Athens, whose sympathies are, or perhaps I should say have been, with the Central Powers, have several times called upon the General to go elsewhere or even resign; but the General has calmly ignored these communications, and gone on with his good work here. He knew very well that his superiors would not insist upon his resignation, for fear of giving offence to the Allies; so he took no notice of the gentle hints conveyed to him, and now that the King himself has sent him the above-mentioned telegram, it may be taken that the General is more secure than ever in his position.

More Aerial Visitors.

Twice during the past week German aeroplanes have attempted to fly over Salonika, and either do damage to the munition stores of the Allies or strike terror into the civil population; but in both instances they were driven off without being able to drop any bombs in the town. The French aviators have now established such a thorough aerial defence that a hostile "Taube" has very little chance of closely approaching the town during the day time. At night, of course, the enemy is more likely to be able to steal through in the darkness—as he did on the occasion of the recent Zeppelin attack. During the past week the moon has assisted in guarding the town and disclosing the presence of any strange aerial visitor, and if any attack is contemplated it will probably occur during some moonless night.

Occasionally an Allied aeroplane may be seen flying at night with a bright light. If it were not for the rapid movement one might imagine it to be a new star. A few nights ago I saw a crowd gazing heavenward at a bright ruddy light not far from the moon. Of course, a "Taube" would have carried no light, so the spectators decided that it was a French aeroplane. It was neither. The object was the planet Mars, which at present shines very brightly out here, and whose ruddy colour was not unlike the usual aeroplane light.

In a place like Salonika, where an aerial bomb attack may take place unexpectedly at any time, the population are naturally alarmed at every explosion they hear. As I write these lines I hear loud and continuous reports like the firing of distant guns, and looking out into the street I see people hurrying into their houses. These reports are not caused by guns of any kind, but by blasting operations outside the town, where the French are busy making new roads. The charges are all fired about the same time, at the end of each day's work.

Musical Talent Among the Tommies.

In a previous letter I referred to the cheerfulness of our Tommies under all circumstances, and their readiness of an evening to give expression to it in song. Sometimes it happens that one of their number has been a professional entertainer, and in that case they take the utmost care of their prize. The best of everything is at his disposal, and during an evening in camp or at a café his comrades group round him in admiration.

The French soldiers also have many talented men among them. On passing some popular café I have more than once seen quite a little crowd outside the door listening to a French singer who was rendering some popular French or Italian air with splendid effect.

But, of course, the talent is not confined to the rank and file. Two nights ago I dined in the large dining saloon of the Roma Hotel, in the Place de la Liberté—a place much frequented by British officers. In an adjoining room was a piano, on which someone occasionally played a few bars. In one corner of the saloon was a group of British officers dining together, one of whom proved to be a musical genius. On finishing their dinner they marched on that piano in a solid body, wheeled it into the saloon, and deposited their musician in front of it. I don't know his name, or I would immortalize it in these pages—they all affectionately called him "Jack"—but I can testify that he was a

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marvel. The room was crowded with British, French, Greeks, and—perhaps—Germans, and "Jack" entranced them all. They forgot to finish their dessert; they forgot to go home; they forgot everything in listening to the artist's delightful music, both vocal and instrumental. He gave us English, Scotch, and Irish, as well as French and Italian, airs. Some of his brother officers also contributed a few songs, and it was only at an advanced hour that we had the "Marseillaise" and "God Save the King," with "Auld Lang Syne" to wind up the programme. You will thus see that Salonika is not so very dull after all, so long as you come across people like "Jack" to cheer you up.

ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, February 29.

The Army.

Many senior officers of the Roumanian Army will be pensioned on April 1. They include eight general officers, not less than five of these being generals of division. Among the names mentioned are those of Generals Culcer, Yarca, Boteanu, Nasturel, and Zottu, Chief of the General Staff.

Forty new regiments of infantry are reported to be in process of organisation, and will soon be completed. This will raise the number of infantry regiments from 80 to 120.

Roumanian Orphanage at Sibiu.

It has been decided to raise funds by public subscription for the purpose of founding a Roumanian Orphanage at Sibiu, in Transylvania. The national importance of this step has been quickly grasped, so that the public is responding generously to the appeal. In the course of a few days 30,000 frs. were contributed, the National Bank alone subscribing 20,000 frs. For the last day or two Transylvanian ladies have been selling medals bearing the effigy of Michel the Brave in the streets and public places of Bucharest for the benefit of the orphanage, and they have met with few refusals, even among the poorer classes of the population, such as hospital patients.

Snowfalls in Moldavia.

Heavy snowfalls are announced in the north of Moldavia, where some of the train services have been interrupted in consequence. Several houses have been demolished by the weight of the snow in the district of Botoshani, and a soldier has succumbed to the frost.

A Canine Spy.

For some time the Roumanian frontier guards had observed that a dog, a handsome animal, wearing a jacket, had frequently crossed the frontier at a particular point, invariably returning the same way later on in the day. His suspicions aroused, a soldier placed himself near the point at which the dog habitually crossed the frontier, and at the first opportunity bowled him over with a bullet. A German guard, who had observed the incident, rushed towards the dog, with the object, presumably, of appropriating the correspondence of which he was the bearer. Ignoring a warning to desist, the German likewise received a bullet, which stretched him dead beside the body of the dog.

Propaganda in the New Dobruja.

The Bulgarian population of the Dobrujan territory annexed by Roumania in 1913 continue to display much activity in a certain direction which may ultimately prove a source of danger to Roumania. The society which bears the name of "Dobrogea," and has its headquarters at Sofia, is said to be in lively communication with the Bulgarian inhabitants of the New Dobruja through the medium of the Bulgarian Legation in Bucharest. Manifestoes are distributed which report the Bulgarian "victories" in glowing terms, and refer to the approaching realisation of the idea of a Greater Bulgaria, into which the Dobruja will be incorporated. Many of the Bulgarian officials have not been replaced by Roumanians. These, by their ill-will, not only hamper the work of the Roumanian military by delaying or impeding the transport of materials, and so on, but keep the Bulgarian authorities informed of all that comes to their notice.

Bulgarian Doubts.

Before the Bulgarians had, under the pretext of safeguarding their national interests, committed the act of felony which has drawn on them the wrath of their former benefactors, the Roumanian public had felt some anxiety as to the course which its treacherous neighbour would adopt. This uncertainty on the part of the general public was comprehensible; though, as some responsible people in London and Paris know, the Roumanian Government, like the Serbian, had not the remotest doubts on the subject. The parts are now reversed. The burning question now discussed in the Bulgarian papers is the attitude which Roumania will adopt.

But what events have occurred which lend such importance to the matter at the present juncture? The answer is obscure. Roumania has not changed her official attitude since the beginning of the war. She is, it is true, displaying intense activity in the matter of military preparations; but this activity is not a fresh development either. Her national claims and ambitions have suffered no alteration in the last months—or years, for the matter of that—and they crystallized during the first weeks of the European conflagration into a form which has since undergone no appreciable modification. She is still intensely conscious that, between the victorious Magyars, on the one hand, stamping out the last flicker of life in the Roumanians of Transylvania, "the cradle of the Roumanian nation," and, on the other hand, a Bulgarian Empire, with access to three seas and complete predominance in the Balkan Peninsula, her sovereignty as a free nation would become a thing of the past, and her hopes of territorial and racial unity be reduced to the status of a mediæval myth.

We can only explain the pretended doubts of the Bulgarian Press by assuming that they are intended to hoodwink the public into believing that Roumania's attitude is still in the balance, and therefore not necessarily hostile. But the device is too transparent. The reluctance to commence the attack on Salonika might be explained by uncertainty on the score of Roumania's attitude. The accumulation of German and Bulgarian troops on the Dobrujan frontier, however, proves that our southern neighbours are not overwhelmed with doubts.

VICTIMS OF THE WAR.

(From a Correspondent.)

How moving is the story told by a Russian officer from Bessarabia (and set down in the *Journal des Balkans*) of the events which preceded a hand-to-hand struggle last Christmas between Roumanians, some fighting as Russian soldiers, the others as Austro-Hungarian!

They are facing one another in the newly-dug trenches, when to the ears of the Bessarabian soldiers of the Tsar are borne from the enemy trenches the sweet sounds of an old Roumanian melody. In spite of the imposed order of silence, a plaintive voice is raised in reply, and, others joining in, song answers song throughout that Christmas night across the icy space that separates the trenches. The Russian commanders are perplexed, anticipating but a lukewarm attack under such circumstances, but the Roumanian officers reassure them with a bitter smile, for they know their men. And in the morning, when the order for the attack is given, the Bessarabians charge the enemy trenches with an *élan* that only those of their own blood know how to resist. In a short while the Austrian trenches are taken, but there are few who can call themselves victors. The ground is littered with Austrian and Russian uniforms, which cover the mangled remains of those who, from their childhood, have thought the same thoughts, spoken the same tongue, and gazed with the same wistful look towards their Carpathian mountains, the one from the east, the others from the west.

All war, of course, is fratricidal, but it becomes doubly tragic when kith and kin go forth to slay each other, with nought but brotherly love in their hearts. Italians have done it, Slavs have done it, but none to the same degree as the Roumanians. Over a million of these have been fighting against each other for causes which are not their own, and with a bravery which, in the Habsburg Monarchy at least, has not been equalled.

Six hundred thousand Roumanians from Transylvania have fought alongside their bitterest enemies and implacable persecutors, the Hungarians, against their dearest foes; 300,000 Bessarabians have faced them. Many thousands of Roumanians have been enrolled in Bukovina, Bulgaria, and Turkey to fight for a victory which would spell their national ruin.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, March 12.

Depression in the Capital.

The news from Constantinople is very meagre, and up to the present there is no absolute confirmation of the report of the death of Enver. Nor is it possible to say to what extent the daily rumours of unrest and demonstrations in Constantinople are correct. It is quite conceivable that the advance of the Russians in Asia Minor is having a very disquieting effect, though no mention of the fall of Erzeroum is made in the papers; but what appears to be distressing the people most just now is the prospect of starvation.

The price of everything continues to increase, and there are indications that Turkey's wheat supplies are coming to an end. The authorities have lately requisitioned even canary seed, and the experiment has been tried of grinding this seed into flour for mixture with wheat. In fact, all cereals are being utilized for this purpose, dried beans and even linseed being used for making bread. In many places this diet has produced much sickness, and cases of dysentery and typhus are reported to be numerous in Constantinople.

Turkey is clearly drawing to an end of her available resources. Coal is evidently becoming scarce, as the Electric Company has been obliged to abandon the tramway service between Galata and Pera.

The New Paper Issue.

On February 14 the Senate passed the Bill for a further issue of paper money to the extent of 1,240,000 liras, but, as anticipated, the public are avoiding this paper currency, and according to latest information it had depreciated to the extent of 18 per cent. compared with the gold lira. Landed property, it is said, is going up in price, owing evidently to holders of these "scraps of paper" wishing to invest their holdings in something more secure.

The Situation at Smyrna.

The situation in Smyrna is even more desperate than in the capital, and the whole of the people, Turks and Christians alike, are longing for relief. The Europeans continue to be well treated, but all departures from Vourla are now prohibited.

Considerable damage, it is said, has been done to the forts in the Gulf by the recent bombardments by the Allies, and the general opinion there is that there would be no real resistance if an attempt were made by the Allies to occupy Smyrna.

(From a Correspondent.)

News of British Residents.

Late word from Constantinople says that the city is outwardly quiet, but very discontented underneath. For the present the Germans are in the ascendant, but friction is great. Many English people remain in Constantinople unmolested, though they have had their anxieties. Lady Pears and Miss Pears are well, as are also the Gatheral family, Mr. Frew, Dr. Wigram, of the Memorial Church; Miss Sarell, Mrs. Harry Baker and her mother, Mr. and Mrs. George Baker and their children, and the other remaining members of the English colony.

THE GERMANS IN BULGARIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, February 29.

A Bulgarian student recently in Roumania related some interesting incidents illustrating the relations between Germans and the native population. The Germans are absolute masters. They enter uninvited into private houses, ask for what they want, and are given it without remonstrance by the inhabitants, who have received the order to submit to everything, "for all will be well in the end."

A group of German officers entered a Sofia restaurant and, wishing to have it to themselves, ordered the Bulgarian guests to withdraw. Those who protested were unceremoniously bundled out.

The post and telegraph offices are run by German functionaries. If a telegram is handed in in Bulgarian, the official refuses it on the ground that he understands no Bulgarian. "Nur Deutsch, nur Deutsche," is all the explanation the native gets.

BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, March 2.

Kingly Precautions.

It is known that every preparation has been made at the Royal palace at Sofia for instant departure should the turn of events lead to a rising against the overbearing Germans, and consequently against the dynasty. Moreover, a suite of rooms in one of the leading hotels in Vienna has been reserved for some weeks now "for a high personage," and at Coburg there have been the preparations that are usual when "Tsar" Ferdinand is expected on a long visit. In short, there can be little doubt that Royalty at Sofia is uneasy, and has taken precautions in case of a hasty flitting becoming advisable.

"Brothers in Arms."

The dissensions between Bulgarian and German officers and between members of the two armies generally are increasing daily. Fearing a plot in the army, the Bulgarian Government has dismissed the Macedonian volunteers, who are accused of sowing the seeds of discord between the soldiers of the two countries. More than 2,000 Macedonian volunteers, who were in garrison at Veles, have been turned out of the army on the pretext that there is not sufficient barrack accommodation for them.

From another source worthy of credence comes news that Bulgarian soldiers fired on the Balkan Express, in which some German officers were travelling, and that some of the officers were shot. It was impossible to hush up this incident, so, knowing what a disastrous effect on the country would be produced by the publication of the truth, the Bulgarian authorities have attributed the attempt to Serbians. Hatred of the Germans has spread right and left, and the high-handed conduct of the Huns does nothing to lessen the feeling they have inspired so quickly in their "allies."

The steady increase of desertion from the Bulgarian army has so perturbed the military authorities that the subject has been discussed at a Council of Ministers in Sofia. It was decided to publish an order of the day warning the troops that any soldier deserting may be the cause of his family's arrest.

The Bulgars at Monastir.

According to news received from Monastir, the Bulgarians continue, with a cruelty which nothing can explain, to persecute the Greek element and even the Roumanian element, not only in the town itself, but in the villages also. A few days ago the Bulgarian authorities arrested the Greek notable Anastasis G. Zalles, librarian and former interpreter to the Russian Consulate, as well as several of his compatriots, who, when the news was forwarded, were still in prison. M. Pinneteu, a Roumanian, and former interpreter to the Italian Consulate, was also arrested and imprisoned on a most trumpery charge.

The *Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula reports, under date of March 18:—The murder of Naum Tufenkchieff, the prominent Macedonian revolutionary, which took place in the open street on the 10th inst., has caused a great sensation in Sofia. Tufenkchieff and his family were among the bitterest opponents of Stamboloff, and were known to have been concerned in the murder of that statesman. After the crime Naum took refuge in Russia, and then proceeded to Macedonia, where he organized revolutionary movements. After the proclamation of the Constitution he associated himself with the Young Turk leaders and became an intimate friend of Enver and Talaat. Last year he played an active part in bringing about the Turco-Bulgarian *rapprochement*. At the same time he made a large fortune by supplying the Turkish Government with bombs like those used by the Macedonian bands.

WILLIAM BERRY, Ld., 6 GOLD MEDALS AWARDED.

Works: Diamond Boot Polish Works, HOMERTON,

And Manchester. **LONDON, N.**

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I am indebted to a correspondent in Salonika for another copy of the *Lloyd Ottoman*, accompanied by a newspaper wrapper which fills me with pure delight. For the address printed on it would, I think, be hard to beat. It is:—

Mrs. Saltiel Frères,
SALONIQUE,
Bulgarie.

This is, indeed, a case of counting your chickens before they are hatched. Or is it merely an example of thrift? Perhaps the Turco-Germs had the wrappers ready for the Great Event and now think it is a pity to waste them. But I wonder what the Greek authorities at Salonika think about it. Possibly, viewing the Allied troops who are making themselves so comfortable in the place, they feel that they can afford to smile.

***

The *Lloyd Ottoman* referred to continues to run *Punch* very hard. Under the heading "La question des vivres," it reprints from the *Tanin* a truly delightful article, recommending the citizens of Constantinople to utilize the gardens attached to the kiosks in the suburbs for the purpose of growing the satisfying potato, the feeding haricot, and the succulent onion. Carried away by enthusiasm at the picture thus conjured up, the scribe proceeds to show how the Government and the schoolchildren between them may help the good work, the former supplying the necessary instructions and seeds, the latter providing the labour. But it will not be only the little scholars who will convert these useless gardens into useful onion beds and potato plots: "Alors dans peu de temps, l'on verra des groupes de cultivateurs citadins, sortant de la ville, a l'aube, en chantant, et nous sommes surs que, parmi ces cultivateurs, seront les gens les plus haut placées de la ville." How truly rural! I would gladly contribute my mite to a fund for purchasing the seeds, if only I might have the privilege of seeing "les gens les plus haut placées de la ville . . . sortant . . . a l'aube, en chantant." The sight of Enver and Talaat striding forth at dawn, hand in hand with H.E. the German Ambassador—who, of course, would be an ardent supporter of so excellent a scheme—singing ("Die Wacht am Rhein"), and followed by a long string of wheezy pashas, each accompanied by his own little schoolboy friend, would, indeed, be worth many packets of radish seed.

***

But it is not only the *Tanin's* scribe's effort that I admire. The *Lloyd Ottoman* itself provides a feast of good things. Its news service is unique—and its cheek is positively phenomenal. In its News of the City it announces, without a flicker of the eyelid, so to say, that the Marquis Pallavicini, Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in Constantinople, "a été chargé d'exprimer au gouvernement ottoman les *condoléances les plus chaleureuses* du gouvernement austro-hongrois . . . à l'occasion du décès du prince-héritier Youssouf Izeddine." The italics are my own. Poor Turkey!

***

I see that the rupee has been proclaimed currency in Egypt until further notice. This innovation may be popular enough in the towns, where unfortunately money has got to be spent, but in the rural districts I can imagine the fellaheen regarding the alien coin with much disgust. It is silver certainly, but that is the best which may be said about it. There is absolutely no fun in burying coins for the benefit of your heirs if a further proclamation may rob them of their face value in a day. And in matters of finance the fellah looks with distrust upon all new-fangled methods of banking, and sticks to the sinking fund of his fathers. If he cannot bury his wealth, however, he has it melted down and converted into bracelets and anklets for his wives. It gratifies the women, and, as the weight of the silver is safe, it pleases all parties—except the banks.

***

An Englishman lately returned from Lyons, whither he went on business connected with the Exhibition, tells of an incident that he witnessed there which reminds me of a passage in Sir Mark Sykes's "Dar-ul-Islam." To the Lyons Exhibition there came, by invitation of the French Government, a Moroccan potentate of truly Oriental magnificence and of a portliness beyond question. Accompanied by his suite and a few select French officials, this distinguished visitor made a round of the exhibition and showed a lively interest in all he saw. The furniture especially interested him; and presently, observing a very fine revolving chair, he walked over to it and sat down upon it. At once there was a crash; the pillar on which the seat revolved snapped off, and the Kaid rolled in the dust. His suite and the officials were horrified, never doubting that the great man was the victim of some fell Anarchist or Hunnish plot. Before they could recover their wits he was on his feet again, shaken and rather startled, but unharmed. But, alas for his dignity! So firmly had his ample form become wedged into the chair that the upper portion still clung to him, reminding the spectators of a snail and its shell. The picture was too much for his usually respectful suite, and even the polite Frenchmen found it necessary to turn away momentarily to hide a smile. For a moment the Kaid looked black. Then he saved the situation, and his own reputation, in the only possible way—by joining in the laugh. But he did not buy the chair.

***

Week by week when I read my copy of THE NEAR EAST I observe correspondents in all parts bewailing the rise in the cost of living. In Constantinople the unlucky citizens have long been in sore straits, and in Salonika, Athens, and other places prices seem to be getting well on to the "famine" mark. I am sorry for all the people who can't get enough sugar, tea, etc., etc. But I am afraid my sympathy, which is genuine and keen, is due in part, at least, to the existence of a more or less similar state of affairs in this country. At any rate, the various correspondents who bewail the present high prices need not think that it is only they who are "doing their bit." We are doing ours, too, and we have the satisfaction of knowing that the enemy is doing *his* also—and doing it with a very ill grace indeed! There may be shortage of supplies at Salonika, and appetites abnormal in Athens, but they are not to be compared with the hunger of the hyena-like Huns or the vast vacuums in Vienna. So we can afford to grin and bear it—and, we hope, the others can't.

***

If I am told that Salonika and Athens, being "neutral," are not interested in the defeat of the Kaiserlichs—well, frankly, I decline to believe it. The Greeks, for reasons of their own, may not be willing to risk a fight against the Central Powers, but they are a long-headed people, and I am perfectly sure that the majority of them are fervently hoping that the German peril that has threatened the peace of Europe so long is going to be crushed utterly once and for all now. So are all the other neutrals. And the Huns are beginning to realise it at last. Hence their fury.

***

There is, I believe, an arrangement in Egypt whereby men called upon to serve in the Army may purchase exemption for the sum of £E20. This sum, or part of it, is devoted to a fund out of which men who have served the period required by the Government receive a bonus when they leave the Army. In this manner the shirkers are forced to assist the workers, and the soldier who is too keen or too poor to claim exemption has the satisfaction of knowing that the eligible slacker is not allowed to escape scot free. Such a scheme was at least contemplated some years ago, and to the best of my belief it was put into effect. It seems to me that it would be an excellent thing to legislate to a similar end in England now. As was to be expected, the Compulsory Service Bill has shown some queer and peculiar wrigglers in its net as it was drawn in. Personally, I quite fail to see what claim some of these people have upon the protection of our civil laws. They are British only in name, and if circumstances compel us to extend our hospitality to them until after the war, let them be made to pay, and pay heavily, for the honour.

***

The Albanians are a brave people, and doubtless possess many admirable qualities, but their sense of proportion hardly appears to be well developed. A few days ago I was shown a letter written by one of them quite recently, in which he suggested that the European Powers should sink their differences and devote their energies to reconstituting an autonomous Albania again. He also hoped that the Allies would do their best to restore the "rightful" ruler, the good Mpret Wilhelm of Wied—who, by the way, has recently been "proclaimed King at Durazzo, in the presence of the German and Austrian representatives." Now, I observe, an Albanian Bey has put forward in Budapest a proposal for terminating the annoying British blockade. This bright idea is thus reported by the Budapest correspondent of the *Morning Post*:—

> The Central Empires should present a note to the Entente Powers declaring that on such and such a date they would cease to supply the population of the occupied territories with foodstuffs unless the blockade were discontinued as far as foodstuffs were concerned, and that they would carry out the threat with all the inhumanity which characterises the blockade itself. He suggests that this would involve the total starvation of at least ten million people in Belgium and in the Balkans, and as many in Russia and Poland, but he is absolutely certain that the note would have the desired effect, and that no world horrors would ensue. "If the British," he said, "are ready to starve a hundred million civilians, the Central Empires can also afford to do the same to twenty millions."

Evidently the worthy man is a thorough-going believer in the Doctrine of Frightfulness. The *Post's* correspondent adds that "the noble Bey is still at large, and even receives certain attention on the part of statesmen of high standing."

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE SOUTHERN SLAVS.*

We have before us four useful pamphlets, well printed and very cheap, which are published on behalf of the Southern Slav Committee. The members of this committee, the foremost representatives of the Southern Slav people, are now in London, and are furnishing the British public with information regarding their nation and its aspirations.

They are well advised in doing so. Many prominent Englishmen have already written on Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia, Dalmatia, Croatia and other Southern Slav countries; among them great statesmen, as Gladstone; philologists, as W. R. Morfill and Nevill Forbes; historians, as E. A. Freeman, G. M. Trevelyan, W. Miller, F. S. Stevenson; poets, as Sir John Bowring and Owen Meredith; archæologists, as Sir Arthur Evans and Sir Thomas Jackson; geographers and travellers, as A. A. Paton and Miss A. P. Irby; and political writers and students of diplomatic history, as R. W. Seton-Watson, Prof. R. M. Burrows, A. H. E. Taylor, H. W. Steed and A. Stead. Their work is by no means insignificant, and it provides very useful material for the English reader. We wish, however, to see the Southern Slavs writing on their own country, to hear their own voice, to know their own opinions, to be acquainted with their aspirations. What are their views and aims, especially in connection with the War? What do they expect from this greatest crisis of the world?

They expect only one thing, viz., to quote their words, "the union of all the branches and all the territory of Southern Slav race into one independent State." Among Southern Slav countries, only Serbia and Montenegro are independent States. The others—Bosnia, Dalmatia, Croatia, Istria, parts of Southern Hungary, Carniola, Carinthia and Styria—are still under the rule of Austria-Hungary. In these countries are living the same people as the Serbians and Montenegrins; and this people, whom the committee really represent, wish to be free from the Austrian yoke and united to their brothers of Serbia and Montenegro in one single State. "Serbia and Montenegro," says the committee, "are the champions of liberation for all Southern Slavs alike, and our helpers in the common task of establishing our national existence in our own united country." With this object in view, the committee will inform the British public opinion "of the actual condition of affairs" in their countries. The four pamphlets are intended to supply such information.

The first pamphlet, "The Southern Slav Programme," contains, as its title denotes, the programme of the Southern Slav people. The first part of the pamphlet explains the aspirations of this people for their unity, the connection between such aspirations and the interests of the Allies, the reason why Austria-Hungary and German Imperialism are opposed to this unity, the geographical and economical interdependence of these countries, which cannot be reasonably separated but are predestined to be united and mutually completed. The second part deals with Italy's intervention, and defends the national rights of the Southern Slavs on the eastern coast of the Adriatic.

The second pamphlet, "The Southern Slavs: Land and People," gives a description of the Southern Slav countries, their geography, population, administration, public instruction, religion, commerce, industry, navigation, etc. The description is accurate, and provided with statistical data. It seems that every country is described by its respective countryman: Bosnia by a Bosnian, Dalmatia by a Dalmatian, Croatia by a Croat, and so on.

The reading of the third pamphlet, "A Sketch of Southern Slav History," creates a feeling of real tragedy. This unfortunate people had in the past their independent States: the Slovenes in the VII. and VIII. centuries, the Croats in the X. and XI. centuries. The kingdom of Serbia was in the fourteenth century a very large State, extending to the Ægean and the Adriatic, and was the most powerful on the Balkan peninsula. The kingdom of Bosnia lasted till the end of the Middle Ages. These States would have probably united in the XV. and XVI. centuries, and become one homogeneous realm, including the whole Southern Slav race, had it not been for the conquest by the Turks, and later by Austria and Venice. But during the centuries of foreign domination, the people resisted stubbornly, and since the beginning of the nineteenth century they have created two independent States, Serbia and Montenegro, and have manifested their strong national spirit in the countries which are not yet free.

That the Southern Slav people were not without culture is clearly shown by the pamphlet "Southern Slav Culture." They have produced many remarkable monuments of literature and art. What a rich literature is the Serbian mediæval literature, and how fine are the architectural monuments, the monasteries founded by the Serbian kings! Nor did we generally know that the Southern Slavs had their Renaissance and their Reformation in Ragusa and in the Slovene lands, and that there flourished amongst them a brilliant poetry and an extensive study of the Bible in the time of Tasso and of Luther. The modern times are also remarkable, and a rich and artistic production is to be noticed in poetry, novels, drama and criticism. To what extent these people are poetically gifted is proved by their splendid well-known ballad poetry.

The "Southern Slav Library" is a very useful compendium. In four small pamphlets the reader can find full and exact information of the geographical, historical, literary and political state of the Southern Slavs. The pamphlets are clear and well written, and they are provided with a good map of Southern Slav territory. This edition is especially recommended for those who have not the time for a more exhaustive study, but desire to be rightly informed upon a subject of such topical interest and such importance in the future.

* The Southern Slav Library. No. I.—IV. (London: Nisbet and Co., Limited.) No. I. "The Southern Slav Programme," pp. 32, 3d. No. II. "The Southern Slavs: Land and People," pp. 64, 3d. No. III. "A Sketch of Southern Slav History," pp. 32, 3d. No. IV. "Southern Slav Culture," pp. 24, 3d.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From Memory's Shrine: The Reminiscences of "Carmen Sylva," Queen Elizabeth of Roumania. (Sampson, Low and Co. 4s. 6d. net.)

Syria as a Roman Province. By E. C. Bouchier, M.A. (Blackwell, Oxford; and Longmans, New York. 6s. net.)

The Luck of Thirteen. By Mr. and Mrs. Jan Gordon. Map and illustrations. (Smith, Elder and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

ARABIAN JOURNALISM IN PARIS.

We have received the two first numbers of *Al-Moustakbil* (The Future), a new Arabic journal published by "Arabs for the Arabs," every Friday at 29, Rue de Liége, Paris. It is very well written and printed, and deserves to be well supported.

In these two numbers it puts the case of Islam and Arabs generally against the Young Turks in its proper light, as a beginning of a long-suppressed indictment, and it deals with the future of Syria, and with German misdeeds in Turkey, in a very able manner. Its special news from Turkey gives the names of several notables lately hanged or imprisoned by the Turks as political opponents of the Enver and Talaat administration. To add to the already unbearable misery of the people under the Young Turks' rule, cholera also seems to have appeared at Aleppo and locusts at Homs.

GERMANS IN THE BALKANS.

A Reuter's message from Athens, dated March 14, and delayed in transmission, states:—According to messages from Florina, the Germans have withdrawn their remaining troops from Serbian Macedonia, and are transferring them to the Western front.

The reduction of the German forces in the Balkans is said to be causing all the more alarm among the Bulgarians, who fear that in the event of an early attack by the Allies they would be unable to repel them single-handed. The attempt of the Bulgarian Government to minimise the fall of Erzeroum is typical of the methods employed to deceive the public. There is every reason to believe that the steady advance of the Russians in Eastern Asia Minor is a source of considerable preoccupation not only to Turkey but to Bulgaria.

A Bucharest telegram reports that, according to a statement made by a diplomatist of a neutral State, Bulgaria has demurred to the request of the German General Staff to march against Salonika, maintaining that Germany and Austria have not fulfilled their pledges.

The India Office on Saturday issued the following:—

A Turkish force, accompanied by three German officers, attacked a British outpost at Imad—about ten miles from Aden—on the 16th instant, suffered a severe repulse, and were pursued for four miles.

Next day seventeen Turkish dead were found on the field. Our losses were: One Indian soldier killed, one British officer and sixteen rank and file wounded.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT
23, Sharia Soliman Pasha, Cairo.
Commercial Information supplied by arrangement to British Firms dealing with Egypt and the Near East. Correspondence invited.
F. W. CUMING & CO., Ltd., General Managers.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Mar.	1916. Mar.		1334. Jumada I.	5676. Adar II.
24	11	Friday	19	19
25	12	Saturday.....	20	20
26	13	Sunday	21	21
27	14	Monday	22	22
28	15	Tuesday	23	23
29	16	Wednesday	24	24
30	17	Thursday	25	25

On Wednesday the King and Queen inspected, in the Quadrangle of Buckingham Palace, twenty-five cars of the complete ambulance unit, consisting of fifty ambulances, with transport wagons, repairing car, four motor-cars, and six motor-cycles, which has been presented by the cinematograph trade to the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, for service in Mesopotamia.

On Sunday the War Office issued the following statement:—H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has arrived in Egypt on appointment as Staff-Captain on the Staff of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Under date of the 18th inst., Reuter's Cairo correspondent reported:—The Prince of Wales has arrived at Ismailia to join the Staff. During a short visit to Cairo, where he stayed at the British Residency, his Royal Highness lunched with the Sultan.

The arrival of his Royal Highness in Egypt will certainly cause much satisfaction not only amongst the Allied troops now stationed there and the British colony, which is famous for its loyalty, but also to a very large number of Egyptians. For though Turco-German propaganda may have had some slight—very slight—success amongst a few of the half-educated class, the bulk of the Egyptian people appreciates the benefits of British rule, and will heartily welcome the opportunity of showing its appreciation that is offered by the presence of the King's eldest son.

Lord Kitchener had an audience of the King on Wednesday evening.

Prince Christopher of Greece, youngest brother of King Constantine, has left Athens for Petrograd.

On Tuesday, the first day of the Persian New Year—the Spring Equinox—H.E. the Persian Minister received the members of the Persian colony and friends at the Legation in the afternoon. Among those present were his Highness Naar-ul-Mulk, late Regent of Persia; the Russian Ambassador, Sir Hugh Barnes, Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, Sir Walter Townley, late British Minister at Teheran; Syed Erfan Ali, Mr. Mohammed Ishaq, Mr. M. J. Ispahani, Lieutenant-Colonel Fox, Mrs. Manvers Moorsom, Mr. B. W. Stainton, Mr. C. W. Wallace, Mr. C. Greenway, Mr. S. A. Kapadia, Mr. Salin, Councillor of the Russian Embassy; Persian students, representatives of the India and Foreign Offices, and members of the Colony. The Persian Minister, on behalf of the Colony, despatched a congratulatory message to the Shah of Persia.

Writing on February 29, our Bucharest Correspondent reports:—Queen Marie has been suffering for some weeks from an attack of phlebitis, from which she has as yet not entirely recovered.

Prince Alexander of Serbia and M. Pashitch left Rome on Saturday night to visit King Victor at the Italian Front. During their short stay in Rome they saw Signor Salandra, the Premier, and Baron Sonnino, the Minister for Foreign Affairs. M. Pashitch was also received by the Pope.

Prince Alexander presented a sum of £120 for distribution among the families of Romans who have been called to the colours.

Lady Paget arrived in Bucharest last Friday from Sofia and met with a most sympathetic reception. The station was crowded with Roumanian ladies and many members of the British colony in the Roumanian capital. Representatives of the Roumanian Government were on the platform to greet her, as were the staffs of the British, Russian, and Serbian Legations, and the Bulgarian Minister, M. Radiff.

On Saturday Lady Paget was received by the Queen of Roumania. On Sunday she lunched at the palace, and in the evening a dinner was given in her honour at the British Legation; while in the afternoon she and her party were entertained at tea by Mme. Take Jonescu. On Sunday night Lady Paget and her party left Bucharest for Petrograd by special train, being accompanied as far as Jassy by M. Marinkovitch, the Serbian Minister.

The *Times'* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula telegraphed on March 19:—Before leaving Lady Paget expressed great satisfaction at the friendly reception accorded to her here. The members of the mission were the guests of the Government at one of the principal hospitals. Roumanian journals all write in warm appreciation of the heroic conduct of the British Mission, and of their large-minded devotion to the higher duty of humanity, which made no discrimination between friend and foe. The long sojourn of the mission in Sofia was due to the difficulties of arranging for the proposed journey through Austria. The Austrian Government first offered a passage only to the ladies, and subsequently agreed to admit the whole mission; but the closure of the frontier followed. The members of the mission state that they were not treated as prisoners during their stay in Sofia, but enjoyed complete liberty of movement.

M. Chedo Miyatovitch has left New York for Canada.

Vice-Admiral Arthur Limpus had the honour of being received by the King on Wednesday.

Lord Edward Cecil, we are glad to learn, has made a good recovery from his recent operation, and has now returned to town.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Willcox R.A.M.C., M.D., physician to St. Mary's Hospital, has been appointed consulting physician to the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force, with the rank of Colonel.

Dr. and Mrs. Marcellus Bowen left Constantinople by the Balkan express on February 28, and are now in Geneva, Switzerland, where they expect to remain about three months. Letters will reach them if addressed c/o the American Consul, Geneva. Dr. Bowen, as many of our readers will know, is head of the American Bible House in Stamboul.

Our Khartoum Correspondent writes, under date February 28: Recent visitors to Khartoum include M. Voisin, a Belgian judge; Mr. O. C. Williams, formerly manager of the Bank of Australasia in Tasmania and elsewhere; and Dr. R. J. Pope, also from Australia.

Mr. Frank A. Couché, late Chancellor of the American Legation in Bucharest, has been arrested at Sofia. It transpires that, wishing to get through to Salonika, he had some difficulty in obtaining a permit, but eventually succeeded. According to the Bulgarian version of what subsequently took place, the authorities discovered that he had disbursed a considerable sum in exchange for the permit, and this being a contravention of the military law, he was arrested, and has been sentenced to a year's imprisonment. Mr. Wopicka, the United States Minister in Bucharest, is, we hear, exerting himself to the utmost to obtain his release.

We understand that Lieutenant N. D. Cumberbatch who, as reported in these columns last week, has been wounded, received his injury while leading his men in a charge, being shot in the leg. He is now at the Officers' House at Osborne, where he arrived on the 17th inst., and we are glad to learn that his wound is not regarded as dangerous.

A subscription has been started in Egypt for the purpose of erecting a monument to the late Lieutenant-Colonel Snow Bey, who was killed near Mersa Matrou recently. One hundred and fifty pounds has already been collected.

Lieutenant Norman D. Holbrook, R.N., who was awarded the V.C. for his exploit in his Majesty's submarine B. 11 in the Dardanelles, has received the Cross of a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, conferred upon him by the President of the French Republic, on the recommendation of the Minister of Marine, in recognition of his achievement.

The French Government has recently conferred the "Croix de Guerre" on Second-Lieutenant Godfrey Barker, R.H.A., in recognition of his services at Cape Helles.

It will be difficult to picture the Scots Guards without Colonel Henry Fludyer, whose retirement is announced after fifty years in the Army, says the *Daily Graphic*. An old Westminster boy and brother of Sir Arthur Fludyer, Bart., he served with the Egyptian Expedition in 1882 and took part in the action at Mahuta and the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. He won another clasp for Suakim in 1885. By 1892 he was in command of the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, and from 1898 to 1903 he was commanding the Scots Guards and regimental district, enjoying great popularity in Scotland. Colonel Fludyer retired some years ago, but was reappointed to the command on the outbreak of war.

The Spanish Ambassador in Petrograd has obtained the release of Assim Bey, the Ottoman Minister to Persia, who has been a prisoner in the hands of the Russians. Assim Bey is leaving for Switzerland.

The King has been pleased to give permission to Harry de la Rosa Burrard Farnall, Esq., C.B., C.M.G., British Commissioner on the Caisse de la Dette Publique of Egypt, to wear the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Nile, which decoration has been conferred upon him by his Highness the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

The *Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to give the undermentioned gentlemen permission to wear decorations (as stated against their respective names) which have been conferred upon them by his Majesty the King of Serbia in recognition of valuable services rendered by them as members of the British Naval Mission to Serbia:

Third Class of the Order of Saint Sava—

SCHOOLS for BOYS & GIRLS.

TUTORS for ARMY & ALL EXAMS.

REFINED HOMES with EDUCATION for children whose parents are abroad.

Messrs. J. and J. PATON, having an intimate, unique, and up-to-date knowledge of the best Schools and Tutors in this country, will be pleased to aid parents in their choice by sending (free of charge) Prospectuses and Trustworthy Information regarding Establishments which can be thoroughly recommended.

The age of the pupil, district preferred, and rough idea of fees should be given.

J. and J. PATON.

— EDUCATIONAL AGENTS, —

143, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

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Captain (temporary Major) Bertram Nowell Elliot, D.S.O., R.M.L.I.

Fourth Class of the Order of the White Eagle — Lieutenant - Commander Charles Lester Kerr, D.S.O., R.N.

Four motor ambulance launches have been presented to the British Red Cross Society for service on the Tigris with the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force. They have been subscribed for by the residents of Buckinghamshire, and have been named "Mid-Bucks," "South Bucks," "Wycombe," and "Slough" respectively, the four districts in which the funds were raised. At Romney Lock, Windsor, on Saturday afternoon the Bishop of Buckingham dedicated the boats, which were afterwards named by Princess Alexander of Teck, and formally accepted by her Royal Highness on behalf of the society. The Princess hoped the boats would prove a great comfort and blessing to our brave troops who are fighting in circumstances of great difficulty in Mesopotamia.

Baron Otori, Councillor of the Japanese Embassy in Rome, who is on a mission to Greece, has been received by King Constantine.

The W.A.R.C. is sending out to Corfu, as a gift to Colonel Borisavljevitch, President of the Croix Rouge, Serbia, a motor-car, to take the place of his own that was burnt, together with many other cars, in the retreat from Serbia.

Lieutenant-Colonel M. Yoksimovitch, of the Serbian Legation in London, who has been visiting Paris on a special mission, has returned and resumed his duties.

A telegram has been received from Corfu announcing the safe arrival there of the first medical mission sent out with a large quantity of stores by the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee of Sardinia House, Kingsway, W.C., to help Serbian soldiers suffering from fever and wounds in the island of Vido. More doctors, nurses, and stores in the way of tents, beds, clothing, and food stuffs are urgently needed, and it is the intention of the committee to despatch a second mission with, if possible, all the necessaries asked for, at the earliest possible moment. Contributions for the mission will be gratefully received by the Committee at Sardinia House.

Dr. Elsie Inglis, of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service (N.U.W.S.S.), will address a meeting at the Criterion Theatre on April 4, at three o'clock, on her experiences as a prisoner of war.

We are glad to see that the Egyptian *Journal Officiel* of February 28 publishes the appeal made by the Serbian Minister in London on behalf of his distressed countrymen. Egypt, which has done so well in regard to contributions for sufferers by the War, is sure to respond well to this appeal.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

The *Gazette* announces the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel Claude Tulloch Ducat as His Majesty's Consul at Muskat. Colonel Ducat entered the Army in 1887, and became a captain in the Indian Army eleven years later. He was made major in 1905, and the following year was appointed Consul at Kerman, where he remained until 1909. In 1914 he was reappointed to the same post.

Last Saturday, at Bordeaux, M. Islavm, the new Russian Minister to Montenegro, presented his credentials to King Nicholas.

The King has been pleased to approve M. Marcel Léon Pierre Margarot as Vice-Consul of France at Larnaca for the island of Cyprus.

Our Bucharest Correspondent reports (February 29):—

M. Arion, Secretary of the Roumanian Legation at Petrograd, who was recently in Bucharest, has returned to his post. Lieutenant Tocineanu accompanies him in the quality of Attaché of the Legation.

M. Schainowitch, Director of the Serbian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, arrived a few days ago in Bucharest. He has since left for Russia, together with General Prince Vissolkine.

M. Jean Lahovary, First Secretary of the Roumanian Legation in Paris, who had come to Bucharest on the occasion of the death of his mother, Mme. Simone Lahovary, has now returned to Paris.

The Roumanian Consular Service has had a loss in the person of M. Pierre Mavrogheni, who died a few days ago at Odessa. He had occupied the post of Consul-General in that city for about fifteen years.

The undermentioned officers have been attached to the Egyptian Army as Special Service officers, with the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and attached for duty as under:—

Major R. N. Dobson, the King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment), to Cairo District.

Major B. de W. Weldon, the Lancashire Fusiliers, to Cairo District.

Major C. C. Lamb, the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), to 9th Sudanese.

Major W. C. T. Hibbert, the King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment), to Sudan Government.

Captain F. H. Blackwood, D.S.O., the Lincolnshire Regiment, to 13th Sudanese.

Captain B. T. Phillips, the Welsh Regiment, to 12th Sudanese.

Captain A. C. Marsh, the East Lancashire Regiment, to Cairo District.

Captain O. H. Warne, the Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire Regiment), to Sudan Government.

Captain G. C. Gowlland, Royal Engineers, to Mil. Works Department.

Fathiella Khan has been appointed Secretary to the Persian Legation.

The promotion to the rank of captain of Lieutenants H. W. Stock and C. E. Binns, both of the Royal Marines, has been gazetted.

OBITUARY.

THE LATE M. HENRIQUES.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes (March 8):

The Anglo-Egyptian colony has lost one of its prominent members in the person of Mr. R. Q. Henriques, who died on Saturday evening after a long illness. Mr. Henriques had been associated with Egypt since 1891, when he came out to open a branch of the Manchester house founded by his grandfather. He always took a prominent part in the commercial affairs of the British community, and had been president of the Cairo Committee of the British Chamber of Commerce and director of several important companies, as well as Assessor in the Mixed Courts. The development of Maadi, the new suburb on the road to Helouan, owed much to his energetic efforts as managing director of the Delta Land and Investment Co., Ltd., which owned all the land in and around that flourishing townlet. Mr. Henriques, who belonged to the Jewish faith, a fact of which he was exceedingly proud, was buried on Sunday afternoon in the Israelite Cemetery at Old Cairo, whither a representative gathering of the community and of his friends followed his mortal remains.

No obituary notice of the deceased would be complete without a reference to the charitable side of his character. A keen man of business, who drove a hard bargain and stuck to it, Mr. Henriques was always to the fore when any charitable work was to be done or required assistance. Few knew the extent of his kind-heartedness and of his generosity; those who did respected his love of anonymous or unobtrusive giving, and admired him for it. Many a young fellow has owed his extrication from unfortunate difficulties into which he had got, or a fresh start in life, to this publicity-shunning benefactor, of whose existence he had previously not been aware, and who never sent any deserving case empty away. If Mr. Henriques will be mourned by the Anglo-Egyptian and Jewish communities in general, he will be particularly missed by those responsible for the administration of charitable institutions or for the control of those communities who had become accustomed to turn to him for assistance, and to find in him ready financial support, whenever the need arose.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of March 7 reports: "Mr. Olney Arnold, former United States Diplomatic Agent at Cairo, died at Lisbon on Sunday afternoon last. It is stated that his death may have been hastened through his strenuous duties while in Cairo recently in connection with his various duties and the extensive relief work carried on in Syria." Mr. Olney Arnold, who was born at Rhode Island in 1861, was appointed Agent and Consul-General at Cairo in 1913.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. Maclear, D.S.O., East Lancashire Regiment, commanding 13th Battalion the Royal Scots (Lothian) Regiment, is reported killed in action in France on March 15. For two years (1903-1904) he was employed on Special Service with the Somaliland Field Force, and commanded the 9th Somaliland Camel Corps in East Africa. He saw much service in India.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH.

SEMPLE.—On March 11, at 80, Montpelier Park, Edinburgh, the wife (née Major) of the Rev. S. H. Semple, M.A., C.F., Tiberias, Palestine, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

PREECE-DUNCAN.—On the 21st, at Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, John Richard Preece, C.M.G., late H.B.M. Consul-General for Ispahan, to Mary I. S. Duncan, widow of the late G. G. Duncan (née Graham Allardice).

TURNER-HOLMES.—On January 20, at All Saints, Dharwar, India, by the Rev. G. Hewitt, chaplain, Ed. Ellis Turner, Indian Police, to Jeannette Fisher, second daughter of his Honour Judge Holmes and Mrs. Holmes, of Nicosia, Cyprus.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1916.

TURK AND ARAB.

If the German official statement is to be believed, Enver Pasha did actually undertake a tour of inspection in Syria, Palestine and Arabia, as far as Medina, and has now returned to Constantinople. The value of the announcement, whether accurate or not, lies in the fact that it implies that the Teuton-Enver clique is still master of the situation in the Turkish capital. So long as this state of affairs continues, there can be no question of Turkey abandoning her alliance with Germany. There may be, and undoubtedly are, many Turks who would like to see the end of German domination in the Ottoman Empire, and they will find means to make their views known abroad. But with Enver Pasha firmly seated in the saddle and supported by German soldiers and guns, they must remain for the time being a negligible quantity. Their peace overtures, though an interesting commentary on the situation in Turkey, do not constitute any real advance towards the termination of the war. Only when they have shown themselves strong enough to deal with Enver Pasha and the Committee of Union and Progress can they speak for Turkey. On the other hand, it would be a mistake on the part of the Allied Powers not to give a friendly answer to tentative inquiries from Turkish sources regarding peace terms. In view of the garbled nature of all their information, the Turks well-disposed towards the Allies must have difficulty in deciding how the war will ultimately end. Even if they believe in a victory of the Allied Powers, they can have no sure knowledge of the extent to which that victory will be used and whether Turkey is to be freed for ever from German tutelage. It must be conceivable to them that the Central Powers should be beaten in this war, but that the Germans should remain paramount in the Ottoman Empire. In such circumstances, with a wholesome appreciation of Germany's might and the use to which it is put, Turks may well hesitate to attempt the overthrow of the present régime. If it were only a question of settling accounts with another Turkish party, they might be prepared to take their chances and make the attempt. But in their ignorance of all that the war means to Europe and of what Germany has staked in her bid for world-dominion, and must lose, they may feel it better to bear the ills they know than to risk acquaintance with others still worse. It is for this reason that the Allies should seize any opportunity that offers of enlightening the Turks on the progress of the war and on the course that events are likely to take, as far as Turkey is concerned, at the end of the war. The anxiety of most Turks after their experience of the last sixteen months will be concerned far more with the question whether they are to have the Germans always with them than with the penalty they will have to pay for an unsuccessful war.

The Russian advance in Armenia, although remote in point of distance, will have made itself felt in European Turkey, owing to the drain imposed upon the resources of the Empire by the losses incurred in the fighting at the Dardanelles. But the main difficulties of the Turkish Government must be financial and economic, for these in the long run will affect the people more intimately than the fortunes of an army in a distant theatre of war. Turkey, so long as she can obtain munitions on credit, can probably conduct a war more cheaply than any other of the belligerents, but it is this enforced parsimony that helps to kill any popular enthusiasm which the war at the outset may have evoked. If it be true that Enver Pasha has recently paid a visit to Syria, Palestine, and Arabia, it will not have been the tour of a confident Commander-in-Chief inspecting his troops to satisfy himself that all is well preparatory to special demands being made upon them for offence or defence. Enver Pasha's tour took him precisely to those districts where his army is not, and at a time when the fighting forces of the Empire have their work cut out for them on two fronts. The Turkish War Minister's mission was more probably a despairing effort to raise fresh troops, by pressing into service bodies of men who do not feel obliged to aid the Turks, unless they consider it worth their while to do so. A visit to Medina can only have been undertaken with the object of impressing the Arabs, whose services Enver Pasha was no doubt anxious to enlist on behalf of Germany. Their ordinary terms would merely involve pay or substantial expectations of loot, and offers embodying these would not call for a personal visit. Being unable to meet the Arabs' requirements in this way, the Turkish Government may have hoped to revive the spirit of the "holy war," which flickered out quite early in the campaign, by an appeal in person from the Minister of War. A pilgrimage to Medina would make an excellent setting to such an appeal, quite in the manner of German stage-management.

This explanation of Enver Pasha's tour contains at least a basis of probability, and seems to derive some confirmation from the care with which the German official statement speaks of the Arabian population as "showing the greatest attachment to the Khalifate." From the fact that it was held to be necessary to refer to the loyalty of the Arabs, and from the brief stay made by the War Minister we shall, perhaps, be right in inferring that the visit was not a complete success. News has its own way of travelling in the East, and while the Arabs may have noted that the British Expedition in Mesopotamia has not been able to accomplish much, they will have heard how the Senussi have been handsomely defeated, and will know that an attack on Egypt offers no attractions to any force. If they have also learned of the Turkish reverses in Armenia, they will be shrewd enough to connect them with Enver's act of condescension in asking for their military co-operation. It will be as well, however, not to lose sight of the possibility of Arab reinforcements for the Turks in Mesopotamia. A number of tribes must already have made common cause with the Turks, and in spite of the chronic feuds between rival factions, it cannot be out of the question that others should follow their example. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. If the intelligence system at General Lake's disposal is adequate, he will be able to learn from "friendlies" what measure of success attended Enver Pasha's visit to Syria and Arabia, and whether any large body of Arabs is likely to move eastwards. By maintaining close touch with the friendly tribes, our forces in Mesopotamia and Aden should prove useful centres for the dissemination of accurate accounts of the war, which would go far to counteract any enthusiasm among the Arabs that Turkish falsehoods or appeals to their fanaticism have been able to raise.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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JOURNEYINGS IN ASIA MINOR.

By MARY A. POYNTER.

*II.—From Eski-Shehr to Angora.

The passenger train (there are no expresses) starts from Eski-shehr for Angora in the early morning, and, although the journey is many hours long, the plain, or valley, sixteen miles wide, through which the railway runs is so unlike most other plains of the world that one cannot weary of its gentle monotony. On the two occasions we took this journey patches of sunshine dotted the plain, and, shining through the morning mists, gave an effect as of lakes here and there in the vale. The villages cling mostly to the mountain sides, perhaps to escape the malaria that lurks on the plain, notwithstanding the high altitude. Nature basks under cultivation; it seems to enjoy its ownership by man. I fancy two thousand years ago, when all this region was more thickly populated, it had a more salubrious climate, and was not left practically unvisited as it is—for all its railway—to-day.

As one sets forth by train one sees on the left the solitary mound of ancient Dorylæum, and on the right among the hills are the meerschaum mines, showing bare and white where fresh cuttings have been made. Flocks and herds, attended by lone and picturesquely formidable-looking shepherds, give touches of life to the fields between stations. The little Pursak river (the classic Thymbres) that starts out from Eski-shehr with us and flows for a part of the way to Angora, perhaps set the fashion originally for all the winds and curves the railway line was to make. At any rate, a railway line in Asia Minor seems to be laid out with the idea of covering the longest distance between two given points. Of course, one would not like to suggest that, unlike the river, the railway might have some mercenary motives in regard to extending its miles—since a minimum earning per mile is guaranteed to the company by the Turkish Government.

The management was wise enough to plant quick-growing trees like the acacia around each station when in the process of building, and although the railway is hardly a quarter of a century old the trees have grown large enough to lend grateful shade and pleasant bloom in their season. Save these just mentioned and some low green growths that distinguish the windings of the Pursak and one or two other small rivers, there are few trees to be seen on the plains from Eski-shehr to Angora; it is a fertile if almost treeless place, and the trees at the station show how quickly it might become a well-wooded land.

A station without its dogs and acacia trees would be an anomaly. Dogs all along the route run barking after the trains, and at last give up the breathless chase in apparent belief that they have been able to frighten the train away! These country dogs are of the large, tawny, sheep-dog variety, though those gathered at the stations to catch the crumbs thrown from the car windows by indulgent travellers are of the old Constantinople street-dog type—a type familiar to all travellers, and to be met with in Turkish towns from Jerusalem to Adrianople. There is an Asia Minor legend to the effect that originally the jackals inhabited the towns, while the dogs all lived in the country. When the two clans met one day unexpectedly the dogs began extolling the charms of the country, while the jackals dwelt upon the plentiful food and pleasing excitements of the town. It was then arranged that there should be an exchange of abode, that the dogs should be permitted to come into the town and the jackels be allowed to go into the country for a season. This exchange was no sooner accomplished than the jackals, discovering that life in the country was not all they had anticipated, returned to the gates of the town and began wailing: "Gelelim! Gelelim!" ("Let us come! Let us come!") The dogs from within, quite content with their new quarters, uttered a guttural chorus of "Yok! Yok! Yok!" ("No! No! No!"). And to this day the dogs have remained masters of the situation: they have been permitted to dwell in the town, while the jackals have been compelled to find their living as best they could in the country.

In this part of the world the railway station seems to be the local post office; a motley crowd of countrymen (there are few women loiterers about the station, and these few always stand apart to look on) gather around the gendarme as he gravely sorts and distributes a little handful of letters and papers that some way seem slender of bulk, as if the senders had not much to say or had said a good deal very briefly. Not all of the receivers are able to read, and then some more erudite member of the company offers his services and reads aloud, to the edification of the recipient and all the members of the company within hearing.

There is a popular village pump at each station, though in most instances the pump takes the form of a rope and bucket, the same being extremely popular with the third class—a very clean and highly picturesque class—passengers of the train. The train stops leisurely and waits patiently for the slow-moving and dignified East to fill its water jars at these wells; and it is amusing to observe how many whistles, ringing of bells, and "*tamams*" (ready) are necessary before all the refreshment seekers are back again in their seats on the train. Usually the last ones are pushed in, not unkindly, by the guards as the train is quite under way. It is a trustful East, and this railway an adaptable and accommodating public servant.

The people who dwell upon these uplands are poor for the most part, proud only perhaps as to carriage; for the labouring man holds himself upright, perhaps more so than does the soldier about the station—the soldier whose uniform has become ragged, but who looks in most cases what he is—the hardy and, when left to himself, the not unkindly peasant. Men say their prayers in the fields as well as in the mosques, and with as little self-consciousness as they do their work there. It is a part of the day's task that the most humble conscientiously perform. Not even the gentle excitement of the coming of one train a day will cause them to turn from their devotions when once they have begun them.

The houses of the little hamlets on the plain are mostly of sun-dried bricks with thatched roofs, and are so all-of-a-colour with the landscape that one does not see them until one is fairly upon them, unless the eye is attracted at a distance by the single minaret usually attached to each mosque. There is hardly a town that in a large sense can be said to be new; they are nearly all "eski" in the sense of occupying sites of ancient villages; indeed, it is said that three towns out of every four have stones and marbles bearing ancient inscriptions and fragments of bygone, more literate days.

On our September journey to Angora we saw picturesque threshing floors everywhere on the wide, open plain, the oxen treading out the grain, the Turkish women, in the divided skirts almost universally worn by their sex in the interior, directing operations. They seem faithfully to carry out the injunction: "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treads out the corn." The crooked stick, with many variations of crook, is still used for tilling the fields of Phrygia and Galatia. There is little gathering into barns, the barns being lacking, so the grain is brought directly to the railway, the great grain cars being there in readiness to receive it and to roll it away to markets by the sea. At Alpikeuy there seemed to be literally acres of threshing floors and enough grain being shipped and in waiting at the station to feed all the Near East.

The time-honoured figure of the scarecrow is seen in the fields where maize is grown, and, strange to say, this figure varies very little in make-up from its prototype that adorns Western cornfields. One unique custom, characteristic of Asia Minor, is the posting of the skulls of animals in conspicuous places in the fields, this being thought to be an inducement to the land to make it more productive.

The September landscape is burned to a rich brown on these high plateaux—not a desolate colour—with pink and purply distances, and it is a sociable landscape, too, with all the flocks and herds that roam over it and call it home. The blue jay flutters bright wings about the fields, though the stork, that grave poseur in the spring and the early summer landscape, has flown to the warm deserts southward before the autumn is even foreshadowed. There is a variety of thistle in Near Eastern meadows that turns a bright steel blue with the coming of autumn, lending touches here and there quite as effective as blossoms. The winter picture probably presents quite a different aspect to the passing traveller. It may be a lonely looking world then.

Midway between Eski-shehr and Angora the hills seem to have detached themselves from the great ranges and to have advanced into the plain in places, taking on curious shapes, like the mesas of the foot-hills of the Rockies; sometimes they have ranged themselves into natural terraces, and along their soft limestone sides the water has hollowed out convenient caves, inviting to man and beast in case of storm or of too ardent sunshine.

Although there are no great impressive ruins left along this route, and the past does not intrude itself as the traveller almost wishes it would do, one never forgets one is travelling over classic ground. At Beylik Akhor the ancient province of Galatia begins, and later the railway winds for a short hour through the upper valley of the Sangarius into which the Pursak—the Pursak that frets its banks with many a curve—flows. Near where these two rivers meet, and near the village of Beylik Kepru, is the site of ancient Gordium. This city was an important station on the once Imperial Persian road from Sardes to Susa; it was also the residence of a Satrap, and was the winter quarters of Alexander the Great in 333 B.C. Little of its glory remains, but history has seen fit to record and to make deathless among its annals the story of the "Gordian Knot," asso-

* The first instalment appeared in THE NEAR EAST of February 25.

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ciated with this once living city, and which Alexander severed ever so easily when he once put his mind to it!

At last, when the day is near spent, the train runs into the valley of the Engunu Su, and, following this valley, leads on to the railway station of Angora—a station that sits at the feet of that town, as it should—and here, on arriving, one looks up to behold a city set on a hill, a city of goodly aspect and of kindly reputation.

"AU REVOIR" TO GALLIPOLI.

The Melbourne *Age* of February 1 published a description of the withdrawal from Gallipoli, by Dr. W. J. Springthorpe, in the course of which appears "the full text of a letter from one of our units to the Turks." This, says the writer, "is appended as showing the really good feeling that existed and the recognition of the qualities of the Turk as a fighter"; and that it serves the purpose can hardly be denied. The document is as follows:—

Brigade Headquarters,
Australian Imperial Force,
Anzac, December 20, 1915, 2.30 a.m.

To the Commander of the Turkish Forces, Gallipoli, Turkey.

The Brigadier presents his compliments to our worthy Turkish opponents, and offers those who first honour his quarters with their presence such poor hospitality as is in his power to give, regretting that he is unable personally to welcome them. After a pleasant sojourn of seven months in Gallipoli, we propose to take some little relaxation at that period in which we are instructed by a higher power to observe "good will to all men." In bidding *au revoir* to our honourable foes, we Australians desire to express appreciation of the fine soldierly qualities of our Turkish opponents, and the sportsmanlike manner in which they have participated in a contest, honourable, we trust, to both sides. We have been with you, yet a little while and you shall see us not. For us it is a matter of deep regret that the ancient friendship so long existing between the British and Turkish Empires should have been thus disturbed and broken by the insidious machinations of the arch-enemy of humanity. We have left this area and trenches, in which we have taken considerable trouble and pride, clean and in good order, and we would be grateful if they may be so maintained until our return, particular care being asked in regard to matters of sanitation, so vital to the health and well-being of an army.

We hope you will find the wine, coffee, tobacco, cigarettes, and food to your taste, and a supply of fuel has been left in the cupboard to ameliorate in some measure your discomfort during the cold watches of the winter. Our only request is that no member of the nation who was guilty of the inhuman murder of that noble woman Miss Edith Cavell, to whose portrait this message is attached, will be permitted to pollute with his presence the quarters of soldiers who have never yet descended to such barbarous and ruthless methods.

Three Armenians, alleged to be members of the Armenian Revolutionary Committee and to have been in possession of concealed bombs, and a Mohammedan Armenian, of Brusa, who had all been sentenced to death, have been publicly executed in Constantinople.

IMPORTANT TO SUBSCRIBERS.

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

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Prisoners in Turkey. March 22.

Lord NEWTON, replying to Lord Lamington, said it was true that the conduct of the Turks towards prisoners contrasted favourably with that of some other belligerents, but it would be a mistake to assume that all British prisoners in Turkey were treated in a satisfactory manner. It was, however, extremely difficult to obtain full information on the subject.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Correspondence for Egypt. March 21.

Mr. J. A. PEASE informed Major NEWMAN that so far as he was aware there was no undue delay in delivering correspondence to the troops in Egypt.

The Case of Mrs. McAlister.

Mr. CATHCART WASON asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he would solicit the good offices of the American Embassy to obtain the release of Mrs. McAlister and her little son, who were now interned at Jerusalem; and if that was not possible, if he would solicit the services of the American Consul to transmit money to the lady and her son.

Sir E. GREY said he had requested the U.S. Ambassador to be good enough to ask the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to inquire into Mrs. McAlister's case and, if necessary, to advance money to her, at the same time requesting the U.S. Consul at Jerusalem to lend his good offices with a view to facilitating her departure in the event of the Ottoman authorities being now prepared to permit her to leave the country.

Wounded in Mesopotamia.

Sir J. JARDINE asked what description of boat was used for the conveyance of wounded soldiers from Nasriyah on the Euphrates to the base hospital at Busreh, and whether the garrison hospital at Nasriyah had sufficient supplies of instruments, medicines, and other requisite articles for the wounded and the sick.

Mr. TENNANT said he had no doubt that every available boat would be used, but he had received no official report on the matter. As regards the second part of the question, no demands had been made upon the War Office for instruments. He could not definitely state that there had been no shortage of instruments, medicines, etc., without ascertaining by cable; but no report of shortage had been received.

Salary of the High Commissioner for Egypt.

Sir EDWARD GREY informed Mr. COWAN that the salary at present drawn by his Majesty's High Commissioner for Egypt was £6,460 per annum, and was defrayed from Imperial funds. A special grant had also been made which represented a temporary addition to the High Commissioner's salary of £2,000 a year.

The Operations in Mesopotamia. March 22.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE, replying to a question put by Sir E. CORNWALL, said:—General Townshend's column reached Kut-el-Amarah on December 3, 1915. On the 9th, 10th, and 11th the enemy endeavoured to capture his position by assault, but was driven off and suffered severely. Since that time the garrison has been besieged. As to the health of the troops and the condition of the wounded under General Townshend's command no information has been received. It is undesirable to say more at present than that there has been no failure to supply the relieving force with reinforcements.

In the course of the debate on the Army Estimates, the Mesopotamian campaign and the Gallipoli campaign both came in for some criticism. Captain TRYON, referring to the Army's need of men, said that if we had had the men the position in the Dardanelles and in Mesopotamia would have been very different. Mr. PRINGLE remarked that by the unnecessary expeditions in the Dardanelles and in Mesopotamia some of the best fighting material in the British Army had been wasted. He contended that this policy, undertaken by the Government for diplomatic rather than for military reasons, had weakened us not only from a military point of view, but from a naval point. It had left us without sufficient ships to attack the German Fleet in the North Sea, and it had placed this country under blockade, of which the limitation of imports was one of the results. Sir J. D. REES said with regard to the Mesopotamia operations that he could not understand why we went beyond Busreh. No country was so wet and so dry, so cold and so hot, and in ordinary times the Arabs would let off their guns for the mere pleasure of shooting at someone.

Captives of the Bedouin.

Mr. PETO asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he had been able to take any steps to secure the release of ten members of the crew of the steamship Coquet, which was torpedoed in the Mediterranean. They were taken prisoners by Bedouin Arabs on the coast of Tripoli.

Lord R. CECIL: The Italian Government have, at our request, asked the Governor of Tripoli to make inquiries in regard to this matter: according to the latest information the ten prisoners are at Antelat, about 150 kilometres south-east of Benghazi.

Prisoners in Bulgaria.

Mr. TENNANT stated to Sir J. Lonsdale that the British prisoners in Bulgaria numbered 519, of whom seven were officers.

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The Mesopotamian Campaign.

Colonel YATE called attention to the Mesopotamian operations, and desired to know how it was that there had been a shortage of munitions. He also asked for information as to the hospital arrangements.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN said that no phrase could be too strong to express their admiration of what our troops in Mesopotamia had accomplished and endured in the very arduous campaign in which they had been engaged. It was a mistake to suppose that the advance was ordered in defiance of military opinion as to the sufficiency of the resources with which it was undertaken. On the contrary, all the military authorities concurred in the orders for the advance towards Baghdad with the troops then at the disposal of the General Officer Commanding. Colonel Yate seemed to think that there had been a great shortage in supplies of all kinds. He (Mr. Chamberlain) was afraid he had to admit that, in his opinion, there had been a lamentable breakdown of the hospital arrangements. He would not seek to palliate some of the things which he had learned had taken place, but he begged the House to remember that the campaign had been carried on under circumstances of very great difficulty. According to the information in his possession, there had been an abundance of hospital supplies of all kinds at Busreh at all times, but he thought that without doubt there had been a grave shortage of necessary medical supplies above Busreh. This was due in large part to the enormous difficulties of river traffic. It was rather difficult to gather transport for this purpose with any ease. Only particular kinds of river craft were suitable: they had to be of extraordinarily shallow draft, and the Government had swept this country and had had recourse to Egypt and other countries to secure or ascertain if they could secure boats of a suitable character. They had had misfortunes with regard to some of this transport. Some of it was destroyed or lost by perils of the sea en route, and undoubtedly the shortage of river transport accounted for a great deal of what had happened, but he did not think it accounted for all, and neither the Government at home nor the Government of India were satisfied with the state of things which had prevailed. It had already been announced to the House that the Government of India had appointed a distinguished General, General Bingley, and a distinguished Civil Servant, Sir William Vincent, to proceed to Mesopotamia and investigate the medical arrangements there. Of course, they did not desire that any inquiry into the *laches* of the past should interfere with the work which had now to be done, and which it was urgent should be done; but at the same time it was necessary that they should be informed as to the facts, and that they should be in a position to weigh and apportion the responsibility. These gentlemen began their inquiry in Bombay, where they were able to see officers invalided from the front. They had transmitted to this country a series of questions to be addressed to certain officers now here who were also invalided from Mesopotamia, and they themselves had proceeded to Mesopotamia in order to carry their inquiries further on the spot. He hoped that these measures and the attention which had been repeatedly called to the matter by communications from home and from the Government of India had already worked an improvement and would prevent a repetition of those things of which complaint was made. The House would like to know that in regard to the last action in which our troops were engaged he had a telegram sent by the General Officer Commanding to the Chief of the Imperial General Staff in which he reported that Gen. Aylmer stated after the action that he was extremely satisfied with the arrangements made for the wounded, and that all were progressing favourably. He (Mr. Chamberlain) knew the grave anxiety felt by the country in this matter. He could assure hon. members that their anxiety was not greater than his own, and he had been anxious to relieve their minds as to what was now being done.

Mr. HOBHOUSE thanked the right hon. gentleman for his statement. He was astonished to hear that the military authorities at home and in India had agreed to the advance on Ctesiphon, as he had rather hoped that it was a case of the local commander on the spot exceeding his instructions in taking on himself the responsibility of engaging a vastly superior Turkish force. He had some little knowledge of the local conditions, and to have dreamt of taking Baghdad with a force of 12,000 or 14,000 men seemed to him to be almost madness. However, he admitted his criticism could only be partially informed. He thought the whole House would be very sorry to hear the very grave confession of the right hon. gentleman, though they had heard also with satisfaction the clean breast he had made of the unsatisfactory state of things prevailing. That the right hon. gentleman should, in advance of any request from the House, have promised an inquiry was greatly to the credit of himself and the India Office. The right hon. gentleman used the strong word "inexcusable."

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: If I may interrupt the right hon. gentleman, I spoke without notes and have not in mind the exact words I used. I think I did say—and it is my belief—that according to my present information there were inexcusable deficiencies in the arrangements for the treatment of the wounded, but I beg the House to keep an open mind until we do know. I do not profess to know at the present moment. The House knows how information comes—in a private letter here and a private letter there, with the writer's name, perhaps, given under a seal of secrecy. The House knows the great difficulties there are in getting at the bottom of the facts under these circumstances. I am profoundly dissatisfied with the information which has reached me, but I do not know the truth, and I do not wish to utter any judgment on anyone until such time as I do know the truth, and I beg the House to keep an open mind on the subject.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Greece's Empty Coffers.

According to Mr. J. M. N. Jeffries, who contributes a long article to the *Daily Mail* (March 20) on the above subject, the Greek Government may be forced to resign if it is unable to raise a loan in England or France immediately:—

The coffers have been exhausted by the continuance of the mobilization, and the Government is even unable to pay its Civil Servants. I know of cases in which employees in a Government office, on going to draw their salaries, have been told by the cashier, "Sorry. I haven't any money. Come next week. I may have some then." Small sums like the pay of telegraph messengers have even been in abeyance.

It is a common sight in Athens to see the wives of men who are with the Colours demonstrating for the small pittance due to them outside Government offices and Ministers' houses. To-day there was a disorderly scene, when 200 women outside the Ministry of the Interior cried, "Give us bread, give us bread!" The police had to be called to disperse them, amid screams and shouting.

Mr. Jeffries states that the Government has already been forced to send to one of the chief banks for the sum of £2,000 for current expenses, and he adds that it is the intention of the Government to "introduce taxes on practically everything that can be taxed and super-taxes on anything prosperous":—

The scheme will come before the Chamber in a couple of days, but its reception will be cold in view of the country's dissatisfaction, and, even if passed, the taxes will take time to collect, and, when collected, they will probably be inadequate.

The Government has made proposals in London for a loan. It is in the highest degree undesirable that we should grant a loan to the present Government. While fighting for her life against Germany pure logic demands that England should not grant a loan to any Cabinet which is not also an enemy of Germany. The refusal of a loan or the offer of one only on unacceptable conditions to the present Ministry would not be misunderstood by our sympathisers here, whose numbers grow daily, the French defence at Verdun having greatly encouraged everybody.

If the present Ministry is forced to resign, M. Zaimis would probably form an interim Ministry. He is pro-Ally and could pave the way for M. Venizelos to return. It is highly improbable that Germany can give the Gounaris-Skouloudis Ministry a loan, as credit from them is useless, and to advance gold is impossible: We therefore hold the winning position. Let us then use it.

This correspondent thinks that the present Greek Ministry have learned little so far, and quotes a disgraceful case of the shadowing and subsequent arrest of an Englishman attached to the British Legation. It is true that the arrest was not persisted in, and—

The policeman acknowledged that he had acted under the orders of a certain Chrysospathis, the chief of the secret police, who is known to be a friend of Baron Schenk. The British Minister, Sir Francis Elliot, immediately demanded an explanation. M. Skouloudis, the Premier, sent an apology, but it does not contain a hint of deprecation of Chrysospathis's action, which is most necessary for British prestige here.

The Fate of Monastir.

The correspondent of the *Morning Post* at Rome, in a despatch to his paper (March 20), includes the passage which we quote below regarding the alleged anxiety of the Serbian Government in regard to Monastir:—

I have good reason to believe that the Serbian Government is anxious lest the British Foreign Office may, after all, reward the Bulgarian prodigal son by allowing him to keep the Serbian fatted calf in the shape of Monastir. Nothing would more injure Great Britain's reputation for honesty than such an act, which would not only lose us Serbian sympathies, but estrange Greece just at the moment when she is gradually gravitating towards the Entente, and would be blazoned by the various branches of the Wolff Bureau throughout the Balkans as Great Britain's breach of faith. A prompt and definite official statement on the lines of the *Morning Post* formula, "Our friends are our friends, and our enemies are our enemies." should be made during Prince Alexander's visit to London; otherwise to Sir Edward Grey's errors in the Balkans another will be added. To abandon an Ally in favour of an enemy is equally dishonest and unpolitic.

The Position of Bulgaria.

Mr. Henry W. Nevinson, in a despatch to the *Glasgow Herald* (March 13) regarding Salonika, says:—

It was the Bulgarians who brought us here; it is the Bulgarians who keep us sitting behind the "impregnable defences," when otherwise we might be using upon some other front all those men and exertions, all this immense amount of money daily lavished away. If Bulgaria had remained neutral, or if we had won her to our side, as might have been possible up to last July, we should now hold the Central Powers hemmed in, and they would not possess Serbia as one of their territorial

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pawns in any future peace. Bulgaria, far more than Turkey, has been the dominating piece in Germany's Near Eastern game; and when I saw the Bulgarian sentries on the Monastir frontier last week, or looked northward yesterday across the territory so lately acquired by Greece to the jagged and snow-covered mountain barrier beyond which Bulgaria now begins, I naturally wondered what the Bulgarians are thinking of their new allies and their dubious future. If I know them at all, they would like first to drive out from Monastir and other "Bulgarian" districts as many Serbs and Greeks as they decently could, and then go home to sow and reap their harvest. For they are agricultural in habit and domestic.

He goes on to show that the Bulgarians are no longer their own masters—"Had they been they would hardly have allowed our small Allied forces to escape last December." Mr. Nevinson continues:—

Whether their "rogue elephant" of a King had made some agreement to not enter the territory of the Kaiser's brother-in-law we cannot yet know. But the result of hesitation has been that the opportunity has slipped past; every week unused has made the attack less possible, and even the Greek pro-German papers here have ceased to announce the arrival of German-Bulgarian armies within three days. What remains for Bulgaria to do? For an agricultural and domestic people the prospect is not bright. They must prepare defences for their own country against a possible Allied advance, they do not know when. In bitter cold and wet they must entrench their own passes along their mountain frontier, and now that they have probably entrenched them they must sit there. Some of their forces may be ordered here or there by that domineering ally who is reported to have taken the Government of Sofia into his own hands. But the utmost they can really hope to accomplish is to hold a certain amount of Franco-British force immobile in Salonika, and to cause the expenditure of Franco-British funds here too. That would not be a very satisfactory task, especially as their supply is difficult. Their uniforms and equipment are exhausted by two recent wars, the German contingent is reported to keep double rations for itself, and a considerable force has to be maintained somehow across the mountains of Albania, so as to check the bare off-chance of an Italian movement from Valona.

On the top of this rather depressing situation come assaults by Allied aeroplanes upon Bulgarian towns, such as Petrich and Monastir itself; rumours that a large Serb army is being reorganised in Corfu, and will certainly show no mercy to Bulgars in any hour of victory; news that Erzeroum has fallen to Russia (Bulgaria's old "deliverer"), and that little more help can be expected from the Turk (Bulgaria's old persecutor); reports that the much-advertised Turco-German attack upon Egypt has been definitely abandoned, and that the value of Bulgaria's free passage to the East has therefore fallen.

Germany, Egypt and Turkey.

In a leading article on the war situation the *Daily Telegraph* (March 20) refers to General Peyton's success in Egypt as giving a final touch to the situation in that region of the war. After briefly detailing the methods by which the success was achieved the article continues:—

Thus has been dissipated a danger from which much was at one time hoped by the Turks and by their German masters; and, at the same time, all possibility of an attack upon the Canal across the Sinai Peninsula is now, by common consent, at an end. The advancing season and the heavy defeats inflicted by the Grand Duke's armies have removed all anxiety in regard to Egypt, and Berlin now gives the world to understand that no blow at that vital spot was ever contemplated. The practical consideration—and it is one of the highest importance—is that the very numerous force detailed for the defence of Egypt is set free for employment elsewhere; and a glance at the map of the Eastern Mediterranean, which is wholly controlled by the Allied Fleets, will show how wide the possibilities in this connection are. Meanwhile, the Russian advance rolls swiftly westward and south-westward into Asiatic Turkey. Trebizond is immediately threatened. The formidable obstacle of the Taurus Mountains has been forced, and Russian forces are moving on both Mosul and Baghdad. The lines of communication of the Turks now besieging Kut and holding off General Aylmer's relieving force are thus in the gravest danger, and a striking and fortunate development of the situation on the Tigris is well within the possibilities of the next few days.

The Mystery of Enver.

Mr. S. M. Mitra, writing on the mystery of Enver Pasha in the *Sunday Times* (March 19), thinks that "as it is very difficult to ascertain the truth, it is better to be prepared in case he or any other prominent Turk is on his way to either of those Moslem shrines." He considers that the "Holy War" having proved an utter fiasco when undertaken in alliance with unholy Germany—

A shrewd Turk like Enver Pasha, who now in his desperation would stick at nothing, is, therefore, naturally anxious to impress upon the minds of the Sheikhs and Ulemas in and about Mecca that Turkey is no longer in alliance with Germany—even though facts are to the contrary—in order to impart some stability to the Holy War agitation in the eyes of the faithful. If Enver succeeds in convincing the fanatical Moslems of Mecca, Medina, and Baghdad that the Holy War is raised by Turkey alone, it may yet cause trouble.

He thinks that it is a matter of momentous importance that the Moslem Holy War propaganda should be utterly demolished by emphasising the fact that his Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, the greatest Moslem Prince in India, has sent his cavalry and commander-in-chief to Suez to oppose the Turks. He continues:—

For about thirty years the name of the Nizam has been familiar to the Sharifs because his Highness, at his own expense, has sent hundreds of pilgrims every year to Mecca to return as Hajis. If the fact that his Highness's army with his Moslem Commander-in-Chief is encamped at Suez *to fight the troops of the Khalifa* is well circulated in and near Mecca, one may be absolutely sure of the kind of reception that will await Enver or any other Pasha upon arrival there.

Now that Portugal is at war with Germany, our latest Ally will find it much easier to help the British authorities in protecting India from Turkish agents, and in preventing inflammatory Arabic literature from finding its way there. Since Portugal has broken with Germany all the ports in India without exception, whether British, French, or Portuguese, are hostile to Germany. It will therefore be a much simpler task to exclude Turco-German intrigue whether through agents or through correspondence.

The Sorrows of Turkey.

The *Times* (March 20), in a leading article under the above head, while attaching no importance to the prevailing rumours that Turkey is wearying of the war, and that a growing number of influential Turks would like to make peace with the Allies, concludes in the following paragraph:—

That every sensible Turk bitterly rues the day when Enver and his mad associates led Turkey into her present plight we can well believe. Turkey has derived nothing but misery from the war, and she has lost much. She has lost such freedom of action as she possessed, and has been enslaved. She suffered heavy casualties in the Gallipoli Peninsula. She has lost Armenia and her fortress base of Erzeroum. She has lost Basra and a great part of Mesopotamia. She has had to yield another slice of Thrace to the land-hungry Bulgarians. She has had her coast towns battered, and is on the verge of losing Trebizond. The gifts of German gold have passed into the pockets of the rapacious Committee while her people starve. Not one of the glittering promises made to the Turks by Germany has been fulfilled. That Turkey as a whole is restive and discontented is only natural under all these circumstances, but the suggestion that the Porte is therefore officially hinting at peace should not be credited. There will be no change in the attitude of Turkey except as the result of a movement from within strong enough to deal finally and conclusively with Enver and his Prussian masters.

The Kettle-drum's Secret.

The Rev. Canon Parfit, M.A., writing in the *Daily Chronicle* (March 18), refers to our dash towards Baghdad as a triumph of strategy:—

If our forces in Mesopotamia had been content to remain in the vicinity of Busrah the expedition to Egypt would most probably have been carried out; but the rapid advance up the Tigris that threatened Baghdad was too serious a menace to be ignored, so the troops prepared for Egypt were diverted through Aleppo to Baghdad, and the land of the Pharaohs may see them no more.

Secondly, the capture of Erzeroum is a triumph of the first magnitude, which is likewise due in no small degree to the co-operation of those brave little forces which are now invested at Kut-el-Amara.

I have just returned from a visit to a friend whose son is an officer now shut up in Kut-el-Amara. Before the battle of Ctesiphon he sent home a broken kettle-drum taken from the Turks, which I examined a few days ago. The Turkish inscription upon it confirmed my conviction that the Kurdish troops who ought to have been resisting the Russians in the North had been hurried down to Baghdad to check the advance of our rash little army towards the capital city of Mesopotamia. My friend was greatly cheered when I translated the inscription, when I pointed out on the map the town from whence the kettle-drum came, and explained that he need never regret the invest-

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army in Kut, for his son and all the Townshend were true British heroes, who had risked much for kes, and had certainly won the day.

Germans were taken in splendidly, for they proudly ated to the investment of Kut as a proof of the impossibility of the Allies being able to help each other, since the Russians could not save us from being surrounded. In point of fact, it turns out to be one of the clearest proofs we have had of the successful co-operation of the Allied armies, for whilst our enemies were attracted to Ctesiphon by the bait of a small British army the Russians behind their backs were scaling the snow-clad mountains of Armenia, and sprang a surprise upon the depleted forces of the strongest stronghold of Asiatic Turkey.

Belligerents and Neutrals.

Under the above heading the *World's Work* (March) discusses, in an interesting article, the position of the neutral countries towards the belligerents after more than eighteen months of war. In referring to Roumania, the paper says:—

Perhaps the most significant changes of the month among the neutrals on the Continent are to be found in Roumania. She has called to the colours the full strength of her army, and announces to the world at large the maintenance of an armed neutrality. This was the formal explanation given by Bulgaria for her own mobilization. These steps must have been taken both as a result of the bullying methods of German diplomatists and the activity of Russian armies beyond her northern boundaries.

The purchase by the British Government of a large part of the last Roumanian wheat crop was, judged by the fury it aroused in Vienna and Berlin, one of the few successful diplomatic coups in our recent Balkan policy. The wheat was bought, not because we need it, but merely to keep it out of Austria and Germany, where it had long been counted upon to ease the increasing and uncomfortable scarcity of bread.

Mesopotamia.

The following quotation is taken from an article by "A Student of War," which appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* (March 18):—

The turn that events have taken in Mesopotamia is, frankly, disappointing. Our check at Es Sin breaks a long run of Turkish defeats, and prolongs a siege at Kut. It does not mend matters to find the Government admitting, as they have in effect done, that there have been grave defects in the medical organization of the expedition. Nor are we impressed with the general conduct of the expedition. Whatever faults there may have been in the original expedition which won its way nearly to Baghdad, lack of enterprise was not one of them. But after the three months' wait one would have expected something better than the operations described in the scanty official statements that have been issued so far. The operations in Mesopotamia so far from being an irrelevance are as important in a military sense as a gain of a hundred yards in Flanders, and very important to the future of this country as a great Asiatic Power. But, however that may be, we cannot afford, after Gallipoli, any defeat at the hands of the Turks; and, indeed, the bare idea of defeat at their hands is repugnant to British pride. The "entanglement" of Kut prevented us from leaving Mesopotamia alone. But better far leave it alone altogether than attempt the destruction of the Turkish Empire in Asia (for this is what the capture of Baghdad and its railway would mean) with insufficient forces. The country is difficult, and every allowance must be made for the poverty of communications and for the fact that the element of luck in the weather has been against us. Still, there has been mismanagement, and it is unpatriotic to attempt to conceal the fact.

The Bulgarian Press.

A correspondent sends us the following extract from the *Balkanska Tribuna*, of Sofia, regarding the visit of M. Briand to Rome:—

Every day brings fresh news of the pourparlers and interviews of the representatives of the Quadruple Entente. The last act in this tragi-comedy is being played at Rome. Can Italy do more than her sacred egoism permits her?

M. Briand will try to convince his colleagues of the necessity of re-enforcing his action in Albania, as well as to send troops to Salonika.

It appears that Italy has no decided programme as far as her policy in the Balkans is concerned. One day one hears that the Italian troops have been withdrawn from Valona. A little later one will read that the Italians intend defending Valona to the last extremity.

The object of M. Briand's journey is missed by hesitation.

Our correspondent adds that it is with such clap-trap the official journals endeavour to keep up the flagging spirits of the populace.

The Settlement in the Balkans.

Mr. Jan Gordon, writing under the above heading in the *New Witness* (March 16), thinks that after the war the Balkan settlement will be swung between "Serbian desires and Italian fears."

Austria will no longer count, Bulgaria has chosen the wrong path. The installation of a Greater Serbia would no doubt do much to keep the Balkans in repose: Serbia stretching from Uskub to Fiume—Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, and Slavonia all included in her marches. Italy will, of course, demand Trieste and all the Dalmatian littoral, and the Slavonian peasants beneath her rule would probably suffer little. Cattaro and Ragusa would fall to Serbia, while Montenegro would be forced to amalgamate in order to preserve the unity of the Greater Serbian State. There is little doubt that the populations of Southern Austria would benefit enormously by the exchange, for at present the dual Empire has struggled hard to keep the Slavonic part of its population in a servile subjection.

Articles to Note.

"La Russia, i Balcani e la questione degli Stretti," by Francesco Evoli; and "Conflitti di razze e di religione nell'Impero Ottomano: I. I Turchi e gli Armend," by "Y," in *La Vita Italiana* (March).

"War Notes," by Captain H. M. Johnstone, in the *United Service Magazine* (March).

"The Passing of Turkey," by Colonel H. M. Murray, C.B., in the *Lady's Pictorial* (March 19).

DIRECTORY—*Continued from page 580.*

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THOMPSON, Miss Gladys, Ridgmont, Russell Gardens, Golders Green, N.W.
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DIRECTORY

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

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

We publish elsewhere a special article on the Consular Service—a topic that is very much to the front just now. I have also perused a letter written towards the end of February by a Briton who was for many years a consular officer in the Near East, and who likewise advocates the appointment in all capitals of a business man to be our Trade Representative (a somewhat similar suggestion was put forward by Mr. Pennefather in the House of Commons two weeks ago). He, in his turn, must be empowered to appoint "sub-representatives or commercial correspondents in whatever towns he may consider necessary," who would be under his control and direction, and would be paid for the work done, said work to consist mainly in gathering required information.

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The suggestion is one well worthy the attention of the Government, though personally I think it essential that, before we attempt any serious reform of our moss-grown, antediluvian Consular system, we should exact the appointment of a Minister of Commerce competent to deal with trade matters from the trader's point of view and unhampered by nebulous F.O. exactions. If the latter, prior to the war, did not shrink from appointing in Germany, out of a total of thirty-seven unsalaried British Consular officers, no fewer than twenty-nine of German nationality, it is impossible to say what the same department is not capable of doing when at last driven by public opinion to do something. Whatever it is, it will follow the line of least resistance, and what that means we all well know. So let us agitate, in the first place, for a Minister of Commerce, and then let us follow by the appointment of Trade Representatives, on lines similar to those suggested above, responsible to the Minister of Commerce and capable of writing private and confidential reports of more than a merely academic or statistical use to the British trader.

***

My recent reference to the circulation of British banknotes in Germany, and my suggestion that they are being forged—quite a Hunnish proceeding, if history repeat itself—has drawn from a correspondent another suggestion as to the origin of these notes, which, according to him, are possibly quite bonâ-fide. He says: "Any quantity of English and French notes, which have been largely exported to Egypt, Malta, Madras, and Salonika, and which are being bought by the sarrafs and local banks, go to Austria and Germany in payment of imports. These imports comprise articles of small commercial value necessary for the replenishing of shops in the new and old Greek territories, but have no bearing on raw material. If these notes are circulating in Germany, they will find their way out to Scandinavia, Switzerland (and Roumania), in payment of German imports; but personally I doubt their large circulation, because they are more likely to be hoarded by banks in order to have bills on London."

***

The fact (or suggestion) that Greek sarrafs are buying German and Austrian goods comes as another reminder to us that our blockade of the Central Powers is by no means a faultless institution. The leakage in the West has been criticised *ad nauseam*; our impossibility to stop trade between Scandinavia, Switzerland, and Roumania, on the one hand, and the Central Powers on the other, is too obvious to need special mention; and now we have to realise that even the Greek sarraf is in a position to buy from the Boche the wherewithal to replenish his shop windows, and, *vice-versâ*, the Boche can buy certain necessary articles in Greece. Surely this can be stopped, or ought to be stopped. We command the Mediterranean; we are in force at Salonika and Valona, waiting for—surely not the blossoming of the almond trees? It seems to me that the sooner we link up from east and west across Macedonia, the quicker we shall be in a position to forge another link in the isolation of the Central Powers from the outside world; but that until this is done, Greece, at any rate, can trade with impunity (and we cannot blame her) with her Bulgar-Austro-German neighbours.

***

A result of the important income-tax decision last year in "Mitchell *v.* Egyptian Hotels, Limited," is to be found in the report of the recent meeting of the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramways Company. To escape the growing burdens of a double income-tax, that company has now passed resolutions transferring the control of the company's business from London to Bombay, thereby securing the benefit of the House of Lords' decision in the leading case referred to (says the *Morning Post*). In that case, it may be usefully recalled, the profits of the company were exclusively derived from hotels in Egypt, and the articles provided that the control and management of the company's business should be vested in the local directors. As the London board did not participate in or further the business operations in Egypt, the House of Lords held that the business was carried on entirely abroad, and accordingly only those profits remitted to this country were assessable to English tax.

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From lists and reports which have been published during the past few weeks in THE NEAR EAST, it is apparent that the Egyptian Government was at last brought to realise the nature of the enemy firms which, in spite of the war, had been doing good business in Cairo and Egypt. As a matter of fact, Governmental action against these concerns during the second half of February was marked with such a degree of alacrity that it would almost seem as though some exterior force had been brought to bear on the situation, and I think that THE NEAR EAST'S straightforward remarks on the subject helped to create a state of public opinion, both in this country and in Egypt, which could no longer be ignored by the authorities. So far, so good. Most of the enemy concerns have been rounded up and placed in the hands of controllers. We shall have to watch future actions carefully, however. What we now want is a declaration that the enemy interests in firms like Stein and Company, Mayer and Company, etc., are being *confiscated*, and that there is no prospect of the Deutsche Orient Bank's daughter concerns surviving the end of the war.

***

We reproduce elsewhere a provisional statement of the Sudan's trade in 1915, as compared with 1914. The results are most favourable. For the first time in the history of the country exports and re-exports (£E1,577,991 and £E130,315 respectively) exceed the value of total imports (£E1,704,250). Further, exports are greater than in any previous year (£E1,577,991, as against £E1,376,958 in the record year of 1911). As compared with the year 1914, the value of exports shows an increase of 55 per cent., whereas imports have decreased 10 per cent. It will thus be seen that, everything considered, the situation is exceedingly favourable, our thanks being principally due to the Sudan Government for its great administrative abilities.

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Since writing last week on the London Fair and Market, I have again visited the exhibition (which, by the way, closes to-day), and, though I much admire the energy and enterprise of the exhibitors, I cannot but repeat what I said before—namely, that it is nonsense to have two "London Fairs" following each other, as the present fair followed that held at the Agricultural Hall a few weeks ago. There are those who swear by the first-named exhibition, and others who are backing the last-named. The latter, we know, has been a success, and I sincerely hope that the London Fair and Market will be one likewise. From assurances given me by exhibitors, I certainly think it will. But this does not modify my argument that one fair instead of two is what we want, and that there ought to be found a formula of compromise between the two organising units whereby their forces could combine with a corresponding decrease in the individual cost to exhibitors.

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Further, the London Fair, I think, should be restricted to goods of British manufacture. This was a *sine quâ non* of the British Industries Fair, but not, I see, of the London Fair, where foreign goods were exhibited (Tinkertoy, for instance). The object of these Fairs, as I understand it, is to promote British trade, and not to advertise foreign goods because exhibited by British agents. Only goods of British manufacture should be exhibited in the London Fair, and if we lose sight of this first principle, the object of the Fair defeats itself. Moreover, if the firm rule is established from the very beginning, countries friendly to us cannot take it amiss if their goods are barred from the stalls.

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I am pleased to see that an agreement has been conducted between Italy and Great Britain on the subject of the Mixed Tribunals. Of more than usual interest, however, is the statement by Italy (reported by Reuter from Rome) to the effect that she agrees to the eventual abolition of the Capitulations and the transformation of the Mixed Tribunals "if other Great Powers also consented." I trust that the enemy Powers will never be asked to express an opinion as to whether they agree to the abolition of the Capitulations! Surely they have nothing to do with the measures adopted by us to administer our Colonies and Dependencies! The Allied and friendly Powers stand on a different footing altogether, and they will be consulted, but let us refrain from dragging to the peace conference the questions of the Capitulations and Mixed Tribunals in Egypt. For, politely speaking, they do not concern the enemy one little bit.

COMMENTATOR.

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Trade After the War.

British Consular Reforms.

(SPECIAL TO "THE NEAR EAST.")

Whilst the Chambers of Commerce in the different shipping centres are discussing plans for keeping Germany out of the oversea trade after the war, one would like to see some movement on the part of the Foreign Office in regard to the reorganisation of the present Consular Service.

The following remarks, although specially applicable to commerce in the Near East, where Germany was particularly energetic before the war, apply equally well to the rest of the world.

When Germany commenced her great trade war over a decade or so ago, she prepared the ground for her subsequent activities by placing in every port, small and large, business Government representatives as consuls. These men, whilst carrying on their usual consular duties, were also given far-reaching powers to enable them to advance German interests as much as possible, and also the necessary staff to enable them to carry out such work.

It has been said that our enemy modelled her Consular Service on the British plan. This is quite true, but with her quick business instinct she was able to grasp the point that to be really useful her consuls must have a wider field to work in. She selected men who had a thorough business training, paid them well, and gave them full powers to develop German influence. The result was that in a few years the consul in a foreign port was to all intents and purposes the manager of the German business in that port. It is not too much to say that in some cases he was banker as well. If a small German trader was struggling to push a certain line of goods in the market, and was hampered by the want of money, the consul would arrange his finance for him in a satisfactory manner. He was supplied with the necessary machinery to obtain the minutest information regarding the trade of his district, and knew the names of all the foreign correspondents, and the kind of goods required, etc.

German Methods.

The writer was once told by the captain of a cargo steamer that when discharging at a foreign port he discovered that one of the men on the quay who was very busy making notes of the marks, etc., of the cargo, was the German consul himself! If the consul found that a certain country was increasing its business in his sphere he soon started a campaign by advising home the necessity of sending a few good travellers to push German makes of similar articles which were being sent out from, say, England. These men would arrive out with their price-lists printed in the language and coinage of the country. They were ready to meet their clients' wishes in every way and to give them long credit. Whilst English travellers were stumping the country with their old-fashioned price-lists printed in English, attempting to foist a certain make of goods upon their prospective customers, no matter whether the article was exactly what was wanted or not, unable to promise that such and such alterations should be made to meet customers' requirements, their German competitors were obsequiously offering to copy their wares at a cheaper rate and to make any particular article exactly as it was required.

All the time the German Consular Service was flooding the countries with propaganda printed in the language of these countries, and giving a powerful helping hand wherever it was required. Is it to be wondered at that German trade increased by leaps and bounds? At home, the German manufacturer was given every assistance by his Government to meet the ever-increasing demands of his foreign clients. Labour was cheaper than in the United Kingdom, the State railways were prepared to give concessions in rates from inland manufacturing centres to the big ports, and the banks were ready to make the financial part of the matter as easy as possible. So German trade flourished, watched over by business men from the Kaiser downwards.

This article is not intended to cast a slur on our consuls. They are, taken as a whole, a hard-working, underpaid body of men. The fault does not lie with the consuls themselves. Their reports and statistics, in the majority of cases, are carefully and conscientiously prepared, but unfortunately such valuable information is not given sufficient publicity in this country. Every manufacturer and trading house should be supplied periodically with a copy of the consul's report on trade which emanates from the particular country or countries in which he is interested. It is the system that is wrong. The British consul is tied up with red tape, he is but a child in the hands of the Foreign Office, whose laws as to the duties of H.B.M. consuls are as unalterable as those of the Medes and Persians. In nine cases out of ten his actual business experience is a negligible quantity, because he has never had the opportunity of learning business methods.

Ministry of Commerce.

There is talk of the probability of the appointment of a Minister of Commerce. It will be a step in the right direction, and it is hoped that, if such an appointment is made, our Consular Service will be reconstituted. Whilst it might not be advisable to alter the actual duties as at present arranged for our consuls, there is no reason why there should not be attached to each consulate a commercial representative, whose sole duty should be to promote British trade interests. It is believed that the Consular Service is very inexpensive to the country—in fact, the actual sum expended by the Treasury is absurd as compared with the magnitude of British world trade. It would repay the country to double, aye, treble, the annual grant for this branch of the public service and thus enable our consulates to be properly staffed.

We have suffered terribly in the past in competition with Germany, and now is the time to set our house in order. Business men firmly believe that a great trade war will spring up after hostilities cease, and that this country will not only have to fight a bloodless battle with Germany, but with those neutral countries which have benefited so largely by the present war. A strong business Consular Service backed up by a commercial banking system would be the greatest help to the British oversea trader in this coming commercial war.

M.

TRADE OF KHORASAN.

In his annual report on the trade of Khorasan in 1914, H.B.M. Consul-General says that the value of the trade for the year amounted to £2,601,257, as compared with £2,765,543 for the previous year, the decrease being due to the decrease of exports to or through Russia. Goods to the value of £221,242, which is one-twelfth of the total trade value, were carried through the parcel post.

Openings for British Trade.

I am unable to agree in the statement made in recent trade reports to the effect that there is no opening for British trade in Khorasan, and I am inclined to believe that the statement was not intended to convey more than that British trade at present labours under serious disadvantages. These disadvantages will be apparent from a comparison of the Meshed-Ashkabad road, by which Russian goods reach Meshed by wagon within a few days with the Nushki trade route, by which British and Indian goods reach Meshed by pack animals in a period of never less than three and sometimes more than nine months. That there is an opening for British trade is proved by the ever-increasing quantity of British merchandise imported from the north by the costly medium of the post office. This year's statistics show that goods to the value of £25,268 were thus imported from the United Kingdom, but these figures by no means represent the whole of this trade, for British merchants, to save postage, sent goods in bulk to Germany, where they were packed in parcels suitable for despatch by post, so that a large proportion of the goods, amounting in value to £102,146, and shown as imported by post from Russia and other Continental countries, was in fact British. Were communications improved, thread, tissues, tobacco, cigarettes, wearing apparel, sugar, soap, indigo, tanned and untanned hides, manufactured leather, drugs, carpets, mercery, hardware, and other goods from the United Kingdom and India might replace to a great extent the imports from other countries, and practically the whole of the carrying trade in Indian tea, much of which is at present carried by sea from India and enters Persia from the north, would be secured for the Nushki route.

One step towards the improvement of communications would be the establishment of a trustworthy and efficient forwarding agency between Meshed and Nushki. Indian traders complain of existing arrangements, though it is but just to say that some, at least, of the inconvenience which they suffer is attributable as much to their own slipshod and casual methods of doing business as to imperfections in the machinery for forwarding goods. Unfortunately, the traders are incapable of combining to establish an agency, and the only suggestion that they can make is that the Government of India should undertake the task. I believe that the merchants would contribute towards the cost of the establishment of such an agency. An ideal solution of the question would be the establishment of an agency by a respectable British firm, but I know of no firm likely to make the experiment. An obstacle in the way of cheap and regular transport is the great preponderance of imports (£115,863) over exports (£15,260), for even if the bulk of the local carrying trade were captured by returning caravans many would still have to return without loads.

The substitution of wheeled for pack transport along the greater part, if not the whole, of the route would remove another obstacle in the way of the expansion of British trade and should be practicable with slight improvements to the road in places, but I fear that no steps are likely to be taken in this direction until some enterprising firm establishes a carrying agency.

What is most urgently required for the stimulation of British and Indian trade with Khorasan is the extension of the railway to, or at least towards, the frontier. Nushki is twenty stages distant from the frontier, and the road traverses an arid and uninviting tract of country. The elimination of this tedious caravan journey would greatly encourage trade, the steady expansion of which, even under existing conditions, would justify in my opinion the extension of the railway line to Rubat.

Parcel Post.

Imports from India by the parcel post are comparatively insignificant and have fallen 50 per cent. in value—from £1,189 to £599—since last year, but imports from the United Kingdom have risen in value from £15,212 to £25,268 (over 66 per cent.), and those from Russia and other Continental countries from £67,053 to £102,146 (52.33 per cent.). Imports have increased under nearly every head, and will probably continue to do so from year to year, for the parcel post, though costly, is a most convenient channel for the importation of goods not too bulky for conveyance by the post office. A considerable quantity of the goods shown as imported from Russia and other Continental countries are in fact exported from the United Kingdom. Some consternation was caused during the year by persistent rumours to the effect that Russia contemplated the immediate closing of the parcel post route to Meshed vid Ashkabad, and these apprehensions probably stimulated the trade during the year.

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SUDAN TRADE IN 1915.

The January Report issued by the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government contains a summary of Sudan trade in 1915 as compared with 1914 as follows:—

	1915. £E	1914. £E
Imports	1,704,250	1,891,494
Exports	1,577,991	1,020,260
Re-exports	130,315	87,986
Transit (Inwards)	56,267	22,065
Transit (Outwards)	30,008	34,725
Total	£E3,498,831	£E3,056,530

Imports:—

There has been a further decrease in the value of imports as compared with 1914, the respective totals being: 1914, £E1,891,494; 1915, £E1,704,250.

Public imports declined by 3 per cent., Government imports by 30 per cent., the total decrease amounting to 10 per cent.

Public imports were of the value of £E1,359,364, as compared with £E1,400,333 in 1914.

Principal articles imported by the Government were:—

	1915. Value. £E	1914. Value. £E
Coal	75,842	53,440
Clothing, hosiery, and underclothing	24,704	27,321
Explosives	22,284	17,010
Iron and steel, manufactured	21,720	15,085
Timber	20,409	16,389
Military stores	17,899	13,953
Flour	16,695	21,409
Boots and shoes	12,889	8,396
Machinery, all kinds of	7,741	19,895
Ironware	6,502	11,803
Soap	4,387	3,943
Cotton fabrics	3,632	7,034
Blankets, all wool and mixed	3,322	4,095
Mineral oils	2,512	4,451
Cement	2,049	8,658
Linen, hemp and jute	1,985	2,536
All kinds of colours	1,621	3,982

Principal articles imported by the public:—

Articles.	1915.	1914
Cotton fabrics	478,141	336,188
Sugar	225,493	238,701
Coffee	79,201	57,314
Empty sacks	62,455	12,257
Flour	58,477	81,086
Tobacco, tombac, cigars, and cigarettes	42,841	43,857
Tea	34,070	36,017
Soap	20,191	20,732
Electrical and other machinery	13,379	27,430
Spices	11,083	8,201
Jams, preserved fruits in sugar, etc.	10,099	13,245
Rice	9,193	25,986
Wheat	8,363	18,985
Matches	7,350	2,411
Iron and steel manufacture	6,684	9,682
Timber	6,128	8,980
Cotton thread	5,476	3,286
Coal	5,188	22,782
Candles	4,942	6,880
Glass and crystalware	4,745	8,621
Ironware	3,670	8,382
Boots and shoes	2,642	3,939

Exports.

The value of most exports has increased in 1915, as compared with 1914. The increase in the total value is mainly attributable to the following items, the increase in the value of which is as shown:—

Dura dukhn (millet) and maize (increase in value of export), £E270,718; cotton (ginned), £E138,238; cattle, £E70,532; hides, £E43,235; sesame, £E32,243.

The only decrease in the value of any export of any importance is that of ivory (decrease, £E36,473) and Dom Palm nuts (vegetable ivory), £E11,506.

Principal articles of export "Sudan Produce" were:—

Articles.	1915. Value. £E	1914. Value. £E
Gum	313,081	314,919
Cotton ginned	236,793	98,555
Cotton seed	33,376	12,509
Cotton unginned	203	59
Dura and maize	207,156	4,445
Cattle	170,400	99,868
Untanned hides	92,315	49,080
Sheep and goats	89,526	85,975
Sesame	85,142	52,899
Dukhn	68,016	8
Gold	65,553	68,146
Ivory	48,132	84,605
Untanned skins of sheep and goats	30,300	38,427
Dates	24,167	29,372
Senna	23,499	5,912
Charcoal	13,614	586
Galad or sunt pods	7,297	2,570
Sesame oil	5,753	1,206
Dom palm nuts	3,776	15,282
M.O.P. shells	3,580	2,304
Ground nuts	6,077	2,773
Rhino horns and tusks of other animals	1,881	1,208
Horses, donkeys, mules, and camels	1,180	7,266
Ostrich feathers	465	3,999

Trade Notes.

Egypt.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade is in receipt from the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior of copies of the statement of conditions, etc., in connection with a call for tenders for the supply of Ghafir clothing required by the Stores Department during 1916, including blue drill belts, drawers, and qamis. Two metres of cloth of the kinds which the tenderer intends to use must be submitted to the Director of Stores, Bulac, Cairo, at least ten days before the adjudication. Copies of the specifications with forms of tender, etc., may be obtained, at a cost of 2s. per copy, from the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W., where also sealed samples of the articles required may be inspected. Sealed tenders, on the proper form, will be received, up to noon on April 22, by the Under-Secretary of State (Personnel and Equipment Department), Ministry of the Interior, Cairo. Date, April 22.

The Egyptian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of "53,080 manches en bois" and "500 cannes en jonc de 1 metre et 60 centimetres de long." Date, April 3.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-18). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Date, June 1.

Tenders are invited by the Director of the Police School, Abbassia, for the supply of clothing and accoutrements required for the officer cadets. Date, April 15.

Among the questions submitted to the Council of Ministers on March 7 was that of the appointment of a committee whose duty it would be to combat German trade in Egypt in conformity with the arrangements come to between the Allies on this subject. A committee has been formed under the presidency of Ismail Pasha Sidney, former Minister of Wakfs, and the follow members:—Mohammed Shafik Pasha, Under-Secretary of State for the Ministry of Wakfs; Joseph Aslan Cattaoui Pasha and Talaat Harb Bey, together with three British Officials.

A recent issue of the *Official Journal* announces that the following enemy firms have been granted licences to trade without special restriction, in place of the restricted licences granted to them as stated in Section B of the Notice published in the *Official Journal* of January 13, 1916:—E. Del Mar, Société Anonyme des Drogueries d'Egypte, Sharia Abou el Hassan, Mouski, Cairo, and Messrs. C. M. Salvago and Co., 22, Rue Cherif Pasha, Alexandria.

Sudan.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on March 29, 1916, for the supply of paraffin and petrol required by the above department for 1916. Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, or to the Agents, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria.

Greece.

The Minister of Commerce at Athens has announced a public auction sale of the steamer Macedonia, the award to be made at Athens Tuesday, March 28, 1916.

TRADE WITH RUSSIA.—Firm of Produce Importers and Exporters, desirous of opening branch in Odessa, would like to hear from firms desiring REPRESENTATION, who would be willing to co-operate and share expenses of common office.—Reply to Box M., Publicity, Ltd., 28, Mark Lane, E.C.

Roumania.

The trade in automobiles, motor-lorries and motor-cycles, formerly in the hands of Germany and Italy, and partly France, is reported to be very lively owing to the impossibility of now importing goods, thus rendering the value of existing cars very high. British cars imported have always given satisfactory results. A correspondent says that the best means of successfully pushing a motor-car agency is to keep a permanent stock of cars with accessories and spare parts.

Somaliland.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of "The Customs Amendment Ordinance (No. 5, of 1915)," dated August 16, wherein the following addition is made to the list of articles which may be imported free of duty into any of the ports of the Protectorate:—

Camp equipment imported by officers and officials serving in the Protectorate. The term "Camp Equipment" shall be held to include the following articles:—Camp-bed and bedding; valise, camp tables; waterproof sheets or tent carpets; bath, wash-stand and basin, tents; camp crockery, cutlery and cooking utensils; camp lanterns, saddlery.

Ships and boats; and the apparel pertaining thereto.

Abyssinia.

Writing on January 27, the U.S. Vice-Consul at Aden says:—The railway from Djibouti to Adis Abeba, Abyssinia, is rapidly nearing completion, being within a few miles of Adis Abeba. With its completion there should be a larger market for American goods. Some of the articles for which there should be a demand are the following: Soap, safety matches, hardware, cutlery, cooking utensils, carpenter's tools, simple agricultural implements, saddles, etc., horseshoes, sewing machines, stationery, ink, cotton prints for women, oils for cooking purposes, and religious books in Arabic and English. All goods must be such as would retail cheaply to the native, as the price is of greater consideration than quality at present. Business is largely done through Aden, and the names of the principal Aden merchants doing this business are transmitted (and can be obtained at the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and its district officer by referring to file No. 72944).

Morocco.

The Acting British Consul at Casablanca reports the grant of a lighterage concession at the Port of Kenitra to a French company, and has forwarded a copy of the contract, which contains particulars of the charges which may be made for loading, unloading, warehousing, etc. The copy of the contract (in French) above referred to may be consulted by United Kingdom firms interested at the Commercial Intelligence branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

ANGLO-GREEK TRADE.

Recently Reuter's Athens correspondent wrote as follows:—

"Judging from letters received here from exporters in England, there would appear to exist a considerable distrust regarding the situation in Greece, and consequently a disinclination to make shipments owing to the uncertainty of the future. I am, however, in a position to state that these fears are exaggerated, if not unwarranted. English exporters would, it is felt, be well advised to reconsider their views on the subject, unless they are prepared to see a considerable part of the import trade of Greece secured by other countries. Already American exporters are profiting from the situation, and many articles formerly obtained in England now reach this country from America. It should be remembered that the restrictions imposed by the Allied Governments in imports to Greece only concern foodstuffs, coal, and certain articles of military value, but do not affect hundreds of articles which Greece is in need of at present, and for which she is prepared to pay cash on delivery. To sum up, therefore, it is generally felt that British exporters have now a splendid opportunity of developing their trade with Greece—a trade which once lost may never again return."

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BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF EGYPT.

The annual general meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt was held on February 28 at Alexandria, with the President, Mr. R. C. Abdy, in the chair. The accounts and balance-sheet, together with the Committee's report for the year ended December 31, 1915, were unanimously adopted.

The following members of the committee retired in accordance with the articles of constitution, and, being eligible, were re-elected to the Committee:—Messrs. Chas. A. H. Alderson, J. Davies Bryan, V. F. Naggiar, and J. A. Scott.

The following are extracts from the President's speech, as reported by the *Egyptian Gazette*:—

"Shorthanded as our business houses have found themselves owing to all Britons wanting to join the army, we have managed to keep our commerce going, and also to take up German trade.

"The subjects we dealt with this year were, *inter alia*:—

"The formation of the Patriotic League of Britons Overseas. This league will eventually fill a void in our Empire and its life, and be used to appeal to our colony on matters of patriotic interest. They have their own committee and officers.

"We were constantly examining and corresponding with the Government regarding trade with or in the hands of enemy firms, and issued last spring a report in pamphlet form *re* openings for trade here, treating more especially with trade held by our enemies heretofore.

"The bankruptcy deposit, as insisted on by the Mixed Tribunals, was again the subject of communication with the authorities, local traders finding £E12 deposit a deterrent to moving in the case of small failures.

"The Customs Administration, no doubt, in a laudable spirit from a revenue-raising point of view, have been very severe in their manner of fixing values on imports, and we have had many complaints made to us. We have urged the formation of a definite committee of appeal to be established, as on the present system valuation must frequently be arbitrary.

"We pressed the authorities to permit us to help, as far as our limited workshops would permit, in the Imperial manufacture of munitions.

"We also strongly pointed out the objectionable practices some few unimportant firms tried to initiate of showing trade samples, etc., in Egypt under grandiose names, leading the public to imagine they were official British exhibitions.

"We called attention to a dangerous tendency of theatres and other shows to obtain support from the public by offering sometimes a vague percentage of profit to our or other Red Cross funds.

"The question of the Juges Assesseurs at the Mixed Tribunals had our attention, and is now the subject of observation of our Chamber.

"We urged the Government to take liberal steps to assure sufficient 'Tagawi' or cotton-seed for the coming crop, our indication being that the usual channels of sale were likely to be inadequate.

"Our finances were not highly satisfactory, as extra expenses were put on us by our Secretary joining the army, by the issue of the pamphlet I spoke of *re* German trades, and, lastly, a donation we made on your behalf to the 'Our Day' appeal of the British Red Cross. We all felt you would like us to figure in this exceptional national appeal, and ask you to pass a resolution approving our action in this matter. The other side of the financial picture, which is not so bright, is that our funds, as shown in the balance-sheet, being in high-class securities, are heavily depreciated at the moment, and perhaps some £300 lower than at cost to-day.

"There is one final appeal I wish to impress on everyone. It is that all those who are presidents, treasurers, etc., of clubs, charities, funds who have balances at their credit should seek to invest as much as possible in our national war funds; the 5 per cent. Exchequer Bond issue is particularly attractive. Your funds will be liquid, and the Anglo-Egyptian Bank here will gladly help all those who desire to so invest their funds."

Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds,
Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs,
Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
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Engineering Notes.

Quenching of Steel.

The process of hardening tools, or other articles made of steel, by quenching has often puzzled engineers as well as metal workers. The results are not always satisfactory, in which case not infrequently the quality of steel or the skilfulness of the operator are questioned; whilst in some places abroad the perfection of Sheffield tools and other hardened articles is attributed to a quenching process which Sheffield manufacturers are keeping secret. It will, therefore, interest those who are puzzled, as well as those who believe in secret process, to hear that the success of hardening depends to a great extent on the quenching liquid. In a lecture which Mr. S. N. Brayshaw recently gave on the quenching of steel, he stated that the age of water had a great deal to do with its quenching powers; also that some waters were more efficient than others, and instanced the water of the River Don, in Sheffield, which is carried away in barrels for quenching purposes, some of it even going to the United States. He did not say, however, what peculiar properties the River Don water possessed, but in discussing the properties which determine the value of any quenching liquid, Mr. Brayshaw pointed out that the main items of consideration were specific gravity, specific heat, boiling point, conductivity, and fluidity. He laid down as the ideal quenching medium one that was fluid from the temperature of 100 degrees C. to 800 degrees C., of fairly high specific gravity and of fairly good specific heat. A quenching bath of this fluid would give a glassy hardness to tools, but the quenching should be carried out at such a temperature that the heat would prevent breakage.

Trade After the War.

At a meeting last Tuesday in Manchester of the British engineering industry, Mr. T. C. Elder (of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association) gave an address on "Engineering Industry and Public Policy," which ought to be widely published and read by every man who is concerned with the prospects of British trade after the war. Mr. Elder asked how were we to negotiate a prosperous transition from the arts of war to the arts of peace in the engineering workshops of the country—in the 3,000 Government factories? Where were we going to find a steady flow of revenue to follow the present plentiful distribution of State borrowings? It was recognised that we should need an heroic national effort of reorganisation, or else, even with victory in the field, we should pass on to social and industrial disaster. In business we had had only a mob of unorganised private adventurers in competition with, in Germany, a highly organised and highly disciplined army of industry. Many who knew Germany still wondered why she appealed to the sword, when the office pen was being wielded with such mighty results. Ten years more at the same rate of progress would have, perhaps, achieved her object. By a providential freak of fortune she was tempted to use her other mighty machine, with a "get-rich-quick" motive. But, costly as that had proved, it had not swept away her commercial system. That was working to-day for the future, in spite of the blockade, and the same formula would be again applied. What were we doing to defend ourselves against it? We were passing excellent resolutions. And if the war were to collapse suddenly next week, Germany would be off the mark in the commercial race quicker than any of her competitors. The output capacity of British engineering had been increased during the war by a margin estimated at from 30 to 50 per cent. That of Germany and Austria had also been largely extended, and there had been a marked increase in the United States, Canada, France, Russia, and Japan. There had been throughout the world a forced growth in the plant and buildings required for the production of machinery. We should start our new era of peace with an enormous increase in the visible means of supply. There would also be the return of millions of men to civil employment throughout Europe, and that country would most readily recover which was able to make prompt application of the labour to valuable productive purposes.

All the great countries, with such largely increased engineering equipment, would probably find themselves engaged in desperate competition. One point on which everyone seemed to be agreed was that we could not, after the war, simply go back to business as before. The time had come when we ought to drop for ever the false and fraudulent antithesis between Free Trade and Protection. It was absolutely essential, said Mr. Elder, to our future prosperity and power that Great Britain should be pre-eminent in the engineering and chemical industries. The duty and the responsibility of effective co-operation to this end rested upon the politician, the financier, the manufacturer, and the workman. If the politician came back from the peace congress repeating his old party catchwords, if the financier returned to his former profession of coldly impartial cosmopolitan money-changing, if labour was unprepared to take broad views of the relationship of output and remuneration, if the manufacturers had not learned to work in powerful association, and if the ordinary citizen, when he went to the shop counter or the polling booth, gave no more thought than he did formerly to the interests of national industry—all that would mean that we should only attain wisdom after a more or less prolonged and painful period of further adversity and turmoil. There was no assurance whatever, said Mr. Elder, that the Government contemplated any general reform of our economic policy. All the indications in that quarter suggested that we should reach peace totally unprepared, and enter upon another desperate scramble to make up for the lost time with wrong men and wrong measures, and foolish amateur experiments and much money thrown away. But our enemies were already preparing quietly and systematically. The engineering industry must do all that was humanly possible to help itself, and it would fall far short of what was possible if it did not organise a general association powerful enough to exert collective influence in all foreign markets to offer authoritative counsel to the Government, to stimulate scientific research, and bring it into closer communication with industrial progress.

ERZEROUM ROUTES.

The *Morning Post* gives the following summary of routes to and from Erzeroum :—

From Erzeroum north to the Black Sea there are four roads—one to Rizeh and three to Trebizond. The main road to Trebizond passes by Baiburt and Gumuskhaneh, and is about 200 miles long, or a continuous journey of about 70 hours. A little known but more beautiful way branches off some miles beyond Baiburt, and joins the *chaussée* some fifteen miles to the south of Trebizond. This road takes fully three days to cover. The shortest route leaves the *chaussée* halfway between Baiburt and Gumuskhaneh and joins it at the same point as the second route mentioned. The second and third roads, however, are mule tracks and really summer routes.

From Erzeroum westward the direct road passes through the military station of Erzingan (75 miles), thence over a mountainous country to Sivas (230 miles), a town of great strategic importance, built at an altitude of 4,420 ft., and a centre where seven roads and two rivers meet. Fully 200 miles separate Sivas from Angora, the railhead from Constantinople, which is two days' journey distant, with a break at Eski-Shehr.

There are roads from Erzeroum south-west to Kharput (125 miles), and Diarbekr, on the Tigris (150 miles), and one southward by Khinis, Mush, and Bitlis. In its passage through Bitlis the "infant" Tigris, joined by another stream, breaks into rapids and cataracts. From Bitlis the road continues south to Mosul (180 miles), on the Tigris, which is navigable thence to Baghdad, but there are considerable obstacles in the shape of a great dam and rapids between Mosul and Tekrit, the railhead of the Baghdad railway.

On the Euphrates navigation is impeded above Anah (160 miles north-west of Baghdad) by old dams, rocks, and rapids, but once or twice a year, in the dry season, a small steamer runs to Meskineh, some fifty miles to the south-east of Aleppo. Its main purpose, however, is not commercial, but to control the river tribes.

EGYPT'S LACK OF COAL.

The question of the coal shortage in this country (says the *Egyptian Gazette*) was discussed at a recent meeting of the Advisory Council of the Ministry of Agriculture by Naus Bey, the manager of the Sucreries Company, who brought forward a motion that means should be taken to furnish the coal indispensable for farmers by all possible means. He drew the attention of the Government to the necessity of lowering the Customs dues on imported coal. The dearness of coal, he pointed out, was due to the extraordinary rise in freights, and the Customs ought to be levied on the basis of the prices in vogue in England, increasing these prices by double the amount of the freight, which was the custom before the war, and not by increasing them seven times over, as was now the case.

The Minister of Agriculture, in reply, declared that the Government would not leave a stone unturned in order to find a solution for the problem. He mentioned the fact that he had asked Lord Edward Cecil, who was now in England, to deal directly with the matter. The Minister went on to state that the Government was seriously considering the question of importing coal from India, but here again the lack of ships was a serious hindrance.

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Near East Markets.

SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, February 28.

The general situation continues to be one of commercial activity. The strong demand for grain (millet) has caused the price to rise, but the enhanced price is also due to the determination of the natives not to be caught napping with empty garners, as they were two years ago, when the rains failed. They are, therefore, storing a surplus, which will be retained until the first rains give some earnest of a good season.

The following extracts are from the Monthly Report for January of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government:—

Gum.

1,422,000 kilos of gum valued at £E45,168 were exported via Port Sudan, and 29,000 kilos of gum valued at £E1,000 were exported via Halfa during January, 1916.

The Port Sudan exports were directed as follows:—To Great Britain, 723,000 kilos (£E24,361); to France, 620,000 kilos (£E18,286); to the U.S.A., 50,000 kilos (£E1,719); to Japan, 20,000 kilos (£E667); and to New Zealand, 4,000 kilos (£E135).

In January, 1915, 396,819 kilos of gum, valued at £E11,509, were exported from Port Sudan.

Gum continues to come into El Obeid in large quantities for the time of year. 17,381 kantars were sold in El Obeid gum market during January, this constituting a record for the month. The price per kantar ranged from 96 piastres to 120 piastres the kantar (54 kilos).

Cotton.

January cotton reports state:—

Red Sea Province.—The management of the cotton market at Tokar has been handed over to the Inspector of Agriculture.

Hoppers have appeared here and there in the basin, but have been destroyed by prompt measures being taken. Flying locusts passed over the basin twice during the month going towards the sea.

Picking has begun on the earlier grown cotton and it is proposed to open the market on February 10.

A large number of hoppers were reported near Handub. The Inspector Suakin sent out the Sub-Mamur with Police and Takruri labourers who destroyed the whole lot.

Berber Province.—The remarkably sustained cold spell during the month has to some extent held back the cotton, but warmer weather will no doubt bring a recovery.

Sesame.

The trade in sesame still continues to be very brisk and far larger quantities are being exported than was expected, while the price remains excellent.

Sesame to the value of some £E7,000 has been sold in Singa Merada during the month.

3,910 ardebs were put on the market at Singa, and 4,236 ardebs were exported.

Prices were P.60 to P.80 the ardeb of 480 rottles (216 kilos), or P.28 to P.37 per 100 kilos.

Colocynth Pulp.

Included in the above review of the situation is the following report by the Imperial Institute on a sample of the above pulp remitted to it:—

"The Colocynth pulp was forwarded to the Imperial Institute by the Director of the Commercial Intelligence Branch, Central Economic Board, Khartoum, with letter No. 1,186, dated December 30, 1915. The sample consisted of pulp free from seeds and in good condition, but slightly brown in parts and containing some yellowish dust. It was submitted to two firms of merchants in London, who reported on it as follows:—

"(1) One firm considered the sample to be very satisfactory except for the slight colouration referred to above, and stated that there is a good market in London for colocynth pulp in fairly large quantities. The firm pointed out that for a parcel of Sudan colocynth 3s. 3d. per lb. had been asked recently in London, but that buyers were not prepared to pay more than about half that price.

"(2) The second firm also described the sample as of good quality, but added that if the fine dust were removed it would be still better. They valued it at about 1s. 3d. per lb. c.i.f. London. They further stated that they had recently purchased several tons of colocynth pulp from the Sudan at as much as 1s. 6d. per lb., the pulp in question being of extra fine quality, absolutely free from dust, and with all the yellow material taken out."

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, March 9.

The exportation of potatoes has now been prohibited except in special circumstances to be dealt with by the Provost Marshals.

Weather has been favourable. Fresh falls of snow have covered the hills, and the Pedias and other "rivers" have brought much water to the plains. Cereal crops are doing well in all parts of the island.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, March 23.

Currants.

Speculative business continues, and prices have advanced from 1s. to 2s. since last report.

Sultanas.

The demand continues steady for all kinds, and prices are firm, although Afghanistan and Indian fruit are a little dearer.

Figs.

There is a moderate demand, with small business passing, at late rates.

Dates.

The demand for this fruit is steadily increasing, prices being 25 to 30 per cent. higher than at the commencement of the season. Stocks, however, are reported to be short, and a further advance is very probable.

Seeds.

The linseed market is dull and depressed. London-Calcutta, spot, 76s.; afloat, 75s. 9d.; February-March, March-April, and April-May, 75s. 6d. Bombay to London, April-May, 75s. 9d. La Plata to Hull, spot and afloat, 70s.; February-March, 69s.; March-April, 68s. 9d. Bombay to Hull, April-May, 75s. 6d. Cotton-seed is dull and easier to buy. Egyptia to London, spot, offered at £14; Hull, spot, sold at £13 10s. prompt. Bombay to Hull, spot, £12 5s. Rapeseed nominal. Toria, March, Hull, is quoted 70s. 6d.

Oils.

Linseed oil is steady forward; spot pipes, £41 10s.; spot barrels, £42 5s. waterside; March, £42; April, £42 2s. 6d.; May-August, £43 5s.; and September-December, £44 5s. Cotton-oil is firm; crude pipes, spot, £43 10s.; refined pale pipes, spot, £48 6s.; and sweet barrels, spot, £52 to £53, as to makes. Rape-oil is steady; ordinary brown naked, spot, nominal; English refined barrels, £55 to £56.

Oilcakes.

Cotton cakes: Egyptian are offered sparingly, both in warehouse and for shipment; prices, however, are well maintained; spot parcels selling at £9 12s. 6d. to £9 15s., while for March and April shipments, £9 10s. is asked, with English at £9 15s. 6d. to £9 17s. 6d., and Bombay £9 7s. 6d. per ton. Linseed cakes.—The market is in a depressed condition, owing to the continued absence of demand, although buyers have an opportunity of buying at a decline of fully 5s. per ton. Best London made is offered at £12 5s. 6d. to £12 10s. 6d., with East Indian seed, pures, at £12 10s. to £12 15s. per ton.

Various.

White Rangoon beans, spot, old crop, £23 5s., ex store. Canary seed, Spanish or spot, £5 15s. to £6 10s., ex. store per 464 lbs. Sulphate of copper is firmer, March-April, £48 10s. per ton, f.o.b.

NOTES FROM BULGARIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, March 4.

People arriving from Bulgaria agree as to the deplorable state of that country. A cause of very great suffering is the total want of medicines and drugs, which makes itself felt in the military hospitals, due, it is said, to the fact that the same want is beginning to be noticed in Austria-Hungary and Germany, from whence the requirements of Bulgaria have been supplied.

Shortage of Foodstuffs.

Medicines, however, are not the only articles of which Bulgaria is short. Wheat is becoming uniformly scarce. The German fancy prices have proved so tempting that possessors of wheat disposed of all their available stock. Now a shortage is visible, and the Bulgarian Government has been obliged to import from Roumania. Up to the present 10,000 metric tons of wheat have been bought, and the purchase of a further 20,000 metric tons is being negotiated.

Sugar and rice are both in great demand. The Commission for Requisitions has only been able to place with extreme difficulty at the disposal of the Municipality of Sofia three wagons of rice; while the Committee of Public Supply "hopes" in a short time to supply a wagon of sugar.

Prices are rising daily in the capital and provincial towns, especially for foodstuffs and clothing.

Owing to German intervention, severe orders have been given to the prefects of districts and to the communal authorities not to allow a square foot of ground in Bulgaria to go untilled. All Bulgarian territory which is capable of cultivation must be planted. The rural population of Bulgaria is to be divided into groups of from five to ten families, at the head of each of which a chief will be appointed. This chief will see that all available ground is planted, and he will be personally responsible for the execution of the order. Mayors especially zealous in this matter will be compensated, whilst negligence will be severely punished.

Tobacco Crops.

The tobacco crop in the Gumuldjna district during the past year amounted to about five million kilos. Sales commenced at 4 f. 50 per kilogram. The Uskub district produced annually before the Balkan wars about ten million kilograms of tobacco.

Macedonian Mineral Resources.

The Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture is shortly sending representatives to the new territories in order to study the question of coal supply, and also to report on the iron and copper mines.

New Macedonian Bridge.

On February 8 a bridge across the river Saishitza, to the west of the town of Kadorishti (Macedonia), was formally opened. The bridge, which is 100 metres long, bears the proud name "Czar Ferdinand."

Czar Ferdinand Making Money.

The economic situation of Bulgaria at the present moment is fully as bad as that of Turkey. Everything that could be taken has been seized by the Germans. As for what remains, it is in the hands of speculators. Most characteristic of the actual régime in Bulgaria is the fact that the so-called Committee of Supply, which should devote itself to supplying the wants of the population, is itself heartily engaged in heavy speculations in foodstuffs, etc. All the members of the Committee are Radoslavists, and naturally protected by the Government. It is known, too, that even King Ferdinand himself has realized considerable profits on some minor deals.

Hungary to the Rescue.

M. Postosky, Director of the National Bank of Hungary, accompanied by Count Zichy, former Hungarian Minister of Education, have passed through Sofia on their way to Constantinople. On their return they will spend a few days in the Bulgarian capital.

Quarantine has been imposed at Athens from the 11th inst. on arrivals from Corfu, owing to an alleged outbreak of cholera.

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COMPANY MEETING.

THE FINANCIAL TIMES.

The ordinary general meeting of the Financial Times, Limited, was held on Wednesday at 72, Coleman Street, E.C., Mr. William Graham (the Chairman) presiding. The Secretary (Mr. H. A. Randall, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said, *inter alia*: The company during the financial year under review has suffered a great loss by the death of Mr. F. M. Bridgewater, who for several years filled the position of Chairman and Managing Director. Mr. Bridgewater gave the best years of his life to the services of the company, and the trade papers owned by it are in particular a lasting memorial of his life's work. Those papers were in a large measure created by him. "Absolutely trustworthy" is the motto of *The Financial Times*, and, speaking with an intimate knowledge of Mr. Bridgewater's management of your company, I can say emphatically that during his chairmanship and managing directorship *The Financial Times* not only maintained, but materially increased, its reputation for absolute trustworthiness. (Hear, hear.) Upon the nomination of shareholders holding a majority of the ordinary shares in the company and a considerable holding in the preference shares, I have been appointed Chairman in Mr. Bridgewater's place. I have had a long business association with the company, and have its interests much at heart, and will do my best to forward its welfare in every way. Mr. F. F. Bridgewater has been appointed managing director. He has been associated with his late father in the management, and in my opinion the company is fortunate in obtaining his services, and thereby preserving continuity in the business. I regret to say that Mr. Frank Bridgewater is unwell at the moment, and therefore is unable to be present with us to-day. Mr. Thomas Willerson, a gentleman with a wide experience in financial joint stock enterprises, has been elected a director, and we have also elected to a seat on the board Mr. H. A. Randall, who has been with this company some twenty-three years, and has been the secretary for the last thirteen years, a position he will still continue to occupy. Mr. Randall has given very valuable services to the company. He is conversant with its commercial affairs from A to Z, and I say emphatically that he is a valuable addition to the board. The period covered by the directors' report has been one of unprecedented difficulties for financial journalism, and in a less degree for all branches of journalism. . . . Advertisement revenue from prospectuses is very much below the average, but I am happy to be able to inform you that revenue arising from other fields of advertising has been well maintained, and the circulation of *The Financial Times* has, on the whole, kept very steady, and is satisfactory. While there has been a great dearth of new enterprises, there has been a consistent amount of interest in existing companies, and the number of inquiries received by the editorial department, as is shown in the "Answers to Correspondents" column in *The Financial Times*, testifies to the interest taken in joint stock undertakings and the confidence with which a large section of the investing public look to *The Financial Times* for information and guidance. Small papers, as compared with normal times, have been the rule during the past year, but I venture to think that all matters of interest in the financial world have been adequately covered, and the 14-page paper published recently in connection with banking enterprises gives evidence of the position which, even in these days of difficulty, *The Financial Times* has maintained. I say without hesitation that *The Financial Times* has retained its leadership as a daily financial paper during the last year, that its influence has increased, and that the financial results secured have largely surpassed those obtained by any of the other daily financial papers. . . . Turning to the figures in the balance-sheet, you will note that the profit, amounting to £9,485 17s. 5d., adequately provides for all fixed charges as well as for the full preference dividend. The usual amount has been placed to the staff pension fund, and the necessary redemption of the debenture stock has been effected. I am happy to be able to inform you that a profit was made last year in every branch of your business, and that the operations of your company up to date show an improvement in every branch of the business over the corresponding period of last year. The directors recommend the payment of the final dividend on the preference shares, making the full dividend of 5 per cent. for the year. We do not consider the present conditions justify a distribution among the ordinary shareholders. The dividend warrants will be sent out on the 30th instant. . . . The hope expressed last year of the ultimate triumph of the Allies at no distant date has not yet materialized, but there are indications that while the Central Powers have already reached their zenith, and, it is believed, are on the decline, the strength of the Allies is increasing, and that, while the end cannot yet be foreseen, the ultimate result is beyond question. The return of peace conditions should bring prosperity to this company. There must be many concerns which will need to make issues of capital at the earliest opportunity. I am not referring to speculative enterprizes; for them a period of waiting must be anticipated, but the need of capital to repair the ravages of the war will be enormous, and the big concerns of this country will have to appeal for capital to enable this country to do its share—and I hope the giant share—in supplying that which is essential to repair the destruction which has occurred. Furthermore, the issues of capital by railway companies in this country and throughout the world, and by other large concerns engaged in big developments, have been held up for the last eighteen months, and will be during the continuance of the war, and appeals must be made by those concerns for capital. Therefore there is, I think, a good prospect of prosperous times so soon as the war has ended. I beg to move that the report and accounts submitted to this meeting be received and adopted, and I shall ask Mr. Willerson to second that resolution, and thereafter I shall be happy to answer any questions that the shareholders may desire to put.

Mr. Thos. Willerson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Messrs. Walter W. Davies and Thos. Hinshelwood and Co. were recently the successful tenderers to the Egyptian Government for the supply of general stores required by the Giza and Gezira waterworks.

THE INDIAN RUPEE IN EGYPT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, March 7.

The question of silver and nickel coin has always been a vexed one in Egypt. Regularly every autumn the Jews and the Sarafs (money-changers) corner all the small change, just at the time when it is wanted in connection with the subsidiary work of moving the cotton-crop, and they make a profit of anything around 10 per cent. merely in changing gold, and, since the war, bank-notes. Equally regularly every autumn the Egyptian Government imports new coins, either to replace the used coins or to meet the temporary demand, or again, to make good the leakage, which takes place on an annually increasing scale into the Sudan.

Since the outbreak of the war the demand for silver coin has been persistently on the increase, and instead of falling off in the early spring as is usual after the bulk of the cotton-crop has been moved, it has been maintained in a manner that has considerably inconvenienced the financial authorities. The reason is, of course, the presence in this country of such large numbers of troops, who require and retain a very substantial amount of silver coin. To meet this abnormal condition of things, the Egyptian Government steadily increased its orders to the Home mints and, as an illustration of the expansion which the local silver circulation has undergone, I would say that, in 1915, new small coin to the extent of £700,000 was imported, as against £36,000 in 1913, £200,000 in 1912, £300,000 in 1911, £600,000 in 1904 (the previous maximum).

This winter, although it was hoped that the early moving of the cotton-crop would ease the situation, the Egyptian Government maintained the scale of its orders for new silver coin. Unfortunately, not only did the demand not abate, as it was expected to do, but very considerable shipments were lost in the "Persia" and the "Maloja." The situation, therefore, became very acute, and as a certain period of time would have to elapse before the lost shipments could be replaced, the Government had to devise some means of meeting the emergency. A certain amount of English silver was obtained and distributed in pay and allowances to the Imperial troops, but it was quite inadequate, and in the end Egyptian financial authorities had to have recourse to India, which was the only British possession that had any stock of silver coin free.

A substantial amount was requisitioned for the Egyptian Government, and yesterday a Decree was promulgated making the Indian silver rupee legal currency and tender in Egypt. The value of the rupee is fixed at P.T. 6½ or fifteen to the British sovereign of P.T. 97½. It is unfortunate that gold pieces are not in circulation and that bank-notes alone have taken the place of the sovereign and louis d'or, the standard at the Egyptian pound of P.T. 100. Still, the introduction of the rupee meets a great want, and although at first the Egyptians of certain classes objected to accept a coin to which they are not accustomed, I find on inquiry that, all things considered, the innovation has been well received and little difficulty has been experi-

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enced in putting these, after all, very attractive silver pieces into circulation. Only the silver rupee has been made legal tender; the fractional parts are excluded. Moreover, this measure is only a temporary one, resorted to to meet an emergency, and as soon as the new orders that have been placed for new Egyptian silver coins are received, the rupees will be withdrawn from circulation.

The following is the decree legalising the circulation of the rupee in Egypt, which appeared in the "Official Journal" (in French!) on March 6:—

Nous, Sultan d'Egypte,

Vu l'article 14 du Décret du 14 novembre 1885 relatif aux monnaies égyptiennes;

Considérant qu'en raison des circonstances actuelles et spécialement de la présence de nombreuses troupes dans le pays, la demande de numéraire d'argent augmente constamment pour les besoins des transactions et que, par suite, le stock de monnaie d'argent actuellement en circulation devient manifestement insuffisant;

Considérant aussi qu'une grande quantité de numéraire d'argent destinée à l'Egypte a été perdue en cours de route et qu'il pourrait s'écouler un temps assez long avant qu'on en reçoive d'autre;

Que d'autre part, la frappe de la nouvelle monnaie égyptienne demandera nécessairement un certain temps;

Considérant que, dans ces conditions, il a été jugé indispensable d'alimenter provisoirement la circulation au moyen de la monnaie d'argent du Gouvernement des Indes connue sous le nom de "Roupie," dont un stock assez considérable se trouve à la disposition du Ministère des Finances;

Sur la proposition de Notre Ministre des Finances et l'avis conforme de Notre Conseil des Ministres;

DECRETONS. — Article premier. — Provisoirement et jusqu'à ce qu'il en soit ordonné autrement, la Roupie d'argent indienne aura, au même titre que les monnaies d'argent égyptiennes, cours légal en Egypte.

En conséquence. tous paiements effectués au moyen de la dite monnaie pour quelque cause que se soit seront effectifs et libératoires au même titre et dans la même mesure que s'ils étaient faits en monnaie égyptienne d'argent, nonobstant toutes clauses ou conventions contraires existant ou à intervenir entre les intéressés.

Art. 2.—La valeur de la Roupie est fixée à soixante-cinq millièmes de la Livre Egyptienne (L.E. 0·065 mill.).

Art. 3.—Nos Ministres des Finances et de la Justice sont chargés, chacun en ce qui le concerne, de l'exécution du présent décret qui entrera en vigueur à compter de la date de sa publication au "Journal Officiel."

THE EGYPTIAN BUDGET.

The *Times* Cairo correspondent, cabling on March 20, said:—

"The Egyptian Budget for 1916-1917, compared with that of 1915-1916, shows that the country is fast recovering from the set-back which the war at first caused.

"The estimated revenue for 1916-17 is £E16,530,000, against £E14,756,000 in the previous year. The expenditure is estimated at £E16,630,000, as against £E15,900,000 in 1915-1916. The amount of the deficit, £E100,000, which will be withdrawn from the reserve fund, compares with a budgeted deficit of £E1,144,000 in 1915-1916.

"The improvement in the revenue is chiefly in Customs, railways, and land tax. The increased expenditure is mainly due to the rise in the price of coal and other commodities.

"It is believed that when finally adjusted the accounts for the financial year 1915-1916. instead of the deficit budgeted for, will show a surplus exceeding £E1,000,000. Although part of this surplus is absorbed by the diminution in the value of investments, the result is very satisfactory and reflects great credit on the financial administration."

A Roumanian Customs officer discovered recently at Giurgevo two wagons bound for Turkey with contraband goods from Germany. The wagons were laden with ninety barrels of soft sugar, in which shells of large calibre were concealed. The wagons were confiscated.

COMPANY REPORT.

Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin.

The council have to report that the Ottoman Government still remains in possession of the railway and its revenues. The accounts now presented are for the half-year to December 31 last, and incorporated therewith are the accounts from Smyrna to August 31, 1914, since which date no further returns have been received. These accounts are subject to adjustment as and when later returns are received. Certificates for the debenture interest for the half-year to December 31 last, amounting to £74,175 4s., have been posted to the 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. debenture stock holders in accordance with the resolutions passed at a special meeting of shareholders held on June 10, 1915. Since the beginning of the war with Turkey most of the leading members of our staff have been in this country and have received an allowance equal to half their previous pay. Some other members of our staff connected with the permanent way, locomotive, stores, telegraph and other departments remain in Smyrna, and the British Government has generously undertaken on behalf of the company to advance pecuniary aid to such of them as are of British and certain other nationalities. The members retiring from the council on this occasion are the Right Hon. Lord Rathmore and Mr. Fredk. Single, who are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

GREEK FINANCES.

On the 16th inst., Reuter reported from Athens:—

"No agreement has been reached in the Cabinet on the question of the taxation which is projected in order wholly or partly to cover the deficit incurred by mobilization. The Bills connected with this taxation will probably not be laid before Parliament unless the proposed taxation is greatly reduced. The sums required, however, must be found, and if a loan is not forthcoming from the Powers the position will become truly critical. The gravity of the financial problem is a source of general preoccupation."

Three days later the same Agency reported that an agrement had been reached in principle regarding the imposition of new fiscal measures, but no decisions have been taken.

TURKEY AND GERMANY.

According to the *Times* Milan correspondent, the *Neues Wiener Tagblatt* states that the new £20,000,000 German loan to Turkey is to be applied as follows:—£6,000,000 to Roumania for the purchase of flour and petrol; £1,240,000 to the National Defence Fund; £10,150,000 as the basis of the new issue of paper money; £1,000,000 for the issue of five and of 20 piastre notes; the remainder to the Baghdad and Anatolian Railways. The Turkish Parliament has ratified the contract for the construction of the Baghdad Railway in the region of Mount Taurus.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Bulgarian Government has issued orders for the requisitioning of all foodstuffs remaining in private hands throughout the country. It is stated that, after making provision for the needs of each district until the date of the next harvest, the Government will place the residue, if any, at the disposal of Germany and Austria.

Messrs. Sayer and Colley were recently the successful tenderers to the Egyptian Government (Domaines de l'Etat) for the supply of oil for motors.

The correspondent of the Paris *Temps* at Salonika states that with a view to putting an end to speculation in foodstuffs, the Greek and the Anglo-French military authorities have agreed to fix an official tariff printed in the Greek, English, and French languages.

The Turkish Parliament not having approved the project, the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar in Turkey has been postponed *sine die*.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for week, 52 tons (last week, 1,106 tons); Hurgada production for week, 592 tons (last week, 625 tons).

BANQUE EGYPTIENNE DE COMMERCE (IN LIQUIDATION).—Meeting of shareholders in Cairo on March 31.

EASTERN BANK.—The transfer books will be closed from March 23 until April 13, 1916 (both days inclusive).

EUROPEAN OILFIELDS.—Week ended 12th inst., 107,000 poods.

GREEK GUARANTEED £2 10s. PER CENT. GOLD LOAN OF 1898.—The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due the 1st prox. on these bonds. The necessary lists can be procured on application at the Dividend Pay Office.

KHEDIVIAL MAIL STEAMSHIP AND GRAVING DOCK.—On the 31st inst. a dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum on the cumulative preference shares, less income-tax, for the six months to December 31, 1915, will be paid at Glyn Mills Currie and Co., London, and at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Alexandria. Transfer books will be closed from 28th to 31st inst.

NEW EGYPTIAN COMPANY.—General meeting of debenture holders will be held on March 30, at 12 noon, at 13, Austin Friars, E.C.

ORIENTAL CARPET MANUFACTURERS.—The seventh annual meeting will be held at the offices of the company, 5, Rue Gretry, Paris, on April 10, at 11 a.m. The meeting will be asked to pass a resolution to the effect that no dividend would be paid for the financial year, ending December, 1914 and 1915.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.—The meeting of shareholders will be held at Winchester House on Tuesday, March 28.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED.—Week ended March 11, 986 tons.

SUEZ CANAL.—The traffic receipts for March 17 and 18 amounted to 420,000 fr., as compared with 350,000 fr. for the corresponding days last year.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

CAIRO EXCHANGE.

Côtes du 10 Mars, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt	£	11⅜	to	11⅝
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	89½	,,	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11	,,	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5	,,	5¼
priv.	L.E.	3⅛	,,	3⅜
Lots Turcs, oblig	Frs.	123	,,	124
Bons de Panama	Frs.	94	,,	96
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs.	49	,,	49½
Privilégiée	Frs.	92	,,	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	72	,,	73
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2⅛	,,	2⅜
Comptoir Financier and Commercial d'Egypte	£	⅜	,,	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	⅜	,,	½
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	⅛	,,	¼
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	4	,,	—
Bonded Warehouse	L.E.	4⅜	,,	4 coup
Unifiée	LE.	79½	,,	—
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4	,,	—
Fondateur	£	18	,,	—
Pressage et dépôts	£	27½	,,	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	1⅝	,,	2
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	3⅞	,,	3¼
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3⅛	,,	—
Ord.	£	14/6	,,	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3½	,,	—
Egypt. Delta Light Railway	£	5⅛	,,	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£	108	,,	—
Jouissance	£	158	,,	160
Egyptian Markets		22/9	,,	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	160	,,	—
Div.	Frs.	106	,,	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	82	,,	85
Egyptian Salt and Soda		15/3	,,	15/6
Crédit Foncier Egypt	Frs.	575	,,	—
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	313	,,	314
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	252½	,,	253
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	251	,,	251½
Delta Land	£	⅜	,,	—
Port Said Salt		28/9	,,	29
Cotton Ginners	£	⅜	,,	—
New Egyptian	£	6/9	,,	—
United Land	P.T.	5	,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.		25/6	,,	25/9
Fondateur		100/-	,,	—

Marché nul, très peu d'opérations.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 256.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

There will be general disappointment in all the Allied countries if the War Council held this week in Paris does not prove the herald of a great offensive movement on the part of the Grand Alliance. The Council, so runs one of the resolutions adopted, confirms all the measures taken to realise unity of action and unity of front. In this unity, we are told, is included "military unity of action as assured by the agreement concluded between the General Staffs." That unity is already assured by General Joffre's position as Generalissimo of the French and British Armies, and in another sphere by the supreme command of the Franco-British forces in the Balkans being in the hands of General Sarrail. The General Staffs of the Allies, however, did not meet in Paris merely to confirm steps already taken. Rather, we may hope, they were concerned with putting the finishing touches upon plans which have surely been maturing for a long time.

It has been difficult for the onlooker, and still more difficult, we may suppose, for the troops on the spot, not to chafe under the seeming inactivity that has prevailed in the Near East. Everything points to the Allied forces having been for some time numerically superior to the enemy immediately opposed to them, and the call to redress Serbia's wrongs has been insistent. So much seems to hang on a vigorous offensive in this quarter that there is naturally a tendency to regret a day's unnecessary delay. But the value of co-ordinating effort will sooner or later be recognised. The Central Powers, undergoing as they are a siege on a vast scale, have had no other course open to them than to indulge in fierce thrusts—first in one direction, then in another—in the hope of breaking the encircling line. It has been to the Allies' interests to draw the cordon tighter when they could, but the end was not to be brought nearer by irregular indentations of the enemy perimeter. Thus, in spite of the influence which the offensive in the Balkans might have had on Roumania and Greece, it may well prove to have been the wiser course to delay an advance until the whole line from the English Channel by way of Italy, the Balkans, and Russia to the Baltic Sea could be simultaneously contracted.

German anxiety in regard to the position in the Near East is reflected in the Press messages which purport to reveal the intentions of the Allies at Salonika. At one time General Sarrail is represented as having declared that an offensive was equally purposeless for the enemy as for the Franco-British forces. But the picture was overdrawn when the Commander-in-Chief was also made to dilate upon the difficulties of provisioning the troops owing to the distance from France and England and to the presence of German submarines in the Mediterranean. At another time we are told that the terrific German offensive in the West has made it necessary to recall a portion of the French troops at Salonika, and that it may be practically taken for granted that there will be no fighting in the Balkans.

The German version of the Allies' intentions presupposes that a large force, disproportionate to the defensive requirements of Salonika, is to be shut up indefinitely in that town, and to inaugurate a condition of stalemate in the whole of the Near East. It remains to be seen whether the War Council in Paris has not been able to devise a better course than that. If the views of M. Pasitch have prevailed there, we may not have to wait long for interesting developments. In an interview with a representative of the *Matin* the Serbian Prime Minister is reported to have said: "All Serbs call now for 'revanche' by the Allies in the Balkans, for it is now possible that the Austro-German forces there do not exceed three or four army corps. The Bulgarians are weakened, and cannot oppose to us more than five army corps, and I do not believe reinforcements can reach them, inasmuch as Turkey has been obliged to send her troops to the Armenian campaign. . . . An offensive in the Balkans in conjunction with the other sectors of the front will have important consequences, and will be decisive for the neutrals which still hesitate. After two successful battles for us the enemy's moral will exist no longer, and if Germany can be cut off from Turkey the war will be shortened by several months."

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Meanwhile the fighting on the Greek frontier has subsided. The Germans have been forced to retire over the frontier from all the points occupied by them in Greek territory, and the two opposing armies have settled down again to an exchange of air raids. As on other fronts, the Germans find it easier to drop bombs promiscuously on a town, while the Allies confine their efforts to achieving the maximum amount of military damage. The fact that the civilian population of Salonika provides the victims for the German bombs does not tend to make our enemies more popular in Greece.

In view of the prominence attained by many of the large number of Hellenes who pass their lives outside Greece, it has often been a matter of surprise that these "outer Greeks" have not contrived to be more articulate. They have always been characterised by intense loyalty to the Mother Country, and modern Greece is indebted not a little to the generosity of those who have made their money in foreign lands. The recent course of events in Greece has tended to bring these Hellenes together. The Hellenic Congress, held in Paris last January, as we are reminded by a correspondent in the *Morning Post*, took upon itself to pass certain resolutions which displayed something more than a sentimental interest in Greek affairs. Manifestoes embodying its views were sent to King Constantine and the Greek people; but the Executive Committee of the Congress finds nothing in the situation in Greece to encourage it to abandon the anxiety which prompted those resolutions two months ago. It is a matter for regret to those who wish Greece well that she should have to undergo a trial which threatens to cleave the country into two bitterly hostile camps.

It is evident that Turkish reinforcements have succeeded in reaching the districts threatened by the Russian advance west of Erzeroum. Counter-attacks are now being made on the Russian column moving on Trebizond. They have not been successful, but were indeed repulsed, according to the Russian official statement, with enormous losses. The Russian advance, however, has been compelled to slow down, and the last few miles before the Trebizond-Erzingan line is reached bid fair to prove as difficult as any since the Caucasus frontier was passed. The region of Baiburt, midway between Erzingan and the sea, is particularly favourable to the Turkish defence. On the left wing of the Russian line, which rests on Bitlis, progress has been made in a south-easterly direction. In the Black Sea the fleet continues its activities, and is rewarded from time to time by the capture or destruction of vessels carrying Turkish stores.

It is still a matter for keen disappointment that no progress can be reported in Mesopotamia; but little fault will be found with the decision—which ought to have been acted upon long ago—that no further attempts to advance are to be made until the British forces are suitably equipped for the task in front of them. Medical deficiencies are being made good, and we know that reinforcements have lately been reaching General Lake. One of the mistakes of the past seems to have been the failure to realise that the Mesopotamian Force, if it is to be successful, requires to be equipped with all the latest war inventions just as much as any army operating elsewhere. The idea that it was only going to encounter nomadic Arab tribes has long since been exploded. Whatever may have happened on the original advance, the Turkish resistance is now reaping the advantage of German supervision, and can only be overcome by superiority in numbers and weapons.

The wording of Mr. R. McNeill's question in the House of Commons regarding peace with Bulgaria does not seem to have been felicitous He is reported to have asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he would give an assurance that Bulgaria would not be admitted to separate negotiations for peace. If by this it was intended that in no circumstances should Bulgaria be detached from the Austro-German orbit until she and the Central Powers conjointly were compelled to sign terms of peace, we venture to think that such a policy might well prove a grave mistake. There is no advantage to be gained by encouraging the idea that Bulgaria's future is for ever linked up with that of the Central Powers. It is a belief that King Ferdinand would like to see gaining ground, but it would not be to the interests of the Balkan Peninsula as a whole. It is to be hoped that sooner or later Bulgaria herself will hold different views. At present the Government finds it necessary to emphasize the contention that the country's interests, not only in war time but in peace, are identical with those of her northern allies. Accordingly she has adopted the Gregorian Calendar in order to spite Russia, and the name of the new cathedral in Sofia is to be changed from St. Alexander Nevsky to SS. Cyril and Methodius. Greater Bulgaria, which comprises most of Old and New Serbia, is now divided into seventeen departments and eighty-six districts, and the civil administration would have to be regarded as fully established on a permanent basis were it not for the fact that considerable uncertainty attaches to the western frontier. Belgrade and its district are wholly excluded from Bulgarian administration, but the Sofia Government cannot reconcile itself to other claims advanced by Austria-Hungary. The policy of the Allies must still be not to lose sight of the interests of the Balkan Peninsula as a whole, and an axiom of that policy is that the claims of Germany to have any word at all in the settlement of the future of the Near East must be rejected.

The withdrawal of Sir John Maxwell from Egypt, after being in charge of the defences of that country from the beginning of the war, was rendered inevitable by the appointment of General Sir Archibald Murray to the supreme command of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. This force is based on Egypt, and has become responsible both for the defence of that country and for the British share in the Balkan operations. General Maxwell's command was thus swallowed up in the higher command. It is obviously in the interest of the Expeditionary Force that the operations in this part of the world should be regarded as belonging to a single theatre of the war, in order that the transfer of troops from one part to another, when necessary, should be effected with the least possible delay. General Murray will be in a position to decide whether the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean requires that his forces should permanently resign themselves to the defensive, or whether it is not possible to break up the Turkish concentrations that enable the enemy to make so much of their alleged power of terrorizing Egypt. The air raid on Bir-el-Hassana is a welcome reminder that there are other ways of reaching the Turco-German forces than by marching infantry over the Sinai desert. Many reasons could be cited at this juncture to justify a strong offensive against the Turks.

With all the goodwill in the world, the Allied Powers find it difficult to avoid extending from time to time the sphere of the military action which circumstances have forced upon them in the Eastern Mediterranean. Thus, at Patras the French found it necessary to land a naval picket in order to arrest the captain of an interned German steamer and the German mate of a Swedish schooner. Another party was landed at Hagioi Deka in Crete, but the search for proof that German submarines were obtaining stores from that place was not successful. Both these incidents are normal developments of the situation in Greece. The Greek Government, although it knows well the nature of German intrigues on neutral soil, is not in a position to put a stop to the practices. Accordingly the Franco-British forces, which cannot allow the enemy to carry on his machinations with impunity, are forced to intervene.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 14.

Commission on Trade and Industry.

The Government has taken an important and commendable step this week in connection with the trade relations that this country used to maintain with enemy countries, and with the fostering of local industries. By decision of the Council of Ministers, a Special Commission, called "The Commission on Commerce and Industry," has been constituted with the mandate of examining the extent to which the industries and commerce of the country have been affected by the present war, and of proposing measures with the object of opening new markets for Egyptian products and of replacing articles formerly obtained from enemy countries by articles produced in Egypt or imported from non-enemy countries. The president is Ismail Sidky Pasha, ex-Minister of Wakfs, who makes a welcome return to public affairs, and whose ability and experience of Commission work eminently qualify him for the post; the vice-president is Mr. Sidney H. Wells, who, as Director-General of the Department of Technical, Industrial, and Commercial Education, has done so much during the last ten years to promote and develop local industries and technical education; and the members are Yussuf Cattani Pasha, member of the Legislative Assembly; Mr. J. T. Craig, Controller of the Department of General Statistics, to whose work a tribute was recently paid in this correspondence; Mr. F. Murdoch, a well-known manufacturing engineer, of Mansura; and Amin Yahia Bey and Mohammed Talaat Hari Bey, two local notables.

The Government has been very well advised in its action. The war has undoubtedly affected Egypt's foreign trade, as it has done that of other parts of the Empire. In 1913 Egypt obtained over 20 per cent. of her imports from, and sold a like portion of her exports to, enemy countries. If we eliminate Turkey and Bulgaria, the proportion is 13 per cent. of the imports and 19 per cent. of the exports. In certain categories of the former the actual share of the Central Empires was very considerable. After the war both Germany and Austria will certainly make every effort to regain their trade; but the tariff, which it is understood, will be set up against them by the Entente, and which, it is hoped, will be also adopted in Egypt, should effectively stop all such attempts. In the meantime, however, Egypt must obtain her requirements and unload her surplus products elsewhere, and, in anticipation of the establishment of the aforesaid tariff wall, she must be rendered absolutely independent of enemy markets. There are surely many commodities with which other parts of the Empire or allied countries can supply her. Again, there must be certain articles which, even as at present constituted, she could herself produce and make, and which the local public would readily buy if attention were paid to its peculiar requirements; whilst there may quite possibly be others which, with a little help and encouragement, could be locally produced. Apart from the fact that it will bring Egypt into line with other parts of the Empire, where, since August, 1914, similar steps have been taken, the work which the Commission on Commerce and Industry should be able to do should prove of the utmost value to the country; for while it will tend to eliminate the unhealthy Teuton element from the foreign trade of Egypt, it should at the same time materially assist in the practical development of local industries and give a fillip to the efforts that have for some time past been made in this direction.

In its work of replacing articles which were formerly obtained from enemy countries, and which cannot be produced in Egypt, by articles imported from non-enemy countries the Commission will, it is to be hoped, deal only with Allied countries, except, of course, in cases where neutrals alone can supply what is wanted. The exclusion of the latter is advocated not because "neutrals are responsible for the continuation of the war," but because the non-existence of a tariff barrier in Egypt against such countries may quite conceivably in time lead to the creation of fresh or the re-opening of old markets for the Central Empires or to an expansion of the trade they already do with those countries. Germany and Austria might pass their goods through neutral countries, whence they would be shipped under neutral marks, and indirectly regain their trade with Egypt and other parts of the Empire; or German and Austrian goods might take the place of the stocks exported from neutral countries to the British Empire. So long as the war lasts this danger can be guarded against by means of the emergency machinery that has geen set up; but when peace is restored the same safeguards will not be available, and if we trade extensively with neutrals in the articles which we used to buy from Germany and Austria, the latter will find no difficulty whatsoever in defeating our policy, which is avowedly to circumscribe their foreign trade. The same objection does not, obviously, apply to trade with allied countries, which would all have the same tariff barrier against the Central Empires, who would find that tariff far too costly for indirect, let alone direct, trade.

The Late Judge Sandars.

The Mixed Courts have to mourn the loss of their supreme chief, Mr. Lionel Sandars, President of the Court of Appeal, who died in Alexandria on Thursday last. Judge Sandars had been connected with Egypt since the early days of the Occupation, and had been in the Mixed Courts since 1888, when he was appointed a Judge of First Instance. He was the first English President of the Court of Appeal, having been elected by his colleagues in October, 1914, after the German President had been prevented from returning to Egypt. He was a most valuable member of the Mixed Bench, and during the short term of his Presidency introduced many excellent reforms.

Judge Sandars, who was a keen horticulturist, and contributed in a great measure to the development of horticulture in Egypt, was a very popular member of the British community, in all of whose activities he took a prominent part. The general esteem in which he was held and the deep regret felt at his death were testified to at his funeral, which was attended by representatives of the High Commissioner, of H.H. the Sultan, and of General Maxwell, by the entire Mixed Bench and Bar, and a crowd of leading Europeans and Egyptians; and at which stirring orations were delivered at the graveside by M. de Souza Larcher, Vice-President of the Appeal Court, M. A. Eeman, the Procureur-General, and M. Mercinier, the doyen of the Bar.

The Mixed Courts.

The death of Judge Sandars creates a vacancy in the Courts of First Instance, from which one of the English judges will be moved up. It cannot, however, affect the question pending between the Egyptian and Italian Governments, as the vacancy must be filled by an Englishman. Up to the time of writing no settlement has been arrived at between Rome, London, and Cairo on the matter at issue, and negotiations are understood to be still in progress. With regard to the case pending before the Mixed Court of Appeal, and in which the Procureur-General, as reported last week, gave his opinion that the Mixed Tribunals have no longer any jurisdiction in cases where one of the parties is Italian, judgment has now been delivered. The Court refused to express an opinion on the general question of competence on the ground that that question did not arise

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out of the case before it. That case was merely an appeal from the lower Court; consequently the only point it considered itself called upon to decide was whether it was competent to hear an appeal from a judgment delivered prior to the recent extension of the mandate of the Mixed Courts. Its decision was that it was competent, since otherwise there would be a denial of justice, seeing that no other jurisdiction could sit in appeal on such a case, and it would be unfair to force the parties to consider the first judgment as cancelled and recommence proceedings before another jurisdiction. So, although the Procureur-General has expressed his views, we are still uncertain whether the Mixed Courts have jurisdiction in cases brought by Italian plaintiffs since February 1 or in those brought by them, but not heard by the First Instance Courts, prior to that date. The verdict of the Appeal Court came as a surprise to everyone, as it was understood that it would take this opportunity to clear up the uncertainty, and that it would endorse the Procureur-General's views.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Extension of Motor Service.

The motor company has decided to run their cars from Nicosia to Kyrenia, and on to Karavas and Lapithos, two of the principal villages of the Kyrenia district. A motor will run once a day for the present and twice during the summer. Kyrenia, which is only sixteen miles from the capital, and is a starting-point for many picturesque expeditions, is a favourite resort for visitors from Nicosia and elsewhere during the heat of the summer, and sea-bathing is one of its attractions. There is a good deal of movement between the places mentioned at all seasons.

A Cypriot Library.

An excellent movement which originated with a group of young Greeks at Nicosia for the establishment of a Cyprus library has not met with the support which it deserved, but it would be a great pity if it fell through owing to want of encouragement. There is a great need of such institutions in the island. The President of the District Court, Mr. C. R. Holmes, *à propos* of a case which recently came before him, gave valuable help to the cause. "This institution," he said, "is the first of its kind in Cyprus, and we must help to place it on firmer foundations, as it may afford many advantages to the community of Nicosia. Every man who works all day feels the need, after his work, of some relaxation, and this he can find in a variety of books. Every individual cannot have his own library at home, and it is desirable on that account that such an institution should be established, and we must congratulate the young men who have undertaken this work." It is to be hoped that it will now receive fresh support. The English Club at Nicosia has a good circulating library, but it may be said that there are no collections accessible to Greeks in the island. Some years ago the offer of a large gift of books, to form the nucleus of a good library, was made in another town, but it was subsequently withdrawn. Mr. A. Carnegie was then approached, in the hope of help, but the response was not favourable.

Help for the Larnaca Poor.

Much relief has been given to the poorest classes by the generous action of the Commissioner, Mr. Clarence Wodehouse, who has established a "common meal" room, in which about forty distressed persons are supplied daily with food, almost entirely at his own expense. They are attended to by Miss Wodehouse, the Commissioner's daughter, helped by Miss Baldassar and Miss Turner, of Larnaca, who—besides thus giving their personal services—carry food daily at noon to the houses of those in need, who are bedridden or cannot by reason of infirmity attend at the mess-room. The house in which the soup-kitchen is established is generously given by a philanthropic citizen of Larnaca, M. A. Prankos, who himself superintends the working of the temporary establishment. The pinch of poverty is largely felt among the classes whose livelihood depends upon shipping, now in a state of inactivity.

SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, March 14.

The Governor-General's Tour.

H.E. the Governor-General, with the Private Secretary, Major G. S. Symes, D.S.O., and the A.D.C., Major F. Edwards, went by special train to El Obeid on February 29, reaching there early on March 2. H.E. proceeded thence on a tour of inspection in the west, and is not expected to return till about the 21st. He was reported to have arrived at Nahud on March 8. He has with him Ibrahim Bey Dimitri, who, as the confidential secretary of Slatin Pasha, has a wide knowledge of those parts and has invariably accompanied Slatin Pasha on his biennial trip to the west.

Transport in Kordofan.

Major Kennedy, C.M.G., the Director of Public Works, is proceeding to El Obeid shortly. He has been preceded by Mr. Claxton, one of the P.W.D. engineers, and it is said that his object is to make experiments with mechanical transport in the region of Kordofan. Hitherto the soil there has been deemed too soft for motor transport to be able to be used, but it is possible that the difficulties may be overcome or circumvented. Owing to the lack of water in the region west of El Obeid, transport has so far been restricted to camels; but if a cheaper means of moving goods in bulk could be found a considerable additional area of gum forest would become worth tapping. At present the cost of transport to the nearest market on the railway line is prohibitive. The extension of the railway line from Rahad westward would no doubt have the effect of opening up such areas, and presumably cattle also would be a profitable item in the carrying trade of this branch of the rail; but the material necessary for the extension of the line is hardly likely to be obtained at the present moment, and it will probably be some time before capital or material will be available for the purpose.

Major Woodward, who has been Governor of the Upper Nile Province for some years, has reached Khartoum, and is proceeding to Cairo on the expiration of his ten years' service in the Egyptian Army. He is succeeded in his post by Major Bassett, who left El Obeid for Malakal a few weeks ago in order to consult the retiring Governor and see the working principles of the provinces. Major Bassett has been for four years Senior Inspector of Kordofan Province. It is said he will be succeeded in El Obeid by Major Ross, but the latter is at present absent on sick leave, due to acute phlebitis of long standing brought out by the hardships of the Gallipoli campaign.

Horse v. Motor.

An interesting race took place recently at Omdurman between a motor-car and horse. The latter was ridden by the wife of a prominent official; the car was driven by a member of the Judicial Bench. The course was two miles long, approximately, over desert. The horse got away with a considerable start, which was never made up. The car was of 12-horse power only, and the race clearly demonstrated the need of considerable power for use on the desert.

VERDUN AND SYRIA.

The *Egyptian Gazette* translates from the *Ahram* the following interesting paragraph, which to some readers may, perhaps, seem to be a happy omen:—

We would remind people of the Near East, especially the Syrians, that Verdun is the birthplace of Edouard Tefnell, the famous French statesman whose name is associated with the history of the Near East in the middle of last century. It was Edouard Tefnell who organised the French expedition that occupied Syria in 1860. He was at that time Foreign Minister in Paris, and he succeeded, owing to his political abilities and sagacity, in obtaining from the Powers their approval of French policy in connection with the sending of that military expedition, which was one of the numerous good deeds which France has accomplished in the interests of humanity. The zealous interest which that Minister took in the future of the Near East was clearly shown by the instructions he sent during his term of office both as French Ambassador to Constantinople and as Minister for Foreign Affairs in Paris to the French Consuls and Diplomatic Agents in the East.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, March 4.

Salonika Soaked by a Deluge.

Once more I am reluctantly compelled to refer to the weather of Salonika. During the early part of the past week we had a succession of "samples" of almost every possible variety, from a hurricane to the most genial sunshine. Then followed a veritable deluge, converting long stretches of road and street into lakes, large tracts of ground into swamps and quagmires, and soaking through the tents occupied by our soldiers. They have suffered most severely under these abnormal conditions; but everything during these times seems to be abnormal, even the weather. It is quite an interesting sight to see the processions of heavy motor transport wagons tearing through this water and mud. Each vehicle is the centre of a wonderful cascade of these elements, curving gracefully on either side over a stretch of many yards. It is best, however, to admire it from a safe distance, because if you are in the road there is no escaping; you are quickly covered with more "spots" than the leopard could ever boast of. Learned men tell us about the Ice Age, the Stone Age, and other geological periods. We in Salonika are now passing through the Mud Age. That is all I have to say on this familiar topic. What our Tommies have to say on the same subject is quite unprintable!

Allied Aeroplane Raid.

The situation here remains practically unchanged. The attack on the Allied positions seems to have been indefinitely postponed, and many military officers declare it will never take place. Nevertheless, the Allies are strengthening their positions daily, and the French aviators are particularly active. They have recently performed a remarkable feat in flying to Smyrna and dropping a large number of bombs on the Turkish position, with excellent effect. Seven aeroplanes took part in this expedition, and all left Smyrna on the return journey without suffering damage. One of the aeroplanes, however, owing to motor trouble, had to drop into the sea. Fortunately, a British torpedo boat was near, and rescued the pilot, as well as the machine. The others flew back to Salonika.

On two occasions during the past week the approach of enemy aircraft was reported from our lines at the front, and by order of the police and military authorities the electric light company suddenly cut off the current from the whole town. I happened to be at a cinematograph theatre on each occasion, and in the middle of an exciting episode all the lights went out. Candles were brought to enable the audience to disperse with as little discomfort as possible, and passes were given for another evening.

The Verdun Lie.

The military, and, in fact, the whole population, have been following the news from Verdun with intense interest. One Greek newspaper issued a special edition in which the fall of the fortress was announced, and copies of the lying telegram were posted up in several places. This news created a very painful impression not only among the Allies, but among the population generally. In consequence of the publication of this false news, the police and Allied authorities have now forbidden the posting up of any news in this way, and have directed that the newsboys shall call out nothing beyond the names of the papers they sell.

French Troops at Salonika.

In previous letters I have only made occasional references to our Allies, the French, who form such a large proportion of the Entente forces here; but I have often intended to give my impressions of their appearance and their work. To do justice to such an interesting topic I should require much more space than is available in this short letter. I must, therefore, confine myself in the meantime to a very few words.

I have seen French soldiers in France both singly and in large bodies during the annual reviews in the Bois de Boulogne on July 14, and they then gave me the impression of being short of stature compared with the British soldier, and of having little staying power in spite of their acknowledged bravery and intense patriotism. That was many years ago. On coming to Salonika, however, I have had to modify that early impression. Here I found Frenchmen of splendid physique, including many exceptionally tall men, apparently fit to undergo any hardships and to hold their own as long and as steadily as any soldiers in the world.

One day I expressed to a French officer my admiration of the class of men that France had sent out to this place. "*Mais ils ne sont pas choisis,*" he assured me. They were, he said, such ordinary troops as were available from time to time, and included many comparatively fresh young men as well as hardy veterans.

Soldiering seems to come so naturally to them all, and they go about their duties so smoothly and methodically, that one can hardly imagine them out of uniform. This no doubt arises from the universal military training in France. They are also, as a rule, in excellent spirits. Only once, during yesterday's downpour, did I hear one of these jolly and brave but dripping warriors use a sulphurous swear-word. It was about the weather, and I admit his provocation was great; I thoroughly agreed with him. They appear to be always busy—building stores, making roads, setting up telegraph lines, or engaged in some other important military work.

In the streets of an evening they seem to be always making purchases of nick-nacks in the bazaars and elsewhere, and they do their bargaining quite as energetically as I have ever seen it done even in Constantinople.

How Our Soldiers Amuse Themselves.

The great majority of the troops are in their camps several miles outside Salonika, and can only obtain occasional leave to spend an evening in town. But the Army Service Corps men and others who always remain in or near the town find a variety of attractions after their day's work is done. There are three cinematograph theatres, one variety theatre called the "Odeon"—all on the sea front—and innumerable *cafés chantants*, where the young women, in the intervals of their performance, come down among the audience and beguile the Tommies into buying more beer or other liquor and "treating" these fair but thirsty charmers at absurdly high prices. These places are crowded nightly, and are mainly patronised by the French. Of course, there are also innumerable cafés without such entertainers, where the prices are more reasonable. Then during the day we have occasional football and tennis matches, while at least twice a week we have excellent military music. So we are not so badly off, after all; but even all these attractions do not seem to create in anyone a real liking for the place.

Victory Foretold by a "Sorcer."

In case any person should still be in doubt as to which of the belligerent groups is going to win the war, a Salonika entertainer, who calls himself the "King of Sorcers," sets their minds at rest. The English section of his "Programm" is nearly as entertaining as his performance. It states that he "will prove which of the twe parties wlle gain, i.e. between the Entant (allies) an the Central Powers by mean of invisible spirits of the White and Black sorcery." Spirits of the White and Black—or, in other words, "Black and White" spirits, will decide the war. I don't want to give a free advertisement to any particular brand of "spirits," even although they receive occasional notice on your front page, but the words are decidedly suggestive. In any case, considering that a very large portion of the audience come from the very birthplace of the aforesaid spirits, the momentous decision is naturally a foregone conclusion. Then follows the mysterious phrase, "The Tax is in charge of the spectator." After associating a little too freely with the "spirits" referred to I can understand the spectator being taken in charge by something—a taxi or a policeman, for instance—but perhaps the prosaic explanation is that the ticket-holder pays the Government tax thereon.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, March 4.

The Jassy University Trouble.

After lengthy deliberation, the Senate of the Jassy University has decided to withdraw the punishments decreed by the Rector, M. Stere, and has given notice of the reopening of the university. The students of both universities have declared their entire satisfaction with the course adopted, and their willingness to attend the lectures once more. The "strike" may, therefore, be said to have ended in a sense completely favourable to the cause of the students. M. Stere has sent in his resignation, which has been refused, but he states that his decision is irrevocable. It is difficult to see how he can maintain himself in his present office in view of the crushing defeat which he has sustained.

The following incident, otherwise without importance, may be worth recording as illustrating the general spirit of the student class:—One evening a number of students, jovially disposed as a result of the favourable conclusion of the strike, entered a café at Jassy and began to sing patriotic songs, among them "Pereat Austria, Pereat Bulgaria, Vivat Bukovina!" This gave offence to the German and Austrian Consuls, who happened to be drinking beer at a table, and they called upon the landlord to summon the police and have the students turned out, which he refused to do. They themselves then ordered the students to cease their songs; of course without success. Producing paper and pencil, they thereupon demanded the names of the students, with the obvious intention of asking for satisfaction in higher quarters for the injury their dignity had received. This last request meeting with derision, the offended officials decided upon a retreat, which was carried out in good order, to the accompaniment of the "Marseillaise," in which everybody joined.

A Sign of the Times.

General Crainiceanu, the political editor of the *Universul*, has opened a subscription for the widows and children of Roumanian soldiers who will lose their lives in the case of the country participating in the war. General Crainiceanu and the owner of the paper will head the list, the former contributing 25 per cent. of his salary as editor. It is a praiseworthy initiative, which shows foresight and deserves encouragement, but we cannot help thinking that many genuine sympathisers will hold over their subscriptions until such time as Roumania's involvement in the war becomes an accomplished fact.

The "Dobrujan Brotherhood."

The society which is known as the Dobrujan Brotherhood is described by the *Nationalul* as resulting from the fusion of all the Bulgarian Chauvinist secret societies of the Old and New Dobruja, its aim being propaganda against Roumania. It is said to form an annexe of the famous Bulgarian Revolutionary Committee, which organised bands of *Komitajis* for the purpose of attacking Turkey, Serbia, and Greece. All the Bulgarians of the Dobruja are members by right of this society. Its president is Dr. Vaceff, President of the Sobranje, and an intimate friend of the Prime Minister, M. Radoslavoff; its vice-president, M. T. Teodoroff, sub-chief of the National party, and formerly Minister of Finance.

M. Simeon Radeff.

The Roumanian papers continue to be much preoccupied with the espionage practised by Bulgarian inhabitants of the Dobruja, and emphasize the part played by M. Simeon Radeff, the Bulgarian Minister in Bucharest, as an intermediary between the irredentist Bulgarian society Dobrujan Brotherhood and the Bulgarian agents who have chosen that district as their field of activity. There has even been an interpellation on the subject in the Roumanian Chamber of Deputies. M. Radeff is said to have informed some of the Bulgarian inhabitants privately that the whole of the Dobruja will shortly pass into Bulgarian hands, and that he will be appointed Governor-General, just as M. Ciapracicoff. ex-Minister at Nish, was appointed Governor of Serbia.

An important morning paper denies M. Radeff's right to be regarded as a diplomat, and describes him as a simple Macedonian *Komitaji* acting at present as von dem Busche's diplomatic agent, bidding him realize that it is time for him to ask for his own recall.

Transport Difficulties.

The Bulgarian Government continues to place obstacles in the way of the transport of merchandise destined for Roumania, whether it comes from Turkey or from the Ægean ports. The Roumanian Government has retaliated by provisionally prohibiting the despatch of consignments of flour and other foodstuffs to Bulgaria and Turkey.

The Late Queen Elizabeth.

Queen Elizabeth of Roumania, who died in Bucharest on the morning of March 2 from pneumonia complicating an attack of influenza, was born at Neuwied in 1843, being the first child of Prince Herman of Wied and of his wife, Princess Martha of Nassau.

She was given a severe education, not entirely devoid of harshness, being thus deprived of some of the brightness that is childhood's due. Yet there must have been much soundness in the system, for her literary tastes were assiduously cultivated by her father, himself a thinker and the author of several philosophical works. The severity of her upbringing rendered her, sensitive child that she was, somewhat timid, and the traces of this early timidity showed itself in maturer years by a certain touch of hesitation, of uncertainty. In 1869 she married Prince Charles of Roumania, and accompanied him to the latter country. A daughter was born to them the following year; but she died in 1874, prostrating the unhappy mother with grief. They had no further children. During the War of Independence Princess Elizabeth's complete devotion to the wounded won the hearts of all, and caused her to become known as the "Mother of the Wounded." After the conclusion of the war Roumania was proclaimed a kingdom and the princely pair assumed the royal crown.

Queen Elizabeth's life represents an unbroken period of hard work. The fifty odd volumes she has published embrace every form of literary activity—verse, fiction, fairy tales, drama, history, and philosophy. Apart from "Sweet Hours," in English, and "The Thoughts of a Queen," published in French, they were all written in German.

Elizabeth of Wied, a daughter of the Rhine, was too strong a personality ever to repudiate her sentiments for the land in which she was born and bred, and these sentiments remained unchanged until the end. Yet her faculty for sympathy was so great that she found no difficulty in bridging the natural gulf that separated her own people from that of her adoption. From the first she endeared herself to her subjects, simply, naturally, without artifice; and now that she is gone they are conscious of a void that will not easily be filled.

She was sometimes criticized for the exuberance of her sentiments, for a certain indiscrimination with which she distributed the bounty of her heart. But there are few among us who will escape with so light a reproach. None have ever doubted the genuineness of the sentiments with which she was so generous. But she had unlimited reserves to draw upon. Nature had not only lavishly endowed this woman with the rarest gifts, but had bestowed upon her an unusual faculty of expression. Her versatility was quite remarkable. As an authoress she was prolific and imaginative to a degree, but it is not as Carmen Sylva that she will be remembered in Roumania. Her charity was of a particularly warm kind. One felt that her material donations, with all their munificence, were but the outward and visible sign of a yet greater spiritual gift, bestowed without hesitation, without calculation, without afterthought, with a grace that charmed completely and a smile that went to the heart. With those about her she was infinitely con-

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siderate, and never gave an order but appeared to ask a boon. The force of her magnetism enveloped those who came into contact with her, evoking feelings of deep devotion and loyalty; but the simple peasant, labouring in his master's field, the humble woman, mourning her child in the cottage, were alike drawn into the sphere of her spiritual influence. Not as a queen will she be remembered when Time draws his hazy shroud around her snow-white figure, nor as a poet, nor even as the woman, the keynote of whose life was duty and service; but rather as the *Mama Regina*, the Mother-Queen, as she loved to be called, or as the Mother of the Wounded, as the people loved to call her, who from the hour she set her foot upon Roumanian soil identified herself with the land of her adoption and dispensed to its children the fullest measure of her motherly love.

BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, March 4.

The Blessings of Bulgarian Rule.

Much misery exists in the territory occupied by the Bulgarians, and the Government can do nothing to relieve it, as Bulgaria herself is suffering from a shortage of provisions, as a result of the seizure of everything of the kind by the Germans. Unable to respond to the constant and increasing appeals for help from the "liberated" territories, the Government adopts all kinds of subterfuges in order to gain time. Thus, it has just addressed a circular to the administrative authorities of the occupied territory inviting them to proceed in each district to constitute a communal delegation to be sent to Old Bulgaria to purchase provisions for its community. In this way the solution of the problem is postponed indefinitely, as the delegates will find nothing to purchase; and the population in the "new territory" will in all probability literally die of hunger.

The *Makedonia* announces that the secret Bulgarian Committee which met at Monastir has drawn up a list of 800 Greeks whom it is proposed to exterminate. It has also been decided to occupy all empty houses belonging to Greeks.

Bulgaria and the Vatican.

It is announced that the Pope has agreed that Bulgaria shall shortly be represented at the Vatican. It is also said that a representative of his Holiness at Vienna is interesting himself to arrange a marriage between Crown Prince Boris of Bulgaria and an Archduchess of the Hapsburg family.

Robbing the Dead.

The *Dnevnik* announces the arrival at Sofia of a quantity of tombstones and funerary ornaments, which have been brought from the occupied Serbian territory by the Bulgarian authorities, from Serbian graveyards. "The best thing that can be done" (continues the journal) "with these stones is to employ them for the ornamentation of the graves of our national heroes, which are for the greater part in a most deplorable condition." Comment is needless.

The Gregorian Calendar.

The same journal, writing in reference to the introduction of the Gregorian calendar, says that M. Pecheff, Minister of Public Instruction, when interviewed on the subject, said: "The introduction of the Gregorian Calendar has been decided upon by the commission charged with the study of the matter. As to the question of laying before the Chamber the Bill dealing with the subject, the Ministers have so far adopted no resolution. In any case, the use of the Gregorian Calendar will be introduced as early as possible."

Professor Ivanoff has just found the remains of the grave of the Tsar Michael Shishman, who fell in the bloody battle fought on July 30, 1330, at Kustendil against the Serbian King Dushan. The covering stone of the tomb, which the Bulgarian professor has succeeded in finding, bears the following inscription, still perfectly legible: "Here lies the Bulgarian Tsar Michael Shishman," and the date, 1330. The stone has been let into the wall of a church at Kustendil. It has now been transported to Sofia and placed in the Museum.

Bucharest, March 10.

During a visit to the region of Kazanlik, Queen Eleonora inspected the camp of the Serbian prisoners installed at the village of Gornio-Panetchareff. After the inspection, finding the prisoners much in want of underclothing, she gave orders for their needs to be supplied.

From Sofia it is announced that a number of *soi-distant* Albanians established in Bulgaria are about to organize an "Albanian Congress," to which different Bulgarian politicians will be invited. The object, say the Sofia papers, is to choose a committee which will find a means to bring about a rapprochement between the two countries!

Terrorism at Monastir.

According to trustworthy reports received from Monastir, the situation at that town and in the surrounding neighbourhood is becoming insupportable. The care of public security is entrusted entirely to *Komitajis*, who work methodically for the extermination of the Greeks and the Roumanians. Every day sees murders or imprisonments. The priests of the villages of Dobroreni and Brat have been shot; several notables of these two villages have disappeared; and the Abbot of the Monastery of the Prophet Elias has been imprisoned because he was suspected of being a dangerous character.

The Greek Government is taking all possible steps to obtain permission for M. Jossif, the Greek Consul at Monastir, to return to his post.

Relations with the Vatican.

With reference to the reconciliation of Bulgaria with the Vatican, it is now stated from Vienna that the despatch of a Bulgarian Diplomatic Representative to the Vatican has been postponed on account of the state of war existing between Italy and Bulgaria. The exchange of representatives will only take place after the war, and meanwhile communications will be carried on through the agency of Austria-Hungary.

The *Dnevnik* emphasizes the importance of this event for Bulgaria, and points out the fact that the protection of Roman Catholics in Bulgaria will again come under the protection of Austria-Hungary, of which the dynasty has always been so faithful to the Vatican. Apart from this, says the *Dnevnik*, "the only obstacle existing to the future of good relations between Bulgaria and Austria-Hungary will be removed on the occasion of the choice of a bride for the future King of Bulgaria. It will now be possible to choose one of the princesses of the House of Austria, whose religion has heretofore prevented their marriage with a Bulgarian prince as long as the relations of his country with the Vatican remained estranged.

Germans and Serbians.

The Germans continue their pitiless methods in collecting supplies of articles of the first necessity still existing in Serbia. Forms have been delivered to the heads of families, ordering under the severest penalties to declare all they possess. The military authorities do not follow requisition methods, but seize all they require, paying in paper orders.

Throughout the country the misery is indescribable. At Belgrade the municipality has to supply the wants of more than 7,000 persons, and in the interior of the country, where the local authorities have not the same resources, the mortality among children and old people is enormous.

It has been decided to send 15,000 Serbians to Germany to work on the fields. Seven thousand have already left, being taken by force from their families and their occupations. They are to receive but two marks per day, from which they will have to feed themselves, so that their fate will be that of veritable slaves.

FOR PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

The Secretary of the War Office, in a notice forwarded for publication, states that persons who desire to send remittances to British prisoners of war in Turkey should send them by International Money Order through the Post Office. The previous arrangement, by which such remittances were sent through the Prisoners of War Help Committee, has been found to be less speedy in operation, and all such remittances should in future be sent through the Post Office.

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MARRIAGES IN THE SUDAN.

(From a Correspondent.)

The publication in a recent *Sudan Government Gazette*, at considerable length, of the amended Sudan Non-Mohammedan Marriage Ordinances recalls the fact that from the beginning of the British administration the most scrupulous care has been exercised to avoid any interference with Mohammedan marriage or other religious laws in the ordinary Courts. Indeed, these Courts hear only suits between Mohammedans which deal with claims for debt or recovery of land; all questions of marriage, divorce or succession are exclusively heard and determined in the Mohammedan Law Courts.

The progress made by these tribunals during the last few years has been remarkably satisfactory, and there can be but little doubt that much of this success is due to the education and training imparted in the Sheikhs' School of the Gordon Memorial College to the young sheikhs from whom the staff of the Mohammedan Law Courts are now recruited. Nor should it be forgotten that this great improvement in dispensing justice to the natives is attributable in a great measure to the zeal, tact and capacity of Sheikh Mohammed Mustafa, the Grand Kadi, who, in the discharge of his duties, is assisted by seventeen Naib Kadis and many subordinate judges and inspectors. Each province has its own Kadi and District Kadis, in addition to whom there is one Mufti.

As intimated, the Mohammedan Law Courts have jurisdiction to deal with all suits between Mohammedans relating to marriage, divorce, guardianship, family relationship, succession, or the constitution of charitable endowments. The ordinary Mohammedan Courts, although forming part of the Anglo-Egyptian Legal Department, are judicially independent of the Executive. Their decisions are nevertheless liable to revision by the High Mohammedan Law Courts, and their work is subject to inspection by the Committee of Supervision. Administratively, the Kadis and officers are subordinate to the Legal Secretary, and he it is who decides all questions of discipline and general administration.

Roughly speaking, there are about 13,000 marriages celebrated in the Sudan between Mohammedans during the course of the year. The proportion of divorces amounts to an average per annum of 60 per cent., the total having attained, upon certain occasions, to 66 per cent. In 1909 and 1910, for instance, it was 60 per cent., in 1911 59 per cent., in 1912 it rose to 61 per cent,. and in 1913 to 66 per cent. The actual number of divorces granted ranged between 7,258 in 1910 and 8,212 in 1912. But even these astonishing figures do not represent the whole of the marriages and divorces between Mohammedans, for registration is purely voluntary; in fact, while amongst sedentary Arabs registration is usual, amongst nomad Arabs it is rare.

It would appear that the high proportion of divorces to marriages and the decrease in the number of marriages which has of late years been noted are the natural result of the Sudanese people not having been so prosperous as in previous years. At least, this is the construction placed upon the matter by the responsible native officials, and they should certainly be in a position to define the real situation.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports (March 29):—The Serbian Government has ordered all the Serbs in Italy between the ages of 18 and 45 to undergo a fresh medical examination next Sunday, with a view to rejoining the army in Corfu, which, according to latest information, numbers 130,000.

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GERMANY AND THE NEAR EAST.

Sir Edwin Pears took the chair at a meeting of the Royal Society of Arts on Wednesday, when Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson read a paper, "Pan-German Aspirations in the Near East." The lecturer said that no one who visited Germany frequently before the war or read much German political literature could fail to be aware of the existence of an active Pan-German movement and of a propaganda which often assumed an anti-British complexion. There were three stages in the Pan-German plan: (1) The creation of "Mitteleuropa," a great Central European State-organism of 130 to 150 million inhabitants as an economic and military unit; (2) the realisation of the dream Berlin-Baghdad by the inclusion of the political and economic spheres of influence of the new Zollverein of all the territory lying between the Hungarian frontier and the Persian Gulf; and (3) naval supremacy and world-power. The vital problem of the present war, on the decision of which the whole future of civilisation depended, was whether we were to oppose this programme or to submit to it as inevitable. At such a moment there could be no half measures. In future we must never allow a situation to arise in which we might seem indifferent to events upon land simply because they took place at the other end of Europe. Such indifference was the surest way to alienate our Allies, who realised to the full the close intercommunication of West and East and South-East, and expected us to realise it equally. There were still quite serious and well-meaning people to whom the vast problems of Central and Eastern Europe were a mere blank. They failed to realise that it was no mere accident that had brought Prussia, Hungary Turkey, and Bulgaria into line. All four stood for the same principle of racial hegemony.

Sir E. Pears, in proposing a vote of thanks, said that he had watched the Berlin to Baghdad question for the last thirty years. What had been said in some quarters about Enver Pasha's visit to the Taurus was absolute rubbish. What he went to see there was whether the tunnels on the railway line had been completed; in other words, whether the new and more expeditious route was available for the conveyance of Turkish troops. The railway was being rapidly completed, but it was not going to convert Mesopotamia into a garden, as the Germans appeared to think. The completion of the line would be a good thing for the peasants, because it would enable them to get their produce to market. On the part of the Germans the undertaking was a fair case of peaceful penetration, and no reasonable objection could be taken to it, but the instant it became a question of a railway from Berlin to Baghdad and the destruction of the independence of Macedonia and Turkey we were bound to oppose it. As for German colonies in Palestine, he could say of his own knowledge that none such existed.

MESOPOTAMIA HOSPITAL SUPPLIES.

A written answer was issued last Friday by the Secretary for India to a question put to him by Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck as follows: "Whether, up to five weeks ago, repeated offers made by several hospital supply depôts to send out large quantities of hospital supplies to Mesopotamia were refused; if so, will he say by whom these offers were refused; and whether he will cause an inquiry to be made into the cause of the breakdown of the hospital arrangements in Mesopotamia?"

Mr. Chamberlain, in his reply, says:—

I have been informed since this question appeared on the paper that the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, in co-operation with the Indian Soldiers' Fund, offered their general assistance direct to the G.O.C. Mesopotamia in July last, and repeated their offer at later dates; that stores were sent by them to Busreh in September, two motor-boats in August, and another in October. In December I transmitted further offers on their behalf. On January 31 last the following offer was made by the Committee officially to the India Office. They offered to place at my disposal the organisation of the two societies to supplement the provision made by the Indian Government for the care of the sick and wounded in Mesopotamia. The offer was in the widest and most generous terms, but referred in particular to the possibility of help in the supply of stores of clothing, medical comforts, drugs, and luxuries not included in the scheduled Army lists, in the supply of motor-ambulances, barges, and other vehicles for the transport of the sick and wounded, and in the equipment of hospitals and providing personnel to staff and administer such hospitals.

I immediately communicated this generous offer to the Viceroy. Before replying he had to ascertain that it would not conflict with the organisation and arrangements of similar Indian societies; but, on February 17, he informed me that the Indian Council of St. John Ambulance, which from the outset had actively concerned itself with the Mesopotamia Force, would gladly accept assistance. I communicated the Viceroy's reply the same day to the Joint War Committee.

As regards other societies, the Indian Soldiers' Fund in October made inquiry through me of the military authorities in Mesopotamia as to whether clothing and comforts were needed for the troops, and was informed by them, in reply, that for the present the supply from India was sufficient. I understand that the Fund Committee at that time had independent evidence that there were sufficient supplies at the base. In December I received from the fund and transmitted to the Viceroy an offer to supply bandages, surgical dressings, and other medical and hospital comforts. The Viceroy gladly accepted it, and early in January a large consignment of articles, some of which were contributed by the Joint War Committee, was despatched to Mesopotamia.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE TURCO-EGYPTIAN FRONTIER REGION.*

The excellent work done by the Palestine Exploration Fund needs no introduction to readers of THE NEAR EAST, who are aware that the Fund holds a position unique in this country by reason of its good management, its long and honourable record, and the wide measure of steady support afforded it by a public which in the past has shown only a fitful interest in archæological work in other parts of the Near East. This is, of course, easily accounted for: the Holy Land may not produce relics of such artistic merit as either Greece or Egypt, but its associations appeal to a far larger public; and the Fund, we are glad to believe, will long continue to hold the proud position that it has fairly earned for itself by its work in the field in which it was a pioneer, and in which it has laboured so faithfully and so well. While it produces reports of such solid worth as that before us, it will certainly deserve to do so.

The work would be of interest to the archæologist at any time, but at the present moment it is likely to appeal to many people whose interest in archæology—even in Biblical archæology—is not profound. For it covers ground to which for a year or more many of us have been looking for happenings of great importance, ground across which the much-trumpeted Turco-German "advance on Egypt" is—or is not—to take place. And how many of us have any clear idea of what manner of ground this is? Ever since the great advance was first advertised, we have been told this, that, and the other about the Sinai desert; but the events of last year suggest that very few of our would-be instructors have any real knowledge of the subject. Messrs. Woolley and Lawrence, on the other hand, prove that their knowledge is extensive and intimate, and the descriptions, maps, and photographs in this volume are invaluable in helping us to form a clear mental picture of the country which any army advancing from Palestine would have to traverse in order to reach the Suez Canal.

It was in 1913 that Mr. Woolley and Mr. Lawrence, then at Carchemish, on the Euphrates, excavating on behalf of the British Museum, were invited to join the survey party which the War Office had despatched to link up the triangulation of the Egyptian and Palestinian surveys, and which was under the direction of Captain Newcombe, R.E. They accepted the invitation, and lost no time about setting out for Gaza. There they hurriedly got together an outfit, and then pressed on to Beersheba, where they were to join Captain Newcombe. The tribute paid to their leader by Mr. Lawrence, in the Introduction, is worth quoting. It gives a good idea of survey work in such country, and is a pleasing testimony to the ability of a fine officer:—

> We had with us only a scratch outfit raked up in Gaza. Yet he welcomed us, stripped himself of what he called his "luxuries" for us (and he was already living in the barest way), got us camels, and in Khalasa fed us till our stores arrived. Living with him we got a clear insight into his methods. He had five parties under him, and yet in this unmapped wilderness always knew exactly where each party was, and how its work was going on. He established a regular post, and supply caravans from El Arish, Gaza, and Beersheba to feed his men and animals. He was ambassador for all of us to Arab tribes and to Turkish officials, and managed both, leaving behind him a reputation which will smooth the way of any future English traveller in the desert. This labour of organization would have been enough for most men, living as roughly and uncomfortably as Newcombe did; yet in addition he contrived to map a larger district than any of his assistants. Off by dawn with guides and instruments, he would return to camp at dark, and work perhaps till midnight, arranging and calculating and recording for the benefit of the other parties. He was the prime begetter of the Survey, and thanks to his elaborate camel-contract, his skilful handling of his transport and supply columns, and the Spartan simplicity of life, to which he also converted his subordinates, the expedition, in economy of money and time, beat all records of similar surveys in the East.

At the present time this testimony will inevitably lead many readers to hope that such organising ability is not being lost to the country.

From Gaza to Kossaima the authors kept together, but at the latter point they separated, Mr. Lawrence striking south to Akaba, which he reached in spite of Turkish opposition, and then on to Petra and Ma'an; while Mr. Woolley turned off to investigate the Byzantine ruins at Abda, Esbeita, Khalasa, and Kurnub. Their prime object was, of course, archæological exploration, and what they write about their "finds" is of much interest. Indeed, in normal times their account of the Byzantine remains and of the discovery at Abda, underneath the ruins of Byzantine monastic buildings, of a great temple, which Mr. Woolley ascribes to the second or third century B.C., would undoubtedly constitute the chief interest of the volume. The ruins and antiquities are well described, and are illustrated by means of excellent photographs, sketches, and plans. But for the time being our interest in such things sinks into insignificance in comparison with our interest in the physical features of the country. Fortunately, these are described in considerable detail, and the particulars given regarding the Darb-el-Shur, the ancient inland caravan route from central Palestine to Egypt, are particularly valuable. The map of the country along the Turco-Egyptian boundary line (Rafa to Akaba) and of the region in the Rafa-Akaba-Dead Sea triangle is quite invaluable.

To the ordinary traveller the country dealt with can have very few attractions. Here is a passage describing part of the road traversed by Mr. Lawrence on his way to Akaba:—

> The landscape is only an exaggeration of the northern country. There are the same great stretches of flaky limestone, so overlaid with brown flints, sand polished, that the whiteness only shows through on slopes too steep to hold the flint; and rising out of these flats and bounding them are ridges and mounds of the same limestone, capped with a harder layer, as smooth as a table-top and strewn with the everlasting flints. The straightness and regularity of these formations are curious. . . .
>
> To the east of the road the prospect is always mountainous. . . . On the west side are some hills, but for the greater part the country is almost flat into the distance.

"The way down" from the edge of the plateau to Akaba is, however, "very splendid":—

> In the hill-sides all sorts of rocks are mingled in confusion; grey-green limestone cliffs run down sheer for hundreds of feet, in tremendous ravines whose faces are a medley of colours wherever crags of black porphyry and diorite jut out, or where soft sandstone, washed down, has left long pink and red smudges on the lighter colours.

The water supply is, of course, of the scantiest; though it would appear that in some parts, in the north especially, water is to be found quite close to the surface. Mr. Woolley, for instance, records how at one spot, in the neighbourhood of Tel Rakhama, where there had been no rain for a twelve-month, he came across a woman filling her pitchers at a hole less than two feet deep which she had dug in the sandy bed of a wady.

> Sinai to-day [we are told elsewhere] gets a heavy rainfall in winter, usually quite enough, were it only distributed over a larger period, to ensure a satisfactory crop. The fault from the farmer's point of view lies not so much in the quantity of rain that falls as in its limitation to the coldest months of the year.

The authors decline to accept Professor Huntington's theory "that in this part of the Near East there has been throughout history an alternation of irregular periods of comparative moisture and of drought"; and they consider that "there is no evidence of a Stone Age" in this region. The prosperity of the Byzantine Age they attribute entirely to "the conservation of the normal water supply and to improved agricultural methods," of which many traces, in the form of terracing, still remain. They support their views by the citation of evidence collected on the spot, and the arguments they deduce therefrom appear to be perfectly sound. The region's period of prosperity—such as it was—was of short duration. Before the Arab power the cities of the south melted away, the farm-works of the husbandmen fell into neglect, and the entire region rapidly drifted back into the state of an abandoned wilderness. In recent times attempts have been made in a half-hearted way to reclaim spots here and there, but they have not been successful. At El Auja, for example, the Turkish Government, in a sudden fit of energy—was it prompted by visions of the great "invasion of Egypt"?—"cleared out one of the lower wells and found plentiful water at the old Greek level. They were so pleased with the discovery that they brought a steam-engine to pump it up, characteristically ignoring the fact that an engine requires fuel." The result, we are hardly surprised to learn, was the failure of the experiment.

In spite of its drawbacks—or, perhaps, because of them—the region was one that badly required exploration. That fact is apparent after reading this very interesting volume. The Palestine Exploration Fund is therefore deserving of our thanks for undertaking the work, and it is to be congratulated upon having been able to secure the services of two such enthusiastic and well-equipped observers to carry it on. The report of the work, it must be added, has been edited by Mr. D. G. Hogarth; the Greek inscriptions found are dealt with in a chapter contributed by Mr. M. N. Tod; and Professor Margoliouth has translated an Arabic inscription found near Akaba.

* "The Wilderness of Zin (Archæological Report)." By C. Leonard Woolley and T. E. Lawrence. (The Palestine Exploration Fund, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square. 45s.)

BOOK NOTES.

"The Story of Lord Kitchener," by Harold Wheeler, is announced as a forthcoming addition to the "Heroes of the Ages" series.

Messrs. Stanford have issued a new map showing the theatre of war in the Balkans, with a scale of eighteen miles to the inch. The price is 5s.

The Council for the Study of International Relations has published this week "Serbia's Place in Human History," by the Rev. Nicholas Velimirovitch, and "The Problem of Small Nations in the European Crisis," by Professor T. G. Masaryk. The pamphlets are priced at 3d. each.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Having been ignored by the Public and by the Paid Politicians as long as all went well with it, the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force has suddenly been dragged into the limelight, and as a result, Public, Politicians, and Press appear to be inclined to demand somebody's head—quite characteristically, they do not seem to know whose—on a charger. I deplore the circumstances that have brought about this state of affairs, but if the awakening leads to a juster appreciation of what the men of the gallant force have been doing it will at least accomplish some good. THE NEAR EAST has consistently endeavoured to keep the importance of these operations to the fore, and these columns I have tried over and over again to emphasize the hardships with which our troops have had to contend. I am not going over the ground again, for other and abler pens than mine are now dealing with the subject. But I cannot refrain from quoting a passage in a letter I received last week from the relative of an officer with the Force:—

They are all awfully sick at the way they have been treated in the matter of rewards and recognition. Some of them have been mentioned three or four times in despatches, and yet only one meagre list has been published during the whole campaign. Considering that the Persian Gulf has been the most consistently successful of all the "shows," and has been carried out under conditions that beggar description, and that—according to men who have been through both—are far worse than the worst in France, this is, indeed, very shabby treatment, and it is no wonder that one and all are disgusted at the neglect. One wonders at them sticking to their task so pluckily.

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That is not exactly pleasant reading, is it? But it gives the views of the men who are entitled to be heard: the men who have been facing "conditions that beggar description." I know from personal experience what conditions *can* be like in Lower Mesopotamia, and I have no hesitation in accepting the opinion of those competent observers referred to by the writer, "men who have been through both," that they are far worse than the worst in France. The trouble is that so few people in this country know anything about that region. Were it otherwise the men of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force would surely have no grounds of complaint in regard to appreciation of their fine service.

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The more one hears of the evacuation of Anzac and Suvla the more wonderful does the feat appear. At Anzac there was only one pier, and, as an officer who saw the embarkation says, "the crowd round that pier was something marvellous. It is almost incredible that the Turks did not have some sort of inkling of what was going on. They must have known *something* was up from the shipping in Suvla Bay; perhaps they fancied we were going to attack." Owing possibly to cloudy weather the enemy aviators were inactive at the time, though as a matter of fact they could have been of very little service, since, I am told, "all they could have seen would be the shipping in Suvla Bay, which they could see from their own lines." Perhaps it was even more fortunate for them than for us that such was the case, for arrangements had been made to deal with them if they did seek to make themselves obnoxious.

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This reminds me that our withdrawal from Gallipoli has added considerably to the risks of our flying men in that part of the world. Formerly there were so many of our ships about that, in case of engine trouble, any of our aviators could choose his ship and make reasonably certain of alighting close to it and being picked up. Now the chances are not quite so good. Still, our men are quite cheerful and happy in their work; which is more than the Hun aviators appear to be. I was shown lately a letter written by one of our flying officers. He writes very casually of his work, but what he does write serves to show that the enemy aircraft are not scoring any successes, and that our own people are perfectly satisfied with what they themselves are doing. More than that it would be indiscreet to say. I may, however, quote a few short sentences from the letter:—"We had quite a good Christmas. It was a perfect day, and the Huns came over twice and dropped bombs. They made quite good shots for our machines, but did not succeed in doing any damage." And then the writer goes on to rejoice at having "raised some turkeys from somewhere." As I have said before, if that is how the men who are doing the things that matter just now feel about it all, the least we can do is to "keep smiling."

***

Fortunately our fighting men do manage to keep their spirits up in the most wonderful way. Since I wrote the above paragraphs I have received a letter from a naval officer serving "somewhere in the Mediterranean," and have had a long talk with another who is somewhere nearer Home, and both of them are full of cheerfulness and quiet confidence. The former writes:—"Don't let folks at home get downhearted. We are full of buck here—but would be much happier if only we had an opportunity of killing the Dogeaters. I rather like the new name—Dogeaters—for the Huns. It is insulting, contemptuous, and true. It should spread." Personally, I had not heard of the name before, but if it is applicable, by all means let us adopt it; I, for one, am rather tired of "Huns" and "Boches" as synonyms for "Germans." As to what my second naval friend told me, I had better say nothing save this: It very nearly made me feel sorry for the "Dogeaters" for the first time since the war began.

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In a review of a book on Egypt, which appeared two weeks ago in this paper, I notice a reference to the spirit of the Nile, and to the effect which such spirits, or, rather, the belief in them, has upon the Egyptian people. I am pleased to see that the writer treated the subject seriously, because it always seems to me that while we ignore the power of this influence we cannot give the people upon whom it operates the full benefit of our sympathy. We recognise the mystic and psychic tendencies of the Oriental mind in the Middle East, but, possibly because it is less aggressive, we overlook it on the bank of the Nile. As a matter of fact, belief in the supernatural plays an absorbing part in the life of rural and desert Egypt. Several instances which came under my personal observation proved it to be stronger than any other consideration on earth, not excluding the lure of personal gain. The *afrit* has, for instance, frequently and without question proved an effectual barrier to exploration.

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During my wanderings on the Libyan desert I became friendly with a Bedouin sheikh, and over the camp fire at night he would tell me weird tales of desert life and death; of caravans lost in *khamsin;* of caravans destroyed by nomad Arabs, and so on. Then when I came to know him better he told me the story of a haunted city set in the waste of sand a few days' marches away. He always spoke of this place with awe, though he had never been to the city himself, but a friend of his had accomplished the journey, leaving stone landmarks as he went, to ensure his safe return. Behind him, however, and all unseen, had crept an *afrit*, carefully destroying the landmarks as they were set up. Then when he had reached his goal he had been tantalised by haunting visions of feminine beauty ere the male spirits set about him and well-nigh buffeted the life out of his body. Dazed and lost, he made his way out into the open desert again, to strike the caravan route by the merest chance, and then only when he was in the last stages of exhaustion. Such was the tale, and, constantly reiterated, I began to think that there was something in it.

***

A few weeks later I met a wealthy Englishman long resident in Egypt, and to him I recounted the sheikh's tale. His interest flattered and excited me. He firmly believed in the existence of such cities; the difficulty, it seemed, was to induce any native to tell of them. Would I care to go further and try to secure sufficient details of direction, etc., to justify an expedition? Of course, I jumped at the suggestion, and, starting at once, my troubles began. I saw the sheikh; his friend was in the Sudan. Well, money was no object; we would send for him. Two days later the sheikh received an aerial message—there were no other means of communication—to say that his friend was dead. I told him plainly that I did not believe it. He protested for some time, but eventually produced the man, saying that he had lied only to guard against giving me offence, but no power on earth would induce him to give further particulars than were included in a wave of the hand to the west indicating the direction of the city.

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My English friend made the best of a bad job, and to the west an expedition started. It did not find the city, but although only three days out, it was not without discovery. A watering base of an ancient caravan route, for centuries disused, was found, with Roman water-jars stacked ready to load on the camels, which for some mysterious reason evidently never came. Sand-driven and worn to the thickness of a cigarette paper, they could not be removed, but they were photographed, and I saw the film developed. Still on an unknown track, the expedition was pushing ahead, when one of its members thought he saw a spirit, and after that there was no further progress. Not a native would advance a step, although, according to contract, they stood to gain ten pounds each if they reached the city, and to lose their wages if they disobeyed orders. And so the affair ended, so far at least, as that expedition was concerned, but it showed how firm a hold superstition has upon the native mind. The man who realizes this and who meets the Arab and the fellaheen in a spirit which evinces sympathy for his frequently half-ashamed beliefs will learn more of the people in six months than his more material and intolerant brother would learn in an equal number of years.

CORSAIR.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. Mar. 31	1916. Mar. 18	Friday	1334. Jumada I. 26	5676. Adar II. 26
April 1	19	Saturday.....	27	27
2	20	Sunday	28	28
3	21	Monday	29	29 Nisan.
4	22	Tuesday	30 Jumadil.	1
5	23	Wednesday	1	2
6	24	Thursday	2	3

To-day is the birthday of Prince Henry, third son of the King and Queen, who was born at Sandringham in 1900.

The Prince of Wales, who is on the Headquarters Staff of Sir Archibald Murray in Egypt, has found time, Reuter's correspondent states in a special telegram, for several visits to the front in the desert, and in the course of his rides on the eastern side of the Canal has seen a good deal of the work of the Army. His Royal Highness lives in the simplest manner, much as would any other young Staff officer, a fact which has enhanced his popularity with the British and Dominion forces of the Dardanelles Army, who value his presence all the more on account of the unaffected and unceremonious nature of his appearances among them.

A Reuter's message states that General Sir Bryan Mahon, commanding the British forces at Salonika, arrived in Athens yesterday morning, and will have an interview with King Constantine.

Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia is expected to arrive in London either to-day or to-morrow. His Royal Highness will be accompanied by M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, and the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

The Egyptian Press announces that the Sultan will go to Alexandria for the summer in the first fortnight of May. The repairs which are being made at Ras el Tin are expected to be completed by the end of next month.

Under date of March 27, Reuter's Nice correspondent reports:—The death of Prince Bahram of Persia, son of Zill-es-Sultan, who lives in Nice, is announced. Prince Bahram was on board the Sussex when the ship was torpedoed, and, in spite of all their efforts, the family have had no news since. There is however, no official confirmation as yet of the Prince's death.

Sir J. D. Rees has given notice to ask the Secretary for Forfeign Affairs whether any inquiry has been made as to the fate of Prince Bahram of Persia, who is believed to have been a passenger in the Sussex, and, if so, with what result.

Egyptian papers received by the last mail report that Sir Reginald Wingate, accompanied by Lady Wingate and his staff, was expected to leave Khartoum this week to take up summer quarters at Erkowit.

Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside have arrived at 23, Grosvenor Place, which in future will be their town residence.

Lady Paget and her party of over fifty doctors and nurses from Serbia arrived in Petrograd on Sunday *en route* for England.

The *Morning Post's* Stockholm correspondent reports under date of March 29:—Lady Paget's ambulance party arrived here this morning from Petrograd via Haparanda. The party, consisting of eight surgeons and ninety nurses, travelled from Serbia through Russia, and several bore signs of the hardships endured. The voyage will be continued to-morrow via Christiania to England.

A Reuter's message from Stockholm, dated yesterday, says: Lady Paget and her British Red Cross party arrived here yesterday from Serbia and Petrograd. The party consists of eight doctors and about 100 nurses, besides two British wounded. Lady Paget is the guest of the Crown Princess. The party will leave to-day for Christiania in specially reserved railway carriages.

The Secretary of the War Office issued the following announcement last Friday:—The military position in Egypt being satisfactory, owing to the failure of the attempts by the Turks on the West Frontier, a reorganisation of the Forces in that country has been effected and General Sir A. Murray, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., has assumed the sole command in that country. General Sir J. G. Maxwell, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., left for England to-day.

Before he left Cairo, General Sir John Maxwell was entertained at a farewell reception at the Continental Hotel, at which Prince Ahmed Fuad read an address of appreciation. The arrangements were in the hands of a committee of Egyptian notables, and all classes and communities were represented at the gathering; while large crowds of natives gathered outside the hotel and loudly acclaimed General Maxwell as he drove away.

The General, in a short speech in which he expressed his thanks, said that he hoped the Egyptians had now got over the bad year of 1914. Please God, there would be a good year this year and he trusted it would be the harbinger of many prosperous years to come. "You have everything in your favour," said General Maxwell in conclusion. "You must be loyal to yourselves, loyal to your august ruler, and may God favour the country as He has always favoured it. I thank you most heartily. Lady Maxwell and I will take away with us gratifying remembrances of the kindness of our friends in Egypt."

Count de Salis (His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Montenegro) was received in audience by the King on Wednesday, when his Majesty conferred upon him the honour of knighthood, the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George having been handed to him in 1913.

Major the Hon. M. G. Talbot has arrived at Khartoum from England, and it is stated that his services have been lent to the Sudan Government. He was Director-General of Sudan Surveys from 1900 to 1905, when he retired from service in the Sudan.

The marriage arranged between Geoffrey F. de Teissier, Captain, Scots Guards, and Katharine, eldest daughter of the late Theodore Seligman, of New York, and Lady Waldstein, and step-daughter of Sir Charles Waldstein, will take place quietly at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, on Wednesday, April 19.

Captain Yovan W. Yovanovitch, of the Serbian Intelligence Department of the Headquarters Staff, arrived in London on Monday from Corfu.

The marriage of Miss Bolton, only daughter of the Commissioner of Limassol, Major Bolton, with Major Bagshaw, R.A.M.C., was celebrated at Limassol recently.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (March 4):—

M. Gueshoff, the Bulgarian ex-Prime Minister, is at present in Bucharest, where he is said to have a banking business. His visit does not seem to be of a political character.

Colonel Semenoff, the Russian Military Attaché in Bucharest, has been promoted to the rank of general, and will shortly return to Russia. He has made himself very popular during his two years' residence in the Roumanian capital. General Ibesco, the General Secretary at the Ministry of War, has recently given a dinner in his honour.

M. S. Lupashco, Roumanian Commercial Attaché at Marseilles, has arrived in Bucharest.

Captain A. Paltineano, of the General Staff, has been sent abroad on special mission by the Ministry of War.

Reuter's Salonika correspondent reports that on Monday General Sarrail presented the Croix de Guerre to Lord French's sister as President of the Scottish Red Cross Society. Afterwards General Sarrail and General Mahon were present at a concert.

We are glad to learn, from the *Egyptian Gazette*, that Mr. Arthur B. Geary, British Vice-Consul at Alexandria, who has been ill for the past month with paratyphoid fever and jaundice, is making most satisfactory progress and expects to leave the Deaconesses' Hospital, where he has been under treatment, before long.

Mr. Bertram Christian, Chairman of the Serbian Relief Fund, London, last week received a telegram from Lady Barclay, wife of the British Minister in Bucharest, in which she states that there are 30,000 Serbian prisoners in Bulgaria in great distress. She asks for the means of affording them relief. In response the Committee of the Serbian Relief Fund have taken immediate steps to deal with the situation.

M. Petrovitch, who was formerly connected with the Serbian Diplomatic Service, left London for New York last week.

M. Panas, the Greek Minister in Petrograd, passed through Bucharest on Tuesday last week.

An Alexandria correspondent writes:—"During the last week in February the Rev. H. Tristram Valentine, M.A., was presented with a gold wristlet watch, suitably engraved, and a cheque which had been subscribed for by a number of his personal friends among the congregation of All Saints' Church, Ramleh, on the termination of his chaplaincy, which he had held during four years. The Rev. Valentine has not entirely severed his connection with Alexandria, having been appointed temporary Chaplain to the Forces."

It is announced in the *London Gazette* that his Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to confer the undermentioned rewards for gallantry and distinguished service in the field, in connection with the engagement at Sollum, Egypt, March 14 to 17, 1916:—

To be a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order: Major Hugh Richard Arthur, Duke of Westminster, G.C.V.O., Cheshire Yeomanry, Territorial Force.

Awarded the Military Cross: Lieutenant Cuthbert Roger Rowden, Worcestershire Regiment and Royal Flying Corps.

The *Egyptian Gazette* reports:—The appointment of Judge Herbert Walsh Halton, acting President of the Cairo Mixed Tribunal, as President of the Mixed Court of Appeal in succession to the late Judge Sandars, was approved by the Council of Ministers at its meeting on March 14.

Vice-Admiral Sir John de Robeck has presented the port light and steering indicator of the steamship River Clyde to the 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment in memory of the landing of the 29th Division in Gallipoli on April 25, 1915, from this vessel. It was on the bridge that the officer commanding the battalion, Colonel H. Carington Smith, was killed.

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The *London Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to grant permission to Lieut.-Col. Henry Edward Manning Douglas, V.C., C.M.G., D.S.O., R.A.M.C., Deputy Assistant Director of Medical Services, to wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the Order of Saint Sava, which decoration has been conferred upon him by the King of Serbia, in recognition of valuable services rendered.

Ten English and Australian officers, invalided from the Dardanelles, arrived last week at the Villa Medici, at Fiesole, from Malta, convalescent. They were received on their arrival by Lady Sybil Cutting and Mrs. Strong, and were warmly greeted. They expect to remain at Fiesole about three weeks.

Jaafar Pasha, the Turkish commander who was recently captured at Barrani, has been allowed to keep his sword.

Lady Murray, president of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force Fund, would be very grateful if ladies having knitting machines would kindly knit some socks for her. The fund will supply the wool. Communications should be addressed to the hon. secretary, M.E.F.F., 24a, Hill Street, Knightsbridge, S.W.

The Agent-General for Victoria, Australia (Sir Peter McBride), has received authority to make the payment of £1,000 to the Serbian Minister, being a further contribution from the Lord Mayor of Melbourne's Serbian Relief Fund.

A Serbian *matinée* organised by the British Empire Union in aid of the Serbian refugees and other patriotic objects will be given at the London Pavilion this afternoon. Many leading artists will contribute to the programme, and during the afternoon there will be addresses by Sir George Makgill and Mr. Leo Maxse. Tickets may be obtained at the Pavilion box-office.

The Hon. B. R. Wise, K.C., Agent-General for New South Wales, acting under instructions received from the Government in Sydney, has handed to the Serbian Relief Fund in London a further sum of £6,300 for relief in Serbia, and to Lady (Roper) Parkington, Honorary Treasurer of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund, a further amount of £1,500 for relief of Montenegrin refugees. The total of £7,800 in question represents a contribution of £7,000 from the "Allies Day" Funds Committee and also an additional amount of £800 from funds contributed by various citizens of New South Wales.

Baron von dem Bussche-Haddenhausen, the German Minister to Roumania, has returned to Bucharest from Berlin. On the day following his arrival he had an interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The British Muslim Society announces, for the benefit of Muslims and others living in or passing through London, that public services are held at 1 p.m. on Fridays, at 39, Upper Bedford Place, W.C., and at 3.15 p.m. on Sundays at the Mosque, Woking.

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The eleventh report of the Women's Armenian Relief Fund, recently issued, states that since Turkey proclaimed war against Russia it has been practically impossible for the Committee to communicate with Van and its province, and they have therefore been helping various other agencies, such as the Lord Mayor's Armenian Refugees' Fund and the Serbian Relief Fund, but they are now enabled to transmit money for relief of distress in the Caucasus to certain American missionaries appointed by the Boston Board of Foreign Missions. They therefore appeal to their supporters and friends to help in saving a remnant of the unhappy Armenian people. Donations will be acknowledged and remitted to Tiflis by Mrs. Madeleine Cole, Hon. Treasurer, Women's Armenian Relief Fund, Danehurst, Putney.

Sir Clements Robert Markham, K.C.B., the famous geographer and explorer, of 21, Eccleston Square, S.W., and the Athenæum Club, President of the Hakluyt Society, 1890, and of the Royal Geographical Society, 1893-1905, who died on January 30, aged 85, left property of the value of £7,740, the net personalty being £7,431.

General Sir Charles Monro has sent to the Mayor of Burnley the following translation of an order issued to his troops by General d'Urbal, commanding the 10th French Army Corps, telling them how gallantly Second Lieutenant A. V. Smith, V.C., 5th East Lancashire Regiment, and son of the Chief Constable of Burnley, sacrificed his life in the Dardanelles:—"A good example of devotion has been shown by an officer of the British Army in Second Lieutenant Alfred Victor Smith, East Lancashire Regiment. This officer dropped a grenade in the trenches, and cried out in alarm to the other officers and men to make themselves safe, but knowing that it was too late, dropped himself on the grenade. He was killed from the explosion, but saved the lives of his comrades. The General Commander of the 10th Army Corps thinks that this act of bravery on the part of one of the officers of the brave Allies should be known by every one.—V. D'URBAL."

Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, 3rd Bt., G.C.M.G., of Princes Gate, S.W., Warlies, Waltham Abbey, and Colne House, Cromer, who died on October 28 last, aged seventy-eight, has left unsettled estate of the gross value of £420,976, the net personalty amounting to £88,427. Probate of his will dated June 12, 1912, with seven codicils, has been granted to his three sons, Sir Thomas Fowell Victor Buxton, Bt., Noel Edward Buxton, M.P., and Charles Roden Buxton. The whole of the property, with the exception of some legacies to servants, is divided among members of the family, in varying amounts, all real and leasehold property going to Sir Thomas Fowell Victor Buxton, the present baronet.

Al-Mokattam reports that a follower of Abbas Effendi, head of the Bahais, who lives in Alexandria, has received a telegram from Chicago stating that according to news from Syria Abbas Effendi is enjoying full freedom. It was reported that the Turkish authorities had imprisoned him.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces that Ras Mikhail, King of Tagria and father of the present Negus of Abyssinia, intends to pay a visit to Cairo shortly, and will stay with the Orthodox Coptic Patriarch, who will anoint him as King. The King of Tagria only recently became a monarch, as hitherto he has been a religious chief.

M. V. Antonievitch, of the Serbian Legation, attended the rooms of the League of the Empire in Buckingham Gate yesterday, and opened an exhibition of Serbian children's national dress, comprising about 400 garments made by various working parties for Serbian orphans who are homeless in different countries. The exhibition also included many interesting war relics.

About 100 Serbian officers and 38 N.C.O.'s and men from Corfu arrived in London on Wednesday. Some of them visited the Houses of Parliament during the afternoon.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

At its meeting on March 14 the Egyptian Council of Ministers approved the retention of Sir David Semple, Director-General of the Public Health Department, in that post for a further two years as from April 6 next after his attaining the age of 60, which is the maximum age limit under the pension regulations.

It is considered probable, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, that Mr. Williams, Inspector-General of Irrigation, who is retiring at the end of this month, will be succeeded by Mr. A. P. Tottenham, Inspector-General of Irrigation, Lower Egypt, who, in turn, will be succeeded by Mr. Adam, Inspector of the First Circle of Irrigation. Mr. O'Sullivan, Inspector of the Zifta Circle, will succeed Mr. Adams as Inspector of the First Circle.

A Sudan correspondent writes:—

Captain C. H. Stigand, formerly Second Inspector of the Province of Mongalla, has been transferred to the Province of the Upper Nile, where he is stationed at Nasser. This new headquarters of the province, one out of eight Mamurias, was only established in 1913, and the inspector in charge of the district deals solely with the troublesome Nuer tribe, the Dinka districts of Abwong, Khor Attar, and Dunjol forming likewise a new inspectorate with the headquarters at Abwong. Captain Stigand has been in the service of the Sudan Government since March of 1910, and he is regarded as a very smart and reliable official, quite suited, both by experience and temperament, to assume the responsibilities attaching to his new command.

Mr. O. Bentley, formerly Second Inspector in the Red Sea Province, and who was transferred to the Nuba Mountains Province at the end of last year, is now located at Talodi. This is the chief town of the province, which was only created as a separate administrative area in 1914. Mr. Bentley has seen over two years' service with the Sudan Government.

Mr. J. H. Goldsmith, formerly an Inspector in the Survey Department, has been appointed to a Third Inspectorship in the Red Sea Province, being stationed at Port Sudan.

Captain C. Kennedy Cranford Stuart, D.S.O., Indian Army, and Captain H. Burges-Watson, Infantry, have been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as Special Service Officers, with the rank of Bimbashi, their services being placed at the disposal of the Sudan Government.

Mr. H. A. Macmichael, of the Sudan Civil Service (Temp. Captain, British Army) has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

The Cyprus *Gazette* of March 10 announces that the following gentlemen have been elected members of the Museum Committee for a term of two years:—Mr. L. Z. Pierides, Mr. D. Severis, Mr. N. Paschalis, Hon. A. Liassides, M.L.C., and Dr. A. Theodotou.

The *Sudan Times* of March 4 reproduces an official notification from a Special War Office *Gazette* of February 26 a list of rewards in recognition of services in the operations "against the Mandal-Sabai Hills, 1914." Included in the list are four British officers, who receive the Order of the Nile:—Lewa F. F. Carrol Pasha, M.B., Medical Corps, who receives the Third Class; and Kaimakams C. E. Vickerey Bey, D.S.O., late Sudan Government; T. G. Anderson Bey, late Assistant Adjutant-General, and J. A. Pollock Bey, Officer Commanding 11th Sudanese, who all receive the Fourth Class.

The following officers have been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army:—

El Kaimakam G. H. P. Boyle Bey, Instructor of Signalling;

El Kaimakam W. B. Gibbs Bey, Officer Commanding 15th Sudanese;

El Kaimakam R. Micklem Bey, Sudan Government;

El Bimbashi A. J. Reynolds, Cavalry and M.I.

Mr. Capsambellis, Greek Vice-Consul at Alexandria, has been appointed Secretary to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs at Athens.

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ROLL OF HONOUR.
British Subjects from Turkey in H.M.'s Forces.

The Editor of THE NEAR EAST *would be obliged if relatives of former British residents in the Near East who have joined H.M.'s forces would communicate additional names or other particulars for insertion in our Roll of Honour. Biographical details concerning those who have fallen in their country's service would also be appreciated.*

ASHE, Lance-Corp. R., R.E.
ATKINSON, Bombardier G. M., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ATKINSON, Gunner T., "A" Co., Royal Field Artillery.
BAKER, Captain A. Warden, 7th Royal Scots Fusiliers.
BARKER, 2nd Lieut. C., Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
BARRON, Captain J. B., Worcester Regiment, France.
BATH, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
BELL, Sister M. J., Edinburgh War Hospital, Bangour.
BINNING, Sergt. G. A., South Wales Borderers B.E.F., France.
BINNS, Capt. C. E., R.M. (Interpreter to Mediterranean Forces).
BINNS, Lieut. Harold H., Royal Naval Division Headquarters, British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
BINNS, Miss Hilda B., V.A.D., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., H.M.H.S "Aquitania"
BINNS, Lieut. W. Hylton, care of The British Consul, Brindisi.
BLYTH, Captain R. C. P., 1st Gloucestershire Regiment, attd. Egyptian Army. (*Killed in Action.*)
BOLTON, Alfred, Naval Brigade.
BOND, Private H. C., 7th (Reserve) City of London Regt.
BOND, Lieut. Gladwyn J. T., 1/8 West Riding Brigade, R.F.A., Ripon.
BOND, 2nd Lieut. Sidney, Royal Horse Guards, Interpreter, Salonica.
BOND, Corporal R. (41,357), Headquarters Staff, "D" Battery, 79th Brigade, R.F.A., 17th Division, B.E.F., France.
BORRELL, Rifleman Alfred, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BOWMAN, Corporal Henry J. (2424), R.A.M.C., British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
BROOKS, Corporal George, 41356, D. Batt., 78th Brig., R.F.A., 17th Div., B.E.F. France (in hospital with fever).
BURN, E. R., 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
BURNS, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Accidentally Killed.*)
CASTELL, Rifleman Henry, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
CAUCHI, Act. Corporal Henry (6113), 19th Service Battalion, C. Company, Royal Fusiliers, Epsom, Surrey.
CHARNAUD, Lieut. A., R.N.V.R., Acting Interpreter.
CLEMOW, F. G., M.D., C.M.G., British Red Cross Mission.
CLIFTON, Capt. H., Interpreter, 11th Batt. Durham Light Infantry, 54th Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
COLES, Dr. D. A., R.A.M.C. (formerly of the English Hospital, Haifa).
COLLEY, Trooper Isaac E., Royal Horse Guards.
CORBETT, Lieut. H. C., M.D., R.A.M.C.
CRAWFORD, Private James, 7th (Reserve) City of London Regiment.
CROWE, Louis B., Red Cross Motor Ambulance, B.E.F., France.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut A. Noël, 9th East Yorkshire Regiment, Liason Officer, 29th Division, Headquarters, Salonica.
CUMBERBATCH, Captain R. C., 7th Bn., Rifle Brigade, 14th Division, B.E.F., France.
CUMBERBATCH, Lieut. H. D., 6th Bn., The Buffs, 12th Division, B.E.F., France. (*Wounded.*)
CUMING, Sergt. A. C., No. 38,983, Intelligence Corps, 3rd Army Headquarters, B.E.F.
CURSI, Pte. F., 8th Bn., King's Liverpool Regt., B.E.F., France.
DAVIDSON, Bombardier C. T., 266th Battery, 85th Brigade, R.F.A., Colchester.
ELLIOTT, Eric C., 2nd Lieut., Essex Regiment, 11th Battalion.
ELLIOTT, Flight Sub-Lieut. Clifford W., R.N.A.S.
EPPSTEIN, Lieut. W. R., Durham Light Infantry.
FAULKNER, Lieut. M., Admiralty House, Malta.
FROMANT, Private F., Grenadier Guards.
GALLIA, Rifleman M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOODACRE, Miss C., Red Cross, Shoreham.
GOUT, Captain Charles L. Gout, 2/4th K.O.Y.L.I., Lark Hill Camp, Camp No. 10, Salisbury Plain.
GOUT, Rifleman Evelyn, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GOUT, Rifleman Richard, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
GRAVES, Captain Philip, Intelligence Department, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
HADKINSON, Rifleman Vivian H., "A" Co., 7th Batt. Rifle Brigade, Queen's E1 Ward, Bed 40, Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester. (*Wounded.*)
HARRIS, Trooper H. L., 1st King Edward's Horse, 48th South Midland Division, B.E.F., France.
HIGGS, Private J., 6th Dragoon Guards.
HOLMES, 2nd Lieut. Gerald H., 2/5th Batt. Leicestershire Regiment.
HOLTON, Corporal Alfred, Royal Naval Division, Divisional Engineers.
HOLTON, Trooper John, B. Squadron, Essex Yeomanry.
IRELAND, Private D. J. (3346), 15th County of London Regiment.
JACKSON, Rifleman Edward, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
KERR, Miss E., Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., H.M. Hospital Ship Brighton, British Expeditionary Force, France.
KEYSER, Lieut. A. G., 8th Batt. King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. R. N., 10th Batt. East Lancashire Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. Henry, 2/10th Batt. Middlesex Regiment.
KEYSER, 2nd Lieut. J. C., 2/9th Batt. (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. Fred, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade, Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
LA FONTAINE, Captain S. Hubert, Intelligence Department, British East Africa Protectorate.
LA FONTAINE, 2nd Lieut. Hugh, 2/7th City of London Regiment, Acting Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
LA FONTAINE, Lieut. J. S., R.N.V.R., Hawke Battalion. (*Wounded.*)
LANDER, 2nd Lieut. Arthur.
LE BAILLY, Lieutenant R. F., R.N.V.R., Recruiting Officer for Royal Naval Air Service, Brook Green Road, Hammersmith.
LORIMER, Private D., Army Service Corps, Aldershot.
LYSTER, Lieut. Henry Newbolt, Brigade Intelligence Officer, 81st Infantry Brigade, British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Salonika.
LYSTER, Pte. Frederick John, 6129, 5th Co., Inns of Court O.T.C., Berkhamsted, Herts.
MACKENZIE, 1st Lieut. W., Egyptian Labour Corps.
MACKINNON, Dr. Frank I., Captain, R.A.M.C., San Antonio Palace, Malta.
MACKINNON, Dr. John M., Captain, R.A.M.C., 3rd King's African Rifles, Mombasa, British East Africa.
MACKINNON, Lieut. Patrick, 12th Field Co., Royal Engineers, 6th Division, B.E.F.
MACKINNON, Lieut. Eric, 13th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
MACRAY, E. D., Dardanelles Expeditionary Force.
MCLOCHLAN, Private B., 1st Canadian L.I.
MCLOCHLAN, Private G., 1st Canadian L.I.
METCALFE, Sister E. J., Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.
MICHEU, Bombardier C. G., Royal Field Artillery.
MOORE, Miss K. M., Royal Red Cross, Serbia.
MORRISON, Lieut. J., 4th Seaforth Highlanders, B.E.F., France.
MORTON, Private Stanley, 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
MOSS, 2nd Lieut., Public Schools Battalion.
MUMFORD, P. F., Army Service Corps, R.E., Baldock.
MUNRO, 2nd Lieut. J. G., 4th Scottish Rifles, Fort Matilda, Greenock.
NEWELL, Pte. W. A., Royal Marines, Chatham. (*Wounded at Dardanelles.*)
NOWILL, 2nd Lieut. Sidney, 2/17th City of London Regiment, Acting Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
PARKER, Trooper G., Royal Horse Guards.
PATERSON, Lieut. Alexander, R.A.M.C., Haddington.
PEACOCK, 2nd Lieut. Frank, 4/4th Batt. London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers.
PEARS, Captain G. B., Military Cross, R.E. (*Wounded.*)
PENGELLEY, Sapper Walter, R.E.
PODMORE, Lieut. Arthur, Military Cross, R.E.
POYNTER, Lieut. Hugh E., No. 2 Base Supply Depot, Portishead, Somerset.
RAMSAY, Corporal F. R. F., 14th Service Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
REES, Sub-Lieutenant J. Langdon, R.N.V.R.
REES, Trooper R. (1709), Squadron D (in Egypt), Herts Yeomanry, c.o. G.P.O., Southampton.
REES, Sub-Lieutenant T. B. F., R.N.V.R.
RICHARDS, Miss, Dispenser, Edinburgh War Hospital, Bangour.
ROBINSON, Lance-Corporal J. E., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (formerly of the C.M.S. College, Jerusalem. (*Killed in action.*)
RICE, Rifleman Cecil, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Died from Wounds.*)
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. C., 3rd/8th (D.C.O.) Middlesex Regiment.
ROUTH, 2nd Lieut. R. A. C., Royal Engineers, P.S., Army Base Post Office, Salonica.
SACKVILLE-WEST, 2nd Lieut. Hon. B., R.N.V.R.
SAMSON, Seaman George McKenzie, V.C., R.N.R. (*Seriously Wounded.*)
SEAGER, Lieut. J. A., 16th Middlesex Regiment, France.
SEAGER, Lieut. John Owen, B. Co., Public Schools Batt., 16th Middlesex Regt. (*Wounded.*)
SELLAR, Lieut. Fred. B., Interpreter, Central European Expeditionary Force.
SEMPLE, Rev. S. H., C.F., 7th Royal Scots, 156th Brigade, 52nd Division, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
SHAW, 2nd Lieut. T., R.E.
SILLEY, 2nd Lieut. Edward C., Interpreter, Headquarters Staff, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
SILLEY, Rifleman Bernard (4361), 3/12th London Regt. (The Rangers), East Sheen.
SIMMONS, Gunner H. C., 123rd Heavy Battery, R.G.A. (*Died from Wounds.*)
STERLING, Rev. Canon, R.A.M.C.
STOCK, Capt. H. W., Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
STOTT, Sergt. F., 3/5th Sherwood Foresters, Grantham, Derby.
SUMMERS, Lieut. H. C., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Europa."
SUNDERLAND, Interpreter (at the front).
THOMPSON, Lieut. Harold H., R.N.V.R.
THOMPSON, John, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
THOMPSON, Commander W. A., R.N.V.R., H.M.S. "Egmont."
THWAITES, Captain H., R.A.M.C., France.
TORRANCE, Dr. D., R.A.M.C.
TRENTER, Trooper T., Household Cavalry.
VAN LENNEP, Private E., 2nd Sportsman's Battalion.
VAN MILLINGEN, 2nd Lieut. Charles A. M., 14th Rifle Brigade.
VAN MILLINGEN, Private R. G. C., 3rd Batt. London Scottish.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Egbert, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade.
VEDOVA, Rifleman Lionel, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
VERE, Lieut.-Commander Harry, R.N.
WARREN, Act.-Corporal R. M., 7th (S) Batt. Rifle Brigade. (*Killed in Action.*)
WEALE, 2nd Lieut. W. W. C., 11th Batt., Devonshire Regiment. (*Wounded.*)
WELLS, Nurse, Sister, Army Hospital, Malta.
WHEATLEY, Miss, Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. No. 21, Ambulance Train, British Expeditionary Force.
WHEELER, Captain P. F. C. d'Erf, 3rd Dorset Regiment, Medit. Exp. Force. (*Wounded.*)
WHEELER, 2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Nowell Popham d'Erf, 7th Dorset Regiment, Portsmouth.
WHITEHOUSE, Canon F. C., 3/6 City of London Rifles, Fovant Camp, Salisbury.
WHITEHOUSE, Mid. L. Edwin, H.M.S. "Triad," Mediterranean.
WHITEHOUSE, Mid. L. E., R.N.
WHITTALL, Captain G., 1st Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Arthur, 7th (Res.) City of London Regiment.
WHITTALL, Lieut.-Commander F. E., R.N.
WHITTALL, Lieut.-Commander H. E. C., R.N.
WHITTALL, Lieut. Hugh, Royal Marines. (Serving abroad.)
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. H. V., Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Kenneth, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut Roland, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. (*Died from Wounds.*)
WHITTALL, 2nd Lieut. Walter, 7th Service Batt. Rifle Brigade, Interpreter, British Central European Expeditionary Force. (*Wounded.*)
WILSON, Dr. Marian E., Scottish Women's Hospital, Abbaye Royaumont, France.
WOODS, Harold, Interpreter, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Alexandria.
WRATISLAW, Captain J. C., 8th Leicestershire Regiment, 110 Brigade, 37th Division, B.E.F., France.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MARRIAGE.

PREECE—DUNCAN.—On March 21, at Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, John Richard Preece, C.M.G., late H.B.M. Consul-General for Ispahan, to Mary I. S. Duncan, widow of the late G. G. Duncan (née Graham Allardice).

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FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1916.

THE MESOPOTAMIAN CAMPAIGN.

The disclosures regarding the medical arrangements of the Mesopotamian campaign have come as a shock to the British public. When the Expedition first reached Amara it is probable that the inadequacy of the medical provision originally made for the force was already revealed; but the difficulty of obtaining further supplies in a hurry and the optimism which must have prevailed in certain quarters on the subject of the opposition likely to be encountered in the advance on Baghdad caused the General Officer in Command to push on without waiting for fresh hospital equipment. After the battle of Ctesiphon what was before a shortage of medical requirements became a complete breakdown of the whole medical service. General Townshend, as far as is known, was able to pass all his wounded down the river; but for the great majority of them transport alone—and that in the main unsuitable or worse—without medical attention was provided. It is unnecessary to attempt to depict the sufferings of these unfortunate men or to speculate on the number of lives lost which with proper care might have been saved. All that the medical authorities in Mesopotamia appear to have been able to do was to despatch as many of the wounded as possible in all haste to India. Mr. Chamberlain spoke of information—for the accuracy of which he was not in a position absolutely to vouch—to the effect that there had been an abundance of hospital supplies of all kinds at Busreh at all times. If such were the case, the situation would become still more obscure, for there is evidence to show that the shortage of supplies extended to the ships conveying the wounded back to India. At Kut we may suppose General Townshend entered upon the siege with comparatively few wounded on his hands. He was, however, uncertain as to his capacity for holding out against the enemy, and we must infer that his earlier messages to headquarters were not couched in the optimistic terms which he is credited with having used two months later. Be that as it may, General Nixon, and in turn General Lake, felt compelled to despatch immediately a force for his relief. General Aylmer's column not only suffered from the general lack of medical supplies, but appears to have started without waiting for adequate provisions. His discomfiture was completed by the appearance of floods, which rendered it still more difficult to replenish his stores. Under the impression that General Townshend could not hold out much longer, the relief column lost no time in launching an attack on the Turkish position. The attack failed, and once more there were heavy casualties with a wholly inadequate medical service to cope with them.

The story of this lamentable breakdown is aggravated by a number of details. For the moment we may ignore the statement that there was all the time an abundance of hospital supplies at Busreh. But it is an established fact that offers of general assistance were made direct to the General Officer in Command in Mesopotamia in July, 1915, and repeated at later dates by the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in co-operation with the Indian Soldiers' Fund. Some stores were sent out from England in September; but the Joint Committee do not appear to have been satisfied with the reports from Mesopotamia, for further offers were made in December and again on January 31. This last offer was accepted on February 17, a month after the disastrous engagement at Sheikh Sa'ad. The offers made in December, we are left to conclude, were refused by General Nixon, and the India Office also adopted the attitude that nothing was wanted in the way of medical supplies. This question of the medical arrangements is now the subject of an official investigation; but the shortage of hospital supplies does not cover the whole extent of the failure to see that the Mesopotamian forces were adequately equipped before they were sent up the Tigris. An official *communiqué* announced that one of General Aylmer's columns operating only seven miles from the river on his right flank was compelled to fall back on the river, because it lacked water. Not only was it unprovided with water transport, but there was no provision even for filtering the river water. "We are drinking Tigris untreated at the present moment, just allowing the mud to settle and then using it," writes an officer on February 10. Little wonder that the whole Expeditionary Force feels that it has not received the attention to which it was entitled.

In the circumstances, the British public must derive what consolation it can from the reflection that the disclosures have been made in time to remedy the defects. It is too late to mitigate the suffering of the victims of the "lamentable breakdown" or to save the lives that have been lost, but the Expedition can be saved from the final failure which must have overwhelmed it, if official cognisance had not been taken of its lack of adequate equipment. Already the shortage of medical supplies and hospitals has been, or is being, made good. No less important is the transfer of the control of the Expedition from the Indian Government to the War Office, which was effected on February 17. It was obviously beyond the powers of the former to cope with a force which had so completely outgrown its original proportions. We can only hope that the War Office will be fired by remorse for the unnecessary privations suffered by the Mesopotamian Expedition in the past to resolve that it shall have everything in abundance for the future. The whole task of the Expedition still lies before it. Of the spirit of the men, in spite of all that has happened, there is no doubt. They ask for nothing better than to be allowed to "make good." But to this end they need not merely the minimum equipment of the Army Medical Service, but a larger supply of men, guns, flying machines, and everything else that makes for victory in this war.

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JOURNEYINGS IN ASIA MINOR.

By MARY A. POYNTER.

III.—Angora.

So great a man as the Phrygian King Midas stands sponsor for Angora. He founded the city in the seventh century B.C., and anyone visiting the place in this the twentieth century A.D., must acknowledge that it was founded wisely and well; that it would be difficult to find another site in all that region at once so pleasantly commanding and so calculated to go down the ages and remain attractive, if not invulnerable, to the end.

But perhaps its having been so desirable a site and city has laid Angora more than ordinarily open to conquest by outside nations and to attack by marauders who came out of farther Asia to destroy, or to have for the moment all the good things they could lay violent hands on, and with no wish to hold the country as a permanent possession. This Angora (old Ancyra) has been occupied or held by various peoples: it is recorded that Alexander the Great was here for a time; the Romans have left some fine monuments as the result of their long stay; it once lay within the boundaries of the empire of Zenobia, Queen of Palmyra; it was sacked by Haroun-er-Rashid in 806, and after the battle of Dorylæum, in 1097, it remained for some time in the hands of the Crusaders. The Seljuks took the city in 1213, and the Ottomans took it, to hold more or less permanently, in 1360. Then, in 1402, came Tamerlane, with his Mongol hosts, to lay Angora waste, after first defeating and taking prisoner Bayazid I., and this victory opened the way for the great outlaw to go on his further destructive march to the Ægean. History is not unpleasant to dwell upon after it becomes many years old; but in the making and in those early days it must have been a serious business for the peoples of Angora, just as it has been a serious business for many other fair cities and states which have had to suffer like indignities. One likes to think that Angora and Galatia in general did not have to suffer "so many things in vain." The profane and the sacred history of these lands make very different reading. St. Paul is mentioned in The Acts as having gone over "all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples." And in another place it is mentioned that he "had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia," and would "go into Bithynia, but the spirit suffered them not."

Angora, though a capital of a vilayet, has now only about 30,000 inhabitants within and without its walls, and is not the important city that it must have been when this old part of the inhabited world was young. It seems in some way a very remote and out-of-the-way town at the present time; but in those earlier days it lay in the direct path of travel eastward and in all directions; it was a great centre from which caravan roads (probably in much better condition than they are to-day) led off into Persia, Syria, and Armenia.

And present-day Angora is not exactly prepared to receive visitors, though its attitude is not inimical toward strangers, and it treats them kindly when they come, allowing them to wander freely about its streets and to peer into its walls and among its ruins, as they may be inclined. There are no hotels in the proper sense, save the primitive and rather fever-haunted one at the station on the plain below, and the visitor does not like to stay there, where he can only look at, and not be in and a part of, the town. It was the house of Madame Marie that gave us hospitable shelter in Angora, both when we arrived in May and in September,—Madame Marie, who calls herself a Frenchwoman, either by marriage or by descent from long ago, who is clean and kind and attentive, but who speaks and understands not a word of the French language. I fancy Western blood like hers is to be found throughout Turkey-in-Asia—descendants of the people left over when the waves of some Western advance receded, and who keep only a memory, a tradition as it were, though a prized one, of their ancestors' nationality.

Angora is builded on the slopes and on the top of a hill situated in the centre of a plain, and commands a view of all below and very much beyond, even to far blue mountains. From a distance it looks not unlike an Italian town—indeed, it seems like an Eastern Ancona, a little fuller of colour and maybe a little less clean than its Western namesake; at any rate, they are alike insomuch as both stand for "anchors." Perhaps from its Phrygian-Greek ancestry one looks for a resemblance to some classic town in Greece; on one side of Angora's "sightly citadel" there is a sheer drop into a deep ravine, through which the Tabbak Hané Su flows, and across this ravine rises a sharp hill that reminds one of the Lycabettos at Athens, only this Eastern Lycabettos is not crowned by a monastery, and a rambling Turkish cemetery is laid out up its steep sides, where even the fleecy-coated goats seem to find trouble in keeping a footing.

Angora's citadel is most picturesquely encircled by a wall, a wall that was restored by the Emperor Caracalla; then, after a lapse of some centuries, restored by the Sultan Alaeddin, and so lately as in 1833 by Ibrahim Pasha, of Egypt. These fortifications are again more or less in ruins, but the towers and battlements are still impressive, built up as they are of the stones and bricks of all periods. The later workmen used whatever they found at hand in restoring these walls, and thus all sorts of sculptures, capitals, and marbles bearing ancient inscriptions both in Greek and Latin are found "built in" without regard to their former history or dignity! These bits of "former greatness" may seem to fit but ill in the crevices of the present walls, some of them being placed upside-down and others at all angles, but they at least excite a passing curiosity, and the walls as a whole are good to look at and, for anyone with any imagination, have more than a momentary interest. The rock on which the citadel is built seems to be a sort of porphyritic stone, reddish, at any rate, and hard and sprinkled with grey lichens, that makes it a very pleasing as well as firm foundation. The view from the "white tower" that crowns the hill is one that no visitor should miss; there is no prospect from that point that does not please, nothing intrudes, and at the same time nothing is reserved that could add to the beauty of this Near Eastern landscape.

The most interesting monument of former days left in Angora, and one that archæologists take great account of, is the temple of Rome and Augustus. Quite a part of the temple itself remains, together with many of its fine decorative details, enough to show that the Romans builded here, afar from their mother capital, a temple with no slighting hand either as regards its architecture or the grace of its ornamentation. There is a marble tablet on the inner wall of the temple bearing an important inscription both in Latin and Greek called the "testament" of Augustus, which has been translated by several scholars and is valuable as a memorial of that period. In the fourth century this temple was turned into a church, of which some traces still remain; later it was injured by earthquake, and was then further despoiled by furnishing material for the building of the adjoining mosque of Hajji Bairam. This imposing mosque, that joins walls, so to speak, with the Roman temple, was built in the fourteenth century by Sinan, that master architect of mosques, employed by the Turks in the prosperous days of Sultan Suleiman. Its varying red and green bricks give the exterior a charming bit of colour, and its minaret is as graceful as those spires of Moslem places of worship are almost always wont to be. There are two fine sculptured lions standing, or, rather, reclining, before this mosque, obviously not their original site, and some parts of capitals are also to be seen lying about; while a little distance away, near the main street entering the town, there is at least one ancient column standing upright on the spot, doubtless where it was originally designed to stand. There are also some remaining parts of a Byzantine church—a church resembling one of the early churches of Nicæa—and there are several Greek and Armenian churches, a Catholic institution, and, at times, a Protestant mission, to show that the present population of Angora is divided in faith, though the Moslem element now predominates. If there is not very much left intact from early times, there is nothing that looks really new in the Angora of to-day.

The streets of the town are narrow and winding, mostly up an incline, and bits of the unstudied architecture of the houses recall Genoese influence. If the Roman came to the Near East, so also did the Italian, that Roman by another name, and it is curious how strong those old Italian cities were in the Middle Ages, and what gifts they possessed for colonizing and for spreading their culture

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

H.M. KING OF SPAIN
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far beyond their own borders! The first stories of the houses are generally of stone—or marble, if some temple of old chanced once to occupy that site—the upper story being of wood and jutting out over the street or lane. Some brick is used in the more pretentious buildings, and in the minarets this is made quite effective by the layers being of different colouring, often one layer being of green and the alternating layer of orange or red brick. There are mud-brick houses, too, with straw for roofing instead of rosy tiles, and, they tell us, these simply constructed houses are successful in keeping out the cold—for sometimes the snows lie deep and the winters are long on these table-lands of Asia Minor. Dainty embroideries are worked, web-like laces are fashioned, and exquisitely fine fabrics are woven on simple hand-looms within some of these mud-brick houses, that do not always suggest such graces of domestic life.

The bazaars are interesting, as are most bazaars in Eastern cities, though those of Angora are arranged more for native patronage than to catch the eye of the chance traveller; the wares offered are largely those intended to supply household needs rather than those dear to the heart of the curio-hunter or the antiquarian. The sites of the many cities (one wonders how large those cities were in their day and how they looked!) on those plains are prolific places for the finding of antique coins. Alexander the Great was not backward in having coins struck in the various places and cities he occupied. He had reason to be proud of his august appearance on these coins, of his fine sculptured profile with a lion-skin adornment, and of the reverse of his coin as well, where mighty Zeus sits with outstretched hand, upon which is perched the emblematic bird. These coins continued to be minted many years after Alexander's death, and so to this day they are not rare, comparatively speaking; and, together with many coins of a later period, they are easy to pick up, for a price, in the bazaars of Angora.

The street dog of Angora is still ubiquitous, and he is very like his one-time numerous brothers of Constantinople, possibly a little larger and disporting a better air of well-being in general, doubtless on account of being treated with more concern. For the people of the town are kindly disposed toward each other (which is not always a marked characteristic of peoples of different nationality and religion living side by side in the East), and kindly disposed toward beast as well. It is interesting to watch the cows coming in from the fields at evening time, climbing the steep streets of the town, and each recognising and stopping before his master's door. Almost every well-to-do householder owns his cow, and living in the city seems to be no hindrance to the convenience of ownership. In winter the town house, which rarely has a stable attached thereto, furnishes shelter for beast as well as for his master. It is all very primitive, without the squalor that might be imagined, or the discomfort that would seem inseparable from so close a companionship with the domestic animals. The homes, indeed, look clean and inviting more often than otherwise.

On one of our rambles through the narrow, unevenly paved streets (through only a few of them can a carriage be driven) we saw a door open and a lady—a real Arab lady—come daintily down the marble steps of the house. Perfectly groomed was she, from high-bred inflated nostrils to flowing tail, not a hair of her glistening satin-white coat out of place; and though she tossed her crinkly main once or twice rather coquettishly as she set her shiny black hoofs carefully down from step to step, one knew she was also trustworthy from the look in her kind, bronze-brown eyes, that seemed to include all the world in her confidence. The groom, himself clad in a much-embroidered jacket and baggy trousers, proudly gave us leave to speak to the Arab lady in his charge, who was both gaily saddled and bridled; and a little later a pasha of the old school followed her down the steps, smiled at our appreciation of his choice property, and, taking the reins in his hand, rode with great dignity away. Thus the horse in Turkey is, or, at least, was until recently, a prized member of the family.

Other experiences had we with domestic friends in Angora. Pussy-cats, dogs, goats, and the beasties in general seem to run to long hair in this district. On our first morning there a white Angora pussy looked in at our upstairs window and had quite bright blue eyes with which to do the looking. Later these long-haired favourites peeped at us from all sides, and came down from high walls to be stroked and told they were the most beautiful creatures of their kind. Alas, not all of them looked sleek and well-fed. They were of all colours and conditions; but most of them had long hair, and occasionally one would be met with having its two eyes of different colour—one quite blue, while the other would be an unmistakable brown. We intended to take a real Angora kitten back to Constantinople with us, being told that they are in such demand they will soon become difficult to find in the home of their origin; but when our good landlady, Madame Marie, offered us a kitten—quite the longest-haired, prettiest, and most talkative of her kind—the little creature seemed so shy and so affectionately and playfully dependent upon her pussy mother that we did not have the heart to take her away.

But we did not allow any feeling of sentiment to prevent our taking one or two choice skins of the Angora goat home with us, and the amusement we had in bargaining for these at our little hostelry—bargaining with several keen vendors at a time—made our purchases all the more desirable. During this bargaining we were given so much unsolicited information as to colour, quality, and attributes of Angora goats and goat skins in general that if later we did not set ourselves up to be authorities it was not through any lack of opportunity to study the subject on the spot! But now I only remember that the animals all seemed gentle and not at all fearsome, neither the cows one met in numbers in the street, nor the Arab horses, nor the curly-haired goats, nor the particularly woolly lamb who is more fortunate than the goat in having to lose only its fleece, and not necessarily its skin, for the benefit of the outside world.

If Angora is not a large or especially important town in these days one has a right to call it a place flowing with bread and milk and honey; for the bread for lightness and good quality is not equalled elsewhere in all this region, the cow comes obligingly to your door to be milked and the honey is so prized, so a part of the family, that when the residents move in summer to some point higher up among the mountains to get out of reach of the air of the feverish plains, they take their hives of bees with them. It is all a very simple, even primitive, life—the little calf that strayed into our dining room at Madame Marie's, and, being a little shy, took refuge under the piano and looked on enviously at the fluffy-haired cats and dogs sporting about with all freedom, shows how simple it is. Yet at the table in that dining-room we have heard a half-dozen different languages spoken by one person, have been taught the latest game of "Patience," have heard ancient philosophies discussed, and have made friends and formed friendships that we should not like to lose or forget.

The city is possessed of many mosques, and these, especially their minarets, help to give it an Eastern aspect, and we discovered on our drive below and around the town that from whichever side we might view it, Angora, with its walled citadel, made a picture, was good, and—in the soft twilight—even beautiful to look upon. Many little streams flow around it on the plain, and there are drives near and afar over somewhat "shaky" roads that leave the impression of a rather deserted countryside as regards human life. There is a "model farm" near by that one drives out to see—a farm that is run, so far as it has yet learned to go, on Western lines; and there is the Armenian monastery that one must visit for the sake of its venerable age, for its chapel, and some rather interesting books and pictures that are shown, and for the fact that this building occupies the site of an old temple that became the place of early Christian worship. Tradition says St. Paul was entertained here. Lastly, one should pause for a glimpse of the cemetery attached to this monastery, where, among strangers, and in a strange land, sleep a number of the members of the Anglo-Saxon race. These graves are mostly those of early British traders—traders belonging to the old Levant Company—and their families. There are the names of some, one of them a bride, who died pathetically early. Many of the headstones are made from the classic marbles, broken columns, and sarcophagi found on the spot; the inscriptions on the earlier ones are in Latin, as, for example, the following, that we happened to take down at random: "Hic jacet interatus Guilielmus Black Mercator Angelus obiit 20 Julius Ao 1684."

These few quiet sleepers in the old Armenian cemetery were the only representatives of Great Britain that we found on our visit to Angora two years and a-half ago.

One memorable drive we took before leaving Angora was to visit friends having a summer home on the mountain-side only a few miles from the city. The way was crooked and cramped and stony but it led along out of the town by a merry stream and, when it began to ascend, the backward views were so enchanting we forgot to grumble at being so unceremoniously tossed about. I remember when we met a vehicle on its way down, both had to stop, and there was a long parley in fluent Turkish, as well as many gestures, and there were dangerous inclines of both carriages before the passing was safely accomplished. Once arrived at our friend's door we found the little summer settlement consisted of scattered houses situated in gardens. While our supper was spread on a table in the open, and a number of pleasant folk gathered around the well-provided board, our friends' donkey partook of his feast, and evidently enjoyed it—for his cry was not a plaintive one—from a room on the first floor within. The date of this excursion happened to fall on St. John's Day, and, as the community here was mostly Christian, we saw many signs of rejoicing, and a triumphal arch of flowers and evergreens

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had been erected across the road; and when evening and moonrise came, and we set forth on our drive back to Angora, there were beacon fires burning on many of the surrounding heights in honour of the day.

We met many people of different nationalities during our two visits to Angora, and their warm Eastern hospitality was so great that it did not stop with invitations to their homes, but followed us to the station when we went away, filled our little compartment with the flower and fruit of their gardens (and this was all the more generous of them as gardens in the town are few and small); anything that we had ever admired—even to a carved native walking-stick the *Mudir* carried—was thrust upon us, together with warm handshakes, salaams, smiles, and last au revoirs as the train pulled, reluctantly it seemed to us, out of the station. My little note-book of that time says: "We shall leave Angora with a feeling of great friendliness toward the people—the people of all sorts, so kindly, so simple, and so friendly themselves."

We have read of late, since this far-reaching war began, strange things of Angora, that perhaps more than one of our friends there—that is among the Christian population—have suffered grievous wrong and harm. It is hard to credit it, and still harder and more difficult, if we *must* believe, to understand it in the light of our own so-different experience.

Again, we are told there are a number of Anglo-Saxons in Angora, but this time they are there—a few British civilians and soldiers and sailors—as prisoners of war. We can only hope they will be kindly treated, that they will be "interned," not imprisoned, for a Turkish prison, from all accounts, is anything but a comfortable abode. One thing is certain, the people of Angora, *if left to themselves*, will not deal unkindly with their enforced guests. It is the few in high military authority who have forgotten or who wish to ignore what England has done for Turkey in the past who would now have any desire to be brutal to those temporarily within their power as well as to many of their own subjects in that land.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Mesopotamia Campaign. March 23.

Mr. TENNANT, replying to Mr. Fell, said that medical arrangements in Mesopotamia were primarily under the control of the military authorities in India, but the Commander-in-Chief in India had been informed that the Army Council would render him any assistance in medical personnel and equipment. All demands had been met without delay. One hundred and twenty medical officers, including 40 from Egypt and 205 other ranks R.A.M.C., had arrived or were on their way. In addition, one British General Hospital of 1,040 beds and one British Stationary Hospital of 400 beds had been sent from Egypt. Both these units were fully equipped. Four Indian General Hospitals of 500 beds each which were in this country had also been sent. Two of these were fully equipped, and the remaining two consisted of personnel only. From France, the Lahore Indian Stationary Hospital of 200 beds and 33 medical officers were under orders. A motor-ambulance convoy—fifty cars with complete personnel—was nearly ready, and would leave for Mesopotamia early next month.

Replying to Mr. Malcolm, Mr. TENNANT said the new arrangements for the control of operations in Mesopotamia came into force from February 16, 1916. The Commander-in-Chief in India received instructions with regard to the military operations in Mesopotamia from the Chief of the Imperial General Staff in exactly the same manner as the Commander-in-Chief in other theatres, but India remained the main base of the force in Mesopotamia, which was administered by the Commander-in-Chief in India. Such requirements of the force as India could not meet were supplied by the War Office from other parts of the Empire so far as considerations of general policy did not render that impracticable.

Colonel LOCKWOOD asked whether any public notice was to be taken of the speech of General Aylmer to the 5th Buffs Territorial Regiment in Mesopotamia, and what were the losses in officers and men on January 7 and 19?

Mr. TENNANT said neither the War Office nor the India Office had yet seen the speech referred to.

The Gallipoli Operations. March 23.

Mr. GRANT asked when the papers relating to the last weeks of the operations in Gallipoli would be published, and if a further list of honours in connection with these operations and the withdrawal might be expected.

Mr. TENNANT said he could not name a date for the publication of the papers. The list of honours had already been published.

An Eye on Bulgaria. March 28.

Mr. R. M'NEILL asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he would give an assurance that Bulgaria would not be admitted to separate negotiations for peace, and would not in any event be permitted to acquire territory or other advantage at the expense of any people who had fought or might hereafter during the present war fight on the side of the Allies.

Lord R. CECIL: The declaration of September 5, 1914, ensures only that no peace will be made with any of our common enemies without a previous agreement having been come to between the parties to that Declaration. By that Declaration each of the Allies is precluded from making a separate peace and from demanding conditions of peace without the consent of each of the others. To make such a statement as my hon. friend suggests in the second part of his question without discussion with our Allies would be in the opinion of the Government inconsistent with the spirit of the Declaration, and I do not think that at present any such discussion would be opportune.

For the Wounded in Mesopotamia.

Mr. RUPERT GWYNNE wished to know whether, when the shortage of doctors, nurses, and hospital equipment for our forces in Mesopotamia was realised, any endeavour was made to transfer hospital equipment from Egypt to Mesopotamia.

Mr. TENNANT: Yes, sir; aid was offered as soon as it was realised that aid was wanted.

Egyptian Cotton.

Answering Mr. Ginnell, Lord R. CECIL said the market price on the Liverpool Exchange of fully good fair brown cotton in the middle of July, 1914, was 9.10d. per lb., and the price on March 23, 1916, 11.13d. per lb. The price of middling American cotton was 7.35d. in July, 1914, and 7.78d. per lb. on March 23, 1916. Egyptian exports were treated on precisely the same principles as those on which Great Britain treated her own exports. Such restrictions on the export of Egyptian cotton as existed had been imposed in the interests of the successful prosecution of the war by the appropriate legislative machinery of the Egyptian Government. As the figures already given show, Egyptian cotton growers had benefited by the increase in the price of cotton.

Mr. GINNELL: Will the noble Lord say what it is he calls the appropriate legislative power, seeing that the Assembly has not been convened since the war began?

Lord R. CECIL: I do not think that I could answer that question without notice.

Freedom of the Press in Egypt.

Mr. GINNELL asked whether it was by direction of the Foreign Office that no free newspaper is permitted to exist in Egypt now; whether it is by the same direction articles copied from *The Times* and other English newspapers into *El Ahram* are deleted partially or wholly by the Censor, and that paper forced to appear with large portions of its space blank; and with their Press and Legislative Assembly suppressed, how the rights, wants, and opinions of the Egyptian people are ascertained and secured?

Lord R. CECIL: The reply to the first two parts of the question is in the negative. As regards the third part, neither the Egyptian Legislative Assembly nor the Egyptian Press has been suppressed.

Hospital Equipment for Mesopotamia.

Mr. GWYNNE having asked to what extent Sir William Meyer was responsible for the transport of hospital equipment for the forces in Mesopotamia, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, in a written reply, says:—Sir W. Meyer is the Finance Member of the Government of India. He has no responsibility for the transport of hospital equipment for Mesopotamia except such as may be held to attach to every member of the Government. The Government of India are responsible for the equipment of all forces coming from India, the War Office for those coming from Europe. Supply is arranged for by the Government of India in communication with the India Office or the War Office, according to the nature of the supply. Asked if those in charge of these arrangements still occupied responsible positions, Mr. Chamberlain says the answer is in the affirmative.

Mr. ROCH asked who was responsible for the medical arrangements in connection with the Expeditionary Force in Mesopotamia. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, in reply, refers the hon. member to Mr. Tennant's reply of March 23, and adds that the arrangements are primarily under the control of the military authorities in India, but if they are in want of medical personnel and equipment they apply for assistance to the War Office.

Correspondence for General Aylmer's Force.

In answer to Mr. GWYNNE, Mr. JOSEPH PEASE states that correspondence for units with General Aylmer's force in Mesopotamia should for the present be addressed "Expeditionary Forces," the usual details as to rank and unit being included. The question of giving a distinctive address to this force is under consideration. The rates of postage for letters and parcels are the same as for India.

Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia. March 29.

Mr. TENNANT informed Sir J. Jardine that it was hoped to publish shortly a further despatch with regard to operations in the Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia. This would cover events up to the end of September.

After the Russian occupation of Kermanshah, Count von Kanitz, late military attaché at the German Legation at Teheran, committed suicide. He was one of the leading men on Prince Reuss's staff and largely responsible for German propaganda. In consequence of the improved condition of the country the Imperial Bank of Persia has reopened its branches at Hamadan, Sultanabad, and Kermanshah.

According to an official report received from Petrograd last week, the Russian occupation of Ispahan, in Persia, was effected after a fight with the insurgents. The population, exhausted by the looting carried on by the Germans and their mercenaries, welcomed the Russians with enthusiasm. The Persian Governor-General and authorities, who had previously fled, have returned to Ispahan.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Military Position.

The *Spectator* (March 25) publishes a long article under the above head, beginning with the statement that with the battle of Verdun we have at length passed the dead point of war:—

If one imagines the military operations as a great steam engine fantastically slow in action, we have an illustration of what has just happened. Some engineers doubted whether there was enough steam in the boiler to make the huge crank turn over the dead point. We have all watched the crank labouring up to the critical moment where it must have a margin of impulse to turn it over that dead point. We have looked on holding our breath. But the point is passed; the crank swings smoothly on in a fresh stride; the new steam that was being got up was not too late. The dead point was safely passed at Verdun.

Developing its argument, the paper shows how the other theatres of war are affected:—

Already the star of the Germanophil party in Roumania is dropping in the sky. We may yet see it set for ever. At Salonika the position continually improves. Germany and Bulgaria never had more sound reasons for attacking a place than they have had for attacking Salonika. Evidently they had not enough strength, or they hesitated too long. Now it is too late. Salonika lies impregnably on the flank of the cherished German line of advance to the East. But that is not all. While the Allies' Army at Salonika grows in strength and confidence, the German and Bulgarian troops have plenty of leisure to develop their debilitating mistrust of each other. The Bulgarians, in particular, are bound to deteriorate. This is what always happens when the great army of a small State is kept in the field for a comparatively long time. A balance between the fighting strength and the industrial productivity of such a country never existed from the beginning. The great army of the little State must make war rapidly or fail. The Bulgarians are already seized with misgivings, and more and more they will lay their distresses and anxieties at the door of their overbearing German taskmasters. Very different is the moral atmosphere at Salonika, where the goodwill of the Greeks responds sensitively to the changing military situation, and where the Allied Army will soon be increased by the restored, rested, and re-equipped Serbian Army of well over one hundred thousand men—soldiers incited by an unquenchable thirst to be up and at the hated and treacherous Bulgars. The time is at hand when there will be a revolution of the military situation in the Balkans. The balance of military power there will be turned finally to the advantage of the Allies.

The danger to Egypt has virtually vanished.

The article, after dealing with the loss to Germany of her colonies and with the events of the Russian and Italian fronts, concludes:—

The one dark spot in the picture is the campaign in Mesopotamia. The difficulties were underestimated; the transport scheme broke down and failed to convey the stores from Basra to the front; the Government of India had shouldered a heavier burden than they could carry, or, at least, than they had made preparations to carry. In any case, General Townshend may be relied upon to hold out at Kut till the last possible minute. It was not by accident that he greatly distinguished himself at Chitral. His spirits cannot be quenched. The advance of the Russians has been so rapid that it seems possible, after all, that relief may come from them. But in any event the bungle in Mesopotamia, whether retrieved or not, cannot affect the situation as a whole.

Persia and the Allies.

In the *Contemporary Review* (March), Dr. E. J. Dillon prefaces an article on the above subject with the remark that "mention of Persia conjures up in the minds of political students a repellent picture of psychological misconceptions and diplomatic blunders."

In referring to the common line of action agreed upon between Russia and Britain in 1907 as the result of the policy inspired by the late King Edward, the writer points out that the introduction of Parliamentary Government and other devices of democratic countries, together with the creation of British and Russian "spheres of influence," were bound to lead to an incongruous position, as the Parliamentary method of government inevitably leads to the formation of a Nationalist party which wars against the intrusion of foreign influence. He continues:—

From the view-point of British interests two other capital errors were perpetrated—a neutral zone dividing the Russian from the British sphere was established, and the territory earmarked by our Government was insufficient. During the negotiations between the two Cabinets, the Russian Minister proposed a really large slice of land to his colleague, which would have had the effect of equalising the shares and leaving no neutral zone. This reasonable offer was declined on two inadequate grounds. Great Britain had always in her dealings with Russia upheld the principle of a buffer in some shape or form between the two Empires. But as in this case a buffer State was out of the question, the only other way of keeping the two Empires from becoming neighbours was to divide them by a No-man's land, as though there was no pirate nation on the look-out for unclaimed territory.

Dr. Dillon, after showing how our Indian interests were affected by our shortsightedness in this agreement, proceeds:—

When, subsequently, we in this country prided ourselves on having imposed our constitution on Iran, the Persians pertinently asked whether we had not also ear-marked a portion of their territory for ourselves, and whether this division of the kingdom into three zones could have any logical conclusion other than a formal partition. And when M. Izvolsky complacently told his countrymen that the Persian problem was at last settled definitively, many of them inquired whether the House of Equity which he had called into being did not contain a lever by which the Russians would ultimately be ousted out of Persia altogether. The new Parliament deposed the Shah and condemned the work of the two Empires, the boy monarch sank to the level of a mere symbol, the Chamber became a sort of Donnybrook Fair, Cabinet succeeded Cabinet, and the ground was made ready for German and Turkish intrigue, which was rife when the European War broke out.

The writer thinks that Russia behaved with scrupulous honesty in regard to a compact which necessarily forced her to abandon any designs upon the integrity and independence of Persia. His description of German intrigues in the country make very interesting reading.

Between German diplomacy and German hostility to the Allies there was no line of demarcation. Consuls, consular agents, military attachés were all toiling and moiling conscientiously to fan the embers of religious, racial, and tribal fanaticism into a consuming flame, and to levy war on the cheap against the patient Powers of the Entente, who nobly persevered throughout in their resolve to consider all these agitators and armed enemies as diplomatic or consular representatives. The Persian Cabinets, too, which came and went while anarchy remained and flourished, were all treated with a high degree of deference by Great Britain and Russia.

Our next quotation deals with some of the results of German efforts on the one hand and weakness on the other.

The condition of the country, superlatively bad before the war broke out, has grown desperate during the nineteen months that have elapsed since then. Persia has become the happy hunting-ground of a lawless soldiery, of roving brigands, savage highwaymen, German sergeants, and native despots whose name is legion. With the exception of a few towns administered by strong local officials or policed by Russian troops, there is no security for life, liberty, or property anywhere. All checks and restraints, human and divine, have been swept away by wild passions, the fury of which only machine-guns and rifles can abate. Turkish irregulars under Halil Bey played havoc with the country around Urmia, the Kurds indulged in fiendish atrocities wherever they encountered Armenians, German Consuls distributed money and arms to the rebels whom they enlisted in their service, and whom they led not only against the armed forces of the Russians, but also against the Consuls of Russia and Britain, while the "Democrats" of the House of Equity encouraged the Teutons by every means in their power. It was the Germans who instigated the attack on the British patrol at Bushire; it was they who stirred up and organised the insurrectionary movement at Fars; it was they who egged on the frontier tribes to rise against the Emir of Afghanistan. . . . The intrigues and machinations which were carried on by the Germans in Kermanshah after the departure of the Russian Consul surpass belief. Hundreds of outspoken anarchists were enlisted in the service of the Germans, whose general staff worked unceasingly in the consulate, while the Central Government smiled approvingly. Meanwhile, Great Britain and Russia, struck by the difficult position in which the Shah's Ministers were placed rather than by the equivocal part they were playing, wrote Notes but did nothing.

The latter portion of Dr. Dillon's article dealing with the time when the whole future of the country hung in the balance as the young Shah hesitated between departure to the enemy in a carriage already drawn up outside the Palace, and remaining where he was according to the advice of Britain and Russia, contains all the elements of real drama.

The Balkan States.

The correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* at Milan, Mr. A. Beaumont, in a recent despatch to his paper, says that although it is impossible to learn the truth of the reports that Bulgaria is about to sue for peace, "something is certainly brewing." Friction between Teuton and Bulgar is reported to be acute, and "the attitude of the peasants is becoming distinctly hostile to the Germans, who, on account of their drastic methods of requisitioning and their insolence, are detested." Mr. Beaumont adds:—

Roumania's attitude further causes concern. It is now known that Roumania has called out so many men that her entire active army is mobilized and on a war footing along the Bulgarian and Hungarian frontiers. Under these conditions the best policy for Bulgaria is assumed to be an offer to negotiate, with the hope of retaining as many as possible of the advantages acquired by

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the recent campaign. There is even a suggestion that Bulgaria is willing to throw herself entirely into the arms of the Allies, but such an idea is too preposterous as long as Ferdinand remains on the throne.

If things are bad in Bulgaria they are reported to be still worse in Turkey, where a week ago when a fire broke out in the Hungarian hospital at Constantinople its inmates, amounting to nearly 2,000, got into a panic, thinking the Russians were already at the gates of the Turkish capital. This is the measure of terror caused by the Grand Duke Nicholas's advance in Armenia and Anatolia.

Naby Bey is said to pay frequent visits to Geneva and Berlin, and he has been joined by another Turkish delegate, Rizaat Pasha, formerly Ambassador in Paris. It is not yet known what proposals the Turkish delegates are making, but the feeling is that none of their demands will even be entertained by the Allies, and that the Russian advance in Asia Minor will certainly not be suspended on their account.

Germany, Egypt and the Sudan.

The *Field* (March 25) contains a full-page article of exceptional interest on German intrigues in Egypt and the Sudan. In the first place, the writer traces the growth of German ambition in the East back to the time when Bismarck referred to the Suez Canal as the spinal cord connecting the backbone with the brain of England. In coming down to more recent times, the following reference is made to a German agent who has frequently been referred to in this paper, and to other inflammatory agents scarcely less notorious:—

For a long while the chief agent in stirring up disaffection was a Baron Max von Oppenheim, who held the rank of Councillor to the German agency at Cairo. He, like other distinguished Germans, visited Port Sudan in the course of his propaganda. It was much more difficult to approach the Arab Sheikhs in the Sudan than to corrupt the highly inflammable minds of the Young Egypt party, but there was useful information to be gathered at the Red Sea port. Oppenheim had the privilege of corresponding direct with the Emperor William, from whom he received marked favours.

In his anti-British work Oppenheim was, however, outdone by Prince Hatzfeldt, who became German Agent and Consul-General at Cairo in 1910, and by the prince's Oriental secretary, Dr. Curt Prüfer, scholar, antiquarian, and conspirator. Prüfer was the confidant and colleague of the notorious Sheikh Shawash, the organiser of various plots against the Egyptian Government, if not personally responsible for the plot formed in 1912 to murder Lord Kitchener. Prüfer found it convenient to repair to Constantinople in the middle of 1914, and in September of that year we have a pleasing picture of the Sheikh Shawash sitting with Prüfer in the latter's room at the Hotel Germania, copying in Arabic a recipe for making bombs, bombs intended to be used in destroying public works in Egypt. Prüfer also engaged in the congenial task of seducing European officials of the Egyptian Government. Bands of malefactors, Bedouin and others, were also being got together to commit outrages in every district of Egypt, and specially to destroy the property of British subjects. All this while Turkey and Great Britain were still at peace. When war came in the November following all disguise was thrown off. Numerous agents were sent to Egypt, but to the chagrin of the Germans the Egyptians remained loyal.

The writer points out that German propaganda was rendered more difficult in the Sudan owing to the strict control which the Sudan Government exercises over visitors to the country:—

Then, in contrast with the situation in Egypt, all the European officials in the Sudan were, with one exception, British. The exception was Slatin Pasha, an Austrian. To the Germans Slatin Pasha was useless, for he was absolutely loyal to the Government, and we take this opportunity explicitly to exempt him from any suspicion of engaging in intrigues. Sir Rudolph von Slatin has rendered valuable service to the Empire and to the Sudan. When the war began he returned to Austria in fulfilment of his duty to the country of his birth, retaining the respect of all his friends in England and Africa. There were, however, living in the Sudan Levantines who could be bought, and a few persons of German nationality. Among them one was found willing and able to do the dirty work required. This was an adventurer named Neufeld, who had gone originally into the Sudan on a fool's errand, had been a prisoner of the Khalifa, and was found, heavily chained, when the British entered Omdurman in 1898. There was always a suspicion that Neufeld was not quite the innocent victim of the Khalifa he represented himself to be, but the Government allowed him to remain in the Sudan. He lived at Omdurman, a place where gather representatives of all the races of the Sudan, and, knowing Arabic and the peculiarities of the various tribes, he was able to play the part of *agent provocateur* for his German paymasters. The nature of his activities being discovered, at long length, he was expelled from the Sudan. He then went to Egypt, where he continued to spread reports as to the harshness of British rule, and to depict the Kaiser as the deliverer of Islam. At an opportune moment he returned to Europe, and his hand may be traced as a stage-manager of the Arab Day recently celebrated in Berlin.

Why an agitator so notorious as this should have been allowed to leave the country when war was declared has already been asked in THE NEAR EAST. The writer continues:—

Considering the excitable character of the Sudanese Arabs and the ease with which their fanaticism has been aroused in the past, the peaceful state of the country is a wonderful tribute to the eighteen years' hard work of the Sirdar (Sir Reginald Wingate) and his assistants. The Sudan Government has been imbued throughout with the determination not only to maintain law and order, to protect the lives and property of the people, and to encourage the development of trade and industry, but it has ever shown a marked solicitude to respect the religion and the social laws of the Arabs. It now reaps its reward. It is, however, only right to recognise that its efforts have been rendered easier by the loyal co-operation of the heads of the Moslem fraternities in the Sudan.

The article concludes with the following reference to the King's visit to the country on his return from India:—

That the King should come himself to see them, that he talked to each of the great chieftains, stirred the imagination of the people. They had seen "the great Sultan himself"—they served no longer a government but a king; henceforth they were his men. Such were the sentiments of many of the chiefs who were at Sinkat, and the anniversary of the day is kept as a public holiday throughout the Sudan.

The Sudanese understand personal rule, and King George, by going to Sinkat, did much to strengthen the bonds between the government and the governed. The Prince of Wales is now in Egypt; it would be a happy circumstance if arrangements could be made for his Royal Highness to visit the Sudan. Such a visit would be fruitful of good. It would strengthen the ties attaching the Sudanese to their rulers, and counteract any tendency to give credence to the lying representations of the Turco-Germans that the British contemplate interference with their religion and their freedom.

The Arab Irregular.

Apropos of the story regarding Arab irregulars which was told by "Corsair" in a recent number of this paper, the following extracts from an article contributed by "Eye-Witness" to that interesting paper, the *Mussalman* in regard to these forces will be of interest. The contributor, who writes from Sheikh Saad in January, begins:—

The mobility of the Arab cavalry, who ride light and are unsparing of their horses, is something outside experience. On approaching a Turkish position to reconnoitre, our scouts will often see a horde of Arabs emerge from the dark masses and spreak in a fanlike movement over the whole horizon. These irregulars are eternally sweeping about for no apparent reason, unless it be bravado or the instinct of the kite. Drop a shell in front of them and they will swerve like a flight of teal, make a wide detour at full gallop and appear on the other flank. The atmosphere is most deceptive, and in the haze or mirage it is difficult to tell if the enemy are on horseback or on foot, or to make any estimate of their numbers. Everything is magnified.

He shows the advantages which these raiders secure from the changing light, and continues:—

The Arabs fire from the saddle for choice and employ no dismounting tactics. Each man holds his own horse and stands or kneels when firing. Their tactics are always to surround a smaller force, shoot the horses, and close in; or to lead our cavalry on to an infantry ambuscade. They fear ambuscades themselves, and are chary of following us up. They are naturally more formidable in a retirement, when they wait until our cavalry are mounting and get in their fire before they take up another position. They will only attack small bodies when the odds are five or six to one. They have cut up a patrol or two, but have never got in on a troop or squadron, much less on a regiment, and are not encouraged by their superior numbers, which are, indeed, discounted by our guns. The skirmish at Barjidiyeh wood, near Shaiba, is, I think, the only occasion on which they have charged. They believed they had taken us in an ambuscade and at a disadvantage in the deep mud. We had 450 cavalry with two sections of horse artillery and were vastly outnumbered. We had no time to close in the ranks and crumple them up, but wheeled on to them in extended order. We were interlocked. For a minute it was sword and lance. Then they gave. As they retired they came under our infantry fire, which did bloody execution. It was the best fight they have put up.

The point of "Corsair's" story lay in the easy divergence of the Arab's warlike attentions from one side to another. "Eye-Witness," in concluding his article, says:—

He is not out for casualties, but loot. He follows no cause, though it is natural that the accident of a common creed should count a little in his wavering predilections. For the Turk he has no love, and there is hardly a tribe in Mesopotamia which has not been in a state of rebellion against him. In his own inter-tribal affairs honour, or the appetite for blood, is very easily satisfied. Two or three dead or wounded, and the survivors separate to fight again. These holocausts of ours art not to their liking. . . As an ally the Arab is a very fluctuating quantity. A sheikh and his tribe will join the Turks, become discontented in a week, through shortness of rations or some other passing cause, bring his complaint in the night, and be off in the

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morning. Then another sheikh will come in. It is difficult to know sometimes whom we have against us.

Russia and Turkey.

Under the heading of "Our Brightening Hopes of Victory," the *Nation* (March 25) takes as its text the Battle of Verdun, and, continuing with an examination of the military situation on the various fronts, shows that the prospects of the Allies were never brighter than they are to-day. After detailing the achievements of the Russian armies against Turkey, the *Nation* says:—

Surely if Russian statesmanship were as sure as her strategy Turkey might be written off the list of our enemies, and such an achievement would at once set free the large army of Egypt, and would almost certainly drive Roumania to our side, even if it did not also induce Bulgaria to discover the bankruptcy of the concern with which she has placed her investments. There has been much poor statesmanship on the part of the Allies. But we ought to look now for a little practical intuition, which would almost certainly bring victory within sight.

Salonika stands between these far removed spheres. It is difficult to see what purpose the forces there serve, except to spend Bulgaria's money. With Austria installed in northern Albania, any advance from Salonika is threatened with a flank attack such as we threaten against Germany's communications with Turkey. If Italy could deal with the threat from northern Albania, there might still be some hope of an offensive from Salonika. Certainly every small front upon which the Allies advance, provided they advance together, adds to the general crippling of the enemy.

Turkey and Peace.

The *Daily Graphic* (March 25), in the course of a leading article on Turkey and the rumours which are still current that she is putting forward tentative proposals for peace, says:—

But whatever happens Turkey cannot win. An Austro-German victory would inevitably mean the complete destruction of Turkish independence. Germany is not fighting to defend the liberties of Islam; she is fighting to create an Empire for herself that will stretch from the North Sea to the Persian Gulf. No terms of peace that the Entente Powers are likely to propose will involve such a complete humiliation for Turkey as a German victory must involve. In this country it is certain that there will be every desire to mitigate for Turkey the consequences of her own blunder. In the fierce fighting in Gallipoli and Mesopotamia our soldiers have learnt to respect the Turk. He is a bad ruler and a bad organiser, and his record is stained with hideous atrocities. But in fighting he displays the instincts of a gentleman and a better understanding of the Christian rules of conduct than the nominal Christians with whom he is allied.

Articles to Note.

"Ægean Days.—I.," by R. G. Burton, and "Communications in Asia Minor," by H. Charles Woods (illustrated), in the *Field* (March 25).

"Frontier of Egypt," in the *Daily Telegraph* (March 24).

"A Separate Peace with Turkey," letter by Jean Longuet (Member of the Chamber of Deputies), in the *Nation* (March 9).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Our Cairo Correspondent has cabled to us to the effect that the Egyptian Budget was approved by the Ministers on Friday last. A summary account of the Budget figures (estimated revenue £E16,530,000 and expenditure £E16,630,000) appeared in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST.

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An interesting suggestion was made at Tuesday's meeting of the shareholders of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin, a full report of which is published elsewhere. Mr. Dyson Weston, seconding the vote of thanks to the directors, suggested that "if the Baghdad Railway goes a-begging the company should endeavour to get it instead of receiving an indemnity in cash." I am pleased to see that the chairman promised to bear the suggestion carefully in mind. It is full of possibilities of a vast nature, but I do not think that the time has yet arrived to discuss them at any length. Still, they must not be lost sight of.

***

Telegrams from Persia announce, says Reuter, that in consequence of the improved condition of the country the Imperial Bank of Persia has re-opened its branches at Hamadan, Sultanabad, and Kermanshah, which had to be closed in consequence of the situation occasioned by the German propaganda. Advices received from other quarters show that the position of affairs in Teheran has greatly improved. The Ahwaz-Ispahan road has been reopened for European traffic.

***

I read that one of the Greek Vice-Consuls at Alexandria has been despatched on a mission to Abyssinia. The object of his journey is stated to be to consider what steps should be taken with a view to establishing Greek Consulates in that country, which has a considerable Greek population. From information obtained in the Greek colony in London it would seem that this desire on the part of the Hellenes in Abyssinia to overrun the kingdom with their Consuls is purely sentimental, without political bias of any kind or description. It is to be hoped that this is so.

***

The *Sudan Times* of Wednesday, March 1, publishes a "London official summary of news for the week ending February 26." After giving a succinct review of the war news, this "official" summary proceeds as follows:—"Interesting signs England shaken free trade position illustrated by letter of Lord Cromer to *Spectator* praising protectionist utterance and vote of Manchester Chamber of Commerce to reconsider question." I am pleased to see that our officialdom has taken two good resolutions, the first being to issue official periodical summaries of news, and the second being the recognition by Government circles of "interesting signs" that England is dropping her Free Trade fallacies. Those of us who have always upheld that the introduction of a preferential tariff is vital to British economic interests will welcome this new departure. It is an interesting sign of the times.

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The same official summary gives such a promising picture of Egypt that it is to be regretted it was not largely circulated in this country as well as in Egypt, where the news it contained could hardly have come as a revelation. The message in question says:—"War-time business in Egypt fully compensates for losses sustained by native merchants in earlier crisis. Flour and grain merchants reaping rich harvests out of Army needs, and milk dealers doing well, while tobacco merchants have done such good business that many are forced to close shops pending renewal of stock."

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Our Cairo Correspondent refers in highly favourable terms to the appointment of the "Commission on Trade and Industry," the object of which is "to examine the extent to which the industries and commerce of Egypt have been affected by the war, and to propose measures with the object of opening new markets for Egyptian products and of replacing articles formerly obtained from enemy countries by articles produced in Egypt or imported from non-enemy countries." He considers that the Government has been very well advised in its action, and continues by saying that after the war "both Germany and Austria will certainly make every effort to regain their trade, but the tariff which, it is understood, will be set up against them by the Entente, and which, it is hoped, will be also adopted in Egypt, should effectively stop all such attempts." Here we have another inkling of that great change in our fiscal policy which is being so openly advocated throughout our Empire that the Government can no longer pretend to be deaf to the insistent demand. That Egypt will be included in the tariff when (or if) it is introduced seems to me to be a foregone conclusion; otherwise the enemy will recapture its trade and continue its nefarious intrigues in the country where neither are wanted and can only thrive to our great disadvantage.

***

Mail news to hand from Bucharest this week is dated March 4, and therefore is unable to corroborate Reuter's cabled message of March 6 to the effect that a definite agreement had been signed between the Roumanian Central Export Commission and the Austro-German Syndicate for the sale to the latter of 1,000,000 tons of cereals. Our Correspondent, writing on March 4, said that the agreement had not been signed at the time of writing, both parties continuing to haggle over the matter of payment, particularly the rate of exchange. The German representatives stipulated that the rate of exchange should be 1.22 lei per mark, whereas the National Bank of Roumania would not entertain anything above 1.20 lei (the normal rate is 1.235). Reuter stated in the message alluded to above that the following rate was agreed to:—1.17 lei for paper and 1.239 lei for gold mark. Further, our Correspondent tells us that, continuing the previous reports, the subject of the deal consists exclusively of maize forming part of the harvest of 1914, and amounting to a total of 100,000 wagons, 35,000 of which are in the hands of grain merchants, the remainder in the possession of the agriculturists. This maize, it will be remembered, might easily—so easily—have been bought by the Allies if we had only realised what we were about at the time. Instead of which, they have since passed into the hands of the enemy to feed his soldiers (see THE NEAR EAST of March 17).

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According to the *Morning Post's* Budapest correspondent, the German and Austrian Governments have been buying up the remaining Roumanian wheat and other cereal stocks, through the intermediary of a concern called the Berlin Zentral Einkaufs Gesellschaft. This leads me to suspect that Vienna, under Berlin orders, is paying twice for her grain—once to the Roumanian seller and once to the Berlin intermediary! Not surprising, is it, that Berlin should take exceeding advantage of her Hapsburg vassal?

***

I see that the Cyprus Motor Company has decided to run cars to Kyrenia, which is only 16 miles distant from the capital, and is a starting point for picturesque expeditions, and likewise a sea-bathing resort of considerable merit. The company is to be congratulated on its initiative, which ought to prove lucrative considering that many residents in Egypt will be unable to come to England this summer, and will, therefore, turn their steps gladly in the direction of Cyprus. In the circumstances the Cyprus summer season is likely to be an attractive one, and Kyrenia, linked up with the capital by motor-car, ought to become quite a fashionable centre.

***

A Continental Exchange has telegraphed from Cairo that Cardiff and Newcastle coal are now £7 11s. and £7 9s. a ton respectively. There are scarcely any arrivals. According to the same message, quoted by *Page's Weekly*, the Egyptian Government has requested that some of the German ships recently seized by the Portuguese Government should be permitted to bring coal to Egypt. No answer has yet been received to this request, but I trust that if the demand has been made it will be granted. It is essential for irrigation as well as for other purposes that Egypt should be given as plentiful a supply of coal as is materially possible.

***

Schenkers, Ltd., a new company which has been registered with a capital of £1,000 to carry on business as merchants, carriers, forwarding agents, etc., is, I have been informed, a British company, quite independent of the great Continental firm of forwarding agents of the same name. Both directors and capital are, I understand, British. At present, naturally, the undertaking is quiescent, and the capital seems to me to be purely nominal. Doubtless it is intended to increase it at some later date, but, I am assured, the concern will continue to be purely and solely British.

***

Mot de fin. The following story, which I take verbatim from *Reynolds' Weekly Newspaper*—which paper must bear the responsibility for its accuracy—will no doubt interest many of my readers. According to the yarn, a supply officer started from Alexandria in charge of a column of 454 horses and 16 mules. When he arrived at his destination he had 452 horses and 18 mules. It is said that the General Staff has since been trying to find out how the two horses were changed into mules.

COMMENTATOR.

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Sudan Trade During 1915.

Satisfactory Development.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 14.

The Sudan statistics for the last quarter of 1915, which are just available, reveal a most satisfactory state of affairs in so far as the development of the foreign trade of that country since the outbreak of war is concerned. Imports during the year amounted to £E1,704,250 and exports to £E1,577,991, as against £E1,891,494 and £E1,020,260 respectively a year previously. That is to say, the total turnover has improved by over 10 per cent., imports falling off by £E187,244, but exports improving by £E557,731. It is to be noted in this connection that, taking into account the re-exports, which in 1915 amounted to £E130,315, the balance of trade has swung over in favour of the Sudan—the first time that such a feature has been recorded since the re-conquest.

Imports.

Imports, of course, fell off owing to the dearth of shipping, but principally owing to the fact that while the dura crop, which is the staple food of the population, was a bumper one in 1915 it was hopelessly inadequate in 1914 consequent upon the failure of the rains, and necessitated the importation of dura to the value of over £E214,000. A further reason for the falling off lies in the fact that the Government had reduced its works to the minimum, as is seen by the detailed figures; whilst public imports fell off by 3 per cent. those made on behalf of the Government decreased by over 30 per cent. The chief decreases were cereals by £E277,404 to £E145,044, refined sugar by £E12,820 to £E226,256, spirits by 30 per cent., iron and steel-work by 50 per cent., and stone and glass ware by 60 per cent. On the other hand, textiles increased by £E177,617 to £E604,412 (the chief items in this category being cotton fabrics and sacks) and coal by £E4,808, though, of course, as in the case of Egypt, the quantity of the latter was considerably less.

Exports.

It is, however, with regard to the exports that the greatest interest is always evinced, for the future of the Sudan depends entirely on its being able to develop its agricultural resources and find suitable markets for its products abroad. The year 1915 will certainly be a landmark in the country's trade annals in this respect, but a comparison with 1914 will not convey a true impression of the progress made, seeing that the war broke out during its course and its figures were necessarily affected by the consequent paralysis which seized upon the world's trade and characterised commerce generally for some little time afterwards. Far better is it to compare the results of the past year with those of more normal ones, and the following table will do more than any amount of words to give an accurate idea of the position of the Sudan one year after the outbreak of hostilities and of the real progress made during that period.

Year.	Exports. £E.
1906	264,096
1907	449,329
1908	515,938
1909	673,902
1910	977,621
1911	1,376,958
1912	1,373,119
1913	1,185,186
1914	1,020,260
1915	1,577,991

From the foregoing figures we see that compared with the last normal year prior to the outbreak of hostilities, *i.e.*, 1913, the export trade of the Sudan has improved by £E392,805, or 33 per cent., and that even compared with the best year previously recorded, *i.e.*, 1911, it has increased by £E201,033, or about 15 per cent. Whilst this speaks volumes for the ability with which those responsible for the economic development of the country have carried out their task of fostering local industry and of finding markets for the local products abroad despite the difficulties of the shipping situation and the dislocation of credit, it at the same time affords ground for the most optimistic hopes as to the future of the Sudan.

The following table will indicate the direction in which the export trade of the Sudan has been developed during the past five years:—

	1911. £E.	1913. £E.	1915. £E.
Cattle	129,375	74,664	170,400
Sheep and goats	86,606	97,059	89,526
Untanned hides	7,347	22,821	92,315
Untanned skins	31,630	31,906	30,300
Ivory	73,932	113,236	48,133
Durra	86,657	21,716	207,156
Dukhan	—	89	68,016
Cotton seed	31,583	21,097	33,376
Sesame	71,563	104,939	85,142
Dates	42,754	31,872	24,167
Butter	8,294	10,896	16,533
Dom and ground nuts	29,216	17,180	9,853
Gum	435,622	371,528	313,081
Sesame oil	461	688	5,753
Charcoal	355	1,286	13,614
Tinctorial materials	125	1,883	7,338
Senna	11,073	9,647	23,499
Ginned cotton	195,272	152,110	236,793
Gold	26,719	43,802	65,553

From this table it appears that the only appreciable diminutions have been in gum, dom, and ground nuts, ivory and dates, whilst an expansion is evident in practically every other category, especially in livestock, untanned hides, cereals, cotton, gold and chemical and tinctorial products. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the Sudan has benefited from the general rise in prices on the world's markets, for, even where the quantity of a commodity exported has fallen off, in almost every case the proportionate value has increased. As a matter of fact there is every reason to believe that the total exports would have been considerably larger if there had not at the outset been the great difficulty of finding bottoms. A reference to this great problem, and to the manner in which it had been overcome, was recently made in these columns, and the fact that over 50 per cent. of the export trade of the Sudan is done oversea, and that, nevertheless, an expansion of 33 per cent. has been recorded since 1913 is, I think, sufficient proof that the tribute then paid to the responsible authorities was not exaggerated.

The Sudan's Customers.

Turning now to the countries with which the Sudan has traded during the past year, we find that Egypt is naturally her best customer, as regards both exports and imports, and that Great Britain comes next, only a good way behind. Imports from Egypt rose from £E813,422 to £E925,611, and exports to her from £E404,709 to £E653,106. It is clear that the war has brought these two neighbours into closer commercial touch with one another, to their mutual advantage. Certainly Egypt has benefited by the stocks of livestock and cereals which the Sudan had available just at the time when she was most in need of supplies. Of the former Egypt took 92 per cent, and of the latter 32 per cent.; whilst 75 per cent. of the gold exported went to her. Great Britain took the balance of the gold, 40 per cent. of the gum, and 60 per cent. of the cotton—practically all the rest of the textile went to Egypt—whilst half the coal and 40 per cent. of the manufactured textiles came from England. Since, however, half of the textile imports of the Sudan come from Egypt, it is permissible to deduce that Great Britain's real share of this branch of trade is considerably more than the 40 per cent. recorded against her. Incidentally, it may be pointed out that the reason why so much gold and cotton went to Egypt was that shipping facilities at Port Sudan were at the time very bad, and that it was easier to forward by the old Nile route. Consequently, the real exports to Great Britain were larger than recorded, and those to Egypt correspondingly smaller, for most of those shipments were en route to British ports. Exports to Malta increased threefold: this is due to the new trade in livestock that has grown up since the war, though it is quite possible that marked falling off will be noticeable after peace is declared, seeing that most of the consignments to the island have been destined to the naval and military forces. Trade with India and Aden fell off considerably, the imports suffering most being cereals and textiles. On the other hand, commercial intercourse with Eritrea has expanded, imports (coffee and textiles) having increased from £E5,289 to £E12,329, and exports (hides and cereals) from £E12,105 to £E137,541.

Germany and Austria, as might be expected, do not figure in the statistics, and Belgium, for obvious reasons, has also dropped out. German and Austrian imports into the Sudan in 1914 amounted to £E23,855 and £E44,846, respectively—refined sugar, which has to a great extent now been replaced by Egyptian sugar, machinery, beer, glassware, and crockery. (The advance which German and Austrian trade was making in the Sudan may be gauged from the fact that the imports in 1913 were £E20,166 and £E35,196, respectively, and that in 1914 the trade was confined to the first eight months of the year.) Exports to those countries came to £E60,227 and £E12,386, respectively, and consisted principally of untanned hides and skins, sesame, and gum.

Transit Trade.

The Sudan, from its geographical position, is, like Egypt, called upon to serve as a transit house for the countries adjacent to it. It acts in this respect for the Congo and for Abyssinia, with the latter of which it in addition carries on quite a respectable ordinary trade in coffee. It is interesting to note that whereas in 1914 goods to the value of £E56,790 passed in transit through the Sudan to and from those countries, last year the total had risen to £E82,973, which is far more than has ever been recorded. Since this transit trade means increased earnings to the railways and steamers, and extra profit to the middle-men and all those who have in any capacity to handle the traffic, every expansion of this branch of commerce must be for the general good of the country, and its progress is consequently interesting to watch.

DAIRA OF PRINCE HILMY PASHA.

A supplement to the *Official Journal of* March 9 contains the following:—

"Notice is hereby given that the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief His Britannic Majesty's Forces in Egypt has appointed Mr. F. H. Russell to be Controller of the Daira of Prince Ibrahim Pasha Hilmy, with instructions to assure himself that no payment of any kind is, during the continuance of the war, made out of the revenues or other receipts of the said Daira for the benefit of any person resident in enemy territory, or otherwise in contravention of any proclamation issued or to be issued by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief. His Britannic Majesty's Forces in Egypt during the war."

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade is in receipt from the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior of copies of the statement of conditions, etc., in connection with a call for tenders for the supply of Ghafir clothing required by the Stores Department during 1916, including blue drill belts, drawers, and qamis. Two metres of cloth of the kinds which the tenderer intends to use must be submitted to the Director of Stores, Bulac, Cairo, at least ten days before the adjudication. Copies of the specifications, with forms of tender, etc., may be obtained, at a cost of 2s. per copy, from the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W., where also sealed samples of the articles required may be inspected. Sealed tenders, on the proper form, will be received, up to noon on April 22, by the Under-Secretary of State (Personnel and Equipment Department), Ministry of the Interior, Cairo. Date, April 22.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-18). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Date, June 1.

Tenders are invited by the Director of the Police School, Abbassia, for the supply of clothing and accoutrements required for the officer cadets. Date, April 15.

Messrs. J. Compton and Sons and Mr. Walter W. Davies were recently among the successful tenderers to the Egyptian Government (Ports and Lighthouses Administration) for the supply of uniforms, etc.

Sudan.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on May 10, 1916, for the supply of stores and material required by the above Department during the current year. Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, the Agent, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria, or to Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, London, S.W.

By a proclamation published in the Sudan *Government Gazette* of February 22, the Governor-General prohibits the export from the Sudan, except to Egypt or to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and except with the permission of an officer appointed in that behalf, of senna (cassia acutifolia) or any other species of senna; henbane (hyoscyamus muticus); and datura sthamonium or any other species of datura.

The following notice to exporters has been issued by the Sudan Government:—

The particular attention of all manufacturers and traders concerned is directed to the need for scrupulous care in the transaction of their business abroad, in view of the fact that some traders in neutral countries are making themselves agents for the supply of goods to and from enemy countries. Especial care should be taken in opening new accounts in neutral countries, and in relation to any orders or inquiries of an abnormal character. In any case of doubt as to particular firms abroad, business should be suspended pending reference to the Office of the Director, Commercial Intelligence Branch, Central Economic Board, Khartoum.

The proclamations relating to the trading with the enemy cover indirect trading with the enemy through neutral agents, and carelessness in transacting neutral business may involve traders in the severe penalties attaching to trading with the enemy.

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ENEMY FIRMS IN EGYPT.

The Mixed Court of Appeal, Alexandria, has delivered judgment in a case of great public interest.

Messrs. Gattiker and Fenstein, Swiss citizens, attorneys of the Cairo branch of the firm of Siemens Schuckert, whose head office is in Vienna, brought an action against Mr. Alexandre Abaskaroun in respect of a bill of exchange for electric remittances amounting to £E418. The bill, dated July 30, 1913, to the branch's order, matured on March, 1915, and was duly protested. The Cairo Court refused the claim in respect of the bill, as the society's agent, Mr. Weissman, was in Malta, to where he had been sent by the military authorities. The judgment of the Appeal Court points out that the branch of a firm established in an enemy country is not allowed to continue its operations in Egypt unless its manager is residing there. Mr. Weissman was, therefore, no longer entitled after he had been expelled from Egypt to appoint a successor as the head of a branch of such doubtful status. The Court upheld the contention of the firm that since a branch may be considered as having a distinct existence from the head office, it cannot be confused with the branch's manager. As to the objection with regard to the power of attorney being unduly given, the Appeal Court declared that it did not hold good in face of the facts that the Italian Consulate then charged with the protection of Austrian subjects had acknowledged the validity of such a transfer, and that the branch in question was managed by the appellants since November, 1914, with the agreement of the military authorities. The case was therefore sent to the Cairo Mixed Court for a fresh hearing.

KARACHI-BUSHIRE TRADE.

It is probable that the trade between Karachi and Bushire will be largely increased in the future, says the U. S. Consul at Karachi. Bushire has a population of 18,000 to 20,000, chiefly Persians and Arabs, although the Persian population is diminishing. The inhabitants are mostly merchants, brokers, small shopkeepers, and coolie labourers. There are forty European residents.

The importance of Bushire, commercially, lies in the fact that it is the sea terminus of the great caravan route through the middle of Persia via Shiraz and Isfahan, to Teheran, the capital of Persia. Karachi merchants state that large quantities of cotton piece goods are bought here and shipped to Bushire for the caravan trade. Frequent steamship sailings between Karachi and Bushire facilitate this trade.

The prosperity of the port depends largely upon the prosperity of up-country districts. Recent disturbances have curtailed the caravan shipments, and the Karachi-Bushire trade has suffered accordingly.

The Kazarun route from Bushire to Shiraz was open in 1913-14. Traffic was stopped for two short periods, but it was not found necessary to close the trail and send goods by another route, as has been necessary several times in late years. Last February British firms in Kazarun suffered losses of about £5,000. Owing to these disturbances, and also partly to a condition of stagnation in North-West India, the volume of Bushire trade for 1913-14 decreased by about £126,000, compared with the previous year. The drop in cotton piece goods alone was 38 per cent. This drop was felt rather severely by several Karachi exporters.

PERSIAN ENEMY FIRMS.

The following list is published of firms in Persia with whom trading is prohibited, except where a general and special licence has been granted. Application for a licence should be made to the Controller, Foreign Trade Department, Lancaster House, St. James, S.W.

Abdul Rahim Arab.
Agha Muhammad Yusuf Khabbez Beglaroff, Kazvin.
Agha Muhammad Ismail Isfahani, Meshed.
Amin-ut-Tujjar (alias Agha Isfahansi) Ispahan.
Baue, Tehran.
Bonati (Schwerin), Tehran.
Christodoroff, Zares, Resht.
Eger Brothers, Meshed.
Farbwerke vorm. Meister Lucius and Brunig, Ispahan.
Fars Company, Shiraz.
Haji Abbas Arab, Ispahan.
Haji Abdur Rahman Shirazi, Bombay and Shiraz.
Haji Amin, Ispahan.
Haji Goulam Hussein, Sons of, Resht.
Haji Lutfali Tabrizi, Tehran.
Haji Muhammad Reza, Ispahan.
Haji Mihammed Ibrahim (Malik-ut-Tujjar), Ispahan.
Haji Muhammad Ibrahim Tehrani Sakkon, Tehran.
Haji Muhammad Welinkani, Kerman.
Haji Saleh Arab, Successors of, viz.—Haji Amin, Haji Mohammed Reza, and Zafar Ispahan.
Herold, M., Meshed.
Hoffman, Meshed.
Ismaloff (Georges and Jean), Kazvin.
Ittahadie Fils, Tehran.
Keprielli, Meshed.
Larcarides Frères, Resht.
Maison Hollandaise (Prins, C. F.), Tehran.
Malik-ut-Tujjar (Haji Muhammed Ibrahim), Ispahan.
Meshedi Ismail Salmasi, Kerman.
Meshedi Goulam Ali, Resht.
Minassiantz, A., Tehran.
Mir Abdul Baghi and Sons, Kermanshah.
Missirian, Kerman.
Muhammad Mehdi Samsar Isfaman.
Muhammad Saleh, Resht.
Mustafa Husseini, Tehran.
Papadopoulo, Hariles, Resht.
Pascalidi Frères, Resht.
Persische Teppiche A/G., Ispahan.
Prins, C. F. (Maison Hollandaise), Tehran.
Rahim Ittahadie (Ittahadie Fils), Tehran.
Roever, Wilhelm, Shiraz.
Sadik Afshar, Yezd.
Safa and Co., Limited, Bushire.
Seskiel Nawi, Tehran.
Société du Tombac, Ispahan.
Sofer, D. J. and S., Hamadan.
Tabibian, M., Resht.
Tehallis, Demetri, Resht.
Tehallis, Leandros, Resht.
Tehallis, Sotiri, Resht.
Wassmuss.
Wonckhaus and Co., Bushire.
Yavash Oghli, Resht.
Zafar, Ispahan.
Zarour, Sion, Hamadan.
Zilka, Abraham Joseph, Kermanshah.

SERBIAN DYES.

Lecturing in Edinburgh last week, Mr. Oliver Bainbridge referred to the dye question and to the belief prevalent that only Germany could supply dyes, and said we did not require to depend on Germany in this matter. In the town of Pirot, in Serbia, they had long had the most beautiful dyes, which chemists had pronounced as equal to, and even better than, the German dyes. The lecturer had been trying to interest chambers of commerce to take this matter up. After the war it would be a gracious thing for us to enter into business relations with the Serbians for dyes.

TRADE WITH RUSSIA.—Firm of Produce Importers and Exporters, desirous of opening branch in Odessa, would like to hear from firms desiring REPRESENTATION, who would be willing to co-operate and share expenses of common office.—Reply to Box M., Publicity, Ltd., 28, Mark Lane, E.C.

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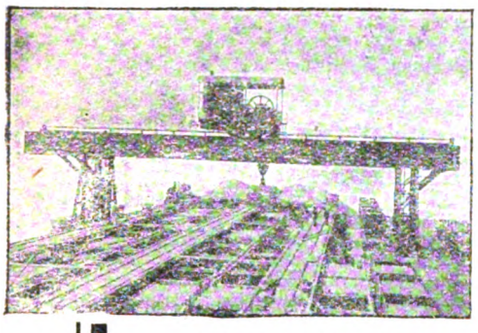
Engineering Notes.

Wireless Telegraphy.

Owing to the increased perils with which shipping is surrounded at the present time, it is natural that shipowners, and especially neutrals, should be anxious to have their ships equipped with wireless telegraphy. In many cases, however, want of space on board the ship, consideration of expenses, or other technical reasons, are embarrassing questions which delay or prevent an equipment. In such cases expert advice should be asked for by shipowners. It may be suggested here, however, that a suitable system is the quenched spark system, which possesses many advantages. With the quenched spark system of wireless telegraphy (which is known abroad as the Telefunken system), no sound-proof cabin is necessary—an important point to be considered—because until recently shipowners were obliged to provide a specially-made sound-insulated cabinet to contain the spark gap, the noise of which is considerable and objectionable. With the quenched spark installations the working, even with large stations, is practically noiseless, and a shipowner fitting up an installation upon this system has no additional expense necessitated in building a special cabin. Any suitably-situated cabin is able to accommodate the apparatus. Another important advantage is that with all coupled transmitters, such as are now universally used, it is necessary to take into account the existence of not one wave but two, one being due to the electrical energy oscillating in the autennæ, and one to that in the excitation circuit. Unless the oscillation excitation circuit can be rapidly quenched, as in the quenched spark installation, the component wave obtained from the aerial and excitation circuit waves is irregular, and has no musical tone. With the quenched spark installation, however, after a few oscillations the vibration of the excitation circuit is quenched, and all the resulting energy is radiated by the aerial in the form of practically an undamped wave. The advantage of this is that double the energy is radiated by a quenched spark as compared to an open spark. Moreover, with these quenched spark radiators the electrical oscillations, on conversation to sound waves in the receiving station, give rise to a musical note, the pitch of which can be varied. This note being musical, it can be heard over natural electric discharges, or "atmospherics," even when these are as much as ten to fifteen times as intense as the incoming signs. It may be mentioned here that many British vessels are equipped with this system of wireless telegraphy.

Device for Finding Internal Defects in Iron and Steel.

An electrical device has been invented by which, it is said, any internal defects that may exist in iron or steel castings and forgings, rails, ingots, and the like, can be found and located. The value of such an instrument to engineer-manufacturers, Government engineer inspectors, superintendents of iron structures, architects and others, is obvious. The device consists of two small horseshoe magnets, each magnet having a primary winding, which is energised from the secondary coil of a transformer, the primary of which is fed by an alternating current generator. The two primary windings of the magnets are connected with the terminals of two electro-magnets of a sound-producing device or buzzer. The two buzzer armatures are tuned so that, in harmony with similar currents in the windings of the magnets, they will produce sounds of substantially the same character. Adjacent to each buzzer armature is a transmitter similar to that of an ordinary telephone. A small magnetic current is induced through the product to be tested, the magnets being moved along its surface. As long as the metal adjacent to each magnet is of uniform character and density, approxi-



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mately the same number of magnetic lines of force will pass between the two poles of each magnet, and sounds of corresponding character will be produced at the two sound-producing instruments. If there is a defect, such as a blow-hole or pipe, the magnetic field of the magnet will be weakened to such an extent that less current will be induced into secondary winding, thereby causing the sound-producing instrument connected with this winding to produce a sound of different character from that of the other instrument, thus enabling the operator to locate the defect. The inventor is an American of Pittsburg, and, it is reported, numerous tests of the apparatus have been made with successful results.

Sudan Notes.

During December and January, according to the *Monthly Report* issued by the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government, the following work on roads and communications was competed:—Bahr el Ghazal Province.—December—The bridge at Meshra was rebuilt and made ready for wheeled traffic. The ferry over the Raga River on the Kaboluza road was completed. The Bore ferry at Said Buldas was repaired. Nuba Mount Province.—Repairs and bridging on the Talodi-Kadugli section were put in hand with local labour. Work is being completed on the El Eddaya well (Dilling District). The Army transport carts were working on the Kadugli-Talodi road, which has been put in a fairly good state of repair.

SERBIA'S MINERAL WEALTH.

Serbia is especially rich in copper, but before the recent Austro-German invasion only two mining companies were actually working. One of these was the French Compagnie des Mines de Bor. The company has extensive works, and since 1906 large quantities of copper have been produced. The refined metal averaged 99.62 per cent. of copper, and yielded from 24 to 30 gr. of gold and from 96 to 120 gr. of silver per ton. The output rose from 1,220 tons in the first year of working to 7,600 tons in the year 1912-13. It is stated that a profit amounting to three-fifths of the share capital has been made annually in the last two years. The company's principal mine is that of Cuka-Dulkan. A railway from the mines to the Danube port of Radujevatz was planned when the war broke out. The works and plant were badly wrecked by the Serbians in their retreat. Bor owes its rise to the excellent quality of its ores, which have a very large copper content. The ores separated by hand contain 6 per cent. of copper, and the deposits are very similar to those of Butte in Montana.

The second important Serbian copper mine is that of Majdanpek, the history of which is closely interwoven with the political history of Serbia. After the decay of mediæval mining in Serbia the industry had a brief period of revival during the Austrian occupation from 1719 to 1738, and in 1848 Kara George, Prince of Serbia, engaged the services of an Austrian mining engineer, who reopened the mines. Since then they have been worked spasmodically up to 1903, the output being unimportant, but in that year they were reopened on modern lines, and in 1904 the copper output of Serbia, which in 1901 amounted to fifty-nine tons, increased to 1,164 tons. The mines of Majdanpek, however, are of no great value so far as their copper yield is concerned. They are chiefly noted for their iron ore and pyrites. The content of copper is small: seldom more than 1.5 per cent.

In West Serbia, in the Polye district, and near Rebelj and Wisch, there are also copper-ore deposits. In 1903 3,820 tons of copper ore were mined at Wisch, out of which 151 tons of black copper were produced. The mine of Rebelj is at present owned by a Frenchman named Schweitzer. There are many other copper mines in the country which have not yet reached the producing stage.

Antimony is found in various parts of Serbia, notably in the Podrinje Hills in the west, near Kostajnik, as well as in the mines of Zajaca, which have been exploited by a French company since 1898. The antimony content of the ore is 54 to 63 per cent.

In 1910 the output of antimony was 326 tons, of a value of 1,888,000 fr.—*Ironmonger.*

OIL FIELDS OF HUNGARY.

The rich potential oil fields of Transylvania, Hungary, south of the Carpathian Mountains, have been promised to the Deutsche Bank group to develop with German capital. This was not done without patriotic protests in the Hungarian Parliament; and across the frontier Roumania is watching the progress of events with great hopes that, when the war terminates in favour of the Quadruple Entente, part of that rich territory will be transferred to her. The *Morning Post* correspondent, writing from Budapest, the Hungarian capital, thus describes matters:—

"Transylvania has again been placed in the foreground of events by a heated debate in Parliament lasting for three days. This time the subject of discussion was the Transylvanian oil fields, a natural treasure, quite unexploited as yet, of incalculable value. These oil springs were discovered three years ago, in two different places in Transylvania, on a territory of some twenty square kilometres, gushing up from the earth in a quantity enough to supply the whole of Central Europe with not only lighting gas, but also with gas for industrial purposes.

"This unexploited wealth the Germans want to lay hands on as a part of their policy to exploit Hungary's economic resources as much as possible, and the Deutsche Bank asked the Hungarian Government to hand over the oil fields, promising to supply £1,000,000 for the necessary works, and also suggesting that Hungarian banking houses should supply £500,000 for the same object.

"This affair being another instance of those favours which are sought from Count Tisza by his master, the German Emperor, the former, of course, was only too anxious to complete the business as soon as possible, and brought the matter before the House at this session. The Independence Party raised the usual opposition to the Germanizing schemes of the Premier, and some vehement speeches were delivered against the idea of handing over Hungarian treasures of unlimited greatness and allowing the Germans to take possession of the Transylvanian oil fields, by which Hungarians hoped to build up a great industry.

"The Independence Party urged that the oil fields should be exploited and organized by the State in order that they should serve as a national source of wealth, and thus replace the dear coal mostly imported from Germany.

"This will now fall to the Germans, who will take care that the gas will not be any cheaper than coal, so as not to compete with their own coal industry.

"The *Nepszava* quotes the Premier as saying that the transaction is necessary because Hungary has not enough money to develop the oil fields, and that German capital was necessary. The journal indignantly remarks that if Hungary has thousands of millions of kronen for the carrying on of the war, a couple of millions ought to be found to make use of the greatest natural riches ever offered to a nation by good fortune, and, this being the case, the explanations of the Premier cannot stand, and are only destined to veil his insane partiality for the Germans, and his determination to hand over to them all that Hungary possesses.

"In addition to the oil fields, interest in Transylvania is also centred on the political situation created owing to the rapid development of the Roumanian Irredentists, and the growing agitation in Roumania in favour of intervention, no doubt greatly augmented by the question of the great natural treasures discussed so vehemently in Parliament, which discussions the Roumanian Press have reported extensively. The two Transylvanian exiles, M. Octavian Goga and M. Pater Lucaciu (the latter still a member of the Hungarian Parliament), are carrying on a vigorous agitation in Roumania, which is giving rise to considerable anxiety in Hungary."

With reference to a previous notice, relative to the lighter service at Casablanca, it is notified that a copy of the Official Tariff (in French) of the charges established under the new system, which came into force on March 1, may be consulted by United Kingdom firms interested in the Commercial Intelligence Branch.

E.S.R. IN 1915.

Fall in Traffic Receipts.

Last year's traffic returns of the Egyptian State Railways show a decrease as compared with previous years. Traffic of all kinds fell away to a considerable extent, the total traffic receipts amounting to only £E3,138,555, whereas in 1913 the total was £E3,819,492, in 1912 £E3,916,211, in 1911 £E3,691,179, and in 1910 £E3,400,066.

The total number of passengers carried was 23,424,000, as compared with 28,574,000 in the preceding year, the receipts from that source amounting to £E1,280,529, as compared with £E1,562,560. The total receipts from goods and live stock traffic were £E1,597,009, as compared with £E1,949,711.

Cotton consignments sent over the railways totalled 429,000 tons, the total for the four preceding years being 501,000, 633,000, 477,000, and 472,000 tons respectively. Every other chief item of merchandise similarly declined with the exception of cereals, the shipments of which amounted to 341,000 tons, as against 336,000 in 1913.

Expenditure was reduced from the total of the preceding year by £E120,000 odd, that is to say, from £E2,190,308 to £E2,070,077, but calculated on the basis of proportion to receipts, they were higher than in 1914 and in the three years previous to that, working out at £E66 for every £E100 of receipts. In 1913 the figure was £E57, in 1912 £E59, in 1911 £E55, and in 1910 £E58. The expenses per train kilometre showed an increase from £E128 in 1913 to £E141.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, March 10.

According to reports from the Ministry of Agriculture grain sowing continues everywhere, and the surface planted exceeds that of last year. As to the state of the crops, no actual information is to hand, but it does not appear to be too satisfactory. Mobilization has affected the crops in general, in spite of the fact that, as is known from previous wars, the womenkind of Bulgaria can do marvels in the fields when their men folk are away.

Plant Beet!

The Ministry of Agriculture has issued the following notice:—"Peasants, plant beet! The culture of beet is most remunerative. It gives the planter profit in coin, it gives food for cattle, and enriches the soil. Bulgaria cannot import sugar now. She must make it. Therefore, you should plant beet in larger quantities. Peasants, sugar is as necessary for the army as for the population. Plant beet!"

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, March 30.

Currants.

The market is quiet, with only moderate business passing at late rates.

Sultanas.

Only few sales have taken place this past week at unchanged prices, Indian fruit being in fair demand.

Figs.

There has been a better demand, and prices are steadier.

Dates.

The demand continues, with business done at full prices.

Seeds.

Linseed is firmer, with more doing; London-Calcutta, spot, quoted 70s. 6d.; afloat, 70s. 6d.; March-April, sold 70s. to 70s. 3d.; April-May, 69s. 6d.; La Plata-Hull, March-April, 65s. 6d.; April-May, ditto. Cotton-seed nominal to London-Egyptian spot. Hull is quoted £13 per ton. Rapeseed is very dull; Torier, March-April, 65s.

Oils.

Linseed-oil is firmer; spot pipes landed £39, barrels ditto, £40. Rape-oil: Ordinary brown naked nominal; English refined barrels, £55 to £56. Cotton-oil remains firm; crude spot pipes, £43 10s.; refined pale pipes, £48 10s.; and barrels sweet, £52 to £53, as to makes.

MOROCCAN FORESTS.

H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier reports, under date January 15, that at the Council held on December 29 last, M. Boudy, Chef du Service des Eaux et Forêts, gave a résumé of the work of his Department since its institution and explained the system that was being followed for preserving and exploiting the important forests existing in the French Zone, dealing more especially with the extensive cork-oak forests of Mamora, covering more than 500 square miles of ground between Rabat and Mequinez.

In 1913 a thorough examination was made of the Mamora forest area, and in the following year steps were adopted for its protection against wood-cutters, charcoal-burners, and cork and tan gatherers, who were rapidly destroying the trees over large tracts of the country. A number of foresters were brought from France and the management of the whole forest was taken over, the natives who had previously earned their living in the forest being guided and instructed in forestry and employed for this purpose. Broad paths were cleared at intervals through the forest, protecting it against fires, and what was until lately one of the most dangerous districts of the country is now comparatively safe for travellers. It is expected that this forest alone will produce a revenue of some £160,000 within five or six years.

COMPANY REPORTS.

Barramia Mining and Exploration.

The report of the Barramia Mining and Exploration, Limited, states that 5,870 tons of quartz were milled during the year, from which were extracted 4,698 oz. of bar gold, or 3,914,859 standard ounces, of a realised value of £15,230. £306 became payable to the Egyptian Government as royalty upon that amount, leaving £14,924. Sundry receipts, comprising transfer fees, interest on deposit account, etc., brought up the total income to £15,057. The expenditure upon revenue account was £11,510, and the profit resulting £3,546. From 1914 a balance at the credit of profit and loss account on £2,775 was brought forward. On March 25, 1915, a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum upon the non-cumulative preference shares, amounting to £2,700, less income-tax of £208, or £2,491 net, was paid, and, adding to that the remuneration of £270 due to the directors and managers upon such dividend, £13 remained to the credit of 1915. That, with the profit now shown of £3,546, leaves a disposable balance of £3,559. From such sum have been deducted:—Depreciation of buildings, machinery and plant, furniture, and live stock, £406; income-tax, £571; donation to British Red Cross Fund, £10. In respect of the £2,571 thus available a dividend of 7½ per cent. for the year 1915 on the 10 per cent. non-cumulative preference shares was declared on the 22nd inst., payable on April 5, and £546 is carried forward.

Egyptian Bonded Warehouses Company.

At the recent meeting of the above company, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, Messrs. Percy W. Carver and Robert S. Rolo were elected as directors; Mr. M. S. Wellhoff was also re-elected.

***The report of the Administrative Council for last year shows profits of £E21,156, of which £E1,037 has been set aside for the amortization of real estate, £E2,636 for preference share interest and amortization, and £E1,486 for depreciation, leaving a profit of £E15,996, 5 per cent. of which, £E799, is to be deducted for the Council of Administration. This leaves a net profit of £E15,196, which, together with the amount of £E13,378 brought forward, leaves an amount of £E28,575 to be disposed of. Out of this amount the Council proposes to put aside £E6,000 for the extraordinary reserve fund, raising it to £E10,000, and to pay a dividend of 8 per cent. and carry forward £E14,775. The tonnage entered in the warehouse during the year was 375,268 tons, as against 522,162 in 1914. The decrease, however, was compensated by the retarded redemption of stored goods and by the development of certain other branches of business.

Constantinople Land and Building Company.

The directors report that no accounts have been received from Constantinople for the year 1915, and the profit and loss account for the year only shows the transactions in London. The credit balance for 1915 is £33 4s. 3d., which, added to the balance of £5,673 brought forward from 1914, makes £5,706 4s. 3d. to be carried forward to the credit of next year's account. The net assets in Constantinople are stated in the 1915 balance-sheet at the figures which appeared in the balance-sheet of December 31, 1914. So long as the war with Turkey lasts it will be impossible to render full accounts or pay any dividend on the shares of the company.

New Egyptian Company.

A general meeting of the holders of debentures was held at the registered offices of the company yesterday, when the appointment of Victor Naggiar, of Alexandria, and Joseph Cattani Pasha, of Cairo, as trustees of the trust deed of February 23, 1909, was confirmed in place of Leon Carton de Wiart and Reginald Henriques, deceased.

Orders have been made by the Board of Trade requiring the undermentioned business to be wound up:—The Persian Carpet Company, Limited, of 65-66, Houndsditch, London, E.C. Dealers in rugs and carpets. Controller: A. Dangerfield, 56, Cannon Street, E.C. Date: March 20, 1916.

PUBLIC COMPANIES IN EGYPT.

The Egyptian Ministry of Finance has published the statistics relating to the limited liability companies existing in Egypt at the end of 1913. These companies, without including the Suez Canal Company, numbered 158, of which 102 were Egyptian, 33 English, 16 Belgian, and 7 French.

They represented a total capital of £E113,342,654, divided among them as follows:—

1.—Eleven mortgage banks having a total capital of £E52,607,647. Four of these banks were Egyptian, with a total capital of £E44,704,826; two were English, with a capital of £E3,894,638; two Belgian, with a capital of £E2,445,895; and three French with a capital of £E562,288.

2.—Six banks with a total capital of £E4,583,123, the only English bank among them—the Anglo-Egyptian—having a capital of £E487,500.

3.—Eight financial societies with a total capital of £E1,084,419.

4.—Sixteen rural land companies, total capital £E8,010,465.

5.—Twenty-one building companies, total capital, £E3,401,688.

6.—Sixteen urban and rural land and building companies, total capital £E5,234,990.

7.—Eight public transport companies, total capital £E4,896,203.

8.—Five steamship companies, total capital £E748,147.

9.—Two canal companies, total capital £E14,344,571.

10.—Three water companies, total capital £E1,169,116.

11.—Three irrigation companies, total capital £E462,552.

12.—Eight ginning, pressing, and refining companies, total capital £E4,676,354.

13.—Nine industrial building companies, total capital £E415,661.

14.—Six salt and brewery companies, total capital £E1,396,119.

15.—Fourteen other companies (ice, light and power, cigarettes, telephone, etc.), total capital, £E1,723,316.

16.—Ten commercial companies, total capital £E944,938.

17.—Ten hotel companies, total capital £E1,694,481.

18.—Two mining companies, total capital £E350,786.

19.—Three other companies (including the Cairo Electric Railways and Heliopolis Oasis Company), total capital £E2,598,168.

COMPANY RESULTS, &c.

Agricultural Bank of Egypt.—The thirteenth ordinary meeting will be held at the head office of the bank in Cairo on Thursday, April 20, at 4 p.m.

Greek Government Four Per Cent. Loan of 1910.—The coupons falling due on April 1, 1916, should be presented for payment between the hours of 11 and 2, at the office of Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son, 70, Old Broad Street, or of Messrs. Emile Erlanger and Co., 8, Crosby Square, E.C., where lists may be obtained. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

National Bank of Egypt.—The National Bank of Egypt has declared a dividend of 8s. per share, payable to-day, for the year 1915.

Ottoman Four Per Cent Loan on the Egyptian Tribute.—The half-yearly coupons for interest due April 10 will be paid on or after that date at the banking house of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.

Suez Canal.—Receipts for the 25th and 26th inst. amounted to 570,000 fr., as compared with 520,000 fr. for the corresponding days last year.

The Board of Agriculture has received the following information from the International Agricultural Institute:—The area sown with winter wheat in Roumania is estimated at 4,862,000 acres, or 1.2 per cent. more than the corresponding area sown last season.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

EASTERN BANK.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Eastern Bank, Limited, was held yesterday at the offices of the bank, the chairman of the board of directors, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, presiding. After the meeting had been convened by the Secretary,

The Chairman said : For the sixth year in succession it is my privilege to present to you the annual report and balance sheet on this occasion for the year ended December 31, 1915. Looking backward and bearing in mind the different crises through which we have guided the bank, and that for the whole of the year under review we have been in the throes of a world-wide war, we are of opinion that the result is as good as could be hoped for, and we trust that it may lead you to feel that our policy has not been unsuccessful. Before making reference to the working for the year and explaining how the war has affected our business I will, with your permission, refer briefly to the accounts. Our net profits for the year, including £6,477 9s. 6d. brought forward from last year, amount to £51,660 13s. 5d. We propose to pay a dividend to the shareholders of 5 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, as was done last year, which will absorb £30,000, to place to a reserve fund for contingencies £15,000, and to carry forward a sum of £6,660 13s. 5d. Turning now to the balance sheet you will see that there is still a small amount due on account of unpaid calls—viz., £140 4s. 2d., but this figure last year stood at £1,347. As previously explained to you, we have a few Belgian shareholders, and your directors have avoided any harsh action, which under nomal circumstances might have been justified. The greater part of the amount in question is due from an estate which is now being realised and will no doubt be paid shortly. The reserve fund remains at £55,000. Compared with last year's figures, current accounts show an increase of £425,000 and fixed deposits £94,000. Bills payable an increase of £233,000. Acceptances on account of customers are about £20,000 lower. Loans payable against bills and securities are £239,000 higher. The profit and loss account I have already dealt with. Turning to the credit side, our cash on hand shows an increase of just over £300,000, present conditions rendering it advisable to err on the safe side with regard to liquid assets. Bullion shows a decrease of £88,000. Our investment account, at £274,650, shows a slight increase. Had it not been for our subscription to the Four and a-Half per Cent. War Loan the figures would have been considerably reduced owing to investments maturing and being disposed of. The War Loan is taken at cost price, while the other securities, when officially quoted, have been written down to prices current on December 31. To effect this the amount provided for further contingencies last year has had to be drawn upon. You will, no doubt, have observed that India Three and a-Half per Cent Sterling Certificates for the face value of £25,000 are now held by the Bank of England on behalf of the Government of India, a corollary to our being entrusted with the Government of India's accounts at Basra. On loans receivable and advances we see an increase of nearly half a million, and I should like to repeat that this amount represents liquid assets which have been subjected to the most careful scrutiny on the part of your directors. A large portion consists of advances sterling against documentary bills of exchange on India which are continually maturing and might almost be placed under the heading of bills discounted. Technically, however, we only make an *advance* against the bills and documents, and they, therefore, appear where they do. The trade of the world has been handicapped in many ways, and naturally we as foreign bankers have suffered. You will remember at our last meeting I told you that the outlook in India was good, and that the amount of surplus wheat available for export from that country was likely to be very large. Unfortunately for our business, the Indian Government prohibited the export of wheat, and took into their own hands the buying, shipping, and selling of the crop, employing for this purpose the merchant firms of India who had previously conducted similar business. The financing of the shipments, the operation in which we are particularly interested, was taken over by the Government, who treated the wheat as remittances to the Secretary of State for India. The conditions in India during the year under review were not conducive to large profits. Money was only in very moderate demand, and no signs of improvement were shown until almost the end of the year. The local bank rates averaged just over 5½ per cent. The monsoon was very irregular, and the weather gave every appearance that the rains had finished in early September. Fortunately, however, storms brought up rain in October very beneficial to the cotton crop, which is much larger than was at one time anticipated. In common with other ports, both Bombay and Calcutta exports have been handicapped by the requisitioning of steamers by the Government for the transport of troops and other purposes. In the absence of carrying vessels, merchants have had to restrict their operations, and this state of affairs has been reflected in the decreased turnover of the bank. As notified in the Press, a branch of the bank was opened in Basra at the end of September last, and we are pleased to say that we have been entrusted with the Government of India's accounts at that port. Your directors are of opinion that the trade of Basra will increase under British rule, and hope that in the course of a short time the branch will be upon a paying basis. It will also be of great assistance to our Bagdad branch when we reopen there. I will conclude with a short reference to Bagdad. The position, as explained to you at our last general meeting, is unchanged, and we have had no communication with the branch since our European staff there was deported. The manager of the branch is now stationed at Basra, and directly conditions admit of his so doing, he will proceed to Bagdad to look after our interests there. In the meantime we can only exercise patience. I cannot close without an expression of regret at the loss we have recently suffered in the untimely death of our Calcutta manager, Mr. Harvey Jones. His furlough was almost due, but owing to illness, he left Calcutta with his wife and family towards the end of January last, and we were deeply grieved to receive news of his death at sea. He was a loyal and devoted servant to the bank, and his loss is greatly to be deplored.

The chairman formally moved the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, and the motion having been seconded by Mr. J. S. Haskell was unanimously adopted. The chairman proposed that a dividend of 5 per cent. be paid, which was duly passed. The re-election of the retiring directors, Sir Jacob E. Sassoon, Bart., and Mr. E. Francqui was agreed to. The auditors were re-elected, and a vote of thanks to the chairman and the staff was carried unanimously.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.

The half-yearly ordinary general meeting of the shareholders was held on Tuesday, Lord Rathmore, President of the Company, presiding. The following are extracts from the report of the proceedings :—

The Chairman, moving the adoption of the report of the Council, said, *inter alia* :—

The railway and its revenues remain in the possession of the Turkish Government, and we are still without any means of obtaining official information from Smyrna as to the present condition of the permanent way and rolling stock, but, as I have on a former occasion suggested to you, I think we may reasonably hope that no malicious injury has been done to our property by the Turkish authorities, nor has it, so far as we know, suffered from the military operations that have been carried out in the neighbourhood of the line. Our general manager, when he was forcibly compelled to hand over his control to the representatives of the Turkish Government, obtained from them an acknowledgment that the railway was in a state of complete working efficiency and when we recover possession of it we shall undoubtedly be entitled to claim full compensation for any damage it may have sustained, as well as for all the other serious losses which we have meanwhile suffered by the entirely unjustifiable appropriation of our property.

The accounts now presented to you are in the same form as last time, and are, of course, subject to adjustment when later returns are received. They do not include any traffic receipts on revenue account, and you will have seen that certificates for the debenture interest for the half-year to December 31 last, amounting to £74,175 4s. have been posted to the 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. stockholders in accordance with the scheme which was, as you know, approved at a special meeting of shareholders held on June 10 of last year, with the general result that there is a debit balance to be carried forward of £113,495 15s. 6d.

There is really nothing else, I think, in the report to which I need call your attention, except that, while we have continued to the leading members of our staff who have been in this country since the beginning of the war with Turkey an allowance equal to half their previous pay, we have also the pleasure of informing you that the British Government has generously undertaken on behalf of the company to advance pecuniary aid to some other members of our staff connected with the permanent way, the telegraph and other departments who remain in Smyrna or its neighbourhood. I have no such accurate or authentic information as would justify me in attempting to predict at what date we may be permitted to resume the control of this railway, in which so much English money has been invested, and which—as we may honestly claim—has conferred such great benefits upon

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large portions of the Turkish Empire. But, speaking generally, from what one reads in the newspapers and from such reports as reach us through private channels from Smyrna, I think there can be no doubt that the Turkish people are getting every day more and more thoroughly sick of the awful war, which the majority of them never desired to enter upon, which has brought them losses of territory, and losses of brave soldiers by tens of thousands, and which now threatens them with utter financial ruin, and in some parts of the country, notably in Constantinople, it would seem with absolute starvation. I think we may reasonably anticipate that such a deplorable and desperate state of affairs will not long be suffered to continue, and that in one way or another means will be found for the overthrow and the banishment from the power of doing further mischief of those sinister influences which forced the nation into this ill-starred enterprise and which is responsible for all its direful consequences. So far as we are concerned, I have the satisfaction of believing that when that happier day for Turkey arrives, the restoration to our company of the management of it own affairs and the renewal of its useful labours will be heartily welcomed by all classes of the people.

A Shareholder: I should like to ask a question in respect of the reserve fund investments. I wish to know whether the value was taken at cost, or whether they were re-valued a short time ago, and the market price entered on the balance-sheet?

Mr. G. S. Oldfield: They are entered at cost price, but on the left-hand side the value is £94,000, which was taken later, and that is taken as their value to-day. So far as account No. 15 is concerned, the investments were taken at their market-price on December 31, 1913, as the shareholder will see if he will look at the bottom of the same account; but so that you may understand their value to-day, you will see that their nominal market value is £11,298.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Right. Hon. Lord Rathmore and Mr. Frederick Single were re-elected members of the Council.

Mr. G. S. Oldfield, in proposing a vote of thanks to the President and Council, said:—"It seems to me, with regard to the war, that things look better, both in a military and economic sense, than they did six months ago. Our Russian Allies have made great progress in Persia and Asia Minor, and have, in fact, crept up to the southern shores of the Black Sea. They have, moreover, done a great deal towards breaking the power of the Turk, which is of immense value to us owning a railway in Asia Minor. . . . As to the economic position, the value of the German mark is constantly falling on all the exchanges of Europe, and its purchasing power is constantly growing less." Mr. Dyson Weston, seconding the motion, suggested that if the Bagdad Railway goes abegging, the company should endeavour to get it instead of receiving an indemnity in cash, to which the President replied that the suggestion would be carefully borne in mind.

EGYPT AND LEVANT STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

At an extraordinary general meeting of this company, held at Athens at the temporary Head Office, 34, Stadium Street, on March 10, the following resolution was proposed as an extraordinary resolution:—That the Articles of Association be altered in the following manner:—(1) By substituting in Article 33 the figures "76" for the figures "79"; (2) by cancelling Article 79; and (3) by substituting in Article 76 for the words "Votes may be given either personally or by proxy" the words "Votes may be given either personally or by proxy, but holders of share warrants shall be entitled to vote by proxy only in respect of the shares or stock included in such warrants as shall have been deposited, together with a statement in accordance with the conditions of Article 33 (n) and at any general meeting and any adjournment thereof which may be held during the period during which their share warrants shall remain so deposited." The resolution having been passed by the required majority it will be submitted for confirmation as a special resolution to a second extraordinary meeting.

AUSTRO-BULGARIAN FINANCE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, March 10.

It is announced from Budapest that financial circles are occupied with the creation of an Austro-Hungarian-Bulgarian Bank, to deal principally in trade between the two countries. The capital is to be ten million francs, and the head office is to be at Sofia, with branches at Vienna, Budapest and Berlin. The proposed title is the Industrial Bank of Central Europe.

To ease the financial pressure, long leave is to be granted in the proportion of 30 per cent. to all classes with the Greek colours. The Reservists of the 1912 and 1913 classes, who have served a longer term than the rest, will be granted leave in the proportion of 50 per cent.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—At the General Meeting of the National Bank of Egypt, held in Cairo on the 25th March, 1916, a DIVIDEND of 8s. per share was DECLARED PAYABLE on the 28th March, 1916, for the year ended 31st December, 1915. Coupon No. 22 will, therefore, be payable on and after 28th March, 1916. Coupons must be listed on forms to be obtained at the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, London, E.C.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Notice is hereby given that the THIRTEENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt will be held at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo, on Thursday, the 20th April, 1916, at 4 o'clock p.m., for the purpose, among other things, of:—

Receiving the Directors' Report;
Receiving the Auditors' Report;
Approving the Accounts for the period ended 31st January, 1916;
Declaration of Dividends;
Election of Directors;
Election of Auditors and fixing their remuneration;
And the transaction of the general business of the Ordinary General Meeting.

Every shareholder holding a minimum of Five Shares has the right to attend the General Meeting, provided the Shares are deposited at least five days before the day of the Meeting (the last day for depositing the Shares in London is the 5th April, 1916), when Cards of Admission and Proxy forms will be handed to them at one of the following places:—

In Egypt—At the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo.
At the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria.
In London—At the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.

F. T. ROWLATT, President.

Cairo, 29th March, 1916.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

CAIRO EXCHANGE.

Côtes du 14 Mars, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt	£	11 2/16	to	11 3/8
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	89 1/2	,,	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11	,,	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5	,,	5 1/4
priv.	L.E.	3 1/16	,,	3 1/8
Lots Turcs, oblig	Frs.	127	,,	128
Bons de Panama	Frs.	94	,,	95
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs.	49 1/2	,,	50
Privilégiée	Frs.	92	,,	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	72	,,	73
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2 5/16	,,	2 3/8
Comptoir Financier and Commercial d'Egypte	£	1/4	,,	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1/4	,,	3/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	7/16	,,	3/32
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	4	,,	—
Bonded Warehouse	L.E.	4	ex coupon	
Unifiée	LE.	79 3/8	to	79 1/2
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4	,,	—
Fondateur	£	18	,,	—
Pressage et dépôts	£	27 1/2	,,	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	1 7/8	,,	2
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	3 1/8	,,	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3 7/8	,,	—
Ord.	£	14/3	,,	14/6
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3 1/2	,,	—
Egypt. Delta Light Railway	£	5 1/2	,,	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£	108	,,	—
Jouissance	£	158	,,	160
Egyptian Markets		22/9	,,	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	160	,,	—
Div.	Frs.	106	,,	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	85	,,	90
Egyptian Salt and Soda		15/6	,,	—
Crédit Foncier Egypt	Frs.	580	ex coupon	
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	314	to	314 1/2
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	256 1/2	,,	257
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	252 1/4	,,	253
Delta Land	£	3/8	,,	—
Port Said Salt		29/3	,,	—
Cotton Ginners	£	3/8	,,	—
New Egyptian	£	6/9	,,	—
United Land	P.T.	5	,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.		25/6	,,	25/9
Fondateur		95/-	,,	—

Marché nul.

LONDON EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89 1/2xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	77½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	65
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	65
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	56
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	47
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	45
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	52
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	51
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	60
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	75
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	77
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	68½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47 7/8
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	4⅜
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6⅜
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69½
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10⅜
Bank of Abyssinia	¼	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1⅛
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	11½xd
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13¼
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 7/8	—	3/4
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2½
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8½	—	5⅜
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/-
Do. Def.	½	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	8/9
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	81
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	3/8
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅜
,, ,, Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	72½
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	6/9
Sidi Salem Co.	1/8	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	⅜
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	—	23/6
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/8	—	16/-
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	17/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	—	3 7/16
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2¼	—	1⅜

OIL.	Price on Mar. 15.	Mar. 28.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	8/3	7/-
Anglo-Persian	19/3	19/3
European Oilfields	3/3	4/-
Roumanian	12/-	14/9

PARIS BOURSE.

	Mar. 15.	Mar. 27.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	432	445
Canal de Suez	3940	4050
Credit Foncier Egyptien	605	605
Turkish Unified 4%	57	57
Egyptian Unified 4%	86.55	88.60
Serbian, 1895	60.70	60.70

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 257.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The arrival of the Prince Regent of Serbia in London last week was the occasion of a remarkable public demonstration, which reflected the admiration felt throughout the British Empire for the heroic struggle of the Serbians against the common enemy. This is not the time for mere formal visits of courtesy. Prince Alexander and his Prime Minister have come to London on business bent, and beyond the official welcome at the railway station no attempt has been made to invest the stay of our Serbian visitors with anything in the nature of a State character. But in the warmth of the welcome the representatives of Serbia received from the London public the nation, we hope, will draw the best augury for the realization of the aspirations to which it has clung through storm and stress, through evil and good repute.

The spontaneous welcome of the British public found striking support in the well-chosen words of the deputation of prominent public men which waited on the Prince Regent last Wednesday to express their admiration of and sympathy with Serbia. Its spokesmen were the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Mayor of London. It had been hoped that a welcome might be extended to Prince Alexander in a more official way at the Mansion House, but in view of the private nature of his visit the Prince was unable to accept the Lord Mayor's invitation. The picturesqueness of a Mansion House function was lost, but the numbers and representative character of the deputation, the eloquence and sincerity of the speeches amply made up for it.

Although deprived of their country, the Serbians have not given up the struggle. An army, generally estimated at 150,000 men, remains in being, and is now recuperating with a view to participating afresh in the war under more favourable conditions than when it was left to bear single-handed the whole weight of the Austro-German frontal attack and the Bulgarian stab in the back. But a nation in the plight in which the Serbians find themselves needs to be buoyed up by very definite hopes, if it is to put forth its best effort. The present interlude in Serbia's struggle provides a fitting opportunity for an exchange of views between the Allies, which their preoccupations in the past, particularly those of the Serbian Government, have rendered difficult. General assurances regarding the restoration of Serbian integrity and independence have been given often enough; but what is required is a more definite understanding regarding the future of Serbia after the war.

The object of the visit of Prince Alexander and M. Pashitch to London is to continue the negotiations already begun in Rome and transferred to Paris on the question of the creation of a Southern Slav State. With the final victory of the Allies, the Serbians and the Serbs, Croatians, and Slovenes of Austria-Hungary look for union in a single Jugo-Slav State, which alone can satisfy the aspirations of their race. They urge, and with some justice, that the formation of such a State is an essential condition of the liberty of Europe. But difficulties arise in connection with the delimitation of the new frontiers, for a Greater Serbia must reach to the Adriatic, and if it were to obtain too large a portion of the coast-line, Italy would feel that her supremacy in that sea were challenged. In order to forestall the Serbians, the Italian Government made it a condition of Italy's participation in the war that certain districts should be ceded to her in the event of the Allies' victory. The Italian demands, which would naturally not err on the side of moderation, were apparently agreed to without discussion; certainly no attempt was made to reconcile them with Southern Slav aspirations. With a fuller knowledge of the Near Eastern question the Allied Governments have come to appreciate the justice of the Serbians' request for a more equitable settlement than was provided for in the agreement with Italy. It remains, therefore, to express in concrete form the "second thoughts" of the Allies on this subject, which Italy, we are glad to note, also shares.

In view of the failure of the Allies to save Serbia from sharing Belgium's fate, it is to be hoped that the light of the good work done by the British Adriatic Mission will not be permanently hidden under the official bushel. That Mission has now finished its labours and returned to England. It was despatched with the object of succouring Serbian refugees, but it soon found that its real task was to enable the Serbian Army to make good its escape from the overwhelming numbers of the Austro-German and Bulgarian forces. Instead of a mere distributing medium it became an emergency corps of engineers to the Serbian Army, charged with all manner of duties from the maintenance of lines of communication for the retreating troops to the building of bridges and landing stages. It was thus instrumental in the saving of the Serbian Army. Its record, if told in full, will afford a striking contrast between the energy and

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resourcefulness of a small unit, and the paralysis in high quarters that was responsible for the delay in the despatch of Allied troops to the succour of Serbia.

The pen of the interviewer is clearly a more favourite weapon with King Constantine of Greece than the sword. Not long ago he called in an American correspondent to fight his battles against the Allies, and took the opportunity of informing the world that he regarded their treatment of Greece as on a par with Germany's treatment of Belgium. This outburst was treated by the Allies at its proper value, and in due course his Majesty expressed a desire not only to converse but even to entertain at dinner the terrible arch-Huns of Salonika in the persons of the French Commander-in-Chief and the General Officer Commanding the British forces. Protests against any action the Allies are reluctantly obliged to take on Greek soil now reach them through the proper diplomatic channels. But Palace interviews are still the order of the day, and a German correspondent has recently been employed by the warrior King for the purpose of a bout with his ex-Premier, M. Venizelos. In the course of a conversation with a representative of the *Berliner Tageblatt* King Constantine is reported to have said that "in political matters Venizelos is often a visionary. When Sir Edward Grey showed him from afar part of the Asiatic littoral as a reward for Greece's co-operation, he at once declared in the Chamber that we should get the whole western part of Asia Minor as far as Afiun Karahissar, and he conjured up visions of meadows and flocks of sheep."

M. Venizelos has not known how to treat King Constantine's weakness for interviews with the indifference meted out to them by the Allies. After challenging the Greek Government to repudiate the words put into the King's mouth, without eliciting any denial of them, he has returned to the charge in a Press article. King Constantine's statement is not only declared to be inaccurate, but it is urged that such assertions are prejudicial to the national interests and calculated to diminish the authority with which the post-revolutionary régime has invested the person of the Sovereign. No such statement as that attributed to him by the King was made by M. Venizelos in the Chamber or elsewhere. The article then proceeds to give M. Venizelos' version of the Greek Government's negotiations with the Allied Powers. The participation of Turkey in the war opened up the possibility of the extermination of the Greek elements in Asia Minor, while her defeat and dismemberment might transfer these elements to the dominion of other Powers. As Greece could not hope to obtain an extension of territory in the Balkans equivalent to the prospective gains of Bulgaria, M. Venizelos secured from the Entente recognition of Hellenic national aspirations in Asia Minor. This recognition was conveyed in a communication from Sir Edward Grey, dated January 24, 1915, in which the British Foreign Secretary declared that any proposal by M. Venizelos would be favourably considered. It was impossible at that time for Greece to take part in the war without Bulgarian support, and M. Venizelos endeavoured to secure the co-operation of Bulgaria by proposing to King Constantine that Greece should cede to her Kavalla and Drama, in order to secure the valuable compensations which were in prospect elsewhere.

The suggestion that Greece, in view of her inability to expand in Europe, should seek her future in Asia Minor, where her people are already settled in such large numbers, was vetoed by King Constantine from fear of Germany and Bulgaria. The opponents of M. Venizelos cite the course of the war as proof of the soundness of their attitude. But M. Venizelos makes a strong point when he asks what would have happened if in 1912, when Turkey was considered to be stronger than the Balkan States, King George had vetoed his war policy. Turkey, by transferring her forces from Asia Minor to Thrace, might well have beaten Serbia and Bulgaria, and certain Greeks would have at once acclaimed the soundness of the policy which had saved Greece from a catastrophe; whereas the result would have proved to be the aggrandisement of Turkey and the ruin of the Balkan States and of their aspirations. So now, M. Venizelos urges, the normal result of Greece's present policy may be to raise up a greater Bulgaria in the face of a smaller Greece. There are, however, forces at work which tend to counteract the results of the Greek Government's policy. Territorially, Greece may not suffer; but she will have sacrificed her reputation for statesmanship if the far-sighted administration of M. Venizelos is to be permanently abandoned for a policy that reduces the Government to a cipher and makes Royal Press interviews the main factor in home and foreign affairs.

There can be little doubt that if General Townshend's force is to be relieved at all, it must be within a very short period now. It is, therefore, no surprise to learn that General Lake has at last started a fresh move towards Kut. On April 5 the Turkish entrenched position at Umm-el-Hannah, which was unsuccessfully attacked on January 21 and again on March 8, was once more assaulted, and this time carried. The operations, it is added, are proceeding satisfactorily. Thus the opening move has been successful, and it is to be hoped that the floods will not cheat the British artillery of their due. The news will go far to relieve the public anxiety, which has increased with the gradual realization of the fact that General Townshend could not be expected to hold out indefinitely. It was not calculated to stifle comment that the Government should choose the present moment to publish, more than six weeks after its despatch, the message sent by King George to General Townshend on February 14. "I, together with all your fellow-countrymen," ran this message, "continue to follow with admiration the gallant fighting of the troops under your command against great odds. Every possible effort is being made to support your splendid resistance." The message, like the hospital arrangements, may have been overlooked, or it may have been intended to coincide with a period of the siege which was expected in the middle of February, but is only now occurring at the end of the first week of April.

It is inevitable that the tragedy of the Mesopotamian Expedition should give rise to severe criticism at home. There must always be a temptation to burke uncomfortable inquiries by pleading national interests as a reason for secrecy; but on this point the Government is on its own ground, and the public, whether accepting the excuse or dubbing it "the apotheosis of nonsense," has no other course open to it than to acquiesce. An unfortunate breach of the policy of secrecy occurs when something resembling an organized campaign to blacken General Townshend's reputation raises its head. Such a move would have been obviated by the earlier publication of the King's message. The aspersions cast on General Townshend's leadership are undoubtedly responsible for the categoric assertions made by *The Times* that the advance on Baghdad was ordered in the face of his strong objections that he had not a sufficient force for the enterprise, and that his warnings were fully and repeatedly expressed to Sir John Nixon, then in chief command in Mesopotamia.

As the fact that General Townshend was ordered to advance upon Baghdad with an inadequate force cannot be gainsaid, it would seem possible that too much is being made of the prejudice that would be done to national interests by an inquiry into the circumstances leading up to the despatch of his column from Kut. There would be no need to publish any information that could be of use to the enemy. What an inquiry would seek to establish—with a view to avoiding similar mistakes elsewhere—would be the various stages in the civil and military hierarchy through which the question of an advance on Baghdad passed, from General Townshend's objection to the final order telling him to start. It will be remembered that the Imperial Government has taken credit to itself for the fact that the advance was approved of by the military authorities in Mesopotamia, India, and England, by the India Government, and the British Government. The impressive recital of this array of master minds has been shorn of much of its effect by Lord Islington's subsequent admission that "if any representations were made by General Townshend prior to his attempted advance on Ctesiphon they would have

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been addressed to Sir John Nixon, but no such recommendation or representation had been reported home." In other words, all the higher military authorities enumerated above concurred in a step under conditions of which they were entirely ignorant without asking for the opinion of the man on the spot. General Nixon has relinquished his command. It would at least be interesting to know whether his view of the whole matter could be expressed in the words, "They asked for another 'gamble,' and I gave them one."

In Armenia the Russians continue to make steady, if slow, progress. As already explained in these pages, the lie of the country in the neighbourhood of Trebizond is against an advance from the east; great spurs from the mountain ranges run north and south, offering a succession of strongholds for the Turkish defence. The enemy's reinforcements are now in touch with the Russians, and the work of clearing these mountainous districts must necessarily prove arduous. On the Russian left flank, however, the Turks appear to have been less successful in organizing resistance, and for this circumstance the Russians may have reason to be grateful to the British pressure on the south, which compels the Turks to keep as strong a force as possible at Baghdad. The columns based on Bitlis, advancing south, have reached Khizan, more than half way to Sert, which is itself only a few marches from the upper waters of the Tigris, and the Turks are relying more on natural obstacles than their own strength to delay the Russians. In western Persia a fortress held by the Turks has also fallen after an engagement lasting four hours, and again the enemy, in falling back, showed no inclination for rearguard actions, but was actuated by the one desire to place as much ground as possible between him and the Russian force.

The sinking in broad daylight of the Russian hospital ship Portugal in the Black Sea by a German submarine adds another to the long list of senseless outrages for which the Germans are responsible. The crime was aggravated by a variety of circumstances: the Portugal was at anchor, she carried all the distinctive marks of a hospital ship, and had been recognized as such by the Turkish Government; the submarine circled round the vessel and then fired two torpedoes point-blank at her. Of the 273 persons on board only 158 were saved. The utmost indignation has been caused by this outrage in Russia, where public opinion is less accustomed to German methods of waging war on sea.

TO OUR READERS.

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

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

ALEXANDRIA. Librairie Schuler, Rue Cherif Pasha; Necsamulli and Company, 12, Rue Secostris; Librairie Calebotte, Rue Cherif Pasha; Librairie Cauro, Rue Cherif Pasha; J. Eugenides and Co., 12, Rue Cherif Pasha; Main Station Bookstall.

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

KHARTOUM. Sudan Stationery and Bookstore.

CYPRUS. Cababe and Wilson, Nicosia.

SALONIKA. Librairie Française, Rue Sabri Pasha, and Vafiades and Co.

ATHENS. Librairie Th. Vafiades.

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

CALCUTTA. 1, Royal Exchange Place.

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

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, March 21.

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

Two important events have to be chronicled this week: The first is the presence in this country of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. H.R.H., who has come out in order to join Sir Archibald Murray's staff, arrived in Cairo on Thursday and proceeded to the Residency, where he stayed the night. Next day he lunched with H.H. the Sultan after visiting several of the sights, and left again in the afternoon for Ismailia, where General Murray has his headquarters. The secret of his arrival was very well kept. Only a very privileged few were aware of his presence, and it was not until he had left for Ismailia that it was generally known that he had been in Cairo.

The Departure of General Maxwell.

The other important event—and one which one records with the deepest regret—is General Maxwell's relinquishment of the command of the forces in Egypt and his departure for England. The news came as a thunderbolt to everyone. The reason for his departure is not known, though it is not difficult to guess at the causes underlying his resignation and the motives that prompted the acceptance thereof. Feeling runs very high out here regarding his departure, especially amongst the Egyptians, who frankly regard it in the light of a calamity.

General Maxwell knew the Egyptians, and the Egyptians knew and trusted General Maxwell, who had first come amongst them some thirty years ago. He had spent the best part of his military career in their midst, and they had grown to love and respect him. It was these factors, the confidence he inspired, and his deep knowledge of Egyptian affairs that were the main arguments brought forward in his favour when the position of G.O.C. in Egypt fell vacant in October, 1914.

Since he assumed the military control of Egypt on November 2, 1914, General Maxwell has had a most difficult task to perform. Few people realize what a position of that nature in such a cosmopolitan country as Egypt means: what an abundance of detail work is entailed; what conflicting interests have to be conciliated, in spite of the exempting existence of martial law; what lurking dangers have to be guarded against. It required a man of no mean administrative ability and experience successfully to cope with such a situation as existed in Egypt in the autumn of 1914, and the various communities frankly considered themselves exceedingly fortunate that the crisis which broke over their heads at that period found such a man as General Maxwell in supreme control.

That his administration has been a conspicuous success no one out here would for one moment dream of disputing. We have lived for the past sixteen months under the *régime* of martial law, but there have been,

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and are still, few outward signs of its existence. There has been a total absence of friction with the civil authorities, through whom most of the interior administration has been done, and of untoward incidents, which, given the elements to hand and the almost frantic efforts made by our enemies to stir up trouble for us in all our colonies inhabited by Moslems, the unfortunate course of events in the Balkans since April last might quite easily have called into being.

The comparatively uneventful history of the country during the past sixteen months and its present eminently satisfactory political and economic condition speak eloquently in justification of the wise selection made in the autumn of 1914, and in praise of General Maxwell's administration. The secret of his success has been that the sentiments underlying his tactful proclamations in November and December, 1914, have continued to be the guiding line of his policy, that he has kept in close touch with all elements of the population by his accessibility at all times, that he has been able to bring to bear his own personal experience on the multifarious questions that under martial law had perforce to be submitted to him, and that he has known when to be firm and when to concede a point.

I have said that feeling is strong out here with regard to his resignation. There is the keenest resentment that things should have ever got to such a pass that he should have felt impelled to resign a position that he has filled so conspicuously well. It is generally admitted that someone has blundered again, and the liveliest sympathy is openly expressed with our late G.O.C., who for his services during a most critical period deserved far better treatment at the hands of his chiefs, and who, if only he had been left undisturbed, would have asked for nothing better than to be allowed to continue to administer Egypt until peace automatically brought the military *régime* to a close.

The one consolation—and it must assuredly be a precious one—which General Maxwell can perhaps derive from his resignation, is that it has evoked from all communities the liveliest expressions of sympathy and of appreciation of his efforts. The local Press has contained numerous articles on the subject. H.H. the Sultan gave a farewell banquet in his honour at Abdin on Saturday evening, when genuinely affected speeches were exchanged between host and guest. The Mohammed Ali Club also gave a dinner in his honour on Sunday, and if time had permitted the other local institutions would similarly have fêted him.

The most significant tribute has, however, undoubtedly come from the Egyptian community, which was so moved by the news of the General's imminent departure that it decided to give expression to its feelings by a *thé d'honneur*, which was held at the Continental Hotel yesterday afternoon, and over which H.H. Prince Fuad, the Sultan's brother, presided. The large dining-rooms and the terrace were packed with several thousand Egyptians, ministers, ex-ministers, pashas, beys, ulema, the heads of the various religious communities, notables from the far distant provinces, and Bedouin sheikhs, with whom, it may be added, were prominent members of the European communities. It was indeed a notable farewell, and the pleasing feature about it was that it was an absolutely spontaneous demonstration. Farewell receptions have before now been given in Cairo to departing statesmen and generals, but they have always been more or less organised by one or other official body. Yesterday's event was, however, a purely personal effort on the part of the Egyptian community, and as such it is all the more a compliment to General Maxwell.

The Mixed Courts.

The difficulty to which reference has been made in recent letters is now at an end, as Italy has signified her unconditional acquiescence in the extension of the powers of the Mixed Courts, which took place on February 1. The Italian judges will now resume their seats, and all the adjourned cases will come on the cause list again.

The vacancy left in the Mixed Court of Appeal by the death of Judge Sandars has been filled by the promotion of Mr. H. W. Halton, President of the Cairo Court of First Instance. Mr. Halton, who was first associated with the Ministry of Justice in 1897, and was promoted from the Native Court of Appeal to the Mixed Courts in 1909, has done much valuable work in this country. He is very popular on the Bench, and was elected, by the vote of his colleagues, first Vice-President in 1913 and then in 1914 President of the Cairo Mixed Court. His promotion has been well received. It is as yet not known who will be chosen to fill the vacant English judgeship in the lower court.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Poverty and Unemployment.

Want of work and money continues to be felt in many parts, and sympathy is felt with those who live by work at the roadsteads. At Larnaca, for example, where in time of peace several lines of steamers call regularly, many have been thrown out of employment. The mail steamer touches only once a week, and remains but a few hours. Exports, too, have been steadily decreasing from this district. It is hoped that some relief work may be provided by Government. The municipality and people have applied for it, and it is suggested that it should be found in carrying out improvements on the sea-front.

Judicial Appointments and Transfers.

The Government has decided to equalise the emoluments of the native judges, whose salaries will henceforth be £250 a year, except that of the Nicosia judge, which is fixed at £275. In each of the six districts there is a British President, and there are two native judges (Turkish and Greek). Numerous transfers are being carried out, to date from April 1. It is also stated that in future these judges will not serve for more than five years in any one district, except at Nicosia, where vacancies, as they occur, will be filled according to seniority. There are also various changes among the registrars of the courts.

Warning to Emigrants.

The Greek Press is strongly urging Cypriots, who in increasing numbers have been preparing to emigrate to America, to exercise more caution. The *Phoné Tes Kyprou* ("Voice of Cyprus") says that American papers, it is true, have stated that there is employment for thousands on the railways of Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania, in mines, and on the quays of New York, wages averaging 4s. a day. But probably vacant places have already been filled up. Amongst others, hundreds of Greeks from Hellas have rushed to the United States on the strength of the reports and notices referred to; but, according to papers from Athens, 170 of them, finding no employment, have returned to their homes, sadder and wiser. The paper, while deploring the depletion of the small island population, urges more prudence. Emigration to these distant places should not be made except on trustworthy assurance of friends already settled there that suitable employment can be at once provided. The agent for a Greek national steamship service advertizes passages, including food, at 275 francs (£11) from Piræus to New York; and fares at moderate rates are also offered from Alexandria to the States.

Union of Greek Ladies.

For years past ladies of the Greek community have taken a far more active part than formerly in organising local movements for charity, education, hospital visiting, and other good objects. A society, formed under the above title, with the object of promoting progress among the fair sex, is taking fresh steps to carry out its aims. At a late meeting of its council it has been decided to send one of the most promising pupils of the Nicosia schools to Athens to perfect herself in various kinds of skilled handiwork, and to qualify herself to hold classes on her return for the instruction of Cypriot girls. The decision is to be commended, as there is much room for an advance in various directions. From other towns some years ago girls were sent to learn hospital nursing, with excellent results. The funds at the disposal of this society, as in the case of others in Cyprus, are very limited, and more support is needed to carry out its objects.

Church Conflagration.

At the picturesque village of Pharmakas, in the Nicosia district, the principal church was destroyed by fire some five years ago, and the rebuilding has not been quite completed. A portion of the edifice in which such church properties as had been saved were kept, and which had served temporarily as a village church, has now been burned down. The ikon of St. Irene only was saved. The fire was due to the carelessness of a servant of the church, who had left a taper burning in its wooden receptacle. Pharmakas is well worthy of a visit by any one who is in the neighbourhood. Close to it is a fine shady plantation of walnut trees, and in spring, when it is full of nightingales, it is a very attractive spot.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, March 24.

An Unhappy Menage.

As so often happens in the case of *ménages* that find themselves in difficulties, and for similar reasons, dissensions and bickerings have taken place in the Cabinet, the ill-assorted members of which have never been in perfect harmony, especially since the death of M. Theotokis. As I intimated in my last letter, the Finance Minister, M. Dragoumis, had intended placing before the Chamber this week a long list of new and heavy taxes, some of which were of a vexatious character, and were to be made retrospective. These imposts, from which M. Dragoumis hoped to obtain a round hundred million drachmai to balance this year's Budget, would have had the effect, among other things, of making the cost of living even higher than it is, and, especially for the poorer classes, almost impossible. Consequently, the announcement of these taxes and the publication of details have given rise to a storm of protests and considerable dissatisfaction. Even the Ministerial organs, fearful of becoming unpopular by adopting any other course, have strongly condemned the proposed new taxes. The *Nea Himera*, which is the principal organ of the Cabinet, and particularly of M. Gounaris, points out that the transitory character of the present Ministry does not permit of its undertaking such radical financial reforms, and adds quite frankly that if there are among the Ministers any who insist on the taxes they should be told to go. A noisy demonstration, organised by a crowd of women—wives, sisters, and mothers of men who have been mobilized—has taken place in front of the Ministry of the Interior, where M. Gounaris was besought to pay the monthly allowances that are overdue. The Government is naturally concerned at such incidents, and thus such members of it as wish to retain their popularity, especially the leader of the majority, M. Gounaris, have strongly opposed the fiscal measures proposed by M. Dragoumis, who, according to the same Ministerial journals, has had to abandon them almost entirely. It appears that he has confined himself to a small tax on the war profits of the mercantile marine and flour merchants, as well as a tax on men who have not served in the army, and several other small imposts, the yield of which will go to the families of those who are with the Colours.

Partial Demobilization.

As the proposed taxation has thus failed, and as, moreover, the negotiations recently undertaken in Paris to obtain a loan of 150 millions have, for political reasons that are obvious, no chance of success, the Government is faced with the necessity of effecting a partial demobilization of the army by granting long leaves, which will reduce the number of men with the Colours by about 200,000. This will, of course, greatly ease the economic situation; but the cost of maintaining the other two-thirds of the army in the field will, nevertheless, be very considerable, and one wonders how the expenditure is to be met. One may be permitted to point out the fact that the present Government would not have been placed in such economic difficulties if, as soon as the Allies had fortified themselves at Salonika, and when consequently there was no further danger of a sudden invasion by Bulgaria, it had taken the precaution to demobilize, leaving sufficient troops to guard the remainder of the frontier, *i.e.*, the eastern portion of Macedonia (Kavalla), making provision for calling up in a few days, if necessary, the remainder of the reserves.

The Mobilization Secret.

The Ministerial organs, egged on by the Venizelist Press, which daily asks, why, since there is no intention of taking action, the army is not demobilized, declare again that there is a secret reason, known also to M. Venizelos, which necessitates the maintenance of the mobilization. The *Patris*, however, retorts, evidently on behalf of M. Venizelos, that there is absolutely no secret, and challenges the Governmental Press to declare openly what the supposed mysterious reason is. Another Ministerial paper states that the mobilization of the troops is being upheld with a view to defeat the schemes of those who are endeavouring to drag Greece into the war.

The Government's Precarious Position.

These new difficulties having been added to those already existing, the political situation is of a necessity very precarious, and in many circles it is believed that the life of the Government is drawing to its end. The paper *Athenai*, commenting on the situation, states that the Government is in a "state of decomposition." Nevertheless, its life can be prolonged indefinitely owing to the difficulty of finding its successor. Considering that a Cabinet presided over by M. Gounaris, leader of the majority, would be worse off than the present Cabinet, it has been suggested, during the past few days in some quarters, that a Ministry presided over by M. Rallis should be formed. This does not seem likely, however. The general opinion is that the only possible combination is a Zaïmis Cabinet, which could, to a certain extent, rely on the financial support of the Entente Powers.

Electoral Scandals.

The decision of the Court of Appeal against the late Prefect of Salonika, M. Goudas, for his scandalous intrigues with the Turks, in favour of the Gounaris Party during the elections last May has created a deplorable impression in Athens, more particularly the facts contained in an official document to the effect that M. Goudas promised the Turks that Greece would not declare war on Turkey, that their compatriots who had left would be reinstated in their possessions—in spite of the fact that these properties had been handed over to Greeks who had been driven out of Turkey—and, finally, that they would be allowed to wear the fez. As a matter of fact, this latter privilege had already been accorded to them when Parliament was sitting, in which, thanks to M. Goudas, about fifteen Turkish deputies had their seats.

THE CROWN PRINCE OF SERBIA AT A LECTURE BY MRS. STOBART.

On Wednesday the Crown Prince of Serbia was present at the St. James's Theatre, when Mrs. St. Clair Stobart delivered an address describing the experiences of herself and the hospital unit she organised to assist the Serbian army. Sir George and Lady Alexander, with several other distinguished people, received the Prince on his arrival, and Sir George subsequently formally introduced Mrs. Stobart to the audience.

Mrs. Stobart said that when she opened her dispensary at Kragujevatz so great was the need of medical assistance that within a few weeks no less than 12,000 people had attended. Seeing the urgent necessity there was, she wrote home to the Serbian Relief Fund, who sent out material and *personnel* for six more dispensaries, which were established. In September came the invasion, and she with her unit accompanied the Serbian army first in its advance to meet the enemy, and then in the retreat southwards and across the Albanian mountains to the coast. During three months of retreat her party never once entered a town that was not either already deserted or about to be evacuated by the people fleeing from the approaching enemy, and during this time they were without letters or news from home. With the Serbian army went many thousands of old men, women, and children, taking their household goods. The greatest hardships were experienced in crossing the Albanian mountains. These were impassable to the four-wheeled ox-wagons; so the wagons of Mrs. Stobart's party were cut in half, the fore part becoming thus a two-wheeled cart, while the after-part was abandoned. Whatever could not be carried in the reduced space was left behind. Later, even the two-wheeled carts could go no farther, and only such things as could be carried on the backs of ponies could be taken with the party. Food was scarce, and shelter for the night could not usually be obtained—sometimes not even a piece of level ground on which to lie down. On such occasions, having scraped away the snow, the members of the party would lie down with their heads on the higher part of the slope and with logs at their feet to prevent them slipping downwards while asleep. At Scutari Mrs. Stobart surrendered the command of her little column, after having brought it intact through a journey of, altogether, about 800 miles.

After the lecture a collection was taken up in aid of Serbian hospitals.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, March 11.

Stagnation at Salonika.

We are at present passing through a period of almost complete stagnation at Salonika. Men and munitions continue to arrive, and the military movements in and around the town follow their normal course without hindrance from the enemy. The chief enemy that our men have to contend against during these days is the weather. I hesitate to mention the subject again, but I must record that we have been visited during the past week by another deluge which surpassed that of the previous week in violence and duration. The roads are almost impassable, and the Army Service Corps horses and mules look as if they had been rolling in the mud. In the neighbourhood of the French headquarters there is quite a large lake near the seashore, and a local newspaper suggests that a good lookout should be kept in case a German submarine sails right up and torpedoes the building.

Our sailors are supposed to be used to the water, but when they come ashore they expect to find dry land. During the last few days, however, they could find none. The other night, when returning home at a somewhat late hour, I found one of our tars wading aimlessly along through a veritable lake near the railway station, while the rain poured on his unprotected head. I hailed him, and suggested he should choose a less liquid path. "That doesn't matter," he said, "I'm as wet as I can be. I'm trying to find the sea and my pier, but here I seem to be afloat already, and I've quite lost my bearings." I indicated the direction in which the water was salt, and he trudged away towards his own element. Our soldiers generally have suffered much inconvenience during the past week, and the language they use about this place is more sulphurous than ever.

Control of Local Supplies.

A "Mixed Commission" has been created by the Allies in conjunction with the Greek authorities to regulate the sale or transport of supplies for the civil population throughout this part of Greece. As I indicated in a previous letter, a considerable quantity of petroleum and other goods have been finding their way over the frontier, and as no amount of moral suasion will prevent Greeks and others from engaging in contraband traffic, it has been decided to form this Commission. I learn that it will consist of the British Consul-General (Mr. Wratislaw), a French officer, and the Greek Prefect. They will control the supply of goods by sea and land to certain points, and will also limit these supplies strictly to the actual needs and usual consumption of the places in question. The Commission has not yet held any public sittings, and meantime supplies are being held up, so that there is quite a famine in some districts as far as petroleum and some other necessaries are concerned. The restrictions are very severe, and, of course, result from the recent decision to tighten the cord which is strangling Germany and her allies.

German Sentinel Captured.

A French patrol consisting of seven Chasseurs d'Afrique, while making their rounds last Wednesday night near our advanced lines here, observed a German sentinel a short distance away with his head resting on his rifle, and apparently half asleep. The chasseurs at once dismounted and carefully "stalked" the *Boche*. Creeping around by a long circuitous route they succeeded in suddenly covering the sentinel's head with a sack and binding him fast. They eventually conveyed him in a motor-car to the French lines. Two of his captors were Alsatians, and in order to mislead their prize talked in German during the journey, pretending that they were Germans, who, finding the sentry asleep at his post, were taking him before his superior officer.

One can imagine his surprise when, after being relieved of the sack over his head, he found himself facing the French General Frotié and a squad of French chasseurs.

The prisoner was brought to Salonika, where he explained that he belonged to the 71st Regiment of Landwehr (Militia), forming part of the 113th Division. He declared that his division was at present between Ghevgeli and Doiran. He confirmed the rumours as to friction between the Germans and Bulgarians, and added that large quantities of ammunition were being hurried to the Balkan front. This seems to indicate an early attack; but, of course, one cannot entirely rely on the word of such an informant. Curiously enough, another German was captured yesterday. He is a deserter, and corroborates a good deal of the information given by the other prisoner, as well as that learned by the French aviators.

German Submarines at Porto Lagos.

I give the following entertaining story, from a Greek source, for what it is worth. At the time of the recent elections in Greece the mayor of a Greek town near the Bulgarian frontier, who was known to be Venezelist, had to give place to a Gounarist, and therefore pro-German, official, who would be more likely to see that the Gounarist candidate received every possible assistance. The Gounarist had already been appointed, but had not yet taken over his duties. He was to do so the following day. Meantime a Bulgarian officer arrived in town to confer with the Gounarist mayor on certain confidential matters. He called at the mayor's offices, and assuming that he was talking to the sympathetic Gounarist he opened his heart to the Venezelist. Among other things he told him that German submarines had been sent down in sections to Porto Lagos, where they were being put together in order to attack the Allied ships. The Venezelist ex-mayor left next day, and on reaching Athens communicated what he had learned to the proper authorities, who, disbelieving it, took no action. Later on submarines, which had apparently come from the quarter indicated, did appear on the scene, and it is believed they are still in this vicinity. I cannot vouch for the truth of all this, but it seems worth recording.

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DR. ELSIE INGLIS ON THE SERBS.

Speaking last Tuesday at the Criterion Theatre at a meeting over which the Earl of Selborne presided, Dr. Elsie Inglis gave an interesting account of experiences in Serbia. Of the people themselves she spoke in very high terms. As a doctor she had naturally been struck by the wonderful recuperative power of the individual Serb when under her care. Men with a temperature overnight of 106° F. would be well in the morning. The nation as a whole had the same capacity for rebound and recovery. She had never fully realised what a fine race they were until the enemy took the country and she had the opportunity of comparing its inhabitants with some Russian prisoners. Then she saw that while the Russian of the peasant class had a peasant's hand, the hand and foot of the Serb of the same class were beautifully formed; this, as every doctor knew, indicated a well-developed nervous system. Dr. Inglis praised the Serbs for their well-known courage and fidelity, and said their principal fault was their laziness. Another characteristic that seemed strange to us was their indifference to money.

Of the Germans she said that it was a great mistake to regard them as a beaten foe. Their soldiers, as she had seen them in Serbia, were still confident of victory, and extremely boastful of what they would yet do. One of them told her that the German Fleet intended to seize Gibraltar and close the Mediterranean. She replied by asking whether it would come to the Mediterranean overland. Another lady doctor, a friend of hers, had found an even more effective answer to this sort of brag. Once when a boastful German was talking of what his nation had accomplished she replied, "That is all very true, but you see we English have only just begun." This retort was so successful that it was repeated when opportunity arose on a number of occasions, and never failed to reduce the confidence, the arrogance, and conceit of the persons to whom it was addressed.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, March 19.

The National Ideal.

M. Alexandre Marghiloman opened on Sunday last, at Ploeshti, the new headquarters of what, for want of a better term, we must call the Conservative-Marghiloman Club. It will be remembered that M. Marghiloman had not long been leader of the Conservative Party when a violent disruption occurred in consequence of the majority disagreeing with his somewhat equivocal views on the subject of the country's foreign policy. This led to a reconstitution of the party under M. Nico Filipesco's leadership. The new formation is, however, not recognised by the minority, who remained faithful to M. Marghiloman, and who therefore persist in considering themselves the Conservative Party, and look upon M. Filipesco as a usurper.

On the occasion of the opening of the new headquarters M. Marghiloman made a speech which still forms a subject of comment on the part of Press and public. He started by referring to the Crown Council held at Sinaia in the early days of August, 1914, and its decision to adopt provisionally a policy of neutrality, and to take measures for the defence of Roumania's frontiers against any violation of her neutrality. He deplored that such measures have only been taken on the Western and Southern frontiers, the fact apparently escaping him that the country has only been menaced from these directions. Further, the decisions of the Crown Council are not necessarily binding to the end of the war, and its authority is not such as to impose upon the Government the obligation of establishing expensive and useless defences on a long front which is immune from attack, for the mere purpose of keeping up a ridiculous show of impartiality.

M. Marghiloman then proceeded to criticise those who would realise a part of their ideals of national and territorial union at the expense of the other, and proclaimed his conviction that Roumania's "aspirations" can be realised in their entirety, and condemned the policy which would imply a renunciation of any part of the national ideal.

So far, good. No patriot can carp at this attitude, for there is no Roumanian but desires that Bessarabia may one day become part of a greater Roumania. M. Marghiloman, however, was, unfortunately, not content with this statement, but proceeded to give himself away by adding that Roumania could very well turn her glances towards the East, while obtaining privileges and concessions for the Roumanians of the West. Here again his argument breaks down, for the modest concessions so often solicited in vain would certainly not be granted to her natural enemy by a victorious Hungarian nation puffed up with the pride of conquest.

A Swedish Legation in Bucharest.

Baron de Beck Früs, the Swedish Minister in Vienna, has been accredited in the same capacity to the court of Bucharest. On March 18th he was received, together with the Swedish Military Attaché, M. Oscar de Ström, by King Ferdinand, to whom he presented his credentials, in the presence of M. Bratiano, President of the Council, and of M. Porambaru, Minister for Foreign Affairs. Great importance is said to be attached in Stockholm to the creation of a Swedish Legation in Bucharest. The fact of a diplomatic minister occupying at one and the same time, under present circumstances, the posts of Vienna and Bucharest, gives food for reflection. . . . Baron de Früs' situation may prove to be no easy one, and will call for the display of considerable tact.

The Death of a Spy.

A short time ago the guards of the munitions depôt of Bukovatz noticed a man wandering about in the neighbourhood of the depôt. Summoned to stop, ht took to flight. The guards fired upon him, but he escaped, apparently unhit. It was only some hours later that his body was found in some bushes, where he had succumbed as a result of several bullet-wounds. Papers proving his nationality to have been Hungarian were found upon him, together with a number of bombs.

Allied Prisoners in Bulgaria.

It is said that Mr. Einstein, the United States diplomatic agent at Sofia, and the Dutch Minister, have received permission to visit the Allied prisoners in Bulgaria. They are to be accompanied by Dr. Russeff, the Director of the Sanitary Service. Let us hope that this step will lead without delay to the betterment of our prisoners' situation.

Local War News.

People arriving in Jassy from Russia report that the large mass of troops gathered at Kisener has been directed towards the frontier of Bukovina.

The *Journal des Balkans* states that it has positive information to the effect that the German and Austrian troops have been withdrawn from Hungary and the parts adjacent to the Roumanian frontier, and conveyed to the Western theatre of war.

Among the war materials brought from Germany by way of the Danube and deposited at the Rustchuk arsenal was a large number of mines. During the last few days two Austro-Hungarian minelayers have also arrived at this spot, and have commenced to take soundings. This is looked upon as a preliminary to mining operations on the river.

THE "ROMANUL."

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, March 20.

The Magyars, not content with nearly half a century's persecution of the Roumanian subjects of Francis-Ferdinand, have awakened to the fact that, with all the Roumanians capable of bearing arms at the front, there has arisen a golden opportunity for pressing on their work of denationalisation upon the population left behind. For twenty months the Roumanians of Transylvania and Bukovina have been fighting for the Habsburg monarchy with a gallantry that has aroused the grudging admiration of even the Hungarians. And against whom? Against their co-nationals of Bessarabia! For the Roumanians this war has been nothing short of compulsory fratricide. But the Magyars' hatred for the small people that will not let itself be stamped out has not been mitigated even by this sacrifice. They have now suspended for an indefinite period the *Românul*, the organ of the Roumanian National party, published at Arad in Transylvania. This would have created a painful impression had people not the hope that the Roumanian people, together with the other oppressed nations of the Dual Monarchy, will be relieved from the heavy burden that weighs upon them when this war, this "travail of the nations," has come to an end, and the new era of justice and freedom is inaugurated.

According to the Athens correspondent of *Le Petit Marseillais*, more than 30,000 Bosnians have offered themselves at the various Serbian Consulates in the United States for service with the Serbian army. Quite 11,000 presented themselves at New York alone.

In answer to observations that they were really not Serbian subjects, Bosnia now forming part of Austria, and that the mobilisation notice did not concern them, they affirmed that they considered themselves Serbians by heart and by blood, and intended to contribute under this head in defence of the common Fatherland.

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THE STATE OF TURKEY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, March 11.

I have interviewed travellers who have arrived here from Constantinople within the last few days, and they all tell the same tale: the Turks are groaning under the German yoke, and most of the people realise that their only hope is in making an early peace with England and her Allies. I am assured that the news regarding the attempt on Enver Pasha is true, but that it is believed he has only been wounded. The *Courier de Salonique*—a pro-German sheet printed in French, but which people here persist in calling *Der Kurier von Salonik*—reports that Enver Pasha and Jemal Pasha are at present on a pilgrimage to Mecca; but this seems to be another item of the "Wolff" variety, as it is very unlikely that the Turkish Minister of War would leave his post at such a critical time.

The Turkish police are still seen in the streets, but they have been largely reinforced by Germans, who seem to dominate everywhere.

Bills have been posted up denouncing Enver Pasha as the murderer of the Heir Apparent, and disturbances have taken place not only in the capital, but also at Smyrna, Broussa, and elsewhere. It is also reported, on what is declared to be the best authority, that a monster petition has been signed by about 70,000 Turks from the vilayets of Aidin, Broussa, and Konia, and addressed to the new Heir Apparent, begging him to induce the Sultan to dismiss the present Government and conclude an immediate peace with England and France. Particulars of this petition and other important matters were brought here by a person who carried the document containing them between the soles of his boot. The petition also demands the expulsion of the Germans, the dissolution of the Chamber, and other things, otherwise a revolution is threatened.

The latest news from Turkey received here this morning indicates grave happenings in that unhappy country, and a revolution seems to be nearer than people think. It is reported that the Turks have just appealed to the Bulgarians to send troops into Turkey to help to stifle a revolution, as even part of the Turkish army seems to be involved in the movement. I hear that the ammunition which the Turks had sent up to the Balkan frontier has now been returned to Constantinople in view of troubles there and farther south.

We are indebted to the kindness of a correspondent for permission to publish the following extract from a letter received on March 27, and written from Constantinople. It is of particular interest as giving definite news of the condition of some of our countrymen who have had the misfortune to be made prisoners of war. Fortunately, their lot appears to be not unbearable, and once again it is a pleasure to note how much the Americans in Turkey are doing for the prisoners:—

Mr. —— was going to see an —— Secretary away the other day viâ Haidar Pasha, Smyrna, Vola, Greek Islands, ——, when he saw on board the boat some of our men who were recovered from their wounds, and were being sent to Afion Kara Hissar. There were two officers in the saloon, and after some little trouble he got leave to speak to them. One was English—Goodwin—a flying man, and the other a French count, also a flying man. Both had lost their machines and had had their pilots killed, one in Suez and the other at the Dardanelles. Mr. —— had a shake-hands, and asked them to write to him if they wanted anything. As to the men—about twenty-five of them—he managed to shake hands with several, who told him they had nothing to complain about, but that they had no cash. They were dressed in clothes bought by the fund and sent them by the Americans. All the rest of the boys have been moved to the Harbié.

The American Red Cross have closed up and sent their things far and near. There is a talk of their next place being Syria. There are only *very* sick men coming in.

Our own British Seaman's Hospital is very likely to go, but the ladies are hanging on by a thread, as it were. They have moved most of their foodstuffs—so precious these days—and are just waiting the last two weeks for the final word.

Some of the prices at present are:—Macaroni, 27 Pts. per oke; rice, 18 Pts. per oke; flour, 16 Pts. per oke; peas, lentils, and dried broad beans, 12 Pts. per oke; candles, 5 Pts. each. We have to bake our own bread, and we are glad to do it, as we know it is clean. The black bread, as sold, is past looking at. Many people are paying 8 to 9 liras for a sack of flour.

We "hope on." "They also serve who only stand and wait." Sometimes, though, the waiting is hard.

KHARTOUM MILITARY SCHOOL.

(From a Correspondent.)

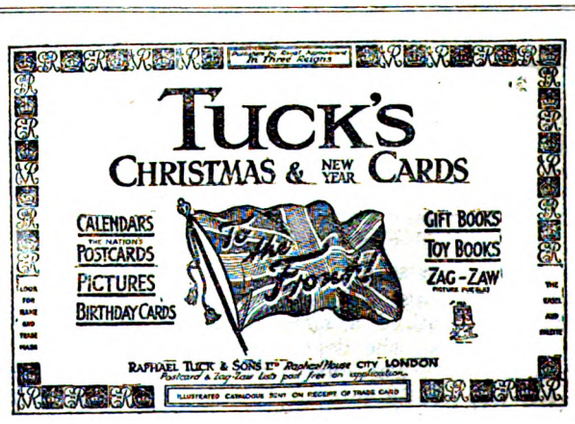
The annual prize distribution which was held recently at the Khartoum Military School reminds one of the fact that this admirable institution was established at the suggestion of the Governor-General himself after he had observed the detrimental effect that the climate of Cairo produced upon the Sudanese cadets, who formerly had to attend to receive their military training. The school is commanded by a British officer, and the cadets are recruited among the black pupils of the Gordon College. The number of pupils averages between forty and fifty, a proportion being of Arab descent, and belonging to the Jaalin, Shukria, Rizeigat, and other tribes. The majority comprise pure-blooded negroes. Cadetships are open to boys from the Gordon Memorial College, boys recommended by their headmasters through the governors of provinces, and to certain non-commissioned officers of the Sudanese battalions of the Egyptian Army. In the first two classes candidates are required to pass a simple examination in order to test their educational capabilities, after which they are medically examined and retained for a brief period in the establishment, so that it may be further ascertained whether they are likely to become suitable candidates for a military career.

The fees demanded are merely nominal, and in the majority of instances candidates succeed in being placed upon the non-paying list as a result of their parents petitioning the Sirdar for this privilege, which is very seldom refused. Of the total number of the cadets now at the Military School most are Gordon College boys, while a few are N.C.O.'s from the Sudanese battalions. There are about twenty cadets upon the paying list, for each of whom the sum of £E8 1s paid; ranker cadets are not expected to pay any fees. All cadets are boarded and lodged in the establishment, while their clothing, equipment, and books are also found for them by the Government.

The period of instruction extends over three years in the case of the Gordon College cadets, and over a period of between eighteen months and two years in the case of ranker cadets. The average time devoted to work in each week amounts to 32½ hours, and the average working-day hours are as follows: 6.30 a.m. to 7.30 a.m., and from 8.15 a.m. to 9 a.m., outdoor work; 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., indoor work.

The ranker cadets are selected specially after having proved themselves to be good instructors and disciplinarians in their units; and are attached to the school in order to improve their military education. It would seem, judging by the eulogium passed upon them year by year on the occasion of the distribution of prizes, that "their behaviour is excellent, and reflects great credit on their battalions." There is no doubt that the Sirdar's high praise—not easily secured—coupled with the method of promotion which is in force, acts as a strong impetus to the cadets, causing them to vie eagerly with one another in attaining to a state of efficiency. In this connection it is worthy of remark that Sir Reginald Wingate makes a point of addressing the lads in Arabic, of which he has a perfect command, both writing and conversing in this somewhat difficult language with complete ease.

In regard to the cadets' shooting, it may be added that they prove themselves, as a rule, very keen in the musketry course. The eyesight of these young fellows is found to be excellent. When Yacoub Pasha Artin, formerly Minister of Education at Cairo, visited the Khartoum Military School in the year 1908 he seemed to have observed particularly the precision of the cadets' firing, the majority, he tells us, "hitting the bull's eye once out of five shots, and one young fellow struck it five times out of five."



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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, March 21.

Espionage ?

Several members of Dr. Daneff's party have been arrested on a charge of espionage on behalf of Russia. There can be no doubt that the whole business is in reality due to spite on the part of King Ferdinand against Dr. Daneff, who is the only statesman who has dared to match himself against the King, and who, rather than write what his royal master wished, has suspended the publication of his paper *Bulgaria*. An attempt is therefore to be made to force him into submission, as has been done with MM. Malinoff and Ghenadieff.

The persons arrested, it is important to observe, are accused of spying in Turkey, not in Bulgaria, and this, too, before Bulgaria entered into the war. Moreover, the case of one of the accused, Prutkine, the captain of a merchant vessel, shows how the whole affair has been trumped up. For Prutkine is accused of having sold plans of the minefields of Varna, but the witness on whose evidence the charge rests, a pilot, stands discredited already, as it is proved by Prutkine's log-book that on the day when he is supposed to have asked for information about the mine plans he was not even in Varna. Apart from this, there is the fact that he had previously brought his ship into Varna unaided, thus showing that he, like other nautical men, had no need of any chart of the minefields, even if he had wished to sell them.

Aliens to be Enrolled.

A large number of aliens residing in Bulgaria, especially Armenians and Jews, have hitherto escaped military service on the grounds of being Turkish or Persian subjects. Now, however, an order of the Ministry of War orders all those between the age of twenty and forty-six years to perform military service in Bulgaria; otherwise they risk being expelled.

The Gregorian Calendar.

The Bill for the introduction of the Gregorian calendar is now before the Sobranje, and if it passes, as seems probable, the change will come into force on April 14. The Bill contains nine clauses, and provides for religious festivals, etc., being reckoned according to the changed calendar. It is interesting to recall that some ten years ago a proposal for altering the calendar was discussed by the Governments of the Balkan countries, but had to be abandoned on account of objections raised by the clergy. To-day it looks as if the steam-roller policy of the Germans in Bulgaria will force the change.

Persecution of Greeks.

Reports continue to arrive of the persecution by the Bulgarians of the Greek population in the occupied Serbian territory. The *Komitajis*, especially, encouraged by the Bulgarian officers, have commenced a ferocious campaign in order to "Bulgarize" the territory.

At the beginning of the occupation the Bulgarians behaved quite well, but lately they have commenced what looks like an attempt to exterminate the Greeks. They ill-treat the women, rob the men, and generally inspire so much terror that the luckless Greeks are flying the country *en masse*. According to trustworthy information, out of 300 Greek families at Ghevgeli not one remains; from Bogdanitza, too, the Greek element has entirely disappeared; at Valandovo the Bulgarians have occupied 150 Greek houses by force; and at Doiran the Greeks are treated in similar fashion.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF EGYPT

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A NEW EDITION.*

It is always a pleasure to meet an old friend decked up in the finery which tells of prosperity, and the work of the Hon. Robert Curzon, jun., is an old friend indeed. The new edition which has reached us is made more than ordinarily attractive by the inclusion of an introduction by Mr. D. G. Hogarth, which opens with the following comparison :—

> It is a tiresome commonplace of reviewers to liken books of Near Eastern travel to "Eothen," however little they may have in common with it. But Robert Curzon's "Visits to Monasteries in the Levant," a product of the same epoch, similar conditions of travel, and a mind formed much as Kinglake's was formed, can be compared very appropriately (as, indeed, it often has been compared) with that famous Essay on the Near East, which preceded it by five years.

Mr. Hogarth does not claim for the "Monasteries" the same level of art as characterised the work of Kinglake, although he considers that when the recollection of an incident excited him Curzon could put into his description an art hardly inferior to that of the other writer.

> With the same selective instinct as Kinglake's, Curzon aimed much more than his predecessor at narrating fully his chosen episodes. Therefore, while "Eothen" is an Essay on the Near East, shot through and through with illustrative experiences, Curzon's "Monasteries" is a proper travel-book, perhaps the best yet written on that region.

The first edition of this work was published by the house of Murray in the earlier part of last century (a facsimile of the original title page is included in the present volume); its re-appearance in its present attractive form after a lapse of over fifty years may be taken by people who are unfamiliar with Robert Curzon's style as sufficient evidence of its excellence and popularity. Anything in the nature of an ordinary review on such a work is unnecessary, but we cannot forbear quoting the following paragraph from the writer's chapter on Cairo in 1833 :—

> So long as there were no hotels in Egypt the process of fleecing the unwary traveller was conducted on different principles from those followed in Europe. As he seldom understands the language, he requires an interpreter, or dragoman, who, as a matter of course, manages all his pecuniary affairs. The newly arrived European eats and drinks whatever his dragoman chooses to give him; sees through his dragoman's eyes; hears through his ears; and, although he thinks himself master, is, in fact, only a part of the property of this Eastern servant, to be used by him as he thinks fit, and turned to the best account, like any other real or personal estate.

Cairo has altered much since that time, but the characteristics of the dragomans appear to be little changed.

As a collector of monastic manuscripts Curzon was, of course, famous, but here again he was fleeced unmercifully by the monks, who sold him required volumes from the rubbish heaps of the monasteries with great advantage to themselves. An instance of the author's gift of humour may be taken from his preface of 1865 when he refers to these transactions: "The British Museum," he writes, "though cheated by the monks according to their gifts (that is, as far as a total want of principle and understanding enabled them to direct), acquired the ancient Syriac library of the Natron Lakes at a far less cost than what I had paid to those same monks and others for the ancient books which were of no use to them."

But as we have said, the work of Curzon needs no review. It is scarcely too much to say that his records have taken their place among the classics, and we welcome this new and charmingly compact volume which provides their latest edition. One does not judge a book by its covers, but the binding of this one should go a long way towards ensuring to it a justly deserved popularity. It is illustrated by numerous woodcuts after sketches by the author.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Messrs. Simpkin have just published in a shilling edition a book entitled "Twenty Years in Baghdad and Syria," by Canon J. T. Parfit, who has recently been contributing an interesting series of articles on the Near East to a London evening journal.

The House of War. By Marmaduke Pickthall. (Eveleigh Nash. 6s.)

Sheikh Haroun Abdullah: a Turkish Poet and His Poetry. By Henri M. Léon. (Published for La Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences, et Beaux-Arts by G. Toulmin and Sons, Blackburn. 2s. 6d. net.)

The Armenians. By C. F. Dixon-Johnson. (Toulmin and Sons, Blackburn. 6d.)

The Agricultural Journal of Egypt. Vol. V., Parts I. and II. (Cairo: Government Press. P.T.S.)

* "Visits to Monasteries in the Levant." By the Hon. Robert Curzon, jun. With an introduction by D. G. Hogarth. (London: Mr. Humphrey Milford. 2s. 6d. net.)

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The message sent by the King to General Townshend at Kut gives eloquent expression to the feelings with which all of us have been following the course of events on the Tigris for more weeks than we care to remember. As to the effect it will have had upon the brave garrison at Kut there can be no doubt whatever. It will have put fresh heart into them indeed, and will have stiffened their resistance as a message from no other source could have done; and if the attacking Turks and Arabs had never before heard a British cheer, I warrant they heard one when the message was made known to the troops. It seems to me that his Majesty has once more shown that he has a juster appreciation of human nature than have some of his responsible advisers; and as one of his loyal subjects who have friends in the beleaguered town I am intensely grateful to him. I should like to know why the message was not made public until seven weeks after it was despatched. But I hope we may regard its publication now as a favourable omen—an indication that the powers that be are of opinion that General Townshend is on the point of being relieved.

***

The sinking of the Russian Red Cross hospital ship, the Portugal, last week adds yet one more to the long list of abominable crimes perpetrated by the German apostles of Kultur; and the fact that the dastardly deed was perpetrated in Turkish waters must make the Turks more ashamed than ever of their uncivilised allies. As to the report that they sank the boat themselves, I flatly decline to believe it. For the Turk has throughout this war shown real respect for hospital ships, and he will appraise at its true value the act of the submarine pirates. At the Dardanelles, I am told by trustworthy witnesses, the Turkish gunners scrupulously respected our hospital ships, and on one occasion when one of these boats happened to anchor in such a position as to afford shelter to a fighting ship, the Turks sent off a message: "If you anchor there we shall be unable to avoid hitting you. Please move."

***

Mr. G. Ward Price, I observe, has been drawing a pleasing picture of life in Salonika "when the clouds take a holiday"; and has pointed out that the open-air existence, the hard training and good food "must have put five years on the life of most of the troops" out there. This is probably no exaggeration, and the comparison he draws between the life of the soldiers at Salonika and that of the worker in the stuffy office, the gloomy warehouse, the mill and the mine in this country might with advantage be studied by the "slacker." But the parts of this particular article which interest me most are the descriptions of the concerts provided by our military bands, and of the present state of the famous White Town. As to the concerts I notice that Mr. Ward Price, greatly daring, actually mentions that "a Scottish regiment often sends its pipers" to play at them. Is not this information calculated to be of use to the enemy? Or does the Censor imagine that the Bulgaro-Huns will imagine that the Scottish regiment referred to "sends its pipers" all the way from Scotland? To my minds it looks as if Jove had been caught nodding.

***

Then, too, as to the White Tower. Mr. Ward Price tells us about the installation of the electric light and the laying on of a water supply. This is very right and proper, and I have no fault to find with the facts or with their publication. Indeed, I have already mentioned them in these columns. But when I read *in print* that the battlements of the Tower "are used by our sailors for a signal station," and that they (the sailors, not the battlements) "have built a hen-run on the top and laid out a flower garden with earth carried up bucketful by bucketful"—well, I trembled for the writer! Has he *no* fear of the Censor? Surely after our gallant sailors have been at such pains to disguise the Tower as a model poultry farm, in order to deceive the Fokkers, the Taubes and the Zepps., it is a bit rough on them that their labours should be rendered useless in such a fashion. For, you see, all that the enemy aviators have to do now is to hover over the town until they hear that joyous cackle with which the conscientious hen proclaims the fact that she has fulfilled the purpose for which she was designed by Nature, and then ——. But, perhaps, after all, Mr. Ward Price and the Censor are not quite so guileless as I have been thinking. They may craftily have reckoned that the Hunnish aviators, being uncivilised ruffians and unlikely to possess any true ear for music, will not be able to distinguish between the jubilant "domestic announcements" of the hens and the proud skirl of the Hieland pipes, and that, as a consequence, they will lose their bearings and fall easy victims to our anti-aircraft guns.

***

Mention of Salonika reminds me that a correspondent in that town has sent me two programmes of cinematograph entertainments which he has (presumably) attended. Both are printed in Greek, "French," "English" and Hebrew. One announces:—

OLYMPIA'S MOVING PICTURES
GALA PROGRAMM
From to-day
A Fine Programm with two master pieces
THE ADVENTURER
A Social and powerful drama in 5 ACTS
Very well interpreted by the best artists of the French Theater
TO APPEAR WITHOUT BEEING SHOWING
A Fine Comedy in 2 ACTS

I admire the penultimate line immensely. The other announces: "The Fatal Grotte, drama in two parts; The Allied Troup in Salonica; Actuality; The Marchand of Flours," and "One Comical." Only one? My correspondent has been kind enough to explain: "Grotte" means "Grotto"; "Troup," "Troops"; and "The Marchand of Flours," "The Little Flower Girl." But, with the prices of foodstuffs what they are in Salonika, I am not sure that a seller of "flours" would not prove quite as big a draw as the most charming "petite marchande de Fleurs."

***

Sixty years ago on March 30 a peace treaty was signed, and the Crimean War came to an end There were but seven nations signatory to that little affair; as things stand, there are thirteen countries at war to-day, and the end is not yet. If peace were to be declared to-morrow, I wonder how many of the warring nations would know exactly what they want. Some of our Serbian Allies at least know what they think, for one of the banners carried in the Slav procession to Claridge's last Sunday bore the simple and straightforward legend: "Austria has no right to exist."

***

Illustrations have appeared in various papers this week showing a new type of helmet used by German snipers, and once more I am reminded how in many ways this war is taking us back to the good old days again. A few years ago the suggestion of armour for modern soldiers would have been ridiculed, yet now we are gradually adopting its use. But I wonder whether the stuff of the twentieth century will prove as lasting as the wonderful chain armour of the Crusaders? Last time I was in the Sudan I was present at an assembly of sheikhs and chieftains in the El Obeid district, and three at least of these notables wore chain armour which undoubtedly dated back to the time of the Crusades. Unfortunately for the collector, this armour is greatly prized by its native owners, and I personally know of a sheikh who refused the offer of a sum running well into three figures for a chain tunic.

***

It is curious to think back on those days in the Sudan now when the map tells me that steel rails connect El Obeid with Khartoum. The journey from the river to El Obeid was formerly rather an arduous one—at least, to anyone unaccustomed to camel riding. It is curious, too, to think of the Sudan as an oasis of peace in a desert of war and carnage, and of the followers of the Mahdi as law-abiding gentlemen in comparison to the followers of modern Attila. When one considers it, I often think it strange that Englishmen should make such successful colonizers when they belong to a nation so conservative. Hating change, we graft it upon countries to the uttermost end of the earth, and then regard our accomplishment with a mixture of regret and pride. The fact is, I suppose, that the pride of nation is stronger within us than the love of self, and, excepting those few among us who count personal conviction as being sufficient to release us from all obligation to humanity, we would lay our all at the feet of our mother.

***

At the last Arabic examination for British officials, held at Khartoum, Mr. G. U. Young, one of the four Inspectors of Forests, successfully passed the lower standard, and he has been duly gazetted. This examination in the vernacular is of great importance, and, indeed, the candidate for employment in the Sudan Government Service soon finds that the results of his Arabic studies really determine his advancement and seniority. So high is the *esprit de corps* among the younger members in the Sudan Civil Service that they are not satisfied to "scrape through" their first examination,—the majority endeavour to pass with honours. Even the handsome cash bonus of £E100 which has hitherto been presented to the successful competitor in the Advanced Arabic Examination (whether the same arrangement continues under the present restricted resources of the Finance Department I cannot say) is of less moment than the distinction which the achievement brings to the Department, and which, incidentally, bears upon the young official's own future promotion. The gaining of this high distinction is rare, there having been but four successful competitors up till now, among whom is the present Governor of the Blue Nile Province—formerly Governor of the Halfa Province—Mr. G. E. Iles

CORSAIR.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. April	1916. Mar.		1334. Jumada II	5676. Nisan.
7	25	Friday	3	4
8	26	Saturday.....	4	5
9	27	Sunday	5	6
10	28	Monday	6	7
11	29	Tuesday	7	8
12	30	Wednesday	8	9
13	31	Thursday	9	10

To-morrow is the birthday of H.M. the King of the Belgians.

Prince Christian of Greece visited the King at Buckingham Palace on Saturday morning.

Prince Christopher is the youngest son of the late King George, and a great favourite with his brother, King Constantine. He will leave for Petrograd very shortly to visit her Majesty the Queen-Dowager, who is a Grand Duchess of Russia.

A Reuter's message from Athens dated March 30 reports:—The audience which General Sir Bryan Mahon, the British Commander-in-Chief at Salonika, had of the King was the longest of all the recent audiences granted to the Allied generals, lasting upwards of an hour. Sir Bryan was highly satisfied with his cordial reception. He was much impressed by the King's soldierly bearing and frank manner. Sir Bryan's conversation with the King turned upon general subjects, and thorny questions such as the German bombing of Salonika seem to have been avoided. The General was accompanied to the Palace by Lord Granard and a suite composed of Colonels Cunliffe Owen and Fairholme, who remains as military attaché, succeeding Major Sir Thomas Cuninghame and Captain Thellusson.

General Sir John Maxwell had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, when his Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Lord Kitchener had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on Monday evening.

Prince G. Troubetskoi, formerly Russian Minister in Belgrade, left London on Sunday for Petrograd.

A message received in London on Monday states that Sir William Vincent and Major-General Bingley have left India for Busreh in connection with their mission to examine and report on the difficulties experienced in the transport and treatment of wounded on the line of communications in Mesopotamia.

General Ivanoff, the famous Bulgarian, who has been commanding the south-western group of Russian armies, has retired from that command owing to ill-health. The Tsar has addressed a flattering rescript to him on the occasion, says Reuter's Petrograd correspondent.

Essad Pasha, who arrived in Paris last Friday, was on Monday received by M. Briand, the French Premier, who warmly congratulated him on his loyal attitude towards the Allies. To a representative of the Paris *Journal* Essad Pasha has declared his intention of spending a few days in England, "that great country whose noble part in this war I so much admire."

M. Filipescu, the Roumanian Senator and ex-Minister of War, has just returned to Bucharest from the Russian front. He states that he has been impressed by both the numbers and quality of the Russian troops.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (March 21):—

Captain Troianescu, the Roumanian Military Attaché at Sofia, has arrived in Bucharest.

M. Mortzun, Minister of the Interior, has recently been confined to his bed in consequence of an attack of emphysema, which caused no little anxiety to those around him.

M. Trandafiresco, Secretary of Legation, who was travelling from Paris with the diplomatic bag, was held up for over ten days at Brashov by the Hungarian authorities. Exact information is wanting, but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is said to have intervened in the matter. M. Trandafiresco has now arrived in the country, but the diplomatic correspondence of which he was the bearer is reported to have been retained at Brashov.

M. Guranesco, Secretary of Legation, at present attached to the Roumanian Legation in Sofia, has arrived in Bucharest.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in July, between Hugh Mullins, Finance Department, Sudan Government, younger son of Mr. A. G. Mullins, of Lympstone, Devon (late of Cape Town), and Marjory, elder daughter of the late Mr. A. H. Etherington, of Bentham House, Purton, and Mrs. Etherington, Brooklyn, Reading.

A Cyprus correspondent writes:—Mr. Porter, who was for some time President of the District Court of Papho, and has since acted at Nicosia and elsewhere, was entertained at dinner on March 9, at N. Houri's Hotel, by the Greek members of the Bar of Nicosia. Mr. Porter, who is leaving the island shortly, has been very popular. The King's Advocate, the President of the Nicosia District Court, Greek judges and registrars were also invited. The health of the chief guest was proposed by the King's Advocate, and Mr. Porter replied in an admirable speech. Mr. J. R. Holmes, P.D.C., Nicosia, acknowledged the toast to his health, proposed by the Hon. Mr. Theodotou, M.L.C., and supported by the Hon. Mr. Artemis, M.L.C.

Archdeacon Beresford Potter (Archdeacon in Cyprus and Syria) is acting as Hon. Chaplain to the Volunteer Training Corps (Godalming Company).

Mr. Alexander Devine, Headmaster of Clayesmore School, Winchester, a member of the council of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Refugee Relief Fund, has left London as Commissioner to visit the Continent for the purpose of making inquiries as to the condition and needs of the refugees and to report to the Montenegrin Committee on his return.

The Crown Prince of Serbia was the principal guest at a reception held on Monday evening by Lady Cowdray at 16, Carlton House Terrace, to welcome Dr. Elsie Inglis, of the London units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, on her return from experiences in Serbia. The Crown Prince was attended by Colonel Nikolaievitch, Military Attaché at the Serbian Legation; Captain Petronievitch, M. Antonievitch, and Professor Popovitch, of the University of Belgrade. Other guests were the Duke and Duchess of Somerset, the Earl and Countess of Lindsey, and Lady Muriel Bertie, Lord and Lady Sydenham, Lady Emmott, Lord and Lady Edmund Talbot, Lady Matheson, Sir Frederick and Lady Pollock, Sir Gilbert and Lady Parker, Miss Balfour, Mrs. Anstruther, Mr. Bertram Christian, Lady Grogan, Lady Gibb, Miss Margaret Kinnell (Mlle. Nika), Mrs. and Miss Ismay, the Hon. Mrs. Lyttelton, the Hon. Mrs. Harold Pearson, Captain the Hon. Clive Pearson and Mrs. Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. de la Rue, Mr. and Mrs. Seton-Watson, and Commander and Mrs. Cunninghame Graham.

Sir Mortimer Durand will preside at a meeting of the Central Asian Society to be held next Wednesday afternoon at 22, Albemarle Street, at which Mr. W. J. Childs will read a paper on "Asia Minor and the War."

According to arrangements existing as we go to press, a party of trained relief workers and nurses, headed by the Rev. Harold Buxton, hon. secretary of the American Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, 96, Victoria Street, S.W., was to leave London on Thursday for Russian Armenia. The mission, which has the approval of the British Foreign Office and of the Russian authorities, and the British Red Cross Society, will distribute relief to the million refugees still in Russian territory.

A Reuter's message from Athens, dated April 4, reports that the arrests of M. Ghenadieff, the leader of the Stambolonist Party, his brother-in-law, and six other persons are reported from Sofia. The message adds:—"The charge against them is not known, but it is believed to be that of intriguing against the Government." The fact doubtless is that M. Ghenadieff's sympathies with the Entente have given offence to "Tsar" Ferdinand. On his return from Rome last year it was reported that M. Ghenadieff had been arrested on the charge of plotting a bomb outrage in Sofia Cathedral. The report, which was believed to emanate from German sources, was afterwards denied.

A Reuter's message from Amsterdam, dated March 5, reports:—According to a telegram from Sofia of yesterday's date, Prince August Wilhelm of Prussia, the German Emperor's fourth son, and the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha have arrived there as guests of King Ferdinand.

Presumably the Duke of Saxe-Coburg has gone to Sofia to inspect the Bulgarian regiment of which he is honorary colonel.

Lady Paget, with fifty-four members of the Serbian Relief Fund Unit, arrived in London on Monday afternoon. Sir Ralph Paget met Lady Paget at Newcastle, and returned with her to London.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes:—

Lady Paget and the members of her hospital staff have come and gone, and if they have carried away a recollection of their short stay in the Roumanian capital but half as pleasant as that which they have left, we who remain behind may be well satisfied.

They arrived in Bucharest on Friday night, March 17, from Sofia, where Lady Paget had been the guest of Queen Eleonore. She drove to the station in a court carriage, accompanied by the principal lady-in-waiting. At Rustchuk the party had been met by M. Radeff, the Bulgarian Minister, who accompanied them to Bucharest in accordance with orders from Queen Eleonore. Descending at the station, they were received by the British, Russian, and Serbian Ministers, M. Také Jonescu, M. Corbescu, the Prefect of Police, and numerous other sympathisers. An apartment had been reserved for Lady Paget at the Athenée Palace Hotel, the staff of nurses finding hospitality at the Brancoveanu Hospital, than which, they say, they have seen no finer.

The following day Lady Paget partook of a luncheon given in her honour by Mr. James Bourchier and Colonel Thomson, the British Military Attaché, was received by her Majesty Queen Marie in the afternoon, and dined at the British Legation the same evening. Her staff had meanwhile visited the town, and found much to interest them in the well-organised hospitals. Here they were heartily welcomed, and, in return, created the best of impressions, expressions such as *Foarte simpatici*, *Englezi*, being audible on all sides.

On Sunday, Lady Paget had the honour of lunching with the King and Queen at Cotroceni Palace, and in the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Také Jonescu opened their hospitable doors to the entire party and to a large number of friends and sympathisers—British, Roumanian, and Allied—tea being served to the sounds of "Tipperary." On the ears of their kind hostess must have fallen pleasantly the regrets expressed by both doctors and nurses regarding the shortness of their stay in Bucharest. At night the party left for the Russian frontier en route for Petrograd. They were seen off at the station by many members of the diplomatic corps and a large crowd of admirers. M. Marinkovitch, the Serbian Minister, travelled with them to the frontier.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc

The *London Gazette* of Monday notifies the appointment of Major-General the Hon. Sir Julian H. G. Byng, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., M.V.O., to be temporary Lieutenant-General. Dated February 27, 1916.

Signor Falqui Cao has been nominated by the Sultan of Egypt to be a Judge of the Mixed Tribunals. Signor Falqui Cao has hitherto been the Italian Consular Judge in Cairo.

The *London Gazette* of Tuesday announces that the King has been pleased to confer the undermentioned rewards for gallantry and distinguished service in the field during the engagement on February 26, 1916, at Agagia, Egypt :—

To be a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order.

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Hugh Maurice Wellesley Souter, 14th Murray's Jat Lancers, Commanding Dorset Yeomanry, Territorial Force.

Awarded the Military Cross.

Second Lieutenant John Hoffham Blaksley, Dorset Yeomanry, Territorial Force.

Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

No. 846 Private William Brown, 1/1 Dorset Yeomanry, Territorial Force.

The King has also conferred the Military Cross upon the undermentioned officers in recognition of their distinguished service in the field from April to June, 1915, during the operations against Jebel Miri, Kadugli District, Nuba Mountains Province of the Sudan :—

Captain (now Major) Clement Leslie Smith, V.C., Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and Commanding the Camel Corps.

El Saghkolaghasi (Adjutant-Major) Mohammed Effendi Fuad El Seyufi, Camel Corps.

Reuter's Bucharest correspondent reports that a list of several hundred promotions in the Roumanian army was published last Saturday. Among them are three promotions to the rank of General of Division and ten to that of General of Brigade. General Coanda, Inspector-General of Artillery, has been promoted to the command of an Army Corps. His promotion has produced an excellent impression.

The Roumanian Government is putting into effect its policy of appointing younger men to high commands. Five generals of divisions have been placed on the retired list from the 14th inst. Among them are General Zottu, Chief of the General Staff, and Generals Calcer and Jarca, Inspector-Generals of Armies. The two latter are replaced by Generals Averesco and Cottesco, hitherto commanding the First and Second Army Corps.

The *Morning Post* recalls that General Coanda, who was Chief of the Roumanian Staff at the time of the second Balkan war, was able to facilitate the passage of the Treaty of Bucharest by adjusting the boundary claims of Greece and Bulgaria. The Bulgarians wanted to bring their line as near to Kavalla as possible. M. Venizelos resisted their proposals, and General Coanda, who was called in as arbiter, suggested an intermediate line.

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THE CROWN PRINCE OF SERBIA.

Visit to England.

The Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia arrived in London last Friday morning and had a reception which can have left no doubt in his mind as to the popularity of Serbia in this country. And wherever he has appeared since his arrival in our midst he has been the object of respectful demonstrations of the same character.

On reaching Folkestone from Paris, accompanied by M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, his Highness was met by M. Boshkovitch, the Serbian Minister in London; Colonel Nikolaïevitch, Military Attaché at the Serbian Legation; Colonel Harrison, formerly British Military Attaché at Belgrade; and Admiral Troubridge, who was recently in Serbia in command of the British contingent. At Charing Cross, whither the party travelled by special train, Prince Albert greeted the Royal visitor on behalf of the King. Sir Edward Grey, Viscount French, and Mr. Lloyd George were also present; and a guard of honour was supplied by the Scots Guards, whose band was also in attendance.

Prince Albert cordially shook hands with the Crown Prince on his arrival, and afterwards presented to him Lord French, Sir Edward Grey, and Mr. Lloyd George. The Crown Prince next introduced M. Pashitch and the members of his suite to Prince Albert. Royal carriages—semi-State landaus—were drawn up in the roadway opposite the platform. Prince Albert and the Crown Prince took their seats in the first one, and drove off to Claridge's Hotel, where the Crown Prince has been staying during his visit. M. Pashitch was in the second carriage, with M. Yovan Yovanovitch, Minister Plenipotentiary; in a third carriage were the Prince's suite, who, like the Prince himself, were attired in the grey uniform of the Serbian Army.

Amongst others present on the platform to greet his Royal Highness were:—Major-General Sir Francis Lloyd, General Sir Arthur Paget, Sir Ralph Paget, Captain Godfrey-Faussett (in attendance on Prince Albert), the Earl of Desart, Sir Roper Parkington, Sir Arthur Walsh (the King's Master of the Ceremonies), Sir Henry Bax-Ironside, Lady Grogan, Sir Arthur Evans, Mrs. Carrington Wilde (Hon. Secretary, Serbian Relief Fund), Mr. and Mrs. Seton-Watson, the Principal of King's College and Mrs. Burrows, Sir Francis Gore, and the Lord Mayor of London (Sir C. Wakefield).

His Royal Highness spent a quiet day on Friday. On Saturday he was entertained at luncheon at Buckingham Palace by the King and Queen. Prince Albert and Princess Mary were present, and the following had the honour of being invited:—M. Pashitch, M. Boshkovitch, M. Y. Yovanovitch, M. Dragomir Yankovitch, Colonel Milivio Nicolaievitch (Serbian Military Attaché), Colonel Ostojitch (Marshal to the Royal Court and Acting First A.D.C. to the King of Serbia), Colonel Dr. Tchedo Mihajlovitch, Lieut.-Colonel Pavle Yourichitch (A.D.C. to the Crown Prince), M. Yankovitch (Secretary to the Foreign Office), Admiral Troubridge and Lieut.-Colonel A. P. B. Harrison (specially attached to his Royal Highness), the Marquess and Marchioness of Crewe, Viscount French, Sir Edward Grey, the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, the Countess of Airlie and the Lady Mary Trefusis (Ladies-in-Waiting), the Lord Farquhar (Lord Steward), the Viscount Valentia (Lord-in-Waiting), Lieut.-Colonel the Right Hon. Sir Frederick Ponsonby (Keeper of the Privy Purse), the Master of the Household, the Hon. Sir Arthur Walsh (Master of the Ceremonies), and Captain B. Godfrey-Faussett, R.N. (Equerry-in-Waiting).

In the afternoon the Crown Prince, with M. Pashitch and Admiral Troubridge, visited Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House, Princess Christian at Schomberg House, Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught, and the Princess Royal.

The callers at Claridge's Hotel included Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Balfour, and Mr. W. H. Long, the Russian and Spanish Ambassadors, the Belgian, Roumanian, Portuguese and Greek Ministers, the Marquis and Marchioness of Lincolnshire, the Earl and Countess of Chesterfield, Earl Howe, Sir Ralph Paget, Sir Arthur Nicolson, Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside, and Mme. Olga Novikoff.

On Sunday Prince Alexander paid a visit to Woolwich Arsenal. During the day he personally conferred the Order of St. Sava on Mrs. Troubridge, the wife of Admiral Troubridge, in recognition of her services to the hospitals in Serbia; and conferred a similar Order on Mrs. Harrison, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. B. Harrison, who is specially attached to his suite.

In the afternoon a demonstration of Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, and Czechs was held in honour of the Prince's visit. The processionists, about 500 in number, started from Air Street, Regent Street, and marched to Claridge's Hotel, where the leader and Father Nicholas, the well-known Serbian monk and Priest-in-Waiting to King Peter, entered the hotel, and caused to be conveyed to his Royal Highness a message expressing the cordiality of the Serbians in London in welcoming Prince Alexander to England. Outside cheers were given for King Peter, the Crown Prince, and Dr. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier. Speeches were delivered in the Serbian language, and the Serbian National Hymn was sung, and the procession then proceeded to Hyde Park.

On Monday morning the Prince visited Princess Henry of Battenberg. He was afterwards the guest of the Serbian Minister at luncheon at the Ritz Hotel, when among the guests invited to meet him were the Marquess of Crewe, Sir Edward Grey, Earl Kitchener, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, the Russian Ambassador, the Japanese Ambassador, the French Chargé d'Affaires, the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, the Belgian Minister, the Portuguese Minister, Sir Arthur Nicolson, Sir H. Bax-Ironside, the Lord Chamberlain, Sir Derek Keppel, General Sir Arthur Paget, Admiral Troubridge, Lieut.-Colonel A. P. B. Harrison, and the Lord Mayor.

In the afternoon the Prince called upon Sir Edward Grey and other Ministers, and in the evening he dined with Lord Kitchener at York House. Among the guests were Prince Albert, Sir Edward Grey, the Earl of Derby, Mr. Walter Long, M. Pashitch, the Serbian Minister, and the suite of the Crown Prince. His Royal Highness afterwards attended a reception given by Lady Cowdray at Carlton House Terrace.

On Wednesday, the Prince received a deputation of prominent public men who wished to express their admiration of and sympathy with Serbia. The deputation was headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Mayor of London, and amongst its members were :—Lord Milner, Lord Southwark, Lord Aberconway, Lord Eversley, Lord Burnham, Sir Ivor Herbert, Sir John Jardine, Sir E. Beauchamp, Sir Arthur Markham, Sir Charles Nicholson, Sir Henry Dalziel, Mr. G. G. Greenwood, Sir Frederick Cawley, Sir Edward Carson, the Hon. Arthur Stanley, Mr. Ronald M'Neill, Sir Philip Magnus, Colonel Yate, Admiral Sir Hedworth Meux, Mr. C. Stuart-Wortley, Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, Sir Henry Craik, Sir John Lonsdale, Colonel J. Craig, Mr. E. Cecil, Mr. R. Prothero, Commander C. Bellairs, Sir George Younger, Captain L. S. Amery, Mr. H. E. Duke, Mr. W. Crooks, Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace, Sir Arthur Evans, Sir Alfred Pearce Gould, Dr. R. M. Burrows, Professors Dandy, Wilson, Jameson, Gollancz, Carr, and Platt, Mr. Harold Cox, Mr. G. W. Prothero, Mr. G. P. Gooch, Mr. L. J. Maxse, Canon Carnegie, the Rev. H. J. Fynes-Clinton (Anglican and Eastern Association), Mr. Sidney Lowe, Mr. Walter Leaf, Sir Montague Turner, and Sir Algernon Firth.

The Primate, in introducing the deputation, said they believed that with the wholehearted aid of the Allied forces and in the providence of God the cloud would be rolled back and the cause of freedom be won.

The Crown Prince, replying in French, acknowledged the many proofs of sympathy for Serbia on the part of the King and the Royal Family, the British Government, and the citizens of the capital, which represented the British people.

Earlier in the day the Crown Prince received a smaller deputation of representatives of the Serbian Relief Fund, as well as representatives of the British Red Cross Society and other bodies which have despatched hospitals to Serbia; and, accompanied by M. Pashitch and the members of his suite, visited the general offices of the Serbian Relief Fund at 5, Cromwell Road, where he was received by the heads of the departments.

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He was also present during the afternoon at an illustrated lecture in St. James's Theatre in aid of the Serbian Hospitals, by Mrs. St. Clair Stobart.

In the evening Mr. Harcourt, on behalf of his Majesty's Government, entertained the Crown Prince of Serbia at a dinner at Lancaster House.

His Royal Highness had arranged to leave England yesterday, but deferred his departure until to-day in consequence of engagements, one of which was an invitation to tea with the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace.

The Lord Mayor has received a letter from the Serbian Minister, in which he says the Crown Prince has directed him to convey through his Lordship to the people of London his Royal Highness's grateful appreciation of the warm and sympathetic reception which he has met with on all hands during his stay in the Metropolis. The Crown Prince greatly regretted that official duties and engagements had not permitted him to accept the cordial invitation of the Lord Mayor to visit the City of London as the guest of the Corporation.

Frances Anna Lady Kemball, of Sussex Square, Brighton, who died on February 25 last, widow of General Sir Arnold Kemball, formerly Consul-General at Baghdad and Military Attaché at Constantinople, left £10,886. The bequests include £100 to the Commanding Officer of Royal Artillery stationed at Woolwich for Royal Artillery charities in memory of her husband.

The Wounded Allies Relief Committee, of Sardinia House, Kingsway, W.C., is sending out further medical aid to the sick and wounded Serbian soldiers in Corfu. The first unit despatched by the committee, and consisting of a doctor and three nurses, under an administrator, arrived in Corfu a fortnight ago, and this unit is now, owing to the urgent need of the Serbians, about to be strengthened by the addition of one more doctor and seven more nurses, who will take with them large consignments of hospital stores, clothes, and food.

About two hundred soldiers of the British Adriatic Mission passing through Genoa received a warm welcome from the population and the British colony. The mission left for France on Monday, and their departure was the occasion of an enthusiastic demonstration.

The Crown Prince-Regent of Serbia has conferred the Order of St. Sava upon Mr. Vandyk, Court photographer.

OBITUARY.

SIR GERARD LOWTHER, G.C.M.G.

We much regret to announce the death of the Right Hon. Sir Gerard Augustus Lowther, G.C.M.G., C.B., formerly Ambassador at Constantinople, which took place on Wednesday morning at Sandwich. He had been ill for a considerable time, and his friends were aware that his illness was of a serious character.

Sir Gerard Lowther, who was born in February, 1858, was the youngest son of the Hon. William Lowther, and brother of the Speaker of the House of Commons. Educated at Harrow, he entered the Diplomatic Service in 1879, and was appointed to Madrid at the close of that year. The list of important posts that he held thereafter tells its own tale of a successful and honourable career. From Madrid he was transferred to Paris (1881), and thence was promoted to be Second Secretary at Constantinople (1884). In 1885 he was granted an allowance for knowledge of Turkish, and in March of the following year he was appointed Superintendent of Student Interpreters at Ortakeui. In 1891 he was transferred to Vienna, and during the latter half of that year he acted as Chargé d'Affaires at Bucharest; while the following summer found him at Sofia, acting as Agent and Consul-General. In 1894 his connection with the Near East was severed for a time by his transfer to Tokio, as Secretary of Legation; and though he returned to familiar ground in 1898, as Consul-General for Hungary, with residence at Budapest, he was soon off to fresh fields—this time in the New World. The new move carried promotion with it, for he became Secretary of Embassy at Washington (1899); and after two and a-half years there he was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Chile.

From Chile he returned to the East once more, being appointed Minister at Tangier and Consul-General in Morocco at the beginning of 1905. At that time the events that led up to the Treaty of Algeciras (signed in April, 1906) were unforeseen; but Sir Gerard's position was no sinecure, and, indeed, for a great part of the time he was constantly working at high pressure, and had to be continually on the watch. With Sir Arthur Nicolson he represented this country at the Algeciras Conference, and after the signing of the Treaty he returned to his post at Tangier. In 1907 he was made a K.C.M.G.

When, in 1908, on the death of Sir Nicholas O'Conor, he was appointed to Constantinople as Ambassador, the appointment was regarded here as a very natural one. He received an enthusiastic welcome also from the Young Turks, and for a short time it looked as if a new era had really dawned for Turkey, and as if the British Ambassador would be able to play a leading part in helping the "rejuvenated" Ottoman Empire along the path of progress. Unfortunately, such hopes were not justified. But the fault did not lie with Sir Gerard Lowther, but with the self-appointed leaders of Turkey, who speedily fell under the influence of that extraordinarily able man, Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, the German Ambassador, who, backed by his own Government in a way that no other Minister in Constantinople has ever been backed, succeeded in turning the sympathies of the Turkish governing party entirely into German channels.

This is not the place, nor is this the time, to review events from 1908 to 1913, the year in which Sir Gerard was forced by ill-health to retire from the Diplomatic Service. It must suffice to say that he laboured loyally for his country, in circumstances of great difficulty; and through his refusal to lend himself to the unworthy intrigues of the Enver-Talaat clique led to a loss of popularity with many Turks, he was always held in real regard by the sincerest reformers and truest patriots in the country. With the Europeans and Americans in Turkey also he was deservedly popular, and his retirement was much regretted by them. News of that retirement reached London in May, 1913, a few weeks before his five years' term of office would have expired, and he and Lady Lowther left Constantinople for Marienbad at the end of June amidst demonstrations of warm sympathy and regret. Unfortunately, the reports of the unsatisfactory state of Sir Gerard's health proved only too true. He never really recovered his full strength, and though he was tended with the greatest care by Lady Lowther he was unable to rally as his friends hoped, though hardly daring to hope, that he might.

Very sincere sympathy will be felt with Lady Lowther, not only in this country, but also in the Near East, where she is much beloved, having won the gratitude of the Turkish people by her work for the sufferers in the two Balkan wars. She was married to Sir Gerard in 1905, and before her marriage was Miss Alice Blight, of Philadelphia.

We regret to announce the death of Sir John Eldon Gorst, which occurred in London on Monday, as the result of an attack of influenza. Sir John, who had a distinguished career in politics, was the father of the late Sir Eldon Gorst, who was Agent and Consul-General in Egypt after Lord Cromer, and of Lady Mark Sykes.

We regret to announce the death of Lady Drummond Wolff, widow of the Rt. Hon. Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, which occurred last Friday, at Hampton Court, after a brief illness. Lady Wolff, who married in 1852, accompanied her husband to Constantinople, to Teheran, and to other capitals to which he was sent on diplomatic missions. The ex-Sultan, Abdul Hamid, bestowed upon her the Order of the Shefakal.

Colonel Francis Dalrymple Walters has died at Ryde, Isle of Wight, aged seventy-nine years. Soon after entering the Army he saw active service in the Crimea, being at the siege and fall of Sebastopol, and was awarded the medal, with clasp, and the Turkish medal. Colonel Walters also served in the China War.

We regret to learn that Captain Edward Lambton, Pembroke Yeomanry and Director of Public Works (Irrigation, Assiut), Egypt, died on March 28 of pneumonia in a Red Cross hospital. He was the fifth son of Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Lambton and the late Lady Victoria Lambton, and was thirty-nine years old. Born in February, 1877, he was educated at Wellington and Coopers Hill. Before the war he was permitted to do his drills with the Cavalry in Egypt and his yearly training when on leave in England. For his services in the Public Works he was decorated with the Order of the Osmanieh.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

BIGGER.—On April 2, at Cairo, the wife of W. K. Bigger, Lieutenant, R.A.M.C. (*née* Dorothy Vigers), of a son.

CROSS.—On March 28, at Alexandria, the wife of M. E. Cross, Egyptian Ministry of Education, of a daughter.

LUMSDEN.—On March 7, at Ghezira House, Cairo, the wife of Lieut.-Colonel P. J. Lumsden, I.M.S., of a daughter.

MANZALAONI.—On April 1, at 88, Marine Parade, Brighton, to Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Manzalaoni, of Alexandria, Egypt—a son.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1916.

SERBIA AND THE ENTENTE.

The arrival of Prince Alexander of Serbia and M. Pashitch in London has set the hall-mark on a new era in the relations between Great Britain and Serbia. Two years have not yet passed since the British Minister in Petrograd could inform the Russian Government, with the expressed approval of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that "direct British interests in Serbia were nil." The Russian Foreign Minister replied that the Serbian question was part of the general European question, and that Great Britain could not afford to efface herself from the problems at issue in the Austro-Serbian controversy. Within a few days the truth of this political axiom had been appreciated by the British Government, and Great Britain was engaged in a war sprung, indeed, from a small occasion, but from great causes. If public opinion could have been canvassed at the time when the British Government cited it as a reason for remaining aloof from the quarrel between the Central Powers and Serbia most probably it would have supported Sir Edward Grey's contention. But until "democratic control" of our foreign policy reaches the stage at which war and treaties are made exclusively on Tower Hill or in Trafalgar Square the nation has the right to look to its rulers for a profounder knowledge of foreign affairs than is possessed by the man in the street. To both Government and public wisdom has come with the war, and there is no need now to lay stress on the fact that the Serbian or Near Eastern question has a direct interest for Great Britain. Our Serbian visitors are said to have been at once surprised and delighted by the warmth of the popular reception accorded to them on their arrival in London. They will regard their welcome, we may hope, as an honest acknowledgment of a mistaken policy in the past, and as an earnest of a wiser one to be pursued in the future. From it they can gauge something of the national concern which has been evoked by Serbia's tragedy and the genuine good will which has prompted such measures as were possible to mitigate the suffering of the Serbian people. Great Britain's own interests have in the long run compelled her to make the Serbian cause her own; but the enthusiasm which greeted the arrival of the Prince Regent and his Prime Minister in our midst testified to the powerful hold which the valiant efforts of the Serbians in self-defence against overwhelming odds have established on the mind of the British public. There was nothing to impair the spontaneity of their welcome. It proclaimed the popular recognition of the fact that Serbia has done all that can be claimed of her for the Allied cause, and bespoke a determination to see that ultimately all that is needed shall be done for her in turn by the Allies.

The visit of Prince Alexander and M. Pashitch to London follows upon similar visits to the Italian and French capitals. As a result of this exchange of views with the Allied Powers the Serbian Government hopes to arrive at an understanding which will safeguard the future of Serbian interests in the Near East. It argues nothing untoward in the relations between the Allies that such negotiations should be taking place at this stage of the war. Although the unity of purpose of the Grand Alliance has never been called in question, it is only recently that an attempt has been made to secure unification of the military and political direction of the Alliance. At the outbreak of war the different Powers were drawn into the struggle on different grounds; Russia had to protect Serbia, France stood by Russia, Great Britain took the part of France and Belgium. Only as the war progressed did the Allies come to recognize fully the nature of the common menace that threatened them all. When Italy joined the Alliance there was still inadequate appreciation of the complete community of interests binding the constituent parts together. Thus Italy was allowed to make her terms with the Entente Powers without reference to the interests of Serbia, who might seem to have had all possible claims met when her future integrity and independence were guaranteed. The very nature of the struggle with the Central Powers has emphasized the necessity of absolute justice in all international relations. An arrangement which appeared good enough when Italian co-operation was at stake wears a different complexion when problems of a permanent settlement in Europe come to be considered. At the time Serbia could do no more than register a caveat against the reported bearing of negotiations to which she was not a party. Her attention, as well as that of the Allies as a whole, was absorbed by the military situation. The threatened blow has since fallen: Serbia has been overrun by the enemy and the Government has taken refuge in France. Not only has it become necessary for Serbia to have her position more clearly defined, but the Allies find it to their interest to draw more closely together the bonds uniting them.

From the satisfaction which the Serbian Prime Minister has expressed with the results of his exchange of views with the Italian Government we may infer that the progress of the war has convinced the latter that it is possible to drive a bargain which will sacrifice the real interests of a country to the prospects of the moment. But the agreement between Italy and the Entente Powers holds good until it has been replaced by an instrument more in keeping with the interests of the Grand Alliance as a whole. The Serbian Government has to satisfy its Allies that it speaks to-day not only for Serbia and the Serbians, but also for all the Southern Slavs, whose ultimate emancipation from the Austrian yoke and incorporation in a Southern Slav State has formed the most cherished tradition of this race. The realization of these hopes will produce one of the most vital changes that we may expect to see as a result of the war, for it will set up an entirely new factor in Southern Europe. If the principle of nationality is to influence the settlement after the war, it is difficult to dispute the claims of the Serbians to champion all those of their kinsfolk who are now for the most part inarticulate under Austro-Hungarian rule. The interests of the Allies which spurred them collectively to give battle for the integrity and independence of Serbia must now prompt them to pave the way for a united Jugoslav State, which will be able to play an adequate part in the defence of liberty and justice in Europe. We look to the negotiations now being continued in London by Prince Alexander and M. Pashitch to place the seal on the understanding between the Allies, which shall not only give justice to Serbia but also promote lasting peace in the Near East. The welcome given to our Serbian visitors proves that nowhere would such an issue to the war meet with warmer approval than in Great Britain.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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FALL OF ERZEROUM.

BY M. PHILIPS PRICE.

With the Russian Army on the Caucasus Front, March 8, 1916.

The day after the fall of Erzeroum I accompanied a party of Russian journalists on a visit to the scenes of the great struggle. During our journey I obtained a full story and had many first-hand impressions of what took place, and I am able to give the following account of what happened. First, however, let me remind your readers of the surroundings of Erzeroum.

The city lies in an amphitheatre of mountains, of which the highest and least accessible are on the north and south, while on the east lies the more easily traversable Deve Boyun, on which the Turks have made two powerful chains of forts. These forts protected all access from the east, while the mountains by their inaccessibility appear to protect the city from the north and south. But that is just where the mountains failed the Turks, for they had not reckoned with the Russian Caucasian Army, tempered and steeled by frost and snow, ready to go for days without food, for nights without sleep, and to cross apparently impenetrable snowfields and jagged ridges to attain their strategic ends. The Russian army attempted the impossible—and accomplished it, by cutting through the Turkish line of forts at the point where the Deve Boyun joins the Karga Bazar, to the north-east of Erzeroum. Whole divisions of Russian troops toiled for days exposed to icy winds on 10,000 ft. snowfields and crags, till at last they succeeded in surrounding the northern end of the Deve Boyun forts, and so caused the retirement of the whole 3rd Turkish Army, to save itself from capture.

Ever since the autumn of last year, when the Germans succeeded in establishing direct communication with Turkey, the idea had been prevalent on these eastern fronts that a considerable Turkish force would be liberated from the western theatres of war for operations against either the Caucasus, Egypt, or Mesopotamia. In December it was thought that Khalil Bey would attempt another flanking movement through north-west Persia.

Rumours of new Turkish army corps marching eastwards, commanded by German officers, received wide circulation, and everyone expected a further attempt at an Eastern drive. But the results have shown that the Turks have been carrying out a great scheme of bluff on this front, and instead of strengthening have been gradually weakening all the time. Not only have they failed to keep their wedge into Persia, but they have now lost the greatest stragetic point on the eastern front, and by the fall of Erzeroum the Russians are in possession of the roads leading into Mesopotamia and Asia Minor, whereby they can threaten the lines of communication between Constantinople and Baghdad. The 3rd Turkish Army in Armenia evidently received no reinforcements in the early winter, as was supposed; but, on the other hand, were weakened by the withdrawal of the 3rd and 5th composite divisions from the Bitlis area, which were sent to Baghdad to operate against the British. It has also come to knowledge recently that the Turkish general staff, believing that the Russians would not dare to risk an advance during the rigours of a Caucasian winter, actually gave leave of absence to many officers last December. And so they were caught napping.

On the surrounding of the British force at Kut-el-Amarah the Russian staff began to prepare for an advance on the Caucasian front in order to relieve the pressure in Mesopotamia. At first the capture of Erzeroum was not contemplated; but, as events developed and the weakness of the Turks became clear, it was included in the plan. The attack on the Azap Keui and Olti positions was worked out, and on January 11 the advance along the whole Caucasus front began. The plan was to advance in three columns, one south and two north of the Araxes in the Jilligol, north of the Passan plain. This difficult operation in the mountains was entrusted to the 4th Division, who had to get round the Turkish left, while the Turkestans had to advance from Olti and converge over the mountains of the Geydag.

These operations met with brilliant success, and the Turks, after several days' fighting, withdrew on Hassan Kale. Usually the Turks fight with great stubbornness up to a point, but when once their line is broken their spirit droops, and they can hardly ever be successfully rallied; and so it was in this case.

The 9th and 11th Army Corps, converging in retreat on Keupru Keui, lost a large part of their artillery, and in the panic which followed could not be rallied till the Erzeroum forts were reached. On January 23 General Eudenitch decided to make use of this success to attempt the capture of Erzeroum. Information came to him that the demoralization of the Turkish army was widespread, and a telegram from the Turkish commander Abdul Kerim, to Enver Pasha, which fell into Russian hands, stated:—"The condition of the Turkish army is very serious; help must come at once, or Erzeroum cannot be held." On January 31 a demonstration in force was made from Hassan Kale by the Russians against the outer Dede Boyun forts, to test the force of the Turks. The bombardment continued all day, and by evening it was seen that the Turks had poured water down the slopes in front of the forts, which, freezing, covered the mountain sides with icy sheets. According to some accounts, as the sun was setting that evening there appeared in the clouds of white smoke which accompanied the bombardment and lay over the forts the Sign of the Cross, which was seen from the Russian lines.

Next day the Russian dispositions were made and developed with extraordinary skill. Paskevitch, in 1828, when he captured Erzeroum, made his demonstration on the south of the Dede Boyun, and struck his main blow in the north. This time General Eudenitch demonstrated practically all along the line, but struck his main blow in the mountainous country of the Karga Bazar, with the object of breaking through the line between Forts Chaban Dede and Tufta in the weak spot. For this purpose the left wing of the 39th Division demonstrated against Forts Kabugar and Ortayuk, while the right wing engaged Fort Chaban Dede.

Further to the north the 4th Division and the Turkestans were to advance across the mountainous country of the Dumlu Dagh and the Karga Bazar, join up with the left wing of the 39th Division before Fort Chaban Dede, and so break through the 3rd Turkish Army and descend into the plains of the Euphrates. The stupendous difficulties of these operations can, perhaps, be conceived when I say that to accomplish this task the 4th Division had to haul its artillery from the Passan Valley 10,000 ft. up on to the Karga Bazar over snowfields and frozen slopes. Each gun had to be taken to pieces and each piece carried separately on the backs of soldiers. The transport took twelve days, but the Turks never got wind of it.

On February 11 the Russians commenced their general advance.

The two northern forts of the Dede Boyun, Chaban Dede and Dolangyoz, were attacked by the Elisavetpol and Baku regiments respectively. The latter fort is situated on a little knoll which juts out into the great Passan Plain, and is, as it were, the advance guard of the outer claim. By 5.0 a.m. on the morning of the 12th Dolangyoz was surrounded, but the battalion of Turks holding the fort managed to escape to the Uzun Ahmet.

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On that night the right wing of the Russian centre was ordered to make a frontal attack on Chaban Dede. The Bakintsis, who had taken Dolan Gyoz, now went north and joined the Elisavetpols, and together they advanced from the village of Buyuk Tuy up the rocky valley of that name to the towering cliffs on which Chaban Dede rested. The Russian soldiers were clad in white coats so that in the darkness and against the snow they were invisible.

Silently creeping up the rocky slopes to the fort they got to within 250 yards of it before the Turkish search-lights discovered them, and then a murderous cross-fire from the Uzun Ahmet and Chaban Dede was poured upon them, which in two hours caused them to lose one-third of their number. The Turks on the Olugli, a mountain mass lying north of Chaban Dede, and separated from the Karga Bazar by the narrow valley of the Tuy, now began to counter-attack, and descended into the valley outflanking the Elisavetpols on the right. There was no sign of the 4th Division appearing on the Karga Bazar, and so there was nothing to be done but to retire. Chaban Dede had been all but won, but had slipped from the grasp at the critical moment, and the famous key to the Dede Boyun forts still thundered with the roar of Turkish artillery and the splutter of their rifles.

All day the Elisavetpols and the Bakintsis waited in the defiles of the Tuy Valley still exposed to the fire of the forts.

Towards evening it was clear that something must be done or the whole plan of attack abandoned. As a last resort the Derbentsi Regiment, which had hitherto been in reserve, was called up, and by nightfall was ordered to advance on the extreme left wing. Crossing the Tuy Valley it ascended the narrow defile on the snow-fields of the Olugli. With the utmost difficulty they toiled over deep snowdrifts, making no more than ten yards in half an hour. The difficulty in keeping their chain formation under such conditions may well be imagined, but such was the brilliance of the manœuvre that when morning broke through the grey mists that covered the snowbound plateau the Turks saw the Russian chain slowly closing in on them as the dark outlines of the soldiers laboured slowly across the snow-fields. The Turks, taken completely by surprise, abandoned their position on the Olugli and retired to the trenches surrounding the Chaban Dede forts. The battle had been half won, but the Turks were still in the fort and were keeping up a murderous fire on the Elisavetpols in the valley below them.

At last the *Deus ex machina* appeared. Away to the north-east the 4th Division and the Turkestans, for the sight of whom the hard-pressed Elisavetpols and Bakintsis had been pining, began to show on the skyline. The critical question now was: Could they break the Turkish chain which still held like iron between Forts Chaban Dede and Tufta? On the previous day the 4th Division had actually completed the Herculean task of hauling up field artillery on to the very summit of the Karga Bazar, from whence they could shell the Turks on the Grobovoy heights. On the morning of February 14 the infantry of the 4th Division descended the western slopes of the Karga Bazar, sliding down the snow on their coats to the upper part of the valley of the Tuy. From here they pushed north and reached the foot of the Grobovoy Mountains, which dominated Fort Tufta.

Here the right wing of the Turkish 10th Army was extended.

The attack was delivered by the 4th Division from the south and by the Turkestans from the north, and it was planned to take place at exactly the same time. Again the Turks, attacked at both sides, were taken by surprise. As they stood in their snow trenches on the slopes of the Grobovoy they could see the infantry of the 4th Division and the Turkestans converging upon them from the north and from the east, and not all the fire of their rifles or of their artillery could hold them back. By 3.0 p.m. on February 14 the heights of Kuni Tape were in the hands of the 4th Division, and the Turks on the Grobovoy, fearing they would be surrounded, retired down the western slopes into the plain of Erzeroum. At once it was observed from the Russian artillery observation posts at Kechk that the evacuation of Fort Tufta was beginning. A great explosion followed.

The Turks had blown up the magazine and were seen streaming away to the west for Erzeroum, but, fearing that their retreat would be cut off, followed the road to Erzinjan. At last the chain of forts was broken and Erzeroum was won. So certain were the Turks that the fall of Tufta meant the fall of Erzeroum, that by the evening of February 14, one day before the Russians occupied Chaban Dede, and two days before they entered Erzeroum, the evacuation of the whole of the garrison city was begun. Explosions followed in forts Kaburga, Uzun Ahmet, and Shivishli, and by 4.0 p.m. the whole of the Dede Boyun forts were in the hands of the Russians without another shot being fired. Next morning early, by the Kars Gate, the Kuban Cossacks entered Erzeroum; and so the famous fortress fell as the result of the masterly strategy of General Eudenitch, which by evolutions in the mountains north of the Dede Beyun had caused the 3rd Turkish Army to evacuate the forts in order to save itself from capture.

The condition of the 3rd Turkish Army is now as follows:—

The 9th and 10th Army Corps are probably fairly intact as far as infantry and rifles are concerned. The greater part of the artillery, however, are irreparably lost, together with the ammunition which was blown up in the forts before evacuation. The 11th Army Corps has suffered most severely. It has lost one-third of its number in prisoners, besides a considerable loss in killed and wounded, and all its artillery has been captured. In the Black Sea region one division and a-half with irregular cavalry of Lazis and Adjars have been attempting to defend Trebizond from the Russian columns advancing from Batoum. In the Bitlis region a portion of the 12th Baghdad Army Corps (probably a division and a-half) has been hurried from Mosul, but not in time to protect Bitlis. For the rest, information seems to point to a regrouping of the whole of the Ottoman forces in the empire. The 1st, 2nd, and 5th Armies in the Constantinople, Thrace, and Dardanelles areas are probably sending a division each to the Caucasus front via Sivas and Erzinjan.

The 6th Army in Mesopotamia has sent a portion of the 12th Corps to Mosul, and the 4th Army under Jemal Pasha in Syria is being held in reserve in case of further disaster in the north. In any case it is probably safe to assume that all this regrouping will take time, and that it will be long before the Turkish 3rd Army can be reorganized and make any serious attempt to recover what it has lost. Besides, it has now lost the most important strategical centre along the whole of the east front.

COSTUMES FOR SERBIAN CHILDREN.

Last week there was an exhibition of Serbian national costumes at the League of the Empire's Club premises in Buckingham Gate, to which brief reference was made in our last issue. The garments had been made by members of the League and their friends, to patterns supplied by the Serbian Relief Fund. These patterns had been sent all over the country, and most of the garments were the production of small working parties in out-of-the-way places. They are mostly for children, and will be given to people rendered destitute by the war. The general effect of the rooms, hung round with all these gaily coloured clothes, was very bright and pleasing; and, incidentally, an educational purpose was served, for garments which offended against the canons of Serbian taste were "skied" in the manner of the less meritorious pictures at the Academy, while those that were correct in all details were hung upon the line. The Serbian costume is simple. For a girl or woman it consists of a sleeved tunic or chemise made of some warm and stout material, a skirt short enough for the lower part of the chemise to be seen; a sleeveless jacket or bolero, and sometimes an apron. All the garments are brightly coloured and embroidered, or otherwise ornamented. The bolero should be made of a different colour to the skirt; stripes are objectionable, and green should be but sparingly used. The London County Council is now taking the matter up and distributing patterns to its schools, so that the pupils may assist in making other garments. At a less serious time this might very well be the beginning of a new fashion here, and dresses for English children might be made according to some of these picturesque Serbian models. Besides the garments mentioned, the exhibition contained two or three handsome Serbian costumes very richly embroidered, some painting, and photographs illustrating Serbian scenery, and some finely modelled pottery showing men drawing a wagon, a Serbian outpost, etc., by Miss Nell Fry.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Responsibility for Kut. March 30.

Lord BERESFORD asked whether the General Officer Commanding the British forces now besieged at Kut-el-Amarah had recommended, or was responsible for, the decision to advance on Ctesiphon, or whether in carrying out that advance he was only acting under the direct orders of the General Officer Commanding the forces in Mesopotamia. He had, he said, been informed that General Townshend started with less than a division, when he ought to have had three divisions. No despatches had been published since last April, though there had been three battles, two of a tremendous and terrible character. The troops had fought desperately for three days while short of water, and had added to the traditions of the British and Indian Armies. The method of the retreat had been of the highest military character, for General Townshend succeeded in getting back ninety miles to the river without the loss of a gun or prisoner. They had heard it officially stated in the House of Commons that the provision of medical necessities was "shocking," but they had not yet heard anything regarding the military necessities, except that the Government were anxiously considering the position which was caused by their own folly—by their own want of knowledge of war—by the political and civilian element controlling the war, instead of paying attention to policy, and turning over policy, when decided upon, to the soldier or sailor, for him to dictate what forces were necessary to make it a success.

Lord ISLINGTON said that if General Townshend had made any representations prior to the advance he would, of course, have done so to the General Officer Commanding, who was at that time Sir John Nixon. No such recommendation or representation had been reported home. The responsibility for the advance did not rest with General Townshend. The advance was authorised by his Majesty's Government on the advice of the General Officer Commanding in Mesopotamia. As to whether General Townshend was consulted by the General Officer Commanding he was not in a position to say. The Government had no information as to what might have taken place in consultation between General Townshend and Sir J. Nixon prior to the advance. At present, when the campaign was actually proceeding, it would be in the highest degree injurious to the public interest to publish anything of a detailed character either in regard to the past or the present. He wished to re-echo what had been said with regard to the forces in Mesopotamia. The troops, both British and Indian, taking part in the operations had displayed courage and endurance which would compare favourably with that shown in any other part of the world.

The Marquess of CREWE said that he would like to say categorically that there had been no instance in the war, in any single place in which military operations had taken place, in which either a naval or a military commander had been asked by the civil power to undertake an operation of any kind with a force which he had declared to be insufficient for the purpose. That was a statement which he made without the smallest reserve.

Mesopotamia Again. April 5.

Lord ISLINGTON said he wished to refer briefly to the debate which took place last week with regard to the campaign in Mesopotamia. When he stated on that occasion that, before consenting to despatches referring to the earlier operations in Mesopotamia being published, he should consult the Departments concerned, he did not mean to imply that the publication of the despatches would be injurious to the public interest. In certain quarters it had been inferred that his remarks tended in that direction. He was now in a position to announce that a despatch had been under consideration between the several Departments concerned for some time, and would be published in the *Gazette* that evening. A further despatch was also under consideration, which would take the history of the campaign up to the date when General Nixon relinquished the command. This second despatch included the action at Ctesiphon and subsequent events, but as it related to the basis of operations still proceeding in Mesopotamia its publication at the present moment would not be consistent with the public interest.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Consular Captives. March 30.

Lord R. CECIL informed Colonel Yate that the German Consul at Salonika, who was deported from that town, had been detained by the French Government at our request pending the release of the British Consul at Shiraz.

The Mesopotamia Hospital Inquiry.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, replying to Mr. MALCOLM, stated that the inquiry which had been ordered would be confined to the medical and hospital arrangements of the Mesopotamian campaign. He assumed that it would embrace all matters relative to the sufficiency or otherwise of the provision made in India and Mesopotamia for medical, personnel, stores, and appliances, also as to the organisation of medical relief and the arrangements for dealing with the sick and wounded in the field, at the base, and in transit to the base. He had issued instructions that the Commission should fearlessly ascertain and assign the responsibility for the breakdown of the relief, whether individuals or the system were to blame. Until the Commission had reported he could not say whether a further inquiry would be needed. The Viceroy had informed him that he had invited Mr. E. A. Ridsdale, Red Cross Commissioner, now *en route* from this country to Mesopotamia, to join the Commission as a member.

The Fate of Prince Bahram. April 4.

Sir J. D. REES asked the Foreign Secretary whether any inquiry had been made as to the fate of Prince Bahram of Persia, who was believed to have been a passenger in the s.s. Sussex, and if so, with what result?

Sir E. GREY said that every possible inquiry had been made, and he regretted to say that there was practically no hope that the Prince was a survivor.

Russia and Constantinople.

Mr. OUTHWAITE asked whether the Foreign Secretary's attention had been called to the recent speech of M. Miliukoff in the Russian Duma, in which he stated that Russia's sole war problem was an outlet to the sea, and that an agreement had been reached by the Allies in April last as to the future of Constantinople; and whether he could state the nature of the agreement referred to.

Sir E. GREY stated that he could add nothing to the replies he had given on May 18 of last year and February 25 this year.

Mr. OUTHWAITE: May I ask the right hon. gentleman whether he is aware that this has no relation to a question asked before, and are we not entitled to know the facts disclosed to the Russian Duma by leaders of the Opposition?

Sir E. GREY: I do not see that the statement made by M. Miliukoff in Russia affects the question as to official statements made here.

The Mesopotamian Campaign.

Col. YATE asked the Secretary of State for India whether he had seen a published letter from General Sir Alfred Turner referring to operations in Mesopotamia, and whether he would make a statement on it.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: I have seen General Sir Alfred Turner's letter published this morning, and I have read it with great regret. It suggests that an advance was ordererd by ignorant politicians at home against the advice of the General Officer Commanding in Chief in Mesopotamia. To that suggestion I give an unqualified contradiction. There is no foundation for it.

Col. YATE: Are we to understand from that reply that the advance to Baghdad was made on the advice of the General Officer Commanding in Chief in Mesopotamia?

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes.

The Advance on Baghdad. April 5.

Major ASTOR asked whether the Government, when they determined on or authorised the advance on Baghdad by General Townshend, had before them any documentary evidence that he favoured such an advance with the forces then available.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: The answer is in the negative whether by the word "Government" my hon. and gallant friend means the Government of India or his Majesty's Government. Our correspondence, in accordance with recognised military practice, was conducted with the General Officer Commanding the Mesopotamian Field Force.

The new Paris Arabic journal *Al-Moustakbil*, referred to in our issue of March 19 last, has a leading article in its fourth number with the following headings:—"For What Gain do the Turks Fight? Can the Minor, the Imbecile, or the Spendthrift be Lawfully Made a Trustee or a Treasurer? Do the Arabs Hate the Turks or Simply Turkish Administration and Mismanagement?" The article deals with these topics in an exhaustive, straightforward style. Space does not allow us to give a full translation of the well-put arguments, the upshot of which is that the Turk has had plenty of time and opportunity to learn the proper way of administering and governing the country, that he has proved himself incapable as well as thoroughly unscrupulous in his methods towards subject races, including the Moslem Arabs, and that Europe must no longer be beguiled by his false promises to repent and mend his ways.

An effective Raemaekers poster has been issued by the National Committee of Relief for Belgium in aid of their society's funds. It represents a Belgian woman holding a child to her breast, and is boldly and convincingly handled. Anyone can obtain a copy of the poster by applying to the committee, Trafalgar Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Prince and Premier.

We take the following quotation concerning the Crown Prince of Serbia and his Prime Minister from an article by Mr. Alfred Stead in the *Daily Chronicle* (April 1):—

Prince Alexander, for all his Royal position, is simply a Serbian citizen, a Serbian patriot, and in that his success and hold on his people lies. . . .

Against Bulgar as against Turk, Prince Alexander proved himself a good general, and, above all, a good Serb, capable of understanding his people. The war ended, he threw himself with enthusiasm into the work of reorganising the army, a work only half completed when the European war broke out. Since then he has been incessantly in the field with the General Staff. During the first two Austrian invasions of Serbia he played a leading part in military operations. Especially valuable were his services as a medium of co-operation and co-ordination between the civil and military authorities—in numberless cases his tact, his ability smoothed over differences between the General Staff and the Serbian Government. During the recent hopeless struggle against Germans, Austrians, and Bulgarians he was ever with his soldiers, encouraging them to hope, as he hoped, that help would come, and when the last hope was gone, keeping the remnants of the army together and leading his starving and dispirited but never defeated troops to the coast, when they could gain breathing space to begin again.

After commenting on this noteworthy and magnificent effort of the young Prince, Mr. Stead turns to the Premier, whom he refers to as "a living history of his country's progress":—

With the advent of the Karageorge dynasty to the throne, M. Pashitch became the predominant power in his country. None understand better the psychology of the Serbian peasant, and in Serbia all the population is peasant at heart, and thus he was able to weld together a strong and dominating political party, which, with rare exceptions, held the reins of power incessantly. The quiet determination and courage of M. Pashitch achieved what more showy and flashing qualities in others were unable to do. Year by year his services became more indispensable to his country, until finally the great war of to-day found him in practically supreme control.

Serbia is the most democratically constitutional country. The rights of the minority in Parliament outweigh the privileges of the majority, and hence national progress is exposed to terrible and prolonged delays. To steer a national policy through Parliamentary shoals required tremendous perseverance, patience, and courage. To see M. Pashitch in the national Assembly was a revelation in Parliamentary statecraft. Without undue or apparent effort the Serbian Prime Minister brought about reconciliation with Great Britain, broke away the commercial dependence upon Austria, doubled the area of Serbia, and raised Serbia into the comity of nations.

And to-day this young old man, after all the hardships of the war, is the most optimistic of all the Prime Ministers of the Allies. He has seen war, he has suffered privation more than any other Prime Minister, and he is the most confident of ultimate victory.

Serbia.

Most of the principal papers of England have marked their sympathy with the Serbian Crown and country by the publication of leading articles on the arrival of the Crown Prince in London. *The Times* (March 31) says:—

While the peoples of Great Britain and of the Oversea Dominions have done and are still doing much to alleviate the sufferings of the Serbian nation, they cannot rid themselves of deep regret that the measures tardily taken to render effective military help to Serbia should have come too late to be of practical avail. They feel that if Serbia, disappointed, crushed, and ruined, had lent her ear to the specious Austro-German offers of peace, she would have been entitled to plead extenuating circumstances. All the more do they admire her steadfastness in misfortune and the unquenchable confidence with which she and the remnant of her Army contemplate the future.

The Times refers to Mr. Asquith's declarations regarding our duty to Serbia, and continues:—

Serbia will be born again, and will recover "all and more than all" she has lost. Her renascence will not, indeed, be complete, nor her future assured, until she becomes united, on a basis of freedom and of political and religious equality, with the other branches of the Southern Slav race. Beyond her former frontiers—in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slavonia, Dalmatia, parts of Istria, and Slovenia—live, under the Austro-Hungarian yoke, many millions of Southern Slavs whose aspirations towards union with Serbia proper form the sanction of the Southern Slav unitary movement. Serbia reborn will be no longer merely Serbia, but a United States of Yugoslavia, a polity at once European and Balkan, Western and Eastern, embracing some twelve million souls, one in language and race, though hitherto politically divided. To the realisation of this ideal, to the liberation of his whole race, Prince Alexander is entitled to look forward. In his endeavour to achieve it he may count upon the support of all that is best in British, French, Russian, and Italian opinion.

The *Daily Chronicle* (April 1) concludes its leading article in the following paragraph:—

Our visitors are exiles; they come to us at a time when they and their country's army have been driven from their country's soil. But we do not welcome them as exiles merely, or celebrate merely the heroism of their defeat; we celebrate the time for which our own nation is pledged to work, when Serbia, like Belgium, "shall recover all and more than all that she has lost," and when Serbia's Victor Emmanuel and Cavour shall have seen their confidence in us and our Allies splendidly vindicated. No one is without deep regret for the catastrophe which last autumn overwhelmed the Serb Army after its wonderful displays of patriotism and valour; but it is at least something that the French, the Italians, and ourselves should together have saved so much of it from the wreck to take part in the coming campaign of redemption. The war is one, and all its fronts are really one; nevertheless, when movement begins on all the fronts, that on the Balkan front may not prove the least important.

Blame Turkey!

Mr. Percival Gibbon, correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* at Petrograd, concludes a despatch to his paper (April 4) with the paragraph in reference to the sinking of the hospital ship Portugal which we quote below:—

The whole event takes special significance in the light of recent news from Turkey, where since the Erzeroum anti-German party have been gaining ground rapidly the possibilities of something in the nature of a Turkish surrender or separate peace are daily increasing.

Attempts have actually been made to open secret conversations both with Russia and the Western Powers. One delegate appointed for this purpose is stated to be still in Switzerland. Therefore there is strong suspicion in official circles that this deliberate crime was undertaken by German high command for no other purpose than to embitter Russia and render the defection of Turkey impossible, in precisely the same manner as the Wolff Bureau was recently ordered to cease the circulation of various certificates of Bulgarian humanity in Macedonia.

Pro-Bulgar Intrigues.

M. J. Coudurier De Chassaigne, writing in the *Sunday Times* (April 2), says that "there are some people who cannot abandon their fads, and who still refuse to admit the most patent evidence that Bulgaria as a whole, from the King downwards to the ordinary soldiers and civilians, is united in a common hatred of the Serbian race, and that to satisfy this animosity they will stick at nothing."

This he naturally regards as dangerous and as manifestly unfair to our Serbian Allies, and he proceeds to a statement of the grasping policy which, he alleges, animates Bulgaria even yet. He continues:—

Nobody in his senses can therefore admit even a vague possibility of any understanding with the Bulgarians at the present time. As long as they are victorious they will never give back of their own free will what they are pleased to call Bulgarian Macedonia, and their evacuation of this part of the Balkans will be one of the first conditions of any peace treaty between them and the Allies.

The Prime Minister of England has pledged his word and promised to give back to Serbia all she has lost and even more. This solemn undertaking ought to have stopped long ago the nefarious activity of those who aspired to buy Bulgaria with the spoils of Serbia. The time is past for any compromise between the Allies and those who have betrayed their best friend, Russia, with an impudence and cynicism without parallel in the history of the world.

One cannot repeat too often that if peace is to reign in the Balkans the hegemony of Bulgaria must be definitely broken. No equilibrium will be stable in this part of Europe unless Bulgaria is reduced to the frontiers assigned to her by the Bucharest Treaty of 1913.

Greece, Serbia, and Roumania must all of them be stronger than Bulgaria, so as to be able to crush at a moment's notice any renewed menace from the Balkanic bully.

The *Irish Times* (April 1) concludes a leading article on the Balkans, in which the possible intervention of Roumania and Greece are discussed, on the same note:—

The chief obstacle, perhaps, to their adherence to the Allied cause is their deeply-rooted suspicion that British diplomacy still cherishes a sneaking affection for Bulgaria. This suspicion is grounded in British diplomatic policy before Bulgaria's intervention, which went so far as to restrain Serbia from attacking her while there was yet time, and it persists tenaciously. Nothing can dispel it but a definite reassurance of Great Britain's intentions. Lord Robert Cecil was invited in Parliament on Tuesday to declare on behalf of the Government that Bulgaria would not be admitted to overtures for a separate peace, and would not, in any case, be permitted to acquire territory or other advantage "at the expense of any people who had fought, or might hereafter during the present war fight, on the side of the Allies." His reply was of that shuffling and evasive character which has made our diplomacy profoundly suspect in the Balkans. The mere fact that the Government, for no intelligible reason, will not give this simple and straightforward declaration strengthens

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in their aloofness those Balkan peoples to whom Bulgaria stands for the same odious principles for which Prussia stands to us.

Near East and the War.

Mr. Lovat Fraser contributes an article to the *Daily Mail* (April 3) the main purpose of which is to show that, although the ultimate victory of the Allies seems more certain and inevitable than it was a year ago, there is not one sure or safe sign that the war is anywhere near a close. His emphasises the conclusion that, whatever may happen in other theatres, the war on land will be decided in the West. We quote from the concluding portion of his article:—

We do not know, nor would it perhaps be prudent to speculate about, the intentions of the Allies regarding the powerful army of French, British, and Serbians concentrated at and within reach of Salonika. However much opinions may differ about the occupation of Salonika, it must be admitted that it has served one profoundly useful purpose. It has steadied the military position in the Balkans. Whether it may grow into a more active design is quite another matter. The northward routes into the Balkans are not favourable to modern armies, for the difficulties of transport are enormous. Half a million men would be needed, with large additional reserves. Salonika will probably wait upon events elsewhere.

Egypt has passed out of the picture for the time being. Our defences beyond the Suez Canal are now elaborate, and have reached the point to which they should have been brought a year ago. The Turks are evidently war-weary, but while Enver Pasha lives and remains obedient to his German masters we should not pay much heed to the rumours of Turkish overtures for peace. The same considerations apply to Bulgaria.

The Grand Duke Nicholas continues to work wonders beyond Erzeroum, but we must not expect to see him marching on Constantinople. His resources are governed by Russia's needs in Europe, and his hard and valiant troops are mostly second-line. He has to a great extent settled the Persian trouble for us, and for that we owe him our gratitude. The Mesopotamian campaign has small relation to the larger military issues. We shall have to settle accounts about it in due season, and we should all like to seen General Townshend rescued speedily, but his beleaguered force cannot affect the decisive areas one way or the other. The swing of the pendulum is just now making the European issues paramount, and Asia recedes into the background. One notices that the German papers have ceased to grow ecstatic about the Stamboul Express.

The Problem of the Straits.

The *Nation* (April 1) devotes a leading article to the above subject. Pointing out that the opening of the Straits and the attainment of an absolute guarantee for their unrestricted use in war as in peace is the one positive object of the war on which Russian opinion is immovably and solidly fixed, the paper debates the methods by which such an end could be obtained. It inclines to an acceptance of the suggestion made by Sir Edwin Pears, that the city of Constantinople and both shores of the Straits should become a neutralized international State governed by a European Commission:—

Turkey would herself prefer this solution to a Russian annexation, if she were *in extremis*, for it would allow her to keep Asia Minor. Its great merit is that it would have safeguarded the independence of all the Balkan States, and had it been adopted in 1914 as the Allied policy it might have turned the scale and rallied all of them to our side. It ought not to be dismissed from consideration now or at any future stage of the war. But one merit it does not possess. It would not tempt the Turks, as yet, to a separate peace. They will fight on for Constantinople until the eleventh hour, and that hour has not yet struck. There remains a more modest proposal. It is that, while the Turks still retained political control of their capital, the Straits should be neutralized on the analogy of the Suez and Panama Canals. The conventions which govern them provide that they "shall always be free and open, in time of war as in time of peace, to every vessel of commerce or of war, without distinction of flag." The right of blockade is expressly excluded, and a variety of provisions remove the risk of hostilities within the zone of the canal.

The paper points out that under this method Russia would secure nearly all she requires:—

The only case for which it would not provide would be the case of a war between Turkey and Russia. Then the Sultan might, and would, close the Straits, and the exception seems at a first glance serious. The withdrawal of Turkey from the war would, however, mean at the same time her definite withdrawal from the German system. She would be forced to lean on the Entente, and would not be formidable if she stood alone. In proportion, moreover, as the peace is a good settlement, all war risks would be diminished. Turkey is no longer involved in the Slav question. Any tolerable peace must settle also the Armenian question, and the standing dispute over the Baghdad Railway. If a future war between Turkey and Russia were made highly improbable, this solution would come very near to giving Russia her full demand. It would, in short, be a good and adequate solution, if we hope that this war will inaugurate an era of settled confidence and peace. It would be a weak solution only if we expect a return to the bad old days of the armed peace, competitive armaments, and recurrent wars.

Salonika.

"A Military Correspondent," writing in the *Asiatic Review* (April), starts his article on Salonika with a reference to Wellington's advance from Torres Vedras, and says that the general opinion prior to that advance was that Wellington had admitted his inability to attack, and that a parallel is to be found to-day in the present position of the Allies at Salonika:—

Just as in the Penisular campaign the ports were not altogether abandoned, so the Balkan adventure was not altogether abandoned, but a base was retained which should form a threat against the enemy. If, in the first days of the retention of Salonika, the enemy had struck swiftly and hard, if he had followed up the successes farther north in true German fashion, then Salonika would have been no more than Cape Helles, the grave of an unfortunate enterprise. But difficulties of communication, and lack of the men who might have turned tactical victory into strategic success, hampered the Central Powers, and shifty Ferdinand would not where his Allies could not. So, gradually, the port of Salonika was ringed round with defences; men and guns were put ashore to languish in this flea-bitten town—to what end?

The writer answers the question of keeping in mind the parallel of Torres Vedras, and looks upon the retention of the port as a secondary business "*so far as the present combatants are concerned.*" He refers to the efforts of Germany to draw in other neutral States by impressing them with a sense of Teutonic might, and continues:—

But the Allied occupation of Salonika stands as a gibe at the supposed strength of the Central Powers. If it were possible to shift out the Allies, Austro-German statesmen could point to the feat as a final proof of their invulnerability, and their ability to work their will in the Balkans and elsewhere; as it is, to all their assurances there is the retort—Salonika! And the retort is unanswerable. An undefended port has been turned into a stronghold, and, more, has been made a menace to the Austro-German domination of Bulgaria and Turkey; and no Roumanian can foresee the result of that menace, when the weather shall admit of free action in the passes of Southern Serbia and along the valley of the Vardar.

Here in England, untouched by the possibility of invasion, and immune for centuries, we cannot realise to the full the effect of such a threat as is the occupation of this port. It is of little use to tell an Englishman that the occupation of Salonika is a threat against Uskub, against Nish, against Sofia, and against Belgrade, until the threat becomes translated into action. To the average man the occupation of Salonika is a waste of men; but we may be certain that it is not seen in this light by the directors of the war at Berlin and at Constantinople.

He thinks also that the occupation of the port will prove to be valuable as "a threat to Balkan malcontents" when we come to the great reckoning with Germany, and concludes:—

The enemy threat to the safety of Egypt may be considered practically nullified by the recent events of the Caucasus campaign, but such possibility of enemy attack on Egypt as remains is vitally affected by the occupation of Salonika. The enemy has but the one line of rail from Constantinople through Asia Minor for the transport of troops and supplies to the vicinity of the Suez Canal, and the possession of Salonika and Alexandria give to the Allies the advantage of acting on interior lines against this railway, which for a large part of its course is vulnerable from the sea. By a blow struck, with naval co-operation, from Salonika, any force sent against Egypt by means of this railway could be cut off and starved of munitions and food, if the sending of such a force were still possible for the enemy, which is doubtful now.

Thus it may be said that the Allied occupation of Salonika is no ill-considered gamble, no waste of men, but is a wedge jammed into the mechanism of the enemy's military machine, rendering inutile certain parts of that machine, and thus affecting the working of the whole.

Roumania and Greece.

Writing in *Reynolds' Weekly* (April 2), Mr. T. P. O'Connor says that with the fall of Erzeroum Germany's dream of the East began to fade. He points to the rumours that Turkey is anxious for a separate peace as being possibly without much foundation as yet, but "they are straws which show how the wind blows, and indicate that Turkey's power for mischief is coming to an end." He continues:—

This, again, involves many other satisfactory results. I have little doubt as to the choice which Roumania will ultimately make, but we must not be too anxious or too fidgety. Roumania will not stir. Roumania, in my opinion, ought not to stir till the beginning of the great Russian advance secures her from a pounce by Germany, and perhaps the same disastrous lot as has fallen to Belgium, Serbia, and every other place where German brutality has been left to display its hideous possibilities. I regard the news from Greece as growing daily more satisfact-

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tory. Here, again, I would strongly counsel a spirit of self-confident patience. My friends in Greece—and as one of the oldest of the Philhellenes I have many friends in Greece—and the Greeks who are outside Greece in various countries have always said to me that time must be allowed to do its work, and that time was on the side of the Greeks, who, following the lead of M. Venizelos, see no hope for Greece except in alliance with the Allied Powers. The enemies of M. Venizelos are daily losing their hold. Indeed, at this moment there are possibilities in Greece which may threaten the dynasty, and though he does not yet realise it, the best friends of the King are those who press upon him a national Greek policy, and stand between him and the disapproval of the overwhelming majority of his subjects against the support of his odious brother-in-law, the German Kaiser.

In regard to our occupation of Salonika Mr. O'Connor says:—

I regard our occupation of Salonika as, next to the capture of Erzeroum, the most important factor in producing the great change in the Near East which everybody can see to-day. Without that expedition, our cause in the East would have been prejudiced, if not lost. Roumania might have gone; Greece might have gone from us; and if the armies these two Powers could put into the field had been added to the German, Austrian, Bulgarian, and Turkish forces, it is evident that with all her splendid forces Russia might have found her task almost impossible. As it is, we may regard as probable that Russia will find these forces on our side which otherwise might have been against us, and I need not dwell on the difference this will make when at last Russia begins her steady, and I hope overwhelming, descent on the decimated ranks of our enemies. Without Salonika we might well be charged with treason and desertion by our Russian Allies.

Articles to Note.

"Arabs in Warfare," by Douglas Carruthers (illustrated), in *Country Life* (April 1).

"The Need for a Balkan Policy," by Alfred Stead, in *Land and Water* (March 30).

"Dawn," in the *Nation* (April 1).

"The Cause of Serbia," in the *Times* (April 3).

"Arabic Philology," by Maulvie F. M. Sayal, M.A., M.S.P., in the *Philomath* (March).

"The Attitude of Roumania" and "The Mesopotamia Muddle," in the *Morning Post* (April 4 and 6).

ALBANIAN PROVERBS.

(From a Correspondent.)

A Greek writer, who makes a speciality of the customs of the peoples of the Balkans, has just published a collection of Albanian proverbs which give a real insight into the character of this folk. The following are among the most characteristic:—

A well-thought-out lie is better than a truth which is stupid.

A sack of flour and a full purse—these are the best friends.

The cat and dog are made to bite each other; but if you see they are friendly, look out for yourself.

He who has never seen a hare run must not speak of what fear is.

He who harnesses an ass to his cart must suffer the vagaries of that animal.

He who does not get drunk on Sunday does not deserve to be shaken hands with on Monday.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The Paris papers report that Greece is attempting to raise a loan in Berlin. Personally, I am inclined to think that there is very little foundation for the rumour. German loans to Near Eastern countries have never been a success, as far as the countries themselves were concerned, and have always led to a gross self-assertion on the part of the Teuton. The rattling sabre of the Pomeranian grenadier always accompanied the clinking of Berlin gold. Surely, we do not love Greece so little that we would let her be bought by the Huns, and thus endanger her very existence? The thought alone is preposterous. Besides, what money can Germany have to lend? It would be paper, and what will the value of that paper be after the conclusion of the war? No doubt it would suit Germany's cards extremely well to export paper now for redemption in gold at a later date, but such an operation cannot suit Greece.

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In connection with the above, it is interesting to see how German payments are made in conquered Bulgaria. Our Bucharest Correspondent quotes the Sofia paper *Narodna Prava* as expressing satisfaction that the Germans are paying on the spot for all articles requisitioned. "It does not, for obvious reasons" (continues our Correspondent) "state that all these payments are only in paper money, the actual value of which is falling daily. This notwithstanding, the unfortunate persons from whom goods are 'requisitioned' have to take it at its face value. At Sofia alone, during four months (October-January), goods have been 'requisitioned' to the value of 7,654,085 fr., at Rustchuk 3,227,009, at Sistoff 2,655,437, at Philippopolis 1,262,259, at Plevna 1,460,444, at Sliveni 1,140,307, at Jamboli 2,614,402, at Guinardjine 1,140,203, at Lom 1,511,128, at Karnobat 2,385,163, at Gabrovo 2,566,322, at Tchervenoreg 1,273,278 fr. Thus in four months Bulgaria has been flooded with German paper to the value of over seventy-three million francs. This is causing universal dismay in commercial circles, where the tragic fall of the mark is only too well known." I feel sorry for the Bulgarian peasant robbed thus on a wholesale scale by Boche swindlers, but, after all, he has only himself to thank. I sincerely hope, however, that the Greek peasant will never be obliged to submit to such a Hunnish system of exploitation.

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Another matter of interest reported by our Bucharest Correspondent is the statement made in German papers to the effect that Germany is extracting daily 70 tons of copper out of the Serbian copper mines. According to our Correspondent, this is a gross exaggeration. The Bor mines (which practically monopolised Serbia's output), at their best, he argues, never produced more than 30 tons a day, "because the quartz required a special treatment by means of a secret process." Moreover, the plant was effectually destroyed by the Serbs before their retreat, and the mines rendered useless for months to come. Our Correspondent concludes by suggesting that the German figures have been grossly and intentionally exaggerated, with a view to making the Allies believe that there is no further copper shortage and that, therefore, the continuation of the war is useless. There may be a bit of truth in this suggestion, but, on the other hand, the most significant fact is that, whether with a high or low output, the Germans have succeeded in re-opening one (or more) of Serbia's copper mines.

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The meeting of the British Manufacturers' Association, held on Wednesday afternoon at the Cannon Street Hotel, was a revelation. It was well attended, the speeches were practical and to the point, and the enthusiasm of a kind that promises well. There is no doubt, there can be no doubt, that the association means well, but it has a long, long way to go, and there will be serious obstacles in its path. The chief of these is Governmental apathy—euphemistically called conservatism—which is as stubborn as a brick wall, and can only be broken down when the weight of public opinion grows too strong for it. Hence the Manufacturers' Association must continue to organise its forces, draw out all its resources, and *drive* the Government to do its duty towards them and recognise that they are the nation's mainstay and its chief asset. We do not want to have an industrial war at home after this other war is over, but, unless we look out, it will fall ruthlessly upon us. The manufacturers realise this, and if they in their own interests want to avoid it they must join the association and lend it the weight of their name and influence in order that it may fulfil its objects, namely, the protection of British industry, the fostering of British Imperial trade, and the reorganisation of our economic forces.

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I am pleased to read that the Board of Trade have decided to hold the British Industries Fair in London next year from Monday, February 26, to Friday, March 9, inclusive. Full particulars regarding the Fair and the building in which it is to be held will be announced in due course. Having regard to the satisfactory results achieved by the two British Industries Fairs already held, the Board of Trade propose to organise the 1917 Fair on similar lines. Participation in the Fair will again therefore be confined to manufacturers, and admission, which will be by invitation of the Board, will be restricted to wholesale buyers.

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Owing to the almost complete reversal of the economic situation in the Sudan, consequent upon the disastrous European war and other misfortunes, the Government is constantly turning its attention to fresh sources of revenue, or increasing, by all means in its power, the facilities for the conduct of already existing trade and commerce, writes a correspondent. Thus, recently, in order to place trade between the Sudan and South-West Abyssinia, *via* Gambela, upon a more secure footing, an entirely new scale of rates was adopted between Gambela and Khartoum and Port Sudan respectively. So far, it is understood, the innovation has proved encouraging, and the prospects of bringing up the interchange of trade to substantial proportions are decidedly bright.

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The current issue of *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review* contains a general informative article on "The Sudan and Raw Material" that will help to bring the wonderful natural resources of that country to public notice. Incidentally it may be pointed out that the Sudan Government Railways and Steamers have their own bureau in London, where all information, trade and otherwise, concerning the country can be obtained. It is situate at 5, Northumberland Avenue, and should be visited by those interested in our great African possession. However, the attention of prospective traders may likewise be drawn to the useful samples of Sudanese products exhibited in the galleries of the Imperial Institute.

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Cabling from Salonika on March 25, Mr. G. Renwick, the special correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, gives a graphic picture of life at Constantinople. from which the following extracts are taken:—The difficulty of feeding the population is becoming so great that the newspapers are advising people to leave the capital and go to Asia Minor, where provisions are said to be more plentiful. The journal *Tanin* says that the people in the capital are literally dying of hunger. Black misery, it says, is the only term which can be used to describe the condition of affairs at Constantinople, Broussa, Angora, and Smyrna. On the one hand, so runs another comment on the situation by the same journal, we are becoming exhausted in a military sense, in the face of our redoubtable enemies On the other hand we see the menacing spectre of famine. There is no petrol, coffee, sugar, or rice. The people have to fight in order to get bread. It is simply impossible to supply the people of Constantinople with provisions.

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The already complex finances of the Baghdad Railway have been rendered more intricate than ever, says the *Daily Telegraph*, by some recent manœuvring in the Turkish Parliament. A semi-official telegram from Constantinople, published in the *Kölnische Zeitung* and one or two other German papers, says: "The Chamber has passed the measure already adopted by the Senate, according to which the £T5,000,000 advanced at 6 per cent. for the construction of certain strategic railways is to be increased to £T7,112,000 and the interest reduced to 5½ per cent. Further, both Chamber and Senate have adopted a second bill, whereby the agreement concluded on November 6, 1915, between the Turkish Government and the Baghdad Railway Company, is approved. This agreement provides that the extra £T2,112,000 advanced by Germany to the Turkish Government shall be placed at the disposal of the Baghdad Railway Company. Of this sum £T1,936,000 is to be regarded as a loan from the Turkish Government to the company at 3 per cent., while the balance of £T176,000 is to rank as compensation for the extra expenses of construction imposed on the railway company on account of the war. If, however, the war comes to an end before the work of construction has been completed, the company is not to receive the whole amount of £T176,000, but only 10 per cent. of its total expenditure. The payment of interest on the 3 per cent. loan is to begin when the sections of the line now being completed are opened. If the loan is not paid back within five years, the rate of interest payable is to be raised.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Egyptian Budget.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 21.

This afternoon the Council of Ministers approved the Budget for the coming financial year, which starts on April 1 next. The situation to-day is very different to what it was twelve months ago, and the following table gives an interesting comparison between the figures for the two war-year Budgets and those of the last one prior to the war:—

	Budget for 1916-17. £E.	Budget for 1915-16. £E.	Budget for 1914-15. £E.
Revenue	16,350,000	14,756,000	17,588,000
Expenditure..	16,639,000	15,900,000	18,162,000
Draft on the Reserve ..	100,000	1,144,000	574,000

Thus, although last year the revenue was estimated at over two and three-quarter millions less than that set down for the preceding one, the situation of the country has so improved that it has been found possible to Budget for a revenue that is barely one million less than that of two years ago. Expenditure has also been reduced by over a million and a-half compared with 1914-15, so that the Budget position this year is actually half a million better than it was prior to the outbreak of war. Of course, this has entailed cutting down public works, which is very regrettable.

Finance Committee's Notes.

The Finance Committee's note which accompanies the Budget states:—"That although the war continues, the pessimistic anticipations of a year ago have not been realised. The cotton markets of Europe have gradually recovered, and the price of cotton has risen to an exceptional level. It is true that as a result of the measures adopted by the Government the area under cotton was less than usual, but cotton has given place to other products, from which such good crops have resulted that the country has found itself in possession of a surplus over its own requirements, which has gone towards increasing its exports. The presence in Egypt of a great number of British troops has provided work for the local population, the while it has created an immediate demand for articles of local production. All these circumstances have contributed to counteract the pernicious effects of the war, as regards at least the immediate prosperity of the Egyptians. It should, however, be pointed out that, despite the general improvement and the resultant increase in State receipts, the purchasing power of the people has evidently not regained its normal level, whilst the receipts of the Government still remain much below the figure at which they stood before the war."

The Committee, however, considers that the revenue, compared with the estimates for the previous year, is satisfactory. The land tax has been collected without difficulty. The Customs receipts will be considerably above the estimates. The tobacco dues will show an increase, partly due to the raising of the tariff. There has been more activity in the Courts, producing as a natural result higher receipts. The railways, telegraphs, and the Post Office have benefited not only by the improvement in commercial affairs generally, but also by the presence of the British troops, which are a source of profit to them all. The sole item in the accounts for the financial year which closes on the 31st inst. which will fall below the estimate will be port dues. This is due to the growing needs of the Allies as regards shipping and the consequent difficulty in finding freights for ordinary commerce. "This state of affairs has already created difficulties for Egypt, and may one day become a menace to its prosperity."

Economy.

As far as concerns the expenditure of the current year, important economies have been realised on the Budget credits, owing to the care taken by the various administrations to limit their outgoings and to the difficulty in obtaining material from Europe for the new works sanctioned. As a result of this, the accounts will close with an important surplus, which the Committee estimates at well over a million. "This surplus would have sufficed almost to restore the reserve to the figure at which it stood before the war if the diminution in share values in the world had not brought about a serious depreciation in the value of those in which the reserve is invested."

Increased Revenues.

Turning now to the Budget which is the subject of this article, we find that the principal increases in revenue compared with the estimates of the previous year are:—Direct taxes, £E130,000; Customs, £E900,000; railways, £E494,000; Post Office, £E62,000; legal fees, £E71,000; domains, £E36,000; and divers receipts, £E128,000. A decrease in port dues of £E40,000 and one of £E10,000 in military exemption fees are provided for.

No arrears of land tax are foreseen, and an increase is expected in the general collections of direct taxes, in spite of the fact that taxation to the extent of about £E70,000 will have to be remitted on certain lands that were left unirrigated, owing to the insufficient flood of 1915, and that the house tax has diminished on account of the numbers of houses that have remained untenanted and the revision of rates that has taken place in the case of certain properties.

The increase in Customs receipts is due to improvement in commerce and to the raising of the export dues to 12 per cent., which will bring in an extra £E200,000. It is pointed out that this increased tariff is only a temporary measure, and that it will come to an end when the war finishes. It has been found possible to raise the estimates for legal fees, owing to an improvement that has been noticeable in the receipts of the Mixed Court during the last few months and to the marked increase in the work done by the native tribunals.

The increase in railway receipts is put down to the very active traffic caused by the amelioration in the commercial situation and by military exigencies. The extension of the cotton area is also expected to bring about an increase in traffic. As regards the Post Office, the extra £E62,000 budgeted for is expected to come from the larger sale of stamps and increased activity in other services caused by the improved economic and commercial situation.

Domains.

The increase in Domains receipts is in reality more than the £E36,000 put down in the Budget, as last year the estimate was raised on account of the large portion of the 1914 cotton crop which had not been sold, and was to be disposed of during 1915. This stock has now been sold off, and the improvement in the Domains receipts comes from the fact that a larger area of the estates has been put under cotton, and that better prices are expected from the sale of the resultant crop. As regards divers receipts, a considerable increase is expected from the investment of funds and from the share accruing to the Government from the profit made by the National Bank on the bank note issue. In addition a profit of £E100,000 is anticipated from the new coinage, a large quantity of which will have to be struck.

Expenditure.

With regard to the expenditure, the increase of £E666,294 is due as to over £E400,000 to the rise in the price of coal and the balance to the higher cost of material which has to be imported from abroad and the increased cost of maintenance. The Civil List of the Sultan receives an additional £E19,951, bringing the total, including the Palace staff, to £E338,810. Railways bulk largest amongst the increases with an extra £E501,562, of which £E332,000 is due to increased coal charges. Maintenance and renewal of material take an extra £E91,000, and new rolling-stock £E75,000.

The Post Office receives an addition of £E29,510, part of which is for the transport expenses on consignments for the troops. An amount of £E10,000 is allowed for arrears of 1914 on transit charges, which have to be settled through the International Bureau at Berne. An increase of £E50,764 is allowed for the War Office, owing to the steady rise in the cost of munitions and of equipment. Pensions and Indemnities absorb a further £E52,835 this year, bringing the cost to the State to £E732,335. Of the increase, £E15,500 is due to the payments made to the families of men who have joined the Army. It is to be noted that the amount received by the State from its officials towards pension is £E132,000 per annum.

It has been found impossible to provide any further amounts for any of the important improvement works that had been started. The only new works for which anything has been granted are canal improvements and work on the Rayah Behera, for each of which £E22,000 has been set aside. It is to be presumed—and hoped—that when the current financial year is closed part of the surplus will be set aside for the continuation of the projects which had to be suspended on the outbreak of the war.

Provision is made in the Budget for the preliminary expenses of the decennial census, which takes place next year, and a sum of £E18,000 is set down for the extension of the cotton area of the State domains and for the increase of the area of those estates under direct cultivation (the area is now 34,500 feddans). Considerable economies have been effected in the Public Instruction Budget owing to posts left vacant by men who have gone to the front not being filled up, and to the suppression of the Primary certificate examinations. This has enabled the creation of a new girls' school in Cairo, a teachers' school in Alexandria, and an elementary higher school to be made without any addition to the Budget for education.

The Public Health receives an additional £E14,100, due partly to the opening of an ophthalmic hospital in the Fayum and to the extension of the infectious diseases hospital at Abbassia. The other changes in the budgetary items are mainly due to transfers of services from one administration to another, whilst the increase of £E5,120 in the charge of the Public Debt is represented by £E4,133 for the annuity on the Cairo-Helwan line, and about £E1,000 for that on the dredging of the Suez Pass, payable to the Suez Canal Company.

Adviser's Note.

Usually concurrently with the publication of the Budget and the Finance Committee's Note there is published the annual Note by the Financial Adviser. Owing to the absence of Lord Edward Cecil in England—he has been detained through illness—his review of the situation will not be made public until later, probably towards the end of the month. In view of the peculiar conditions still existing it will be awaited with great interest.

ENEMY FIRMS IN EGYPT.

The *Official Journal* just issued contains the following notice in reference to the Proclamation of August 16, 1916:—

Notice is hereby given that the following firm has been granted a licence to trade without special restrictions, in place of the restricted licence granted to it as stated in Section B of the notice published in the *Official Journal* of January 13, 1916, No. 4 *bis*:—

Picciotto Bros. and Co., Rue Matrah *ex* Okelle Dumreicher, Alexandria.

The following firms have been granted licences to trade in Egypt with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain, in accordance with the terms of the same section of the notice:—

Grun, Bernard. P.O. Box 600, Cairo.

Maria, Haddad and Co., 29, Boulevard de Ramleh, Alexandria.

Klat and Co., Hector, 27, Rue Mosquée Attarine, Alexandria.

The following firms have been granted licences to trade for the purposes of liquidation only, in accordance with the terms stated in Section C of the notice:—

Sterzing, Otto, 45, Rue Abdine, Cairo.

Blumenthal Frères, H. and J., Sharia Bosta el Kadima, Cairo.

TRADE WITH RUSSIA.—Firm of Produce Importers and Exporters, desirous of opening branch in Odessa, would like to hear from firms desiring REPRESENTATION, who would be willing to co-operate and share expenses of common office.—Reply to Box M., Publicity, Ltd., 28, Mark Lane, E.C.

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Egyptian Irrigation.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald's Report.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 14.

The outbreak of war necessarily arrested the progress of public works in Egypt and the Sudan, but the absence of the undertaking of new enterprises and the suspension of the execution of those already embarked upon do not detract from the interest attaching to the report by Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Under-Secretary of State for Public Works, which has just been published and which deals with the period from January 1, 1914, to March 31, 1915. On the contrary, this report possesses an unusual attraction in that it contains a very candid discussion of the various projects, which have to be undertaken, if both Egypt and the Sudan are to be given the water which they require for their full development and the security from water fatalities which is equally vital to their welfare.

Water Problems.

In the introduction Sir Murdoch gives some interesting details of the water problems which confront the irrigation authorities of those two countries and incidentally throws a new light on the motives which underlie the undertaking of the great works contemplated. The ancient system known as the "basin system," under which the country was divided into large basins which the waters of the Nile entered as soon as the flood had risen, and on the bed of which the seed was sown after the retirement of the flood, has been replaced by perennial irrigation, whereby two crops instead of one are now grown. The country is to a very great extent protected against the famine which, under the old regime, was inevitable, if by any chance the flood failed. To-day the perennial system has been so extended that only a fifth of the cultivated area of the country, all situated in Upper Egypt, remains to be converted.

Reclamation of Uncultivated Land.

Of new works remaining to be done the largest is the reclamation of uncultivated land to satisfy the requirements of a population which continues to multiply with increasing rapidity, such reclamation to be supplemented by the extension of perennial irrigation to the yet unconverted areas of Upper Egypt For these works more water is required in summer, and to secure that, further control of the Nile becomes necessary. Further control of the Nile is also necessary to satisfy certain immediate requirements apart from all consideration of what may be wanted in the future. Sir Murdoch points out that although the Nile is one of the most regular rivers in its seasonal variations of volume, these variations are marked by minor irregularities which continue deeply to influence the well-being of the Egyptians. He gives some illustrations of these irregularities, and adds: "The Nile banks require to be further protected, and, finally, there is a most urgent need for better drainage in the Delta."

With regard to the protection of the Nile banks he explains that the passing of the flood water safely down to the sea is one of the most serious duties of the Irrigation Service. The river banks along which the flood flows high above the level of the adjoining land, were made in very early times, and are composed of such friable material that they are constantly being denuded by the action of wind and traffic, and so require continual repair. An additional danger is that the flood levels are tending to rise partly because less water is now taken from the crest for basins, and partly because the two branches of the river in the Delta appear to be silting up. In olden times the authorities had little reason to fear the effects of abnormally high flood. The river might break its banks—it often did—and inundate the country, but little real damage was done, and these "breaches formed convenient exits by which the water might pass into the middle and lower zones of the Delta, then little cultivated." But to-day the Delta is so thickly populated and so widely cultivated that grave injury may result from any such breaching of the banks. Strengthening them will, however, not completely remove the danger, for there is the fear that a continuance of high levels may render the banks sodden and cause them, notwithstanding, to slip and breach, "and here the design for improvement makes a wide cast from Lower Egypt, where the danger is greatest to the Sudan, where the only source of permanent security can be found and where the regulation of the Blue and White Niles will at once diminish the flood and increase the supply of summer water."

Delta Drainage.

With regard to the question of the drainage of the Delta Sir Murdoch explains that this is a new work only in relation to the extension of the treatment to new areas. The Central Gharbia and Western Behera or Mariut schemes, each comprising some 500,000 acres, which were started in 1912 and on which up to March 31, 1915, about £E900,000 had been expended, would by now have been within measurable distance of completion but for the interruption of expenditure caused by the war. Sir Murdoch gives an interesting explanation of the manner in which the need for drainage originated. "The great increase of population was accompanied by reclamation of a considerable area of waste land in Lower Egypt, and, though not enough was reclaimed to keep pace with the demand, yet the process proceeded faster than the efficacy of drainage and irrigation allowed and was accelerated by a kind of excess in development, produced by the Aswah Dam. In particular, irrigation outstripped drainage with the result that land reclaimed stands arrested in its development, and certain areas in the middle zone of the Delta have actually deteriorated rather than become fertile. As this deterioration is likely to increase unless steps are taken to prevent it, the provision of adequate drainage claims immediate consideration in any projected improvement of the country. At the same time the still increasing population demands wider treatment of the question than before, and a combination of improvement with new development. In 1882 the proportion of crop to each head of population was nine-tenths of an acre, but has since fallen to three-quarters, threatening a state of congestion in the near future if no new land were available for cultivation."

Taxation.

An explanation of the principle adopted by the Government in its drainage schemes follows, and we see that the problem has been no easy one for the irrigation authorities to solve. The drainage undertakings may be costly but they promise large returns. This can be gauged from the land tax which near the apex of the Delta varies between P.T. 100 and P.T. 150 per feddan, but which in the lower areas still only partly cultivated is only P.T. 40, or even less. Three or four years after water has become sufficiently available, when proper drains are in existence and all the salt has been washed out, the areas in the North will be able to bear a tax approaching those first mentioned. When these drainage projects have been completed "1,000,000 acres, only half irrigated at present, will have been furnished with deep drainage and efficient irrigation, and 1,800,000 acres of entirely new land, properly watered and drained, will have been provided to satisfy a growing population. This result it is proposed to obtain by treating the Delta area by area and providing sufficient land just ahead of what requirements may reasonably be expected to be."

Nothing will for the present be done to Lake Menzala, for although it would no doubt pay to reclaim the land lying under its shallow waters, yet that is for the future, and there are far more pressing works of immediate necessity to be tackled before. However great their ultimate benefits may be it would not now be the moment to discuss projects only affecting the future and from the drainage of the Delta to the regulation of the Nile in the Sudan all undertakings at present proposed though they may be designed to satisfy the future, too, will primarily serve immediate needs. Thus we can take it for granted that no undertakings will be put in hand for some good time yet that do not have a direct bearing on the present position. This is as it should be, for otherwise this would mean taxing the present generation for the benefit of posterity with the added injury that in order to provide funds for works which would only bear fruit years hence the present generation would be deprived of the wherewithal to deal with the troubles which afflict it to-day and the neglect of which might react unfavourably on posterity.

"Fully to protect cultivation against the risk of disaster from invasion by the flood through breaches in the river banks is the immediate object of proposed works in the Sudan. Strengthening of the banks has been mentioned as the direct preventative of danger; the larger method of protection to be carried out in the Sudan is intended by some means or other to diminish the height and endurance of the flood itself."

Flood Water.

The flood water has, however, such peculiar qualities and the movements of the river at the only place where interference is possible are so singular that such action is somewhat complicated. The soil of Egypt has owed, and still owes, its great fertility to the silt which is annually brought down by the flood or "red" water. "To reduce the supply of this red water would be undesirable, partly because of the value of the water to Egypt and partly because any reservoir intended to store such water would be liable to rapid obliteration by the silt it would collect." Since, however, this silt comes from the Blue Nile and the White Nile is comparatively clear—most people who have been at Khartoum during the flood will remember the phenomenon that is produced at the junction of those two rivers which flow side by side for some distance the different colour of the Blue Nile water distinguishing it from that of the White Nile—there can be no doubt that the White Nile is the part of the river where such a reservoir may be created.

White Nile Dam.

Sir Murdoch is of opinion that, during the rise of the flood wave in the Blue Nile, and until it slows down as it nears its crest, or, if rising quickly, until the crest is reached, all or most of the water of the White Nile is probably held up and stored in the natural reservoir formed by the valley through which it flows. If, therefore, any works were to be carried out in or beyond the sudd region for the purpose of reducing the supply entering the lower reaches of the White Nile, it is quite possible that part of the Blue Nile discharge at Khartoum would turn and flow southward to an extent equivalent to the extent of that reduction. Similarly the holding up of the river in the sudd region to obtain more summer water might bring down more water in flood just at the time when the Blue Nile might be abnormally high. "This detrimental possibility and the resulting objection to any such works would, however, disappear with the construction of a dam on the lower portion of the White Nile." This dam could be used for protection at the period when the flow of the Blue Nile begins to slow down and the river falls. At that time the waters of the White Nile being released pass into the main river. If the dam were to be used so as to reduce the following waters, by the time the latter reached Egypt the crest would be so thinned that it would constitute no danger. The water thus held up could "be released later on as demand arose, and the dam would thus fulfil its second function of storing water against the time of shortage."

Quite conceivably there might be one disadvantage from the construction of a dam. This might arise if it were used to form a reservoir for annual storage not only in years of excessive flood but also in ordinary or low years, for the diminution which it would cause in the supply reaching Egypt might be such as to increase the risk of land being

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left unwatered in basin areas in Upper Egypt. As a corollary to the use of this dam as a storage reservoir. Sir Murdoch thinks that a barrage might be constructed at Nag Hamadi or that pumping concessions might be encouraged so as to counteract any such risk. A barrage at Nag Hamadi "might be also used as a summer feeder to a system of canals extended to meet the new conditions," and the area between Baliana and Deirut—the area of Upper Egypt still under basin irrigation falls into two divisions, Aswan to Baliana and Baliana to Deirut which represents half the total area still awaiting perennial irrigation, might be converted by means of this barrage.

"Further control of the flood wave beyond that to be provided by the dam on the White Nile might be obtained by the construction of a dam or weir at some point on the Blue Nile where the flood is not yet charged with the silt it eventually carries." Whilst such a work might lower those quick rises which the proposed dam on the White Nile would merely flatten, it would be unable to reduce prolonged floods in a corresponding manner. "It would, however, increase security against excessive floods and might be used to store a large quantity of water partly for Egypt and partly for the ultimate requirements of the Gezira district in the Sudan."

Sennar Weir.

Preparatory work has already been started on a weir on the Blue Nile at Sennar, where the site was approved by Lord Kitchener and Sir R. Wingate in January, 1914. This weir is part of what is known as the Blue Nile project, and is intended to provide water for the Gezira. This is the tract of land extending from Khartoum to the rainfall region and lying between the White and Blue Niles. "It is in shape and extent singularly like an inverted Egyptian delta and similar also to the irrigation of the delta is the proposed irrigation by which it will be brought under cotton cultivation, though separated as they are by a thousand miles the two regions will be differentiated by exactly opposite seasons of production."

The Gezira has a very irregular rainfall, mostly in the early autumn. Its population, such as it is, avails itself of this scanty supply of water to grow grain in patches, and it was this fact that first gave rise to the impression that grain was the only product for which the soil was fitted. But the experiments of the past ten years have shown that a large portion of the district is admirably suited to cotton cultivation and an experimental pumping station at Wad Medani watering 2,000 feddans "has proved that cotton can be successfully cultivated as a winter crop in contradistinction to its summer growth in Egypt. This different time of growth has a most important bearing on the subject of development, for, if both crops grew and took water at the same time in the Sudan and Egypt, difficulty would arise in the distribution of the summer discharge of the Nile, which in some years even at present does not suffice for Egypt alone." Of the total area of the Gezira 2,000,000 feddans can certainly be cultivated with cotton, and of these a block of 120,000 feddans has already been chosen for treatment. The outbreak of war has of course affected the progress of this work, but it has not completely stopped and the digging of the main canal which is to conduct the water over the area to be irrigated has been continued by convict labour. This weir "from the very nature of its site, however, has no real storage capacity, and indeed is intended only to feed the main canal in the Gezira." It will therefore not meet the case cited by Sir Murdoch, so it is to be assumed that another weir may later on be constructed further up the Blue Nile if a suitable site can be found.

Demands of Increased Population.

With regard to the requirements of Egypt Sir Murdoch says that "the present future conditions in Egypt which call for the provision of more summer water by a dam on the White Nile and other works are that the summer supply is frequently insufficient for existing cultivation and is quite inadequate for its future extension. The Aswan Dam has encouraged development to ask for more than it can give, and the growing prosperity of the country demands that one success shall be followed by others. In 1914 the river was so low that the more important summer crops were only harvested by sacrificing the cultivation of rice and increasing demands would, if no measures were taken to meet them, cause similar loss even in much better years. Up to the present population has increased faster than cultivation or cultivable land. The area cultivated has increased by 43 per cent., and drop has increased by 62 per cent., but the increase per cent. in population is 92. . . . During the past thirty years an annual average of 30,000 acres of entirely new land have been added to the taxable soil of the country and now produce two crops a year. . . . The future is principally concerned with continuation of . . . . these developments and new land should be provided at the rate of 50,000 acres a year."

A table annexed to the report gives some interesting figures of the existing cultivation and possible extension. The total area at present fully cultivated is 4,100,000 feddans, plus 1,200,000 feddans, producing only one crop annually; this gives a total annual crop area of 9,400,000 feddans, as some of the areas give two crops per annum. The cultivated area could be extended by another 3,600,000 feddans, making in all 7,700,000 feddans, and as each of these would then give two crops annually the total crop area would then be 15,400,000 feddans. It is estimated that to satisfy the needs of the country when fully developed to the aforementioned extent an additional storage of 8,000,000,000 cubic metres of water will be required "extending approximately to 9,555,000,000 cubic metres for a summer failure like that of 1914." As a guide to what these figures mean and the stupendous task before the irrigation engineers, it is mentioned that the storage capacity of the Aswan Dam is 2,400,000,000 cubic metres. The White Nile reservoir might supply an extra 3,000,000,000 cubic metres; "more water might be obtained from works on the Blue Nile and the training of the river in the Sudd region and regulation of one or more of the Great Lakes might complete the work."

Sudd Region.

With regard to the Sudd region, Sir Murdoch has some new remarks to make. At one time it was believed that the cutting of a canal alongside this region or the training of one of the main river channels passing through it would enable the entire summer-water requirements to flow down and so relieve Egypt from dependence on the variable supply of different years. But new data has since become available, and "it has been found that irregularities in volume occur on the other side of the Sudd to an even greater extent than on the side towards Egypt, and it results that if either of the above works . . . . . were executed otherwise than as a supplementary undertaking to the other works of control its only effect would be to reproduce on the downstream side of the Sudd the irregularities that occur upstream of it." Regulation above the Sudd could be obtained by building a small dam at the exit from Lake Albert, which would have an enormous storage capacity. This, combined with all the other works proposed and with possible works in the Sudd, "would ensure sufficient water to meet the ultimate requirements of Egypt under the fullest cultivation."

Conclusion.

Sir Murdoch concludes an able and lucid exposition of the situation by the following summary and the policy that is to be followed as follows:—"Further protection is required against excessively high floods. This it is proposed to obtain partly by heightening and strengthening the banks of the river, partly by stopping a portion of the flood wave in the Sudan. The water abstracted from the flood will be allowed to flow back into the river when the levels are lower and water runs short. A dam on the White Nile is the principal work proposed for the double purpose of reducing the flood and increasing the summer supply. More summer water is wanted both to ensure the present area of cultivation against the all too frequent seasons of poor supply and also to provide for further extension. It is also proposed to continue the conversion of the remaining basin lands to perennial irrigation either by building a barrage or by extending the right to pump water from the Nile, and it is intended to reclaim large areas of uncultivated land in Lower Egypt partly as an accompaniment to the drainage of the delta. . . . There appears to be no single project which will satisfy the ultimate demand for water when reclamation and development are complete. The White Nile's capacity for storage may suffice to meet demands for a number of years, and other works may be undertaken to supplement it, but, eventually, it will be necessary to regulate one or more of the Great Lakes."

There can be no possible doubt as to the importance of providing the country with adequate water and the great utility of the irrigation works already established, and the experience of the irrigation seasons of the period under review emphasizes this point. The country had the most limited spring and summer supply since the Aswan Dam was constructed, and there took place the most extraordinary failure of the Nile that has ever been authentically recorded. If it had not been for the Aswan Reservoir and the barrages at Assiut and Esna—and, be it added, the great vigilance and skill displayed by the irrigation authorities—the winter crops would have suffered, cotton in June and July would have been insufficiently watered, and the maize crops would have been seriously endangered by undue postponement of sowing. A further proof of the great value of the irrigation improvements introduced since the occupation is afforded by the statement that whereas formerly the average area that went without water from the flood each year was about 90,000 acres, nowadays the average is not more than 1,000 acres, whilst more striking evidence is forthcoming in the fact that albeit the maximum levels for 1884 and 1914 were identical, only 2,600 acres went unwatered in the latter year, as compared with 110,000 acres in 1884.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Automobile Ploughs.

Self-propelled ploughs seem to have found a ready market, and, according to a manufacturer's statement, the demand is such that deliveries to new buyers cannot be promised this year. We described in previous notes the efficiency and great adaptability of these little machines, but many improvements have since been made, which increase their efficiency, and, at the same time, place them within the means of the average smallholder. One of the latest improvements is of considerable interest. It is on a double-ended machine with a new type of driving and steering mechanism. This plough consists of a long horizontal frame, with driving mechanism attached at the centre, and plough-shares at each end. The drive is transmitted to the ground by means of two side chains, each running over two large sprocket wheels and carrying supporting plates which press directly on the ground. The chains are driven by further small sprockets on the end of a cross-shaft, which receives power from a motor mounted in the centre of the plough. It is intended that the one chain shall run in a furrow and the other on unploughed ground, so that it is necessary that the two chains should be of different heights. To this end the large sprocket wheels of each chain are carried on two swinging links pivoted on the plough-frame, extended above their pivots and coupled together by an operating rod. The rod is screw-threaded and passes through a nut which works in a bracket on the frame, so that by rotating the nut the rod can be moved lengthwise and thus swings the links, so that the sprocket wheels are raised and lowered together. Tension of the chain may be adjusted by means of a screwed connection between one of the links and the coupling-rod, and the parts are so proportioned that the tension is maintained in all positions of the links. The usual plough-share moving tackle is provided.

Government Support.

We can mention here that the Scottish Board of Agriculture in order to assist local associations of farmers to acquire such automobile ploughs proposed to supply the associations with machines on the following terms: The first cost of the plough must be repaid, together with interest at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, over a term of seven years; the local farmers must themselves provide all maintenance and supplies; the charge for the hiring-out of the plough must be on a sufficient basis per acre to ensure covering the sinking-fund, interest, running

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expenses and maintenance. The above terms are very reasonable and will prove of great assistance to small farmers who will thus have at their disposal up-to-date mechanical appliances for the cultivation of their land. A similar disposition, to supply farmers with implements on easy terms, has recently been shown by Governments and responsible agricultural societies in the Near East, and the merits of the British automobile plough ought to be made known to them.

Heating by Chemical Action.

With the increased price of coal and other fuels, many hitherto "handy" conveniences in domestic life, as well as in small industries, have been considerably affected. Any method, therefore, for obtaining heat by means other than ordinary fuel, especially if such means cost less than the latter, is of general interest at the present time. A recent American invention, which has already been patented, seems to embrace the above qualities, for it is an easily prepared mixture for producing heat by chemical action with water. The mixture consists of a caustic alkali in solid form, such as potassium or sodium hydrate, with an oxidisable substance, such as oxalic or tartaric acid, and an oxidising agent, such as a persulphate. The mixture may be used for warming food or other substances in an airtight can. It can also be used as a disinfectant and for cleaning sewers and sanitary appliances. Suitable proportions are 15 grammes of sodium hydroxide, 5 grammes of oxalic acid crystals, and 5 grammes of potassium persulphate, to which half a gramme of potassium nitrate and 3 grammes of tartaric acid may be added, and, in order to produce greater heat, half a gramme of finely-divided or granulated aluminium. When it is to be used as a disinfectant, three-tenths of a gramme of bichloride of mercury may be added, together with vanilla, musk, or camphor.

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O. B. 117. Telg.: "Sulzer, Alexandria." Tel. No. 738.
CAIRO OFFICE: 28, SHARIA EL MAGHRABY
P. O. B. 1095. Telg.: "Sulzer, Cairo." Tel. No. 2066.

Trade Notes.

Egypt.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade is in receipt from the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior of copies of the statement of conditions, etc., in connection with a call for tenders for the supply of Ghafir clothing required by the Stores Department during 1916, including blue drill belts, drawers, and qamis. Two metres of cloth of the kinds which the tenderer intends to use must be submitted to the Director of Stores, Bulac, Cairo, at least ten days before the adjudication. Copies of the specifications, with forms of tender, etc., may be obtained, at a cost of 2s. per copy, from the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W., where also sealed samples of the articles required may be inspected. Sealed tenders, on the proper form, will be received, up to noon on April 22, by the Under-Secretary of State (Personnel and Equipment Department), Ministry of the Interior, Cairo. Date, April 22.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-18). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Date, June 1.

Tenders are invited by the Director of the Police School, Abbassia, for the supply of clothing and accoutrements required for the officer cadets. Date, April 15.

Messrs. Thomas Hinshelwood and Co., Walter W. Davies, Frederick Cree, and Thomas W. Petersen and Co. were recently among the successful tenderers to the Ports and Lighthouses Administration.

Messrs. J. Compton and Sons, Thomas Hinshelwood and Co., Kannreuther and Co., Commercial and Agency Co. of Egypt, Walter W. Davies, Frederick Cree and Co., Ltd., Frederick Cree, Vacuum Oil Co., Alexandria Engineering Works, and Vulcanite, Ltd., were recently among the successful tenderers to the Coast Guards Administration.

Sudan.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on May 10, 1916, for the supply of stores and material required by the above Department during the current year. Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, the Agent, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria, or to Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, London, S.W.

Somaliland.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of "The Customs Amendment Ordinance (No. 5, of 1915)," dated August 16, wherein the following addition is made to the list of articles which may be imported free of duty into any of the ports of the Protectorate:—

Camp equipment imported by officers and officials serving in the Protectorate. The term "Camp Equipment" shall be held to include the following articles:—Camp-bed and bedding; valise, camp tables; waterproof sheets or tent carpets; bath, wash-stand and basin, tents; camp crockery, cutlery and cooking utensils; camp lanterns, saddlery.

Ships and boats; and the apparel pertaining thereto.

Abyssinia.

Writing on January 27, the U.S. Vice-Consul at Aden says:—The railway from Djibouti to Adis Abeba, Abyssinia, is rapidly nearing completion, being within a few miles of Adis Abeba. With its completion there should be a larger market for American goods. Some of the articles for which there should be a demand are the following: Soap, safety matches, hardware, cutlery, cooking utensils, carpenter's tools, simple agricultural implements, saddles, etc., horseshoes, sewing machines, stationery, ink, cotton prints for women, oils for cooking purposes, and religious books in Arabic and English. All goods must be such as would retail cheaply to the native, as the price is of greater consideration than quality at present.

Roumania.

The trade in automobiles, motor-lorries and motor-cycles, formerly in the hands of Germany and Italy, and partly France, is reported to be very lively owing to the impossibility of now importing goods, thus rendering the value of existing cars very high. British cars imported have always given satisfactory results. A correspondent says that the best means of successfully pushing a motor-car agency is to keep a permanent stock of cars with accessories and spare parts.

Greece.

An agent draws our attention (says *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review*) to the great need of dress-fasteners, needles and pins, garters and suspenders, scissors of all sizes, buttons of metal and bone, hosiery, and thread for sewing, crocheting and lace making in Athens.

Morocco.

The Acting British Consul at Casablanca reports the grant of a lighterage concession at the Port of Kenitra to a French company, and has forwarded a copy of the contract, which contains particulars of the charges which may be made for loading, unloading, warehousing, etc. The copy of the contract (in French) above referred to may be consulted by United Kingdom firms interested at the Commercial Intelligence branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF EGYPT.

The annual general meeting of members of the Cairo Committee of the British Chamber of Commerce was held, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, on March 8 for the election of officers to fill the vacancies on the Cairo committee. After reading the minutes there was an adjournment for a short time in memory of the late Mr. R. Q. Henriques.

The retiring members, Messrs. H. K. Baynes, E. Crewe, and Major Adams, who were eligible, were re-elected, and Messrs A. H. Williams and C. E. Jeffes were elected to fill the two vacancies.

Mr. Kingsford, who presided, mentioned the great loss experienced by the Chamber in the deaths of Mr. R. Q. Henriques and Mr. G. A. Williams, both old members of the Committee. Mr. Henriques was the originator of the Cairo committee, on which he had done invaluable work in its early stages as honorary secretary and in more recent years as president.

In referring to the work done by the committee, more especially in connection with the movement for the promotion of British trade interests in Egypt, and the special report printed and issued on this subject, Mr. Kingsford expressed a hope that members would take an increasing and helpful interest in this question by rendering what information and assistance they could to their Committee and by obtaining new British members. He also referred to the trade conference in London and Paris and to the keen interest now evinced in the United Kingdom and the Colonies for the promotion of the commercial interests of the Allies and the Empire. He felt that the promotion of these interests was a patriotic duty incumbent on all British residents in Egypt, whether commercially engaged or otherwise, and that special efforts should be made in this direction now, as of greater importance and serving a more useful purpose than the consideration of small local and personal commercial interests which might be temporarily and disadvantageously affected due to present conditions.

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Near East Markets.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Cyprus Correspondent.)

Although cereal crops can hold out for a short time, rain is again needed. There has been a dry interval, and the critical period is at hand. Should rain fall in the coming week, the harvests are assured, and their quality and extent will depend on the amount and distribution of the rainfall. Peasants are everywhere anxiously watching the skies. With regard to locusts, the greatest vigilance will be required, and the year should be one of peculiar interest, in view, not only of the island swarms, but also of any hatching out of eggs of the fresh flights which invaded the island from Syria last autumn and winter. Great responsibility lies on the Mukhtars in the matter of giving early intimation to Government as to the appearance of young locusts.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, April 6.

Currants.

The market has been quiet, with only few sales having been made during the week at recent prices. Holders, however, are firm in their quotations, expecting a better demand soon to follow. There is a scarcity of the cheaper kinds of currants, but generally prices remain unchanged and steady.

Sultanas.

The market continues quiet, but values remain very firm for all available fruit.

Figs.

There has been only a small demand during the week, but prices are well maintained.

Dates.

The demand is moderate, small business, however, passing at full prices, as recent report.

Seeds.

Linseed is firmer, with Calcutta to London, spot, afloat, March-April and April-May, at 69s. Bombay ordinary, April-May, was sold 69s. 6d. La Plata to Hull, April-May, is quoted 65s. Rapeseed is dull: Toria, March, Hull, 65s. Cotton-seed is rather quiet; Egyption to London, April, is quoted £13 7s. 6d. per ton. Mustard-seed, owing to the very restricted stocks, is held for higher prices.

Oils.

Linseed oil is firmer for forward position; spot pipes are quoted £38 15s. barrels, £39 15s. landed. Cotton oil is very steady; crude spot, in pipes, £43 10s.; refined, pale, pipes, £48 10s.; and barrels, sweet, £52 to £53, as to make. Rape oil remains quiet; ordinary brown naked spot, nominal; English refined, barrels, £55 to £56.

Oil Cakes.

Cotton cakes: Egyptian are offered sparingly, spot parcels at £9 10s. to £9 12s. 6d., while afloat, parcels are quoted £9 5s. to £9 7s. 6d., ex ship. English are offered at £9 12s. 6d. to £9 15s., with Bombay at £9 5s. per ton. Linseed cakes are very quiet, and prices easier. Best London made are selling at £11 10s. to £11 15s. East Indian seed, pures, are offered at £11 7s. 6d. to £11 10s., to arrive. Fine seedy Calcuttas, afloat, are quoted £11 17s. 6d. to £12 per ton.

Various.

Egyptian onions: Some 30,000 bags, new, that have arrived met with a good demand, all being sold at good prices. Egyptian eggs are in moderate demand at 12s. to 13s. 6d. Lentils, 24s. to 27s., 100 lbs. Split peas, 100s. to 110s., 504 lbs. Beeswax, £6 to £9 10s., cwt. Cream of tartar (Greek), 192s. to 195s.

THREE CROPS A YEAR.

The following is extracted from the December report of the Governor of Mongalla Province, Sudan:—"Several villages were growing their third crop of dura, and it was very extraordinary to see this dura fresh and green among the sun-dried country around it and without any irrigation. I can only account for the dura retaining its freshness and greenness to the fact of a layer of soil remaining damp for some time below the surface, the rain water being prevented from sinking or drying up quickly by a lower layer of clay. The Mamur tells me the Dinkas can always get a third crop of dura in this way even though the whole country appears dried up and burnt. In other districts of the province it is impossible to cultivate after October except with irrigation."

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COST OF LIVING IN GREECE.

The U.S. Consul-General in Athens, writing on January 26, says:—

Prices of foodstuffs in Greece since the beginning of the European war have continued to increase. The following figures, prepared after personal inquiry at various foodstuffs dealers in Athens, are believed to represent accurately the price of food to the small householders of Eastern Greece on January 15, 1916, compared with the same date in 1915. (Prices are given per pound, unless otherwise stated, and in American dollars):—

Commodity.	January, 1915.	January, 1916.
Apples	$0·082	$0·139
Bread	·034	·048
Bacon (domestic)	·27	·30
Beef	·096	·21
Butter	·41	·438
Cheese in brine	·17	·218
Cheese, macaroni	·178	·218
Chickens (each)	·58 to ·77	·72 to ·96
Ducks (each)	1·15	1·35
Eggs (each)	·048	·058
Fish—		
Fresh	·135 to ·15	·075 to ·08
Salt	·075 to ·08	·096 to ·10
Ham	1·09	1·37
Lamb (new)	0·205	0·24
Milk—		
Fresh	·0298	·0298
Cond. per can	·193	·193
Mutton	·10	·19
Olives	·069	·082
Olive oil	·095	·168
Onions	·013	·044
Pears	·082	·139
Pork	·123	·19
Potatoes	·024	·048
Rice	·049	·102
Turkeys	1·32	1·193

THE PRIZE COURT.

S.S. Pontoporos.

On Monday judgment was delivered by Sir Samuel Evans in an action brought by Captain Henry Lake Cochrane and the officers and crew of H.M.S. Yarmouth to recover remuneration for the salvage and recapture of the Greek steamship Pontoporos, off the north coast of Sumatra. His Lordship awarded one-sixth of the value of the vessel—£7,333.

On September 10, 1914, the Pontoporos, while on a voyage from Calcutta to Karachi with a cargo of coal belonging to British merchants, was captured by the German cruiser Emden. The Pontoporos was a steamship of 4,049 tons gross and 2,603 tons net register. On October 12, while coal was being transferred from the Pontoporos to the Markomannia, which was acting as supply ship to the Emden, the Pontoporos was recaptured by H.M.S. Yarmouth, a light cruiser of 5,250 tons, and the Markomannia was sunk. Prize proceedings instituted in the Colonial Court of Admiralty of the Straits Settlements resulted in the restoration of the Pontoporos to her owners and the proceeds of the sale of her cargo were ordered to be paid out to the British cargo claimants, less one-eighth deducted (under the provisions of the Naval Prize Act) as salvage.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Replying to a question by Sir J. D. Rees in the House of Commons on Tuesday, Sir E. Grey said the introduction of the rupee into Egypt was of a temporary character.

The *Petit Parisien* is informed from Athens that the Greek Government is negotiating with a German-American syndicate for a loan of 150,000,000 francs (£6,000,000). The financial situation is now so grave that the salaries of Greek civil servants have been suspended.

In view of the increasing dearness of food the municipality of Bucharest has fixed maximum prices for meat and other provisions.

As a result of the general mobilization the coal mines at Plakalnitza, Bulgaria, have ceased work. Measures are being taken for a certain number of soldiers, coal-miners by occupation, to be allowed to return to the mines.

COMPANY REPORTS.

National Bank of Egypt.

The *Official Journal* of the Egyptian Government of March 27 contains the following balance sheet and profit and loss account of the bank for the year ending December 31, as presented to the shareholders by the directors at the annual meeting held recently:—

The gross profit, after providing for rebate of discount on bills not yet due, amounts to		£407,478 14 4
After deducting from this sum:		
Directors' fees	£7,650 0 0	
Current expenses	157,615 2 2	
		£165,265 2 2
There remains		£242,213 12 2
Your directors propose to allocate:		
For depreciation of securities	£27,863 10 1	
For depreciation of securities deposited as guarantee of the note issue	94,350 2 1	
		£122,213 12 2
Leaving a balance of		£120,000 0 0
For the payment of a dividend of 4 per cent. on the share capital in conformity with article 49 of the statutes.		

Each share will thus be entitled to a dividend of 8s., equivalent to 4 per cent. on the share capital.

BALANCE-SHEET, DECEMBER 31, 1915.

LIABILITIES.

	£E mm.
Share capital 300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each	2,925,000 —
Statutory reserve fund	1,267,500 —
Current, deposit, and other accounts	6,069,158 424
Egyptian Government	2,901,135 640
Mixed tribunals	1,261,920 698
Bankers' accounts	215,393 476
Cheques and bills payable	201,189 800
Acceptances, as per contra	301,992 639
Rebate of discount on bills not yet due	26,657 258
Staff provident fund	40,365 599
Dividends unclaimed	10,261 144
Profit and loss account balance	117,000 —
	15,337,424 678

ASSETS.

		£E mm.
Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		2,185,987 463
Sundry securities		409,552 424
Accounts current		444,924 446
Advances on merchandise		1,996,584 053
Advances on securities		1,576,296 116
Advances otherwise secured		1,019,231 465
Sudan Government		465,844 656
Clients' liability for acceptances		301,992 639
Bills of exchange		3,267,435 341
Local bills discounted		182,326 318
Cheques receivable		61,542 265
Buildings, Furniture, etc.		253,987 515
Money at call and at short notice		1,131,000 —
Bankers' accounts		754,621 443
Bank of England		199,875 —
Cash:	£E mm.	
Notes	967,708 —	
Gold and silver coin, etc	168,515 531	
		1,136,223 531
		15,337,424 678

Under the headings "Bankers' Accounts" is included £604,642 6s. 6d. to credit with banks in enemy countries. The bank's investments are valued at prices not exceeding the middle market quotations at December 31, 1915, excepting £944,900 British Exchequer Three per Cent. Bonds, redeemable March 24, 1920, which are taken at 96 13-16.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£E mm.
Notes issued	11,550,000 —
	£E mm.
Securities	4,415,876 985
Gold	7,134,123 015
	11,550,000 —

Included in the securities deposited as guarantee for the note issue are: £2,950,000 Treasury Bills of the Egyptian Government and £733,000 Treasury Bills of the British Government.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.

	£E mm.
Directors' remuneration	7,458 750
Current expenses	153,674 730
Depreciation of securities	27,166 919
Depreciation of securities deposited as guarantee for the note issue	91,991 352
Balance available for dividend	117,000 —
	397,291 751

CR.

	£E mm.
Gross profit for the year ending December 31, 1915, after providing for depreciation of buildings and furniture and for bad and doubtful debts	423,949 000
Less: Rebate of discount on bills not yet due	26,657 258
	397,291 751

Beciu (Roumanian) Oil Fields.

The report states that the loss for the year is £41, without taking into account any allowance for depreciation. This is accounted for by the low prices ruling for oil in Roumania during the period under review. The total production of crude oil for the year to September 30, 1915, was 4,900 tons, and the average net price realised was approximately £1 10s. 4d. per ton, as against 4,752 tons, averaging £2 5s. 6d. per ton, in the previous year. Six wells have been in production for varying periods during the year. Owing to the low price of crude oil in Roumania and the increased cost of boring, development work has been reduced to a minimum. With the help of the rotary plant the company is now well equipped for an active development programme as soon as prices of crude oil recover and the political situation becomes more settled.

Egyptian Bonded Warehouses.

The report of the Administrative Council for last year shows profits of £E21,156, of which £E1,037 has been set aside for the amortisation of real estate, £E2,636 for preference share interest and amortisation, and £E1,486 for depreciation, leaving a profit of £E15,996, 5 per cent. of which—£E799—is to be deducted for the Council of Administration. This leaves a net profit of £E15,196, which, together with the amount of £E13,378 brought forward, leaves an amount of £E28,575 to be disposed of. Out of this amount the Council proposes to put aside £E6,000 for the extraordinary reserve fund, raising it to £E10,000, and to pay a dividend of 8 per cent., and carry forward £E14,775. The tonnage entered in the warehouse during the year was 375,268 tons, as against 522,162 in 1914. The decrease, however, was compensated by the retarded redemption of stored goods, and by the development of certain other branches of business. At the meeting, Messrs. Percy W. Carver and Robert S. Rolo were elected as directors, and Mr. M. S. Wellhoff was re-elected.

Sudan Gold Field.

At Tuesday's meeting of the above company, the chairman said *inter alia*, that the total production of gold last year was 14,263 ozs., realising £49,041. Gross revenue amounted to £49,721. The balance to be carried forward is £7,367. On capital account £8,318 were spent during the year in connection with the extension of machinery and plant. Both in respect of the position underground and financial results, the company is in a sound condition, and there is no reason why it should not continue to make a good profit and to give a steady yield of interest. At one time it was hoped that it would be possible to pay a rather better dividend than 1s. per share in respect of 1915, and, indeed, in normal times the profit made would have admitted of a larger distribution; but the company's position in the matter of a possible claim for excess profits duty is one which cannot be ignored.

Barramia Mining and Exploration.

At the meeting, on Tuesday, the chairman said *inter alia* that during last year 5,870 tons of quartz were crushed, from which 4,598 ozs. of gold were obtained, which realised £15,230. The carry forward to 1916 is £546. As compared with 1914, 670 tons more ore were crushed, but the gold recovered 659 ozs. less, and the realised value was also less. At the Semna Mine operations were continued until June last, when it was decided that before proceeding further with the development of the property it would be desirable to have a bulk crushing of the ore disclosed (which the superintendent estimates to be some 8,000 tons). This test will be carried out during the present month. Mr. Henry Taylor, referring to the situation at Barramia, said that the past year's development work had been restricted to 310 ft., principally owing to the disappointing results obtained in the deeper workings on the main and new counter lodes. There is a difficulty in estimating the reserves of the mine. So far as can be judged, there are still some 10,000 tons available, and this is due principally to the stoping having produced more than was expected. About one-half of this tonnage should give results approximating those of the past year, while the rest is of a lower grade. Excluding exceptionally rich ore, the grade treated in the mill was about the same as in the previous

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year—namely, 11 dwts. (bar gold). On the main lode the small amount of work done at and about the 500 ft. level has produced no change in the prospects, but has rather confirmed the previous conclusions that the lode at this horizon is poor. At adit level, however, a fair quantity of ore was obtained in the stopes on the south and parallel branches, and some of this was of good grade. On Taylor's reef a pocket containing 618 ozs. of gold was discovered above the 130 ft. level, and at the adit some ore assaying 17 dwts. was opened up and is expected to extend below that level. Below the 370 ft. level the conditions are not favourable, as this reef junctions with a branch of the main lode, and impoverishment occurs over the whole length of the bottom stope for 75 ft.

Alexandria Engineering Works.

The ninth annual meeting was held at the company's offices on the 21st ult., when the accounts and reports were read and passed. A dividend of P.T.50 per share was declared.

CYPRUS GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

Report for the Year 1915.

According to the report just issued, showing the working of the Government Savings Bank for the year ended December 31, 1915, the year commenced with 187 and ended with 206 open accounts, 56 having been opened and 37 closed during the course of the year. The balance of deposits on December 31, 1915 (£5,043 1s. 6d.), was invested as under:—

	£	s.	cp.
Cost price of £4,088 12s. 10d. Transvaal Three per cent. Stock	4,000	0	0
Balance in hands of Government	1,053	1	6
	£5,043	1	6

STATEMENT.

DEPOSITS.

	£	s.	cp.
Balance on 1st January, 1915	5,323	17	8
Nicosia	1,778	9	4
Larnaca	558	9	8
Limassol	40	6	0
Famagusta	457	2	3
Paphos	218	3	8
Kyrenia	230	12	2
	£8,607	1	6

WITHDRAWALS.

Nicosia	1,874	1	7
Larnaca	755	5	0
Limassol	79	16	2
Famagusta	164	16	6
Paphos	569	12	7
Kyrenia	120	7	5
	£3,564	0	0
Balance on 31st December 1915	5,043	1	6

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for the week 14 tons (last week 22 tons). Hurgada production for the week 567 tons (last week 565 tons).

BARRAMIA MINING AND EXPLORATION.—The following cablegram has been received from the superintendent at the mine, dated the 31st ultimo: March Returns: 615 tons, 343 oz.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LAND AND INVESTMENT.—A dividend of 4d. per share has been declared by the Board for the year ended December 31 last.

The annual ordinary general meeting will be held at the offices of the company in Cairo on April 12.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended March 10 amounted to £E5,418, as against £E4,555 for the corresponding period of last year.

EGYPTIAN PREFERENCE BONDS.—The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due the 15th inst. on Egyptian Preference Bonds: the necessary lists can be procured on application at the Dividend Pay Office.

SUEZ CANAL.—Receipts for the 3rd inst. amounted to 180,000 fr., as compared with 200,000 fr. for the corresponding day last year.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, March 4.

The stock of gold in the vaults of the National Bank of Roumania now amounts to 320,220,000, and continues to rise in consequence partly of the voluntary deposits made by the public in exchange for receipts in the form of diplomas.

THE GREEK DEBT.

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

		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Jan.,	1916	3,615,870	1,832,000
Do. do. do	1915	4,413,745	2,151,537
Estimated Receipts for 1 month (Law of Contrc:)		2,408,333	891,666
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 1 month	1916	+ 1,207.537	+ 940,333
	1915	+ 2,005,412	+ 1,259,870

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

At the annual meeting of the International Sponge Importers, held recently in London, the chairman stated that the supply of good quality Mediterranean sponges will be much less in 1916, owing to the mobilization of the Greek army and navy, which has taken away many of the men who at other times are engaged on the sponge fisheries, and a large part of the best fisheries will be closed during the continuance of the war.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

CAIRO EXCHANGE.

Côtes du 24 Mars, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt	£	11 5/8	to	—
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	89½	,,	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11	,,	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5	,,	5⅛
priv.	L.E.	3	,,	—
Lots Turcs, oblig	Frs.	126	,,	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	9¼	,,	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs.	49	,,	
Privilégiée	Frs.	92	,,	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	71½	,,	—
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2 1/16	,,	2⅛
Comptoir Financier and Commercial d'Egypte	£	⅛	,,	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	3/32	,,	1/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	⅛	,,	1/16
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	4	,,	—
Bonded Warehouse	L.E.	4⅛	,,	—
Unifiée	L.E.	79	,,	—
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4⅛	,,	—
Fondateur	£	18	,,	—
Pressage et dépôts	£	27½	,,	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	1⅛	,,	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	3 1/16	,,	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3 1/16	,,	—
Ord.	£	14/9	,,	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3⅛	,,	3⅛
Egypt. Delta Light Railway	£	5⅛	,,	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£	108	,,	—
Jouissance	£	158	,,	160
Egyptian Markets		23/-	,,	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	160	,,	—
Div.	Frs.	108	,,	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	92	,,	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda		15/4½	,,	—
Crédit Foncier Egypt	Frs.	580	,,	—
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	309	,,	—
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	252	,,	253
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	251	,,	—
Delta Land	£	⅛	,,	—
Port Said Salt		29/-	,,	—
Cotton Ginners	£	3/32	,,	1/16
New Egyptian	£	6/6	,,	—
United Land	P.T.	4½	,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.		24/6	,,	25/-
Fondateur		90/-	,,	—

Marché faible.

LONDON EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87⅛	87⅛
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	77⅛
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	65⅛
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82⅛	73½	66
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	54
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	47
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	44xd
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	52
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50xd
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	65
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82⅛	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94⅛	—	77
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	68½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82⅛	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65⅛	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47 1/16
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅛	—	4⅛
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	—	6⅛
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69xd
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10 1/16
Bank of Abyssinia	⅛	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1 1/16
Bank of Roumania	8⅛	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅛	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅛	—	3⅛
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6⅛	—	4⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13⅛	—	11⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8⅛	—	5⅛
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87⅛
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅛	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅛
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	—	⅛
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	⅛	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅛	—	2⅛
Do. Do. Def.	⅛	—	—
Béhéra Co.	3⅛	—	5⅛
Do. Pref.	4⅛	—	3⅛
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/-
Do. Def.	⅛	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	8/6
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	81
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	⅜
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅛	—	⅛
,, ,, Founders	⅛	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	98	—	6 1/16
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	70⅛
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	6/9
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	—	⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/10⅛
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12⅛	—	11⅛
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1⅛	—	⅛
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	—	23/6
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99⅛	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	15/6
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	—	16/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅛	—	3⅛
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mts.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2⅛	—	1⅛

OIL.

	Price on Mar. 28.	April 5.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/-	7/9
Anglo-Persian	19/3	19/3
European Oilfields	4/-	4/-
Roumanian	14/9	15/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Mar. 27.	April 5.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	445	445
Canal de Suez	4050	4035
Credit Foncier Egyptien	605	—
Turkish Unified 4%	57	57
Egyptian Unified 4%	88.60	88.50
Serbian, 1895	60.70	—

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 258.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The forward movement of the British force destined for the relief of Kut, which began on April 5 with the capture of the first Turkish line at Umm-el-Hannah, was continued the same evening, when the second line of trenches at Falahiyeh was also taken. Both these positions are on the left or north bank of the Tigris. No serious effort was made by the Turks to defend the first, but at Falahiyeh they were strongly entrenched. Meanwhile an advance had been made on the right bank, and the enemy's trenches opposite Falahiyeh were occupied. The Turks fell back to the position of Sanna-i-Yat, and the next two days were devoted to a "close reconnaissance" of the defences. On April 9 General Gorringe, who has succeeded General Aylmer in command of the relief column, launched an attack on Sanna-i-Yat, but failed to pierce the enemy's lines. Last week we expressed the hope that the floods, which are liable to be at their worst at this time, would not deprive the relief column of the success which it now has some right to expect. The reports of the Commander-in-Chief, however, reveal anxiety on this score. Not only are the operations much hampered, but the actual attack has to be delivered on a shorter front, much to the advantage of the defending force.

Since April 9 no message from General Lake has been published. The British version that the attack "failed to get through the enemy's line" has now been amplified by a Turkish *communiqué*, which represents the failure as a regular Verdun repulse. The truth must lie somewhere between the two; but we believe the British public would have preferred to learn a little more regarding the fighting on the 9th from its own Government. As things are, the fact that the repulse has been followed by the absence of further news for four or five days must inevitably give rise to increased anxiety. Even a vague reference to the casualties suffered by the British force, stating whether they were slight or heavy, would have been better than allowing varying estimates of the losses to be based on the enemy's statement that 3,000 killed were left in front of the Turkish trenches.

All the reports from Mesopotamia bear witness to the able manner in which the Turkish defence is being directed. Well supported by field guns and machine guns, the Turk can put up a stiff fight in entrenched positions, which have had the advantage of being selected by German officers and strengthened with all the devices evolved by their experience in Europe. What the enemy has accomplished below Kut he will be able to repeat between Kut and Baghdad; and his present resistance is a measure of the difficulties the Mesopotamian Expedition has to overcome before it can reach its goal. For the moment all its efforts are being directed towards the relief of General Townshend's force at Kut, but it stands committed to a bigger enterprise, and we hope that its reinforcements are being planned on a big scale and not on the hand-to-mouth principle that appears to have been adopted at one time. Whatever the origin of the decision to advance on Baghdad—it is surmised in many quarters that it was taken from a well-meant but ill-informed desire to retrieve the failure of the Gallipoli venture—Great Britain must see the thing through now, as a duty to herself and to the Russians who are making such a vigorous effort in the North.

The Russian advance in Armenia is no longer a rapid pursuit of retreating Turks, but has resolved itself into a case, as an official *communiqué* expresses it, of wresting ground from the enemy. A possible explanation of the altered conditions is that Turkish reinforcements have reached Trebizond by sea, under convoy of the Breslau, which again figures in Turkish official despatches. Progress, however, continues to be made, both along the Black Sea littoral and farther south between Erzeroum and Erzinjan. On April 7 the Turks were dislodged by a surprise attack from the right bank of the Kara Dere, which brings the Caucasus Army within twenty miles of Trebizond. A counter-attack was attempted by the enemy the following night, but was repulsed by the Russians by means of rifle fire and hand grenades. Climatic conditions as well as the physical features of the country help to retard the Russian movements. In the Upper Chorok basin, which lies between the coast and Erzeroum, severe frost and snowstorms are still encountered. Until the operations of the British and Russian forces in the Middle East are brought somewhat nearer together big results are not to be expected. It is all to the good that practically the whole of Turkey's attention has to be concentrated upon Armenia and Mesopotamia.

A very striking letter has been addressed by Prince Nicholas of Greece to Lord Burnham, and is published in the *Daily Telegraph*, where it occupies nearly two columns. In calm and dispassionate language, Prince Nicholas sets out the Greek case against the Allies, and on many points he is able to press home his argument with wonderful cogency. The gravamen of his charges falls under two heads—the alleged attitude of the British nation towards Greece and her ruler, and the actions of the naval and military authorities in carrying

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out their operations in Greek waters and on Greek soil. On Prince Nicholas' showing, the Allies have not displayed an excess of tact in dealing with Greece or much consideration for her susceptibilities. The right of searching Greek ships, he asserts, was carried out in a peculiarly high-handed manner and in such a way as to impose the maximum of inconvenience and annoyance on the Greeks. He repudiates entirely the assertion that German submarines have made use of the Greek coast as shelters or for obtaining supplies, basing his contention on the failure of the Allies to discover any submarine base and on the unlikelihood of any Greek playing the German game in the face of the British reward of £2,000 for information regarding the whereabouts of submarines. As an instance of the lengths to which the Allies proceed, Prince Nicholas cites "an incident of special gravity" which occurred near Nauplia. A detachment of marines were landed, and, "without giving any notice to the local authorities, proceeded to destroy a depôt of petroleum made by the State for the requirements of the agricultural station of Tiryns. Those responsible for this act have since had to recognise that this petroleum could not be of any use to the German submarines, as it was 'denatured' petroleum, which could only serve for the destruction of locusts."

No doubt the Allies have been able to offer some explanation of any mistakes made, and in any case will have provided ample compensation. These and similar incidents bulk largely in Prince Nicholas' letter, but we shall probably be right in supposing that the main grievance he seeks to ventilate is the failure of the British public to approve of Greece's neutrality. "The Greek nation," he says, "are under the painful impression that full justice has not been done to them. They feel that little account has been taken of the many and valuable services rendered by them; they are very sensitive to the difference of treatment applied respectively to Bulgaria and their own country; they resent still more the accusations constantly made against Greece of not having kept the Greco-Serbian Treaty, and, furthermore, of fostering hostile intentions towards the Entente, and more especially to the Allied armies landed in Macedonia." It is perhaps unfortunate that these grievances should be combined in a general plaint with the more legitimate protests against definite acts on the part of the Allies. Both King Constantine and Prince Nicholas must reconcile themselves to being "misunderstood" for all time in regard to the Greco-Serbian Treaty. No amount of appeals to dictionaries for the meaning of words and no amount of quibbling will shake the conviction of the British public that the only honourable course open to Greece was to stand by Serbia, even at the risk of "disaster." Greece deliberately rejected that course, and a number of Greeks are satisfied that they adopted the right course. There the matter should be left. They can congratulate themselves on a clear conscience, without insisting upon other people sharing their views.

We should like also to try to clear up the Greek misconception in regard to Bulgaria, to which Prince Nicholas refers. Unfortunately, it is not possible to dispute the fact that the peculiar methods of Allied diplomacy at a certain stage in the war lent colour to the belief that Bulgaria was the special object of the Allies' solicitation. But nowhere have the mistakes of that diplomacy been more roundly denounced than in Great Britain. Its faults were due to ignorance and want of thought, not to any predilection for Bulgaria over Greece. What Prince Nicholas and many of the Hellenes fail to recognize is that no member of the Triple Entente is going to accept as a permanent factor in Near Eastern politics the bitterness of feeling that Greeks and Bulgarians cherish towards one another. The three Powers can only look upon the Balkans as potentially a single political factor. That the individual States should be at daggers drawn is a regrettable feature, but not one to be encouraged by the Triple Entente, whose sole object must be to work for permanent harmony in the Near East. Thus while Bulgaria talks about her inalienable rights to this or that district, and Greece speaks of "a purely Greek province which had recently been won back to the Mother Country at such great sacrifices," the Entente Powers must remain equally unmoved, and aim only at calling upon the different States to make each the minimum sacrifice required in the interests of them all. This attitude can hardly constitute, *pace* Prince Nicholas, a grave crime; for a great Greek, to whom his country and the Sovereign on the throne owe a personal debt they can never adequately repay, was himself in favour of Greece surrendering Kavalla. There is, no doubt, room for a difference of opinion on the subject; but one thing is certain, that if M. Venizelos had had his way, the King of the Hellenes would not have had to utter the many laments which his own policy has wrung from him.

Of the many attempts made in Greece to put the Greek case, or rather the case of King Constantine and his present Government, before the Allied countries and neutrals, we entirely prefer Prince Nicholas's letter. It is temperate and a manly production. Incidentally, it declares the alleged telegram from the German Emperor to Queen Sophie, which was said to have concluded with a reference to "Tino," as apocryphal. We could wish that he had also been able to repudiate the interviews at which King Constantine is reported to have said that the Allies' conduct in Greece was on a par with that of the Germans in Belgium, and to have dubbed M. Venizelos a visionary, attributing to him statements that he never made. The British public has come to accept the Balkan situation as it is, and has ceased to speculate on what would have happened, if Greece had stood by her ally. But it is continually being reminded in a most unpleasant fashion of the cleavage in Greek opinion on the whole subject by journalistic interviews in the Palace at Athens. The British public is nothing if not constitutionally minded, and the spectacle of the Greek Government always in the background, while Greek diplomacy is carried on by means of foreign correspondents, offends its sense of the fitness of things, and forces it to take sides in what is primarily a domestic concern of the Greeks.

It is a matter for regret that, immediately after the publication of the letter in which Prince Nicholas ridicules the anxiety of the Allies over the revictualling of German submarines in Greek waters, the British and French Ministers should have to communicate to the Greek Premier the decision of their Governments to create naval bases at certain points in the Ionian Islands and in the Ægean. In spite of the declaration that the measure, which is dictated by urgent necessity, will in no wise infringe the sovereign rights or the territorial integrity of Greece, it is obvious that the Greek Government will regard the step as a violation of Greek neutrality. The inevitable protest will follow, but as Greece distinctly disclaims the charge of being Germanophil, the protest will merely be of the formal kind. Wherever these temporary occupations have taken place the Greek populace has lost no time in showing their appreciation of the presence of the Allied troops among them. Nor does Greece as a whole fail to benefit from them. The Greek General Staff may have known more about the impracticability of the attempt to force the Dardanelles, but it has learnt from the Allies how to render Salonika impregnable, and is no doubt pleased with a prospect of a reversionary interest in the Allies' defence works.

Many and varied accounts are published of the internal situation in Bulgaria, but they agree in representing the position as one that calls for the increased vigilance of the Government. The arrest of M. Ghennadieff and other prominent members of the Opposition reflects the fears entertained in high quarters of an attempted *coup d'état*. The absence of any understanding between Roumania and Bulgaria would be sufficient justification for the despatch of Bulgarian troops to the Roumanian frontier; but in the present instance the movement is associated in the Roumanian mind with a desire to provide the Bulgarian soldier with a more agreeable prospect than a campaign against the British and French. It is, however, uncertain whether the troops on the Dobruja frontier are German or Bulgarian.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 28.

All Saints' Church.

On Thursday the annual general meeting of the Anglican community was held at the Residency, under the presidency of the High Commissioner. His Excellency announced that a special meeting would be convened towards the end of April for the consideration of the question of the erection of a new church, to take the place of the one now in use. Sir Henry McMahon gave it as his personal opinion that, in fairness to the great Church to which it belonged, the Anglican community in Cairo could not continue to worship under the present conditions. All Saints' however well it may have answered the purpose in the past, was no longer a fitting representative of the Anglican Church. Not only was it put to shame by all the other places of worship belonging to other communities, but it was inadequate to meet the needs of the present congregation. It was the latter's duty to its Church and to the Protectorate to see that the necessary steps were taken to remedy this without delay. The present site was unsuitable in every respect, and a new one would have to be found. Although his Excellency emphasized the fact that these were merely his personal views, there is no doubt that his sentiments will be echoed by all those who are acquainted with the facts and the situation of the Anglican community in Egypt. It is to be hoped that when the special meeting is convened next month no time will be lost in appointing the necessary committee for the purpose of selecting a site and the most suitable design. As Sir Henry pointed out, although the present is not a propitious moment for appealing to the Anglican communities of the world for the sum of money required —the Cairo community alone could not bear the entire cost—there is no reason why the preliminaries, such as selecting the site and preparing the design, should be delayed any longer. Indeed, the present is probably the best time to purchase a site at good terms, since urban land values, owing to the war, are very low; and, although the community may not be able now to subscribe any substantial amount towards the execution of the entire project, there should be no difficulty in making some financial arrangement for the purchase of the site, if a suitable one can be found, pending the issue of an appeal and the subsequent provision of the funds.

The Wakfs Scandals.

What is known as the Wakfs Scandal is still unsettled. As may be remembered, Ahmed Khairy Pasha, former Director of the Khedivial Wakfs, and Hussein Pasha Moharrem, one-time Curator of the Seif-ed-Dine Daira, were accused of misappropriation of funds, and were condemned to three and ten months' imprisonment respectively, with the benefit of the First Offenders Act. Both Pashas appealed, and have now been acquitted, the Court holding that they could not be held guilty of the offences imputed to them, as they had been committed at the instigation of the ex-Khedive, whose influence over them was at the time too strong for them to disregard his orders. The Parquet has now appealed, on a question of law, to the Court of Cassation, and the appeal will be heard within the next few days.

The Bomb Outrage.

Some while back it was announced in the local Press, and the information was cabled to London by Reuter, that the men implicated in the bomb outrage on H.H. the Sultan would be brought to trial before a military court early in February. So far there is no sign of any trial, and considerable comment has been expressed at this great delay. The attempt was made on July 9, so that we are now nearing the end of the ninth month since the inquiry started. Even allowing for the fact that there may have been a conspiracy requiring extensive probing, nine months seems an unduly long time for the process, and the delay scarcely squares with the traditions for expeditious work usually associated with the régime of martial law.

Well-merited French Honours.

At the dinner which he gave in honour of General Sir J. G. Maxwell before his departure, M. Defrance, the French Agent, announced that the President had conferred on him the Grand Croix de la Legion d'Honneur. At the same time Lieutenant-Colonel S. F. Clayton, C.M.G., has received the Officier, and Major S. F. Newcombe, R.E., Captain Lawrence, and Lieutenant Walford have been made Chevaliers of the same Order. All three officers have well merited this honour. Colonel Clayton is, of course, the Director of Intelligence at Headquarters in Cairo, and it was in recognition of his invaluable services in that capacity that he was recently awarded the C.M.G. With the Directorship of Intelligence Colonel Clayton combines the work of Sudan Agent, and in both capacities he displays the same marked ability and tact.

The State of Affairs in Darfur.

The *communiqué* of last Friday, announcing the movement of a mixed force of all arms of the Egyptian Army to Nahud and the occupation of two important points just within the Darfur border, did not come altogether as a surprise here. For some time there had been persistent rumours that a strong patrol had been sent to keep Ali Dinar in order, and it was well known that that Sultan had of late shown signs of defiance, and had in his correspondence with Khartoum displayed marked disrespect for the Sudan authorities.

In well-informed circles not much anxiety is expressed with regard to the result of this concentration of troops on and within the Darfur boundary, and the step is generally considered to be a very wise and prudent one. Undoubtedly there are in close touch with Ali Dinar enemy political agents, who are responsible for his more recent marked change of attitude. It is extremely improbable, however, that the Sultan would, in obedience to the incitement of those agents, progress from defiance to active hostility towards the suzerain Government. His own throne is very uncertain; he is always having internal troubles; and to the south there are tribes who are extremely friendly to us, and who, moreover, would have an additional incentive to assist us in repressing any aggressive acts of this Darfurite potentate, in that they are his sworn enemies and have long waited for a chance to try a fall with him. Of this Ali Dinar is fully aware, and he further knows that on his western frontier are the French, who have got Wadai completely under control, and would give him short shrift if he were forced through defeat in his own country to seek refuge across the Wadai border. The sending of a strong force to the Darfur frontier is, therefore, wise and prudent, because it shows the Sultan that we are on the *qui-vive*, and so should dissuade him from any acts of aggression—if, indeed, he ever contemplated any real activity in that direction. He is shrewd enough to know that he could not with safety try conclusions with such a force, and that any reverse at its hands would sound the death-knell of his power and prestige in his own country; and it is consequently believed that the firmness shown by the Sudan Government will have an entirely tranquillising effect.

The Western Frontier.

The brilliant operations in the Sollum area, details of which have, of course, reached you by cable long

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ere this, seem to have broken completely the back of the Arab resistance in the North. The great part played therein by the Duke of Westminster and those who accompanied him in his armoured cars cannot be overrated. The *élan* and courage with which they charged the enemy and put his guns out of action contributed largely to his discomfiture, whilst their rescue of the survivors of the s.s. Tara and Moorina was an exploit that savours more of mediæval knight-errantry than of twentieth-century warfare. Bedouin are reported in the oases area to the South, and it is possible that a forward movement may be undertaken to clear them out, but little real trouble is anticipated now anywhere along the western frontier.

The Mixed Tribunals.

The General Assembly of the Mixed Court of Appeal met this week and elected M. Albert de Souza Larcher, the Portuguese judge, President of that Court is succession to the late Judge Lionel Sandars. The Cairo Court of First Instance has elected M. Karl Kraft President in succession to Mr. H. W. Halton, who, as already reported, has been promoted to the higher court. M. Dideric Nyholm becomes Vice-President. Both these judges are Danes.

As soon as the decree announcing Italy's acceptance of the renewal of the mandate of the Mixed Courts was published, the Italian judges resumed their seats. The occasion afforded an opportunity to their colleagues to give expression to the pleasure which they felt at their return to work, and to testify to the high esteem in which they are generally held.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, March 21.

Meeting of the Legislative Council.

The session will be opened by Sir John Clauson to-day (March 21) at 2.30 p.m. with the usual formalities. It will be a short one, for, as in 1915, only a few Bills will be considered. Two fresh draft laws are published in the *Official Gazette* which relate to the protection of girls, and an amendment of the municipal law. That another session should pass without much legislation will cause no grumbling in Cyprus.

Nicosia Municipality.

The Municipal Council of Nicosia—and for that matter of several other towns—has much useful work to accomplish before it can claim to have arrived at the state which citizens might now reasonably look for. The backward condition of things, which is the heritage of centuries of neglect, cannot be made good in a day; but there is certainly need for increased activity in various directions. The establishment of a poorhouse and workhouse on a good foundation is a pressing need. It would also put a stop to public begging, as has been done at Limassol. In order to raise the necessary fund for this purpose the council has now decided to impose a rate, subject to the High Commissioner's sanction. It is to be congratulated on having screwed up its courage to this point. Municipalities are very loth to exercise their powers in this respect, on account of the unpopularity which any demand on the purse involves.

The Greek Archbishop.

Although the Greek Primate, Kyrillos, has not yet recovered from the illness which has long troubled him, he has been able to attend to business, and has presided at various committee meetings to deal with educational and other matters. He has summoned a meeting of the Holy Synod, which is to assemble at Nicosia for the consideration of various ecclesiastical questions that press for attention.

TERRORISM IN BULGARIA.

A Reuter's message from Bucharest, dated April 4, and delayed in transmission, states:—The situation at Sofia is one of extreme gravity. The policy of Dr. Radoslavoff is meeting with a vigorous and widespread opposition, and King Ferdinand, fearing a revolutionary movement, has given the Premier complete freedom of action to stop any attempt at opposition that may manifest itself against the foreign policy inaugurated by him in accordance with his Majesty's views. The arrests of M. Ghenadieff and other ex-Ministers and Opposition leaders on charges of high treason have produced such an extraordinarily strong feeling that there is a general expectation of a revolution, and the garrison of the capital has been reinforced.

A VETERAN ENGINEER.

Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.

The death of Colonel Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., late Royal Engineers, on the 6th instant, removes a familiar landmark in the irrigation history of Egypt and Northern India. The whole irrigated area of Egypt is considerably less than that of a single province of India, the Punjab; Sir Colin was some twenty-seven years in India, and he was nine years in Egypt; nevertheless, his work in Egypt is the better known of the two, and his administration there may be said to have been the most successful of all the achievements of his long and honourable career.

Sir Colin, born in 1836, went out to India in 1856 as a second-lieutenant in the Bengal Engineers, and retired from the Indian Public Works Department and the Army in 1883. The greater part of this time was spent in the irrigation service, and Sir Colin may be fairly said to have been an irrigation enthusiast. But his heart was always in philanthropy, and he had intended to devote his remaining years to philanthropic work in Ireland or Canada. On his way home, however, he received a message at Suez asking him to go to Cairo and see Lord Dufferin, who was then endeavouring to evolve order out of the chaos of Egyptian finance. As the result of this interview he was offered and accepted the appointment of Under-Secretary in the Public Works Department.

It was a post of extreme difficulty; the condition of the department was deplorable; there was need of sweeping reforms in every direction; Sir Colin was the first British Under-Secretary; he was opposed in all directions; and a venomous Press was always ready to misinterpret his every action. But with unfailing tact and patience, with immense industry and unconquerable courage he surmounted all obstacles, and ultimately succeeded in reorganising the whole irrigation service of the country. He recognised from the first that an efficient staff was essential, and he obtained from India the services of the engineers, Major Ross, Captain Hanbury Brown, and Messrs. Garstin, Willcocks, and Foster. With their aid he carried out many reforms and improvements of far-reaching importance; but the main features of his administration, features which will always stand out in history, were the restoration of the Delta Barrage and the abolition of the *corvée*.

The Delta Barrage, as he found it, was no barrage at all, it did not hold up water for distribution by gravitation, and it was the confident opinion of the local engineers, and of the eminent engineers of France and England who were consulted, that no barrage was practicable. But Sir Colin was of another opinion, he was as sanguine of the success of the barrage as ever was Lesseps of the success of the Suez Canal, and in the teeth of all opposition, against the formidable array of expert advice, he imported two first-rate construction engineers from India, Colonel Western, R.E., and the late Mr. A. G. Reid, and that they accomplished what had been held to be an impossible feat is now a matter of history.

The barrage was a question of engineering; the abolition of the *corvée*, or the forced labour system of the country, was an administrative reform, and possibly a still more difficult task. The system was liable to much abuse, it entailed hardship and cruelty to the people, it was against the British sense of justice, and its abolition naturally appealed to the philanthropic side of Sir Colin's character. It meant, however, money; and the Commissioners of the Public Debt, an international body in general opposition to all British reforms, were specially opposed to the grant of funds for any purpose of this kind. The barrage they could understand, it meant, if it were successful, increase of revenue—improvements of that nature were not easy to resist; but the abolition of the *corvée* was mere sentiment, and a needless expense. Sir Colin was, however, insistent. The kindliness of his disposition had the counterpoise of great firmness when he knew he was in the right, and it says much for the earnestness be brought to bear on every subject with which he had to deal that he was able to wring a grant of £150,000 a year from the Commissioners for this purpose.

Sir Colin left Egypt in 1892, when he was offered the appointment of Under-Secretary for Scotland, and he left the country with regret. He had been heart and soul in his work, but he was then fifty-six years of age, the past nine years had been a time of ceaseless labour, and no doubt he felt he could appropriately relinquish his post at that particular date. The *corvée* had been abolished; the Delta Barrage was completed; Sir William Willcocks' reservoir surveys, the final outcome of which was the Assuan Dam, were likely to occupy some years; corruption and oppression had ceased, and the prosperity of Egypt was assured. His life's work was not finished, he was to labour for another eleven years in his country's service; but of that long and arduous career of forty-seven years of active work, the nine years of toil in Egypt stand out as a monument of quite unusual achievement.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, March 13.

Movement of Troops in Hungary.

The train service through Hungary has again been interrupted, in consequence, probably, of the displacement of troops. Many Roumanian travellers are thus detained in Austria and Hungary, and Hungarian papers have ceased to arrive. The Berlin and Vienna papers have suffered no appreciable delay, the service through Virciorova and Burdujeni not having been affected.

A Revolt Among Refugees.

A revolt broke out a few evenings ago among the deserters from belligerent armies interned at Tshalnitza, near Craiova. They refused to return to their barracks, insisting that they should be allowed to circulate freely in the town. A free fight commenced when the guards offered opposition. Taking advantage of the scuffle and the darkness, some thirty-five prisoners succeeded in reaching the outside of the camp. The guards then brought their firearms into use, with the result that one man, a Pole, was killed, and seven others wounded. In the course of the night twenty-three of the twenty-seven refugees who made good their escape returned of their own free will; the other four, who are Austro-Hungarian infantrymen, were arrested as vagabonds a day or two later, when they volunteered information regarding their identity. The Prime Minister has ordered a careful inquiry to be made into the causes of the revolt.

A River Incident.

On March 6 the steamer Hedwig, flying the Roumanian flag, was passing up the Danube with a barge in tow, on its way from Galatz. Opposite Flamanda an Austro-Hungarian monitor called upon the captain of the Hedwig to stop and show his papers, threatening to confiscate the barge in case of refusal. The captain answered by steaming quickly towards the Roumanian bank, pursued by the monitor. As the latter approached the shore the commander of the frontier guards stationed here called upon it to withdraw. The order was repeated but disregarded. Firearms were then discharged on both sides, but it is difficult to ascertain upon whom the responsibility falls for the first shot fired. The monitor then withdrew to the Bulgarian bank, where the crew landed a Maxim and commenced to fire across the river. After a time the monitor steamed away towards Rustchuk. There was no loss of life among the Roumanians.

It is interesting to hear that the barge was loaded with Roumanian cereals destined for Germany, these cereals forming part of the first German purchase of 50,000 wagonloads! The Roumanian Government is said to have demanded explanations at Sofia and Vienna.

Forty railway wagons containing materials for the Roumanian Ministry of War arrived a few days ago in the station of Jassy from Russia.

Magyar Work?

A powerful detonation took place near Bushteni on the Sinaia-Predeal line on March 8. Investigation discovered numerous fragments of metal and a piece of wire. The explosion seems to have been incomplete in consequence of the existing moisture, the railway line suffering no damage. There is strong suspicion that it is the work of Austro-German agents.

Roumanian Refugees.

The Austrian Consulate in Bucharest has been making every effort to persuade Roumanian refugees from Transylvania and Bukovina to return to the land of their birth, where, of course, they are immediately enrolled in the army. The "League for the Cultural Union of all Roumanians," being informed of what is taking place at the Austro-Hungarian Consulate, has issued a manifesto counselling Roumanian refugees to pay no attention to the wiles or menaces of the K.K. Consul, and exhorting them to remain where they are until their real country calls upon them to make the supreme sacrifice.

ROUMANIAN AID FOR BRITISH PRISONERS

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, March 13.

Friends and relations of British prisoners in Bulgaria will be glad to hear that the plum-puddings made by Mrs. Take Jonescu, and the blankets and razors sent by her Majesty Queen Marie, have reached their destination.

Measures have been taken to alleviate the sufferings of British prisoners all the world over, even in far Mesopotamia; none the less, one has the impression that, for some reason or other, our prisoners in Bulgaria have not had quite as much done for them as elsewhere. They and their friends would be relieved to know that the matter is receiving adequate attention in the right quarters; for, even if we neglect the odd bits of unfavourable information that come to our notice, it is only too patent that in a country where the natives themselves are suffering no inconsiderable hardships there will not be any little comforts for their prisoners. We may take it that the Serbian prisoners receive such attention as is just about necessary to keep body and soul together. Will this minimum suffice for our men, who are used to a far higher standard of living? It is useless to collect funds, clothes, and provisions for our men unless the means of their conveyance and distribution are ensured. In Roumania alone the French colony have collected, we understand, about £5,000 in money, as well as a large quantity of provisions, for the Allied prisoners in Bulgaria. But the prisoners have so far derived practically no advantage from this because of the difficulties of conveyance. The Dutch Minister has taken a small quantity with him as a trial, but we do not know as yet whether he will obtain permission to distribute it. The Bulgarian authorities have not offered even the usual facilities for the transmission and distribution of provisions to prisoners. That is certain. But there is more than a suspicion that they even offer opposition to any attempts which the authorities, who have undertaken to represent British and French interests in Bulgaria, might make to put themselves in touch with our prisoners. Such obstacles can only be overcome by an energetic attitude and a full measure of *savoir faire*.

No doubt Mrs. Take Jonescu had some of these difficulties in mind when she resolved to collect money and provisions, and to arrange for their conveyance and distribution by private enterprise. Pending the official distribution of the large stock of things collected by the French, there is much that may be done privately on a smaller scale.

Mrs. Take Jonescu has shown indefatigable energy in the collecting of funds, clothes, books, tobacco, etc., so that up to the present the sum of 13,000 frs. has been realised. What gives more immediate satisfaction is to know that many useful articles are already on their way to our prisoners, and that there is every hope of their being reached. Thus there have been despatched about eight-five linen bags, each one containing the following articles:—Two shirts, two socks, two handkerchiefs, soap and shaving brush, hairbrush and comb, packet of chocolate, tobacco, pencil and paper, enamelled plate, towel. A case of books is being sent separately.

I should like to emphasise the fact that this undertaking is of a private character, organised by Mrs. Take Jonescu as a Roumanian subject rather than as an Englishwoman, the contributions coming almost entirely from Roumanian sources.

Under date of the 11th inst., the Amsterdam correspondent of the *Morning Post* telegraphs:—The Petrograd correspondent of the *Telegraaf* reports that, notwithstanding the efforts of the Dutch Minister in Sofia, Bulgaria refuses to allow neutral representatives of the Red Cross to visit the camps for Serbian prisoners of war.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (March 13):—The American Red Cross continues to send food, clothes, and boots to the Serbians through the United States Legation in Bucharest. The latter has received permission to export ten wagons of flour for the Serbians.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, March 19.

Renewed Excitement.

After the dulness of the past few weeks it was almost a relief to learn that at last the Allied troops had come into contact with the Germans on the Macedonian frontier. This, however, now turns out to have been only an unimportant affair between patrols. Particulars have already been cabled to London, so that I need not go into details. I may, however, refer to what General Sarrail told me last night in the course of an interview. A company belonging to the 103rd German Division seems to have come down to the Greek villages of Mitsokovo, Mayadagh, and some others in the neutral zone, merely on a "prowling" expedition, to seize food and other supplies, but without any desire to fight. On the appearance of French patrols they retired, but later on returned in greater strength. This time they were more bellicose, and a short engagement took place, which resulted in the enemy being driven back over the frontier, with only a few casualties on each side. The French occupied the villages, but did not pursue the Germans. General Sarrail does not want his hand forced, but will choose his own time for an advance if that is resolved upon.

Further excitement has been caused by an attempt on the part of a Zeppelin to reach Salonika. Having crossed the Allied lines during the night, it advanced as far as Vateluk, but on being bombarded and attacked by French aircraft thought discretion the better part of valour and turned back. Yesterday, again, two enemy aeroplanes flew over the city at a great height, and the crowds who were listening to the British band and the pipers at the famous White Tower witnessed a heavy bombardment from anti-aircraft guns. No damage appears to have been done. Attempts are made almost daily to fly to Salonika, but here, as elsewhere, the French aviators have established their superiority, and we are well protected by them. Our visitors of yesterday flew French colours, and hoped to pass for French aeroplanes. It was soon ascertained, however, that no French aircraft were at that moment in the air. Accordingly one of the warships gave the usual warning signal, and then shrapnel began to burst all round the enemy, who retired in haste.

Our Local Press.

In a previous letter I made some remarks about the Press of Salonika. Since then some changes have taken place in the newspapers referred to, and three "little strangers" have been born, of which one is alleged to be in the English language. The *Balkan News* has been born again. The military authorities, for reasons which the intelligent reader could readily appreciate, took over the paper, and it is now edited by a thoroughly competent officer, with the assistance of another officer as sub-editor. It is now declared to be a paper for the Army produced by the Army—which expression also includes the Navy. In its new dress the *Balkan News* is quite interesting and up to date, and one noticeable feature is the variety of excellent contributions by members of both services.

Of the new publications the English rival of the *Balkan News* is an evening paper called the *Evening Post*, which presents us with some extraordinary examples of English "as she is wrote." Perhaps, in the absence of *Punch*, our Tommies enjoy it—printers' errors and all; but the paper is a long way behind the re-born *Balkan News*. Two new French papers have also appeared: a morning journal called *La Dépêche* and an evening sheet named *L'Information*, both friendly to the Allies. Among the Greek papers the *Makedonia* and the *Ellas* appear to be the best informed. The editor of the latter, Mr. Avyeris, used to be assistant editor of the *Embros* of Athens, but he did not agree with its anti-Entente policy, so founded the *Ellas* here as an Ententist organ.

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NEWS FROM TURKEY.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Athens, March 27.

It has become extremely difficult to obtain any trustworthy information of what is really happening in Constantinople and in Turkey generally. There is practically no telegraphic communication, and the postal service is most irregular; in fact, the mails to and from Constantinople have recently been seized by the Allied Fleet, so even newspapers arrive with considerable delay.

There are very few arrivals from Constantinople. The "man in the street" who occasionally comes through can only report what he has himself seen and the gossip he has heard; and the various accounts in the newspapers of riots, demonstrations, and other incidents must be taken with many grains of salt.

Exaggerated Reports.

Foodstuffs are doubtless extremely scarce, and it is quite probable that there are frequent scenes in front of the bakers' shops, but the reports of serious riots in Constantinople are certainly exaggerated. In any case, incidents of this nature can hardly affect the political situation so long as those who are ruling Turkey have the Army with them. Amongst the civil population throughout Turkey the misery and distress are evidently very great, and there is no doubt much discontent in the Army also; but there seems to be no element strong enough to create a movement which would lead to a successful revolution, however much this may be desired. The country is at present under the control of the Germans, and only a strong revolt in the Army against them is likely to effect a radical change. The "Turkish" Government exists in name only. In fact, it is doubtful whether the actual members of the Cabinet have much initiative at the present moment.

Enver-Talaat Mystery.

The two most prominent men, Enver and Talaat, are little heard of to-day. Talaat was reported to have gone to Switzerland, but according to the newspapers he was in Constantinople on the 11th inst., and the fate of Enver is still a mystery. The *Hilal*, of March 3, gave an account of his visit to Jerusalem in company with Jemal Pasha, to visit the Mosque of Omar. Some say it was there that he was assassinated, others that it was at Angora. In any case, there is so far no confirmation of his death, but neither is his presence reported at any place or his name mentioned in the newspapers recently received here.

There appears to be some truth in the report that the mines in the Dardanelles were being removed or destroyed, but the object was evidently to prepare a passage for some of the new German super-submarines which are said to be making their way to the Black Sea.

THE DARDANELLES SICK FUND.

Sir Francis Elliott, in a letter to *The Times*, gives an account of the work of the Dardanelles Sick and Wounded Fund, of which he is chairman. As our readers will recall, the fund grew out of a collection started among British residents in Athens by Lady Montgomery Cuninghame and Mrs. Kerr to supply luxuries to the hospitals at Mudros. The effort was so much appreciated that a committee was formed, under the chairmanship of Sir Francis Elliott, which has since carried on the work. A constant supply of vegetables, fruit, honey, sweets, and, latterly, when dysentery and enteric became prevalent, eggs haave been despatched weekly to Mudros, and the committee have received from the medical officers most gratifying testimony to the utility of their organization.

Since the withdrawal of the troops from the Peninsula there is no need for further subscriptions. The fund has, however, a substantial balance available, and it is proposed to apply this to the medical needs that still exist at Mudros until such time as they cease, when the committee will decide as to the best further use which could be made of any balance then remaining.

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THE COMMITTEE OF UNION AND PROGRESS AT HOME.

In view of the recent reports of dissension in the ranks of the Committee of Union and Progress, the account of an interview which Dr. Alfred Nossig had with the members of the Inner Council of that body, appearing in a recent number of *Der Tag*, is of no little interest. Dr. Nossig is essentially a picturesque writer.

Stamboul, he begins, also has its Wilhelmstrasse (Downing Street, or, rather, Whitehall). The Sublime Porte, together with the Grand Vizierate, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as most of the other Ministries, are to be found in the Bab-Ali Jadessi. If one turns from this noisy, crowded street to the right one enters a small turning known as the Nour Osmanieh. A modest one-storied Khan, with a door always open, at once attracts attention. It is in this small, unimposing house that the heart of Turkey beats. Here is the headquarters of the Inner Council of the Young Turkish Committee of Union and Progress. One searches in vain in the history of ancient and modern peoples for a political institution on all fours in constitution, activity, and significance with the Young Turkish Committee. The Young Turks themselves, who, during their exile in Paris, cast their eyes much more in the direction of the political life of England than in that of the French Republic, compare the organisation of their Jemietti with the English party system. But, in spite of any similarity between the two, the Committee of Union and Progress, on closer inspection, proves itself to be an original and interesting political institution, thoroughly typical of the national peculiarities and the historical development of the Turkish people. In its origin and in its statutes the Committee is merely the organisation of the Young Turkey party. In all the most important parts of the Empire the party has its clubs and district committees, who are at the head of the members living in the whole of the vilayet. The district committees send their representatives to the Central Committee, which meets once a month in Constantinople, under the presidency of Talaat Bey. Over this Central Committee in Constantinople there is a standing Inner Council, which one must regard as the business management of the organisation. When one refers briefly to "the Committee," the reference is always to this Inner Council, which is responsible for all current business, and to-day, in very truth, directs the destinies of Turkey. At the head of this Council stands Midhat Shukri Bey, as General Secretary and President of its discussions. It is in its character of an organisation of the ruling circles of the ruling people of the Ottoman Empire that the Committee draws up its programme. The subjects of discussion have nothing to do with the interests of the Young Turks as a party. It is a Turkish national programme—one might even call it simply a Government programme. In regard to the great questions, the political, administrative, and economic consolidation of Turkey, it is here that the guiding principles are decided upon which the Turkish Government proceeds to carry out. The improvement of the national standard by the extension of education, emancipation from the Capitulations, reform of the whole Administration, separation between State and Church, development of Turkish agriculture and industry; these are the chief items in the programme.

Two questions at once force themselves upon one: On what principles is Turkey ruled by its national organisation, and who are the men who stand at the head of this national Administration which forms a Higher Court to the Government? In answering the second question—far more interesting than the first—one is brought at once in conflict with the principles of the Committee; for the foremost and most strictly observed principle of the Jemietti is "The Committee is impersonal. Its members must on no account become prominent." An outsider, however, may be allowed a breach of this Catonian rule. There are rooms in this House of Secrets in the Nour Osmanieh into which no foreigner ever penetrates, and men sit in these Holiest of Holies who have little intercourse with foreigners. One of these is Zia, the enthusiast so rich in ideas, the spiritual father of "Turkism," that movement which aims at making the Turkish national conscience independent of Islam and at forming a pure Turkish language freed from Arabic and Persian elements. There is also a group at the head of which stands Kemal Bey, which devotes itself to certain economic and Inner Turkish questions.

The Committee, however, also has certain important representatives who, on the one side, hold in their hands the threads of Government business and, on the other side, know how to practise the art of entertainment in a most attractive way.

Passing through a moderate-sized room, decorated with photographs in gilt frames, one comes to a small office. It is the exceedingly modest kingdom of Midhat Shukri Bey. Why the members of the Committee have chosen Midhat Shukri as their General Secretary is recognised at once. He is the embodiment of goodness and friendliness, possessed of liberal discretion, which finds expression in perfect equanimity and humour.

The other members of the triumvirate which presides over the Committee are Nazim Bey and Beha-ed-Din Shakir—both doctors, we are reminded by Dr. Nossig, who have given up their practices "in order to become physicians of their Fatherland." Nazim Bey is regarded as the strongest man in the Committee. His is a very different temperament from that of Midhat Shukri Bey. He lacks the latter's "sunny smile"; he is an earnest and passionate politician, of penetrating acumen. He is wonderfully *au fait* with the constitutional, socio-political, and economic questions of all civilized States, and thoroughly independent in judgment. He directs the policy of Turkey along the lines of a conscious realism and of a nationalism bent above all on furthering its own interests. Nazim Bey's great influence rests on the fact that he is the sworn enemy of all place-hunting and nepotism. He refuses lucrative posts for himself, and bestows no "favours" on his nearest relatives, in this respect setting an example which may well help to cure Turkey of an hereditary evil. Dr. Beha-ed-Din Shakir's characteristics are a fiery eloquence and an attractive *bonhomie;* he is more a man of the world than his two colleagues, and his sympathetic personality is one of the great assets of the Committee.

Having thus prepared the ground, Dr. Nossig gives his readers the burden of the dialogue of which the Committee leaders delivered themselves for his benefit—or was it for the benefit of Enver Pasha and Talaat Bey?

Nazim Bey: "The Committee exists through its principles and not through persons. Certain fundamental rules have to be established in keeping with the present condition of our nation and its intellectual peculiarities. Our first rule runs: 'The Committee is impersonal. It exists only as a corporation, and discourages individualism.' This circumstance that the members keep themselves in the background has given rise to the supposition that Young Turkish circles, with the exception of the few prominent Ministers, have no men capable of playing a leading part. That is a great mistake."

Beha-ed-Din Shakir: "The number of able people with a talent for organisation who are to-day distributed through the country, whom we could at any time quite confidently entrust with Ministerial positions, is at least two hundred."

Nazim Bey: "The fact that several persons have made themselves particularly prominent rests also on one of the fundamental rules of the Committee. It is its will that every Department of State should be entrusted to a single man, and that this man should have strong, almost autocratic, power. There are many reasons for this. Our people is so constituted that it requires a strong hand for its guidance. Moreover, we wish our rulers to have a firm and lasting position, so that they should not be so easily deposed as the French party leaders are. A stability in administrative conditions, such as obtains in Germany, is much more suited to our country. Finally, we are of opinion that two leading personalities in one sphere are more likely to be harmful than useful. Friction would be inevitable, and there would be two antagonistic groups. For this reason we insist that, when once we have bestowed our confidence on our rulers and given them power, all other men of similar attainments must give way. For instance, if there should be a second Enver, we should, without hesitation, send him abroad as Military Attaché. In the same way, a second Talaat would receive an Ambassadorial appointment."

Beha-ed-Din Shakir: "But now comes our third principle. All members of the Committee, even the members of the Government, must submit to the principles and the authority of the Committee. Even the most influential Ministers come to this house in order to discuss and prepare with their colleagues of the Committee all important Government measures."

Dr. Nossig having ventured to remark that in this way they guarded against a Dictatorship or *coup d'état*, Nazim Bey returned to the charge:

"Most certainly. No usurpation of authority menaces us. The power of the Government rests solely on the power of the Committee. The very moment any one of them tried to raise himself above the authority of the Committee he would lose all force, for he would remain entirely isolated. The basis of our whole form of Government requires a strong organisation of the Committee. The Committee is a force so uniform and compact, derived from so many heads and energies, that it can withstand every attack. For this reason it is also wrong to suppose that, if the two 'strong men' no longer existed, the whole Young Turkey edifice would fall to the ground. The Committee has already overcome successfully the most difficult situations, including the loss of Mahmud Shevket, who was regarded

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as irreplaceable, and yet has been so replaced that we are stronger than we were before."

A reference to the elections and the electoral system which forms part of Turkey's "political hygiene," a reminder that, in spite of the emphasis laid on principles, men were still required to give life and effect to those principles, and an explanation of the gilt-framed photographs of "the heroes of the movement for freedom," to whom death alone gave the privilege of this memorial in the Committee's sanctum, brought the interview to an end.

Only two points seem to have been overlooked by the Committee leaders—the *de jure* head of Turkey, the Sultan, and the *de facto* rulers, the Germans.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The attempts made by the German propagandists in Moslem lands to represent Germany as Moslem at heart, and the Kaiser as a kind of zealous Salah-ed-Din Secundus, are, of course, fairly familiar to all of us by now. But Bishop Stileman, who lately resigned the bishopric in Persia, has been calling attention to a point that had escaped my notice: to wit, that these propagandists had actually gone so far as to assert that the Hohenzollerns are descended from a sister of Mohammed! If such were indeed the case, the upstart Hohenzollerns would have at least one family connection to boast about; but, fortunately for all admirers of the Founder of Islam, it is *not* the case. Even Gotha makes no attempt to carry the family pedigree back to those days; and the Arabs, who know at least as much about the family tree of their Prophet as the German propagandists referred to, are not likely to have paid any attention to the impudent invention.

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What value may be set upon Germany's protestations of regard for Islam is clearly shown by a document found among the German Government archives captured at Moshi. This is a circular addressed by Dr. Schnee, the Governor of German East Africa, to all military stations, and it begins by asking, "What can be done by means of Government servants and Government teachers effectively to counteract the spread of Islamic propaganda?" Then Schnee goes on to ask whether it will be possible to prohibit Islam altogether; he mentions that "the encouragement of pig breeding among natives is recommended by experts"—Germans, of course—"as an effective means of stopping the spread of Islam"; and asks that the point may receive the careful consideration of the authorities addressed. There we have the true German spirit. How does it square with the lies that have been ladled out so freely in Persia, Turkey, and other Moslem lands? It seems to me that it would be worth the while of our Government to have this German *official* document fac-similed, translated, and circulated broadcast amongst the people whom the German agitators have been doing their best to mislead. There are plenty of them capable of appreciating such evidence, and it might be useful in helping them to make up their mind how to treat the Huns in their midst to-day and others who may seek to beguile them in the future. A comparison between this deliberate, if characteristically underhanded, attempt of a German Imperial Governor to outrage Moslem feeling on the one hand and British respect for the same feeling on the other hand can hardly fail to disabuse the mind of any Moslem of all Germanophil sentiment.

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Since writing the above paragraph I have learnt that THE NEAR EAST has arranged to publish an Arabic translation of the Schnee circular. This is good news, and I trust that readers will lose no opportunity of directing attention to the treachery of Germany's protestations of "friendship" for Islam. It is one thing to show respect for other people's religious beliefs and convictions, as Great Britain does and always has done with regard to Islam. It is quite another thing to profess fervent admiration for a religion in one part of the world, in order to persuade people to fight for you, as Germany has done in Persia, Turkey, India, and Arabia, and at the same time to endeavour to suppress the same religion elsewhere, as Germany has done in East Africa.

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At the "Writers on the East" dinner given at the Lyceum Club on Monday Sir Edwin Pears told some amusing stories, which served to show that when the Turk sets himself to the work of censoring he can run certain rivals, who shall be nameless, very close indeed. Thus, a Turkish version of the Lord's Prayer was prohibited because the censor objected to the words "Thy kingdom come," in in which he scented an attempt to undermine the prerogatives of the Sultan. Again, that popular hymn, "Shall we gather at the river?" was banned because the watchful one, for reasons best known to himself, decided that the river in question was the Maritza, and that the hymn hinted at an invasion of Turkish territory. After this it surely is time for the Captains *and* the Kings to depart!

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Another speaker at the same dinner, Mrs. W. D. Stebbing, put forward—or, rather, revived—a proposal which has much to recommend it. Speaking from personal acquaintance with Cyprus, where, I understand, her husband holds a prominent official position, she suggested that it might well be made a health resort for Egypt. The Cairo Correspondent of THE NEAR EAST not long ago sang the praises of the forest-clad slopes of the island; and Mrs. Stebbing fully bore out all that he wrote about their charms and their health-giving air. Moreover, she suggested that some of our disabled soldiers might find it possible to take up fruit-growing in the island, exporting the fruit to Egypt and this country. Why not? We have now taken Cyprus over, and it is obvious that in the future we shall do well to keep it in our hands; and what better colonists could we have than our soldiers? Many of them have good reason to like the island, having been sent there from Gallipoli to get back their health and strength; and I should think that, given a little Government support and encouragement, the scheme might prove feasible, and advantageous in many ways.

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Such news of Sofia as filters through to this country shows that a veritable reign of terror exists in the Bulgarian capital. Ferdinand of Coburg apparently begins to realise that he has put his money on the wrong horse this time, and as a result he is clearly in a state of sheer funk. Radoslavoff, for his part, can hardly be feeling much happier, but he is at least keeping his head sufficiently to turn his Royal master's fear to his own advantage by securing the arrest of his most formidable—because most honest—political opponents. MM. Malinoff, Ghenadieff, and Halacheff are all reported to have been arrested on charges that are clearly trumped up. The first two of these, at least, are far-seeing enough to estimate the Germans at their true worth, and remained undazzled by the initial victories and undismayed by the early brutalities of the Dogeaters. Now they appear to have fallen victims to the spite of the clique of little men who are endeavouring to run Bulgaria in the interests of the Kaiser and themselves. We shall see how far the cowardly King and his willing tool will dare go. But I suggest that the Entente Powers should give M. Radoslavoff to understand quite clearly that when the day of reckoning comes *his* activities will not be forgotten.

***

The arrest of M. Ghenadieff, it is reported, led to "serious incidents" in Sofia. If this be true, I am glad of it, for it shows that all the Bulgarians have not allowed themselves to be cowed or cajoled by the Coburger and his venal Ministers. Moreover, the "serious incidents" included one item which affords me peculiar satisfaction: The citizens of Sofia, disgusted by the treatment meted out to them by their German "allies," and of being regarded as dirt by the "conquerors," turned on one of the offenders, an officer, and gave him a very bad time indeed. He sought refuge in an hotel, but was promptly dragged forth by the exasperated crowd and man-handled in a way that can hardly have been flattering to the dignity of an officer of the Kaiser, until the arrival of a cavalry patrol put an end to his humiliation. It is not a very pretty story; but it is the sort of thing that everybody—except the Huns themselves, apparently—felt sure would happen sooner or later. It is, too, in all probability only the forerunner of many similar incidents in Bulgaria and Turkey.

***

Looking for comfort in the place of hideous gloom that the last days of winter made of London, I strolled along the Thames side at Putney the other morning. My search was to a certain extent successful, because the gloom there was soft and mysterious as it touched the face of the icy waters, and, trembling, slurred to mist. The boat-houses were locked and silent, distances were exaggerated in the uncertain light, there was not another soul on the river front as far as the eye could see. For a few moments I walked by an enchanted river, then a vivid splash of colour crept out of the morning grey and resolved itself into a motor-launch, newly painted, trim and beautiful from stem to stern. Instinctively my mind turned to the crowded days of summer when the river is full of such craft as this and all the world is glad. A man approached me as I stood watching. "Pretty little thing, a'int she, sir? She's for 'orspital work in Mesopotamia." Mesopotamia! There is no release from the war.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE ART AND CRAFT OF THE EXCAVATOR.*

In his account of the American excavations at Nippur Professor Hilprecht refers, with the enthusiasm of a fellow-student, to "Nabonidos . . . the royal archæologist on the throne of Shumer and Akkad," and to those of his subjects who "began to interest themselves in archæological work"; and tells us of at least one of these early collectors who took excellent squeezes of inscriptions of Sargon of Agade from originals which he must "have obtained . . . by purchase or through personal excavations carried on in the ruined buildings of Bel's city." This would seem to show that the archæological excavator is not so entirely a product of modern times as is generally believed. For the expert maker of "squeezes" referred to flourished in the Sixth Century B.C., and his work, which is illustrated in Professor Hilprecht's book, shows that he was no bungler. Some of those who followed in his footsteps in more recent days, however, lacked his skill, if not his enthusiasm, and though digging for relics of the past has been for many years a popular calling, it is to be feared that it has too seldom been pursued in that strictly scientific spirit which alone can give the best results. Even when there has been a great parade of thoroughness, and when tangible results, in the way of spoils for the museums, have been forthcoming in large quantities, many a good site has been ruined by gross bungling, or by over-anxiety to get the work done—after a fashion—speedily: for too often an admiring public has been spoon-fed with far-fetched theories instead of being firmly given only well-established facts; and not a few reputations have been built up by methods which have been, to say the least, hardly honest. Happily, with the spread of knowledge and the increasing interest displayed in the subject by the public, these things are becoming rarer. The excavator of to-day is usually a highly trained man, a specialist in one or two branches of his work; he recognises that it is his first duty to ascertain and record facts; and if he indulges in theorising at all, he does so with some discretion.

The appearance of such a book as the one under notice is itself evidence of the increase in the number of "diggers" who deserve the title of "scientific excavators." It is a volume that should certainly be read by anyone who contemplates taking up the calling seriously; and it would be no bad thing if certain amateur spoilers of good sites could be made to commit it to memory before they were allowed to scratch the surface of a single mound. They would then, perhaps, realise the responsibility attaching to such work, and would either refrain from undertaking it at all or else undertake it with the care it demands. Then, though they might still make mistakes—for the best and most careful of excavators cannot, alas! avoid mistakes entirely—the harm they did might possibly be repaired to some extent. In the past much harm has been done that can never be repaired. Schliemann himself, one fancies, was not entirely free from fault, despite the place on Clio's roll of honour ascribed to him in Mr. Droop's Introduction.

The author's experience of excavating has been gained chiefly in Greece, but he has worked also in Egypt; and it may be observed that most of his hints and advice may be studied with profit by those whose lot it may be to dig in other parts of the Near East. Much of that advice is technical, and it would be out of place to refer to it at length in THE NEAR EAST. The essay will, however, be found quite interesting, not only by the professional excavator, but also by any reader who desires to know how the crude material is obtained which has enabled the historian to build up so rapidly—and, upon the whole, so satisfactorily—our knowledge of the civilizations of ancient Egypt, Babylonia, Assyria, Persia, and other lands of which little or nothing was really known a few generations ago. Moreover, the human interest of the little book is strong. The excavator has to be a student of that very living man, his workman, as well as of the long-dead peoples whose homes, or graves, he unearths. How is he to "eliminate all unnecessary smashes"? A piece of pottery, let us say, that has been buried for some centuries, is probably extremely fragile; the workman may be over-keen, or merely careless; and—the result is sometimes tragical. The question, "How to avoid breakages?" is indeed a delicate one. Punishment may lead the workman "to suppress in future all traces of his victim." Mr. Droop believes in appeals to the man's better nature, combined with a carefully-thought-out system of backsheesh. It is interesting to learn that whereas in Egypt pilfering by the workmen is very common, in Greece it is rarely met with—this state of affairs being due to the comparative ease with which antiquities can be sold in open market, so to say, in Egypt, and the difficulty attending such sales in Greece.

What Mr. Droop writes about the absolute necessity of having a capable man constantly in charge of the digging, and of avoiding working over an area larger than can be supervised properly, is very sound. So, too, are his remarks upon the folly of understaffing and overworking—causes which have contributed to the failure of many excavations. His advocacy of digging trenches rather than pits, again, is sure to meet with approval from all who have had opportunities of comparing both methods of work. The latter, indeed, is worthy only of the "grubber" who is out for spoils regardless of the havoc his blind burrowing may work. Then, too, his remarks of the evil effects produced upon the morals of the excavator by the rapid growth of dump-heaps are certainly worth careful note:—

> I would [he writes] rather see my work held up slightly while I arranged for increased facilities to meet the proved demands of the site, than have my means of dumping greater than necessary, for there is, I think, in that case a danger not wholly fanciful of a subtle change in the excavator's point of view—of his coming to regard the dumping cars as voracious monsters that must be fed, and the amount of soil moved as the standard of his achievements.

The danger is assuredly "not wholly fanciful." Many an excavator appears to take great pride in the mere shifting of so many cubic metres of earth from one part of a site to another; which is, to say the least, hardly scientific.

As to the question of publishing the results of the "dig" quickly, Mr. Droop is refreshingly direct. He contends that the excavator's duty is—

> To publish his facts as quickly as is consistent with thorough study that all the world may be at liberty to spin theories, for the sooner new facts are presented for general study the better served is the cause of History. In the past, facts have often been held up too long that their discoverer might himself publish with them their explanation.

The first duty, then, of the excavator is to ascertain facts, facts, facts—not to hold theories, and his next duty is to make those facts available to the world as quickly as may be. It seems a simple programme; and though experience proves that it is not quite so simple as it looks, it is, on the other hand, not nearly so difficult as a certain class of excavator would have us believe. The work has its pitfalls, its difficulties, and, sometimes, its dangers; but its fascination is undeniable, and the digger's calling is probably one of the pleasantest in the world. If he desires to excel, however, he must equip himself for the work as he would for any other serious undertaking. The day of haphazard exploration is—or should be—past. Mr. Droop's little book shows how the work should be done.

* "Archæological Excavation." By J. P. Droop, M.A. (Cambridge University Press. 4s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton are issuing a new edition of Sir W. M. Ramsay's "Impressions of Turkey," which was first published nearly twenty years ago. The book remains a standard work on the country dealt with, and Sir William Ramsay is a sound judge, and withal an impartial one, of the people he writes about.

From the Egyptian papers we learn that a good map of Northern Egypt, showing the entire extent of North-Western Ægypt up to the frontier of Cyrenaica, has been published in Alexandria by Mr. Foros, 6, Ramleh Boulevard, at the price of P.T.5.

Messrs. Hutchinson and Co. will publish immediately a book entitled "With the Zionists in Gallipoli," by Lieut.-Col. J. H. Patterson, D.S.O., author of "The Man-Eaters of Tsavo." The Zion Mule Corps, composed entirely of Jews, having been raised in Egypt for service in Gallipoli, Col. Patterson was placed in command, and his book is a record of the work of the corps there: it also describes the fighting on the Peninsula generally. The book should make a special appeal because it is the first time for over two thousand years that an entirely Jewish corps has taken an active part in a campaign.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Paris Reborn: A Study in Civic Psychology. By Herbert Adams Gibbons. Illustrated. (New York: The Century Co. $2.00 net.)

Twenty Years in Baghdad and Syria. By Canon J. T. Parfit. (Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. 1s.)

Ferdinand of Bulgaria. By the Author of "The Real Kaiser." (Melrose. 2s. net.)

Report on the First Two Years' Working of the Plant Protection Law (Law No. 5 of 1913). By G. Storey, B.A., F.E.S., Entomologist to the Ministry of Agriculture. (Cairo: Government Press. P.T.2.)

The Nature of the Damage Done by the Pink Boll Worm. By Lewis Gough, Ph.D., F.E.S., etc., Director of the Entomological Section, Ministry of Agriculture. (Cairo: Government Press. P.T.1.)

Notes on the Alkaloids of Some Egyptian Solanaceæ. By Frank Hughes, F.C.S., Chemist to the Ministry of Agriculture. (Cairo: Government Press. P.T.1.)

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. April.	1916. April.		1334. Jumada II	5676. Nisan.
14	1	Friday	10	11
15	2	Saturday.....	11	12
16	3	**Sunday**	12	13
17	4	Monday	13	14
18	5	Tuesday	14	15
19	6	Wednesday	15	16
20	7	Thursday	16	17

Monday is the birthday of Prince Mirko of Montenegro, second son of King Nicholas. H.R.H., who is Grand Voyvode of Grahovo and of Zeta, was born at Cettigne in 1879.

Prince Mirko, who remained in Montenegro with a remnant of the Montenegrin Army, and was captured by the Austrians, is at present in Vienna, where he is reported to be undergoing treatment in a sanatorium.

Monday is also the birthday of Prince Arsène Kara-Georgevitch, the brother of King Peter of Serbia.

Tuesday is the birthday of Princess Marguerite of Greece, eldest daughter of Prince Andrew and Princess Alice, who was born at Athens in 1905.

Prince Christopher of Greece arrived at Stockholm on Tuesday on his way to Petrograd.

The Crown Prince of Serbia left London last Friday. On the previous afternoon H.R.H. visited the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace, and took leave of their Majesties, and also bade farewell to Lord Kitchener at the War Office.

Prince Albert, attended by Captain B. Godfrey-Faussett, R.N., was present at Victoria Station on Friday morning, and, on behalf of the King, took leave of his Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Serbia on his departure from England.

During his visit to this country the Crown Prince personally conferred the Order of St. Sava on the Hon. Mrs. Rochfort Maguire, in recognition of her services as President and Chairman of the Committee of the British Eastern Auxiliary Hospital at Belgrade.

His Royal Highness also bestowed the Order of St. Sava (3rd Class) upon Lord Swaythling, the Chairman, and Dr. G. B. Clark, the Medical Director, of the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee.

In writing to Mr. Handel Booth, M.P., Chairman of the Executive Committee of the W.A.R.C., to announce the honour conferred on Lord Swaythling and Dr. Clark, the Serbian Minister, M. Boshkovitch, added an expression of his own thanks "to all members of your Committee and of your units who have taken part and interest in your work for our country."

Lady Paget had the honour of being received by the King and Queen, at Buckingham Palace, last Friday, on her return from Serbia.

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Genuine Turkish and Egyptian Cigarettes
SPECIAL BLEND FOR NEAR EASTERN SMOKERS.
Prémières - - 7s. 6d. per 100.
Deuxièmes - - 6s. " "
Bourdelakis Bros. 4s. " "
Do. (Gold-tipped) 5s. " "
Corbetti (Egyptian) 5s. " "
Packed in boxes of 50 and 100. 5 per cent. discount on orders for 500 and upwards for *Near East* Readers.
22, Great Chapel Street, Oxford Street, W.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., was received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday.

An interesting and impressive ceremony took place at Salonika on Wednesday, when (says a Reuter's message) General Sir Bryan Mahon, the British Commander-in-Chief, handed to General Sarrail, the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces, the insignia of the G.C.M.G., conferred upon the latter by the King. A brigade paraded and was inspected by the two Generals, the regiments afterwards marching past. The men presented a splendid appearance, and, notwithstanding the fact that they had been for over eighteen months on active service, looked very smart and efficient. A large number of superior officers of both British and French Armies witnessed the ceremony.

Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Murray, Commander-in-Chief in Egypt, on Monday afternoon, at Alexandria, reviewed the South African battalions which have done such fine work on the western frontier. He congratulated several of the men individually.

Prince Bibesco, of the Roumanian Legation, who left London for Paris last week, has returned and has resumed his diplomatic duties.

Lord Edward Cecil, the Egyptian Financial Adviser, has returned to Egypt.

It is officially announced that his Majesty the King-Emperor has been graciously pleased to sanction the grant of a salute of eleven guns and the rank and status of a First-Class Chief of the Bombay Presidency for life to his Highness Aga Sultan Sir Mahomed Shah, Aga Khan, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

In the *London Gazette* of April 3, under the heading of Royal Military Academy (Woolwich) we are glad to notice that Captain G. B. Pears, R.E., is temporarily appointed Chief Instructor (G.S.O.) at the Academy, and to be temporary major while so employed.

Referring to General Sir John Nixon's report in respect to the operations in Mesopotamia (Amara, May 31 to June 4) we notice that amongst the officers recommended in despatches under "General Headquarters Staff" figures the name of Captain George E. Whittall. Captain Whittall is still doing excellent work for King and country "somewhere in the East."

We are informed that General Ivanoff, whose resignation of his command was referred to in these columns last week, is not a Bulgarian, as stated.

Essad Pasha, after visiting the French front, has thanked M. Briand for the privilege of seeing the French Army in action.

M. Malinoff, a former Minister of Finance, and five other Bulgarian deputies are reported to have been arrested.

The Sultan of Egypt's Civil List and the salaries of his household have been increased to £E338,810 in the budget for this year, as compared with £E318,859 last year, a total increase of £E19,951.

H.E. the Hellenic Minister and Madame Gennadius were present at the Greek Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater, last Sunday, when a Te Deum was sung on the occasion of Greek Independence Day.

A marriage has been arranged, and will very shortly take place, between Lord St. Davids and Miss Betty Rawdon-Hastings, second daughter of Lady Maud Rawdon-Hastings and the late Hon. Paulyn Rawdon-Hastings, of the Manor House, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

The marriage took place on Monday at St. Paul's, Onslow Square, of John Percival Droop, M.A., younger son of the late Henry Richmond Droop, Barrister-at-law, of Lincoln's Inn, and Mrs. Droop, of 11, Cleveland Gardens, to Ita Bride, elder daughter of the late Michael Molony, Barrister-at-law, of the Middle Temple, and Ada Molony. The bridegroom, who is the author of "Archæological Excavation"—a review of which appears on another page—was formerly a student of the British School at Athens, and has taken part in important excavations both in Greece and in Egypt.

Lieutenant-General Sir George Frederick Gorringe, who is conducting the operations for the relief of Kut, had a lot of Near Eastern service to his credit before his present campaign. He joined the Headquarters Staff in Egypt five years after joining the Royal Engineers, and subsequently gained distinction with the Dongola and Khartoum Expeditions. Attached to the Gedaref relief column, he commanded the irregulars at Abu Adel and Umm Debrikat, and later acted as A.D.C. to Lord Kitchener. After serving in the South African War, where his services brought him the award of the C.M.G., he returned to the Sudan, and for some time acted as Mudir in the Blue Nile Province, where his administration was marked by unusual success. General Gorringe served for nearly three years as Director of Movements and Quarterings at the War Office prior to being transferred to India, where, since 1912, he has commanded a Brigade. His early services in the present war included the very successful advance from Kurnah against Nasriyah last year, when he secured to the British the junction of the Shatt-el-Hai and the Euphrates.

Colonel Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff, K.C.S.I., who was Under-Secretary for Public Works in Egypt from 1883 to 1892, died on Thursday of last week in his eightieth year, at his residence in Cheyne Walk, Chelsea. An appreciation of Sir Colin and an account of his work in Egypt will be found on another page.

The death occurred last week, at Lancaster, of Major Charles James Holmes. The youngest son of Mr. John Holmes, Athlunkard, County Clare, he was born in 1857, and received a medical education at Queen's College, Cork. He joined the Army Medical Service in 1882, and served in the Egyptian Campaign in that year, for which he was given the medal. He was also with the Sudan Expedition in 1885 and with the Expedition to Dongola in 1896, and received the medals for both.

Colonel George John Charles Whittington, who died last week at his residence, Codham Hall, Great Warley, Essex, aged seventy-nine, saw service in the Egyptian War of 1882, and was awarded the medal and bronze star. He also served in the South African War, and was mentioned in despatches.

The funeral of the Right Hon. Sir Gerard Lowther took place on Saturday afternoon in the churchyard of Campsea Ashe, Suffolk. The service was a very quiet one, only the family and a few friends being present. The coffin was borne to the grave by employees on the Speaker's estate. The mourners were Lady Lowther and her two daughters, the Speaker and Mrs. Lowther, General Cecil Lowther, Mr. Harold Lowther, and Mrs. Christopher Lowther. Wreaths were received from the family, Lady Margaret Jenkins, the Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe, Lady Herbert, Lady Slade and daughter, the Chilian Minister, Lord Rendlesham, Mr. Arthur and Lady Gertrude Monckton, Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, Mrs. John Ward, and the Committee of the British Red Crescent Society.

At the same hour as the funeral, a memorial service was held at St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, which was attended by many friends of the late Ambassador. The Hon. Theo. Russell represented Sir Edward Grey and amongst others in the congregation were: The Right Hon. Ameer Ali, Lord and Lady Newton, Lord and Lady Hilton, the Hon. Lady Herbert, Sir Henry Bax-Ironside, Sir Maurice de Bunsen, Mr. Arthur Nias, Mr. H. G. Cumberbatch, Mr. Adrian Hope, and Captain and Mrs. Makins.

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A memorial service for Sir John Gorst was held on Saturday at St. Margaret's, Westminster, amongst those present being Viscount Bryce, Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., and Colonel Yate, M.P. The funeral took place at Castle Combe, Wiltshire.

Mr. Q. S. Hazzopulo, for many years Greek Consul at Manchester, a position from which he retired eighteen months ago, died last Friday. Mr. Hazzopulo, who was a merchant, was also Persian Consul, a position he held at the time of his death.

The death is announced, as having taken place at Kentish Town, of Mr. Joannides, who was for many years Greek Consul in London. He was eighty-five years old.

A Reuter's message from New York, dated April 12, announces the death of Mr. Richard Harding Davis, the well-known American writer, who served as correspondent of *The Times* in the Greco-Turkish war.

Sir Owen Seaman has promised to read a selection of his poems at a concert in aid of Serbian prisoners of war, to be given by the Independent Music Club, at the Kingsway Hall, Holborn, on Saturday afternoon, at 2.30.

On Tuesday evening, at St. George's Hall, Liverpool, Mr. David Mitrany delivered a highly interesting lecture on Roumania.

The Crown Prince of Serbia before his departure left with the Serbian Minister a sum of £200 with the request that it should be handed to the Lord Mayor for a charitable institution in connection with the war. The Lord Mayor has forwarded the cheque to the War Seal Foundation.

The Cercle Serbe was "at home" on Wednesday afternoon at the Cavendish Hotel, Jermyn Street. Among those present were the Marchioness Inouye, M. Yovanovitch, Lady White, Lady Grogan, Lady Primrose, Major-General Sir Alfred Turner, and M.G. de Wesselitsky.

At a meeting of the Balkan Committee, held on Wednesday at the House of Commons, with Sir Arthur Evans in the chair, the following resolution was passed: "That this Committee welcomes the public declaration of the Crown Prince of Serbia adopting the programme of Jugo-Slav unity."

Prince Alexander of Serbia on Monday evening received in Paris the members of the Jugoslav Committee, when the President, M. Trumbic, expressed the Committtee's sentiments of affection and devotion to the Prince and the Karageorgevitch Dynasty.

Dr. Frank J. Mackinnon has been appointed medical officer to the Hamrem Hospital, in Malta.

Since the reoccupation of Ispahan by the Russians, the British Minister has given leave to the missionaries to return to that city.

"CARMEN SYLVA'S" FUNERAL.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes :—

The funeral procession of the late Queen Elizabeth left the Royal Palace on Sunday morning, March 5, and proceeded to the station through streets lined with soldiers. Following the coffin on foot were King Ferdinand with his sons, the Princes Carol and Nicolas, on either side, and behind these the Diplomatic Corps and many prominent civil and military authorities. The coffin was covered with a purple cloth upon which rested the Royal Crown, further in front being placed a casket containing the earthly remains of the late Sovereign's only child, the little Princess Maria, who was born in 1870 and died three and a-half years later, leaving her parents heartbroken. Her body had been buried in the park of Cotroceni, but was exhumed after the death of Queen Elizabeth, the latter having desired that her child might be laid beside her. The funeral train left for Curtea de Argesh at midday, closely followed by another train reserved for the chief dignitaries.

King Charles was buried in the beautiful church of Curtea de Argesh, and now his gentle Queen has been laid in the crypt beside him, their daughter finding her last resting-place in a niche in the partition that separates the two crypts.

The Diplomatic Corps constituted two rows in the procession, each of these representing one of the belligerent groups. It was noted with satisfaction that the Greek Minister had taken his place among the Ententists. Sir George Barclay walked between his Greek and Serbian colleagues.

In the group represented by the Ministers of the Central Powers was, of course, also M. Simion Radeff, the Bulgarian Minister, who attracted attention from the fact that he was the only diplomat who was not in uniform. He wore a frock coat and white gloves. Commenting on this fact, the *Nationalul* quotes the special correspondent of the *Corriere della Sera* who was present at the opening of Parliament: "Of a sudden I observe in the bench occupied by the representatives of the Central Powers M. S. Radeff, whom I had known in Bulgaria as a *Komitaji*. It must be admitted that M. Radeff has a sense of proportion; he is aware that the change from the dress of a *Komitaji* to the uniform of a diplomat would be too striking, so he has compromised by adopting the frock coat."

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

M. Dragoumis, the Greek Minister of Finance, has resigned, and has been succeeded by M. Rallis, who in turn is succeeded as Minister of Justice by M. Chatzakos, the Public Prosecutor.

A Sudan correspondent writes :—

Mr. W. R. G. Bond, formerly Second Inspector in the White Nile Province, and later First Inspector of the Dongola Province, is now promoted to a Senior Inspectorship in the last-named Province, replacing Captain Jackson, who retired comparatively recently (1914) from the Government service. Mr. Bond will be stationed at Dongola, where there is an additional (Second) Inspector in the person of Mr. A. W. Skrine. Mr. Bond joined the Province Government of the White Nile in 1910 vice Mr. Ball, and was stationed at Kosti.

Captain S. Hutchins, formerly a Second Inspector of the Mongalla Province, stationed at Bor, has now been re-transferred to the Army. He was one of the most popular of the younger officials in the Sudan Government service, and during the short while that he was in Mongalla he thoroughly justified the high opinion of his capabilities which his superiors had formed.

Mr. P. Ball, Third Inspector of the White Nile Province, has been appointed a First Class Magistrate under the Code of Criminal Procedure. Mr. Ball joined the Sudan Government Service in September of 1913.

Our Cyprus Correspondent informs us that Mr. Wilson, Inspector of Police at Kyrenia, has been transferred to Nicosia, to relieve Jemal Effendi, who is moved to Famagusta.

Under date of March 13, our Bucharest Correspondent reports :—

M. Alfred Mendl has received his exequatur as Norwegian Vice-Consul at Braila, in place of the late M. Achille Mendl.

M. G. Derussi, Roumanian Minister at Sofia, has returned to his post from Bucharest.

M. Langa Rashcanu has been moved to Sofia as Councillor of Legation.

The resignation of M. Stere, the Germanophile, or rather Russophobe, rector of the University of Jassy, has at last been accepted by M. Duca, the Minister of Education.

El Miralai C. H. Whittingham Bey, of the Egyptian Ministry of Interior, has been granted the temporary rank of Lewa in the Egyptian Army, whilst holding a special appointment.

El Bimbashi J. M. C. Scott has been transferred to the Egyptian Camel Corps.

Captain W. N. Hill, Northamptonshire Yeomanry, has been attached to the Egyptian Army, as a special service officer, and granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MARRIAGE.

FLOYER—VOST.—On April 8, at St. Paul's, Frimley, by the Rev. A. H. Watson, rector of Lighthorne, Warwick, Ernest Ayscoghe Floyer, Lieutenant I.A.R. and R.F.C., eldest son of the late Ernest Ayscoghe Floyer, of Cairo, Egypt, and Mary Cornish, and stepson of Vaughan Cornish, D.Sc., of Woodville, Camberley, to Lena Cecile, elder daughter of Henry and the late Pauline Vost, of Allahabad, India.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

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

Alexandria.
MAJESTIC HOTEL.
Every modern comfort and luxury. Private apartments with bath-rooms attached & combined suites.
150 ROOMS AND SALOONS.
Hot and cold water in each bedroom. Large and luxurious dining rooms. American bar and restaurant stocked with best wines and liquors. Garden terrace. Verandah. Lift. Motor Car, Guides and Interpreters meet all trains and ships on arrival.
Moderate and Inclusive Terms

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Charming position. Beautifully situated in the best part of Nicosia.
Most magnificently built and furnished.
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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1916.

GERMANY AND ISLAM.

When in 1898 the German Emperor went to Damascus and there proclaimed himself the friend and protector of the Moslem world, it was obvious that his sudden adoption of a new rôle was intended to serve a special and a German purpose. Not a single Moslem owed him allegiance; but Turkey was essential to the consummation of German plans in the East, and the Damascus pose appealed to William II. as a suitable method of bestowing Imperial patronage. Two years previously it is probable that the Emperor shared the views of his Pan-German League, which in 1896 regarded the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire as imminent, and was anxious to establish a claim to a portion of its territories. The Emperor's second visit to the Near East inaugurated a new policy. Instead of taking possession of a part of Turkey, Germany decided that she required the whole of it for the realization of her destiny in the world. The partition of the Ottoman Empire would mean that Asia Minor would have to be shared with other Powers, whereas the maintenance of the integrity of Turkey as a result of Germany's good offices would not only place the whole of the Empire at Germany's disposal, but give her the benefit of its fighting strength as well. The bargain ratified between William II. and Turkey has been well kept, according to the lights of the contracting parties. Abdul Hamid and the Young Turks in turn secured a respite from the reforming influences of the Concert of Europe by means of Germany's passive resistance to the proposals of the other Powers, and were flattered by the attentions of their masterful patron. Germany proceeded to strengthen her economic and political hold on the Ottoman Empire, until on the outbreak of the war she was able to compel the Turks to stake their all in a conflict to which they were not a party, solely in her interests. To cover up the tracks of the Constantinople clique which had bartered away their country's future for German gold, the device of proclaiming a *jehad* throughout the Moslem world was tried. Neither the solemn adjurations of the Sheikh-ul-Islam nor the circulation of the report that the German Emperor had become a convert to Islam brought success to the appeal. The Moslem world remained unmistakably indifferent to the command to range itself under German officers for a holy war, in this respect proving more faithful to its religion than the atheistic group of adventurers who had usurped power in Constantinople.

So long as German designs upon the Ottoman Empire remained unfilled, we should have expected to find the Germans making at least a practice of tolerance towards the Moslem faith. The German in Persia who claimed admission to Islam in order to carry on his intrigues the more easily against Great Britain imagined that he was flattering *more Teutonico* the Moslem world, and was doubtless surprised and pained to find that unsophisticated Mohammedans regarded his duplicity as an outrage on their faith. But there is no loophole for misunderstanding in the attempt to suppress the Mohammedan religion throughout Germany's African colonies which was made in conformity with the deliberate policy of the German Government. In the archives recently captured by the British forces at Moshi in German East Africa was a circular signed by Dr. Schnee, the Imperial Governor, calling upon all military stations for a report "stating what can be done by means of Government servants and Government teachers to counteract effectively the spread of Islamic propaganda." Officials are asked to state whether they "consider it possible to make a regulation prohibiting Islam altogether." The encouragement of pig-breeding among natives, adds the circular, "is recommended by experts as an effective means of stopping the spread of Islam." District commissioners had to consider and report upon this latter point as well, but the procedure which commended itself to the Government of the colony was indicated in the following terms:—I. Prohibition of all Government officials from following the Mussulman faith. II. The preparation of a register in every district of all mosques. III. Prohibition of the performance of the rite of circumcision by any but persons licensed by the Government, who must submit, when applying for such a licence, to an examination by a German official. This circular, it is to be noted, was sent out in October, 1913; the reports called for were to be submitted three months later. It was not a question of an inquiry into the effect of the Moslem faith on the native mind; the Government had already decided upon a policy of suppression, and merely consulted the district officials on the subject of the best methods of carrying the policy into effect.

If Germany's effort to pose at the outbreak of war as the champion of Islam deceived anyone, it was the Turks alone. Believing the only information they were allowed to receive, a certain number of them will have been under the impression that the Entente Powers cherished designs upon Turkish territory, and that Germany was prepared to throw her whole strength into the breach on their behalf. They will have had no clearer conception than the rest of the world before the war of the part Germany intended to make the absorption of the Ottoman Empire play in her scheme for the domination of Europe; and they will have regarded it as natural that the *rôle* of protector of Turkey should carry with it a special friendliness towards Moslems in general. The incidence of war, however, has revealed Germany in her true colours. While rendering lip-homage to Islam, she is committed to a deliberate policy of suppressing the Mohammedan faith wherever it is in her power to do so. There is in this nothing incongruous with the German character. By its conduct of the war the German Government has shown that it refuses to be bound by any moral considerations in the pursuit of what it considers to be the country's interests. It served its purpose to pose as a friend of Islam while it was engaged in the process of absorbing the Ottoman Empire. If, however, at the same time the spread of the Mussulman faith into a German colony threatened to interfere in any way with Germany's methods of dealing with subject races, then Mohammedanism must be ruthlessly suppressed. No compunction for Turkish susceptibilities, no sense of honour, would deter the Germans from the execution of their resolve. It is thus that all the world, with the sole exception of Turkey, knows Germany now. In the circular issued by the Imperial Governor of German East Africa the Turks, if they have not sufficient object-lessons in Turkey to-day, may read the true German character. From it they can draw their own conclusions as to the fate in store for them, if Germany should be victorious in the war and elect to retain her hold on the Ottoman Empire. Their next step, we may hope, will be to ask themselves why they are continuing the struggle. They embarked on war to serve no interests of their own; for, as the Entente Powers had formally guaranteed the integrity of Turkey, it was not true that they had designs on Turkish territory. A chivalrous desire to stand by those who had befriended them might justify their taking the field, but when their ally is shown to have been guilty of treachery to what is to them dearer than their own lives—their religion—they need to take stock of their position and to give heed to their future interests.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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ON THE ROAD TO ERZEROUM.

BY M. PHILIPS PRICE.

With the Russian Army on the Caucasus Front, March 9.

On the day after the fall of Erzeroum I was on the road leading from Sarikamish to the old Russian frontier. The land was snow-bound in the grip of a winter which only those who have travelled in Armenia and the Trans-Caucasus can realise. The plateau of Kars looked like an ocean of white from which protruded islands of rocky eminences. Here and there patches of black dots broke the great white sheet—all that was to be seen of the native villages. Tartars, Georgians, Armenians, Greeks and Turks, and all the many races that inhabit the plateau of Trans-Caucasus had retired underground like troglodytes for the winter, and only an occasional human form standing outside a black hole in the white hillside, which signified a door, gave any sign of the presence of life in this Arctic scene. With the military transport bound for the front I walked along the winding road past the scattered forests that cover the hills along the Russo-Turkish frontier to the edge of the wide Passan plain, which has been the scene of such great events during the last two months.

Between Zanzak and Asap Keui the rolling hills of the Jelli Gel were scarred with lines of trenches and barbed wire. Here the Turks had made their positions last summer, and here for eight months they had remained facing the Russians, with scarcely an incident to break the monotony of the soldier's life. Now suddenly all was changed. Five days' terrific fighting in the first week of January, during which the Russians with great skill succeeded in surrounding the Turkish left in the mountain country of the Jelli Gel, forced the Turks to precipitate an hasty retreat on Erzeroum. Many signs of the Turkish retreat we saw on the way. Through the snow on the roadside protruded a number of objects: camels' humps, horses' legs, buffaloes' horns, befezzed men's faces, with little black beards on their chins, smiling at us the smile of death, their countenances frozen as hard as the snow around them. That is all that is left of the "Drang nach Osten."

After two days the famous old bridge of Kupru Keui appeared before us, across which the armies of the Mongols, Tamerlane, and Shah Abbas passed many centuries ago. To-day the invader of Asia Minor comes not from the East but from the North, and once again the great highway of nations resounds with the tramp of armies and the cry of the refugee and the dying.

For three days we continued our journey south-west across the plain, spending the nights in the little posts of the Russian Red Cross, or in deserted Turkish villages. Every morning at sunrise there would start an endless stream of transport wagons, groaning along the line of ruts and cart tracks that calls itself a Turkish road. But already the Russians had got to work, and gangs of Persians and Tartars, jabbering loudly all the time, were hard at work under the supervision of a Cossack in getting these so-called roads into some sort of order. At last the outline of the Deve Boyun peered through the wintry mist. First forts Kaburga, then Ortajuk, then Uzun Ahmet could be discerned, crowning the rocky eminences on which they stood. Here we could see where the advanced Russian trenches had been—mounds of snow behind which the troops could hide and not be seen from the forts. Beyond them were the Turkish barbed wire entanglements, which threaded across the plain to the foot of the fortress hills. As the mist lifted the whole of the great Deve Boyun chain, with its famous forts, opened before our eyes. We were reaching the scene of the great struggle. As we crossed the neck of hills by the road leading down to the Euphrates plain the sound of firing came to our ears. A few shrapnel in the distance crackled and shone for a second like sparks against a bank of mist. It was the tail-end of the Turkish Third Army fighting a rearguard action on its retreat to the West; and across the plain we could see column after column in long dark lines moving forward. They were the Cossacks in pursuit. As we continued along the road the corpses of the camels, horses, and men grew more and more numerous. If I threw a stone along the road it would be sure to strike half-a-dozen of these silent monuments of war. The pariah dogs were already beginning; for they had been starving all winter, and now was a time of plenty for them.

Before long the famous Kars Gate of Erzeroum, with its pyramidal Seljuk tomb, hove in sight. We passed through tunnels and fortress mounds, past rickety old Turkish sentry-boxes with the Star and Crescent painted on them. But now they were inhabited not by black-eyed, thick-nosed *askars*, but by little, round-faced men with grey eyes and flaxen hair. The grey-coated legions from the North had come. Inside there were scarcely any signs of war. There were a few empty houses, part of the bazaars were closed, and sugar was at very high prices. The first thing I noticed in the streets was a number of men in baggy trousers and fezzes. 25,000 of the poorer class of Turks had remained behind when the Russians entered. With characteristic fatalism they were going about their business as if nothing had happened. "Allah had given Erzeroum to the Uruss; Allah gives and takes away, and Allah is great." Nowhere could the philosophy of the East be more plainly exhibited than in the calm and dignified faces of those Turkish civilians who went on with business in Erzeroum as if it were days of peace.

On the door of a house I saw written up in Russian: "Here we take in prisoners." Just to show how simple and honourable the Turkish soldier is, I saw standing outside a whole row of *askars* asking to give up their rifles. They had failed to escape with the rest of Kiamil Pasha's army, and had hidden in the houses when the Russians entered. But when they saw that no harm was going to befall them they came out and asked to be taken prisoners. "*Tufenk vererim; nerde alajak,*" I heard several of them say. The relations between Russian soldiers and the Turks were splendid. Several Turks with whom I talked said that outside Constantinople circles everyone was heartily sick of the war, and had no inclination to continue struggling with Russia, against whom they showed not the slightest sign of animosity. On the other hand, Russian soldiers would tell me what they thought of the Turks. "*Chestny dobry narod*" (honourable good people) came from the lips of many, and they expressed regret that the needs of "politica" had forced them to fight with each other. Those who know the East are aware what an intuitive sense of simple wisdom both Russian and Turkish peasants have, and so these few remarks that I heard at Erzeroum are probably a good indication of what the silent masses are thinking.

In the old British Consulate, where I had stayed four years ago, I found now the Russian Staff. Across the way lived the American missionary, Mr. Stapleton, who, for all these many months, had been locked up in Erzeroum with his wife and family, and had bravely worked against fever and sickness, which decimated the Turkish Army last winter. He and his wife had also done all they could to relieve the sufferings of the Armenians when they were condemned to exile last summer, and they used all their influence with the Turkish officials to lighten their lot. Such was the respect in which all parties held Mr. Stapleton that when the Turks left the Vali called him and gave him a message for the Russians, promising that if they looked after the Moslems of Erzeroum he would personally do all that he could for the Christian exiles in Mesopotamia.

The story of the Erzeroum Armenians was as follows: The relations between the native Turks and Armenians have always been good, and even during the worst time of the recent massacre the local Turks protested to the Vali against the measures meted out to the Armenians. This mutual understanding, based on trade relations, was, unfortunately, damaged by some of the revolutionary leaders among the Armenians, and by the Chauvinists among the local Young Turk Committee. At the commencement of the war between Russia and Turkey it became known that the Armenians in the Caucasus had already formed volunteer corps to fight against Turkey. This fact seems to have had a great effect on the local Turkish officials in Erzeroum, and various measures were taken to separate Armenian from Turkish soldiers, and put the former, under special observation, to work on the roads. On May 19 the first massacre took place at Hunus, perpetrated by the Kurds in their retreat from Van, and such was the effect of the loss of Van on the Turks that on June 1 an order was issued that all Armenians must be ready to leave within three days for an unknown destination. 15,000 Armenian peasants from the Erzeroum plain were collected and sent off to Mamehattun. On reaching here the local head of the Chettahs, or Turkish volunteers, informed them that he must have 800 liras from them for safe conduct along the road to Mesopotamia. This sum

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.
By Appointment to

KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN
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was paid; but within a few miles of the town all were massacred by an ambush of Chettahs, except one, who escaped to tell the tale. On June 16 the first lot left Erzeroum city and went in the direction of Kharput, but has never been heard of since. On June 19 a second lot left for Erzinjan, viâ Baiburt. The Vali of Erzeroum took 1,000 liras from them by way of poll tax for safe passage. At Kemash, however, their *arabas* were seized, and they were left to continue their journey on foot to Malatia and Mosul. Many died on the way, but some have reached their destination in safety, for the American missionary has received letters from them from Rakka, in Mesopotamia. It is probably true, however, that over 50 per cent. of the Armenians in the Erzeroum vilayet have perished in one way or another. It is interesting to note that a month after the order for exile was issued the German Consul at Erzeroum received an order from his Government, which was apparently becoming frightened regarding the effect which the ill-treatment of Armenians would have on public opinion in Western Europe, to assist the exiles with food and clothing on their journey.

In September a commission of Turkish officials from Constantinople, on which Beha-ed Din Shekir Bey sat, reached Erzeroum, having been given the task of collecting the property of the Armenians and transferring it to them in Mesopotamia. How much of this property reached its owners the readers of THE NEAR EAST can be left to imagine.

All through the winter the Turkish Third Army in the Erzeroum region remained inactive. Several batteries of field guns were sent down to Mesopotamia to take part in the advance against the British. Nothing was done to strengthen the Third Army, which has never really recovered from the blow it received at Sarakamish in January, 1915. A Turk with whom I talked in Erzeroum told me that the unexpected attack of the Russians in January took the Turkish Staff completely by surprise, and as soon as the Russians occupied Hassan Kale preparations for the evacuation of Erzeroum were begun. The operations which led to its final fall I have already described.

With a party of officers, the day after our arrival we rode up on to the hills which contain the inner chain of forts, and first visited Shivishli, the centre from which the Turks supplied the forts of the outer chain. Very little signs of fighting could be seen here. The stonework and parapets were in perfect condition, and the Turks had left without even blowing up the guns.

After a long ride over rocky ledges and winding paths in the teeth of a terrible wind we rose up on to the plateau and snowfields on which was situated Fort Chaban Dede, the key to the whole Deve Boyun forts. Who holds this fort can command both the inner and outer chain. On the summit we found the earthworks, with deep trenches and gun positions, on the very edge of a yawning precipice, beneath which lay the valley of the Tuy. To the south a magnificent panorama opened out to us. It was now evening. The wind had dropped, and the scuds of snow had cleared away. The sky had a pale blue Arctic tint, and the sun was sinking down behind the dark hills that bordered the sources of the Euphrates. As it sank it struck the landscape at our feet with slanting rays, turning the rocks into a glowing gold and the snowfields into dazzling silver. On the south the great white wall of the Palan Tepe range broke the horizon. On the east lay the level plain of the Araxes, and on the west the frozen marshes in which the Euphrates rises. Between these two plains lay the rounded hills of the Deve Boyun, covered in deep snow like silvery billows in a sea. Each rounded knoll was capped by a mound, or a circular ring; these were the forts, which seemed as it were to connect these frozen waves with a chain of dark beads. Looking to the north, I could see a perfect wilderness of rock and snowfield, out of which towered the peaks and the Karga Bazar. Could it be possible, I asked my companions, that a Russian Army could cross this country at 10,000 ft.? My question was answered next day when I went to see the actual place where the 4th Division and the right wing of the 39th crossed the Tuy defile and surrounded the Olugli heights.

After sleeping in Fort Chaban Dede at night in an old Turkish blockhouse, we set off next day across snowfields and crags, picking our way gingerly to avoid falling into snowdrifts. Yes, it was true. In the snow before my eyes I could see the tracks of an army which had been marching westwards. Through the defile of Tuy, in narrow files, they had gone. I could see where the guns which had been carried on the shoulders had been left in the snow for a few minutes while the soldiers rested.

On the snowfields the tracks widened out; open order was formed; machine guns and mountain batteries had hastily been laid under a cover of snow while the Turks on the Olugli were engaged.

A little further on I saw recent bloodstains in the snow, and then a dead Russian soldier half buried in a drift, his face turning upwards. Further on were some Turks, and all the signs of a precipitate Turkish retreat. The whole of the snowfields were covered with human relics of Russian and Turk who had fought and died together on these desolate heights; and the desolation wrought by Nature combined with that wrought by man. Here had been fought the great struggle for the Olugli heights, the plateau that lay between Forts Chaban Dede and Tufta. The Turks had contested every inch of this ground with a stubbornness and bravery which is characteristic of their race; but they had been outnumbered and overcome, and the Russians, after days of endurance and physical hardship, which seems almost impossible to contemplate even after one has visited the spot, broke through the chain of defences that held between the two forts. On this historic battleground, at 10,000 ft. in rock and snow, the fate of Erzeroum and of Turkish Armenia was decided on February 15, 1916.

GERMANY AND ISLAM.

(Below we give an Arabic translation of the now famous circular sent by Dr. Schnee, Governor of German East Africa, and aimed at the suppression of Islam.)

خُبث الجرمن ومكرهم بالاسلام

في مستعمرتهم بافريقيا الشرقية

نترجم للمسلمين عموماً وللاتراك خصوصاً ليحكموا

فيه بنظرهم للمنشور الذي اصدره رسمياً الحاكم العام

الجرماني دوكتور شني للمستعمرة المذكورة ووزعه

على حكام المقاطعات فيها قبل اشهار الحرب الحاضرة

بمدة قصيرة ولما جيش افريقيا الجنوبية من

المستعمرات البريتانية قهر الجرمن اخيراً واستولى

على القسم الاكبر من المستعمرة الجرمانيه ودخل مدينتها

موشي وجدت صور هذا المنشور في دوائرها

الرسمية واذن بعث الجنرال سمائس بنسخة

منها لحكومة انكلترا وهذا تعريبها حرفياً

" لكافة حكام المقاطعات

المطلوب منكم هو ان تقدموا لنا بظرف ثلاثة

اشهر تاريخ لائحة "تقطعونا فيها رأيكم عما يمكن

اجراءه في الدولة ومن مستخدميها ومدرسيها لصد

انتشار الاسلام داخل البلاد صداً تاماً . هل هو في

رأيكم امكان تحريم الاسلام بصورة شرعيه او ربما

يصح وضع قانون يحرم على المدرسين ان يجروا سنة

الختان ام يخطبوا على المنابر الاسلامية الخ وان يعم

هذا التحريم كل موظفي الحكومة . ثم انه من رأي اصحاب

الخبرة للتوشي الاسلام في البلاد اصالة هو تنشيط

الاهالي والسكان على تربية الخنازير فتلفت

انظاركم لهذا الفكر ايضاً . انتهى معربه

الصيفي

لندن في ٨ ابريل سنة ١٩١٦

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A Question of Economy.

April 11.

Mr. ASHLEY asked the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether last year the large steamship Arragon, lying off Mudros, was used for many months as the headquarters of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, or for portions of his staff; whether, while used for that purpose, the cost to the public represented by the ship and her running expenses was at least £50,000 a month; and whether, in the interests of economy and in view of the needs of tonnage, he would take steps to prevent a similar occurrence in the future.

Mr. FORSTER said that the answer to the first part of the question was in the affirmative. The total amount spent on hire and running expenses was only a fraction of the amount suggested. With regard to the latter part, he doubted whether a similar situation was likely to arise again.—Replying to a further question put by Mr. Ashley, Mr. Forster said it was not, in his opinion, desirable to state the amount of the "fraction."

The Mesopotamian Operations.

Mr. MALCOLM asked whether the Secretary for India would state what was the effect of the new arrangements for the control of operations in Mesopotamia on the position and responsibility of the Government of India and the Secretary for India respectively.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: Broadly speaking, the effect of the new arrangement is to leave unchanged the duties and responsibilities of the Indian authorities. But the Chief of the Imperial General Staff is substituted for the Secretary of State for India in all communications dealing with these operations, and, as stated by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of the War Office on March 23, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff issues instructions when necessary to the Commander-in-Chief in India in regard to Mesopotamia in exactly the same manner as to Commanders-in-Chief in other theatres of war. Questions in regard to the operations should now be addressed to the representative of the War Office.

The State of Serbia.

April 12.

Mr. RONALD M'NEILL asked whether the Foreign Secretary had any information regarding the treatment of the Serbian civil population by the enemy occupying the country; whether the reports of massacres and of starvation of the Serbians were confirmed from official sources; and, if so, whether representations on the subject had been made to neutral Governments, and whether steps were being taken to alleviate distress in Serbia.

Lord R. CECIL replied that, as Serbia was in the occupation of the enemy, no official information could be received as to conditions in the country. From unofficial information which had been received it would appear that the civil population had not been maltreated by Austrian troops, though isolated outrages on the part of Bulgarian irregulars might possibly have occurred. The material in the Government's possession was too slight to justify representations to neutral Governments. With respect to the relief of distress in Serbia, his Majesty's Government were anxious to do anything possible consistent with paramount military considerations; but they desired to state emphatically that it was the duty of the occupying Power to provide for the well-being of the population in the occupied country; and they must protest against the callousness of those who, by deliberately starving populations under their control, attempted to blackmail us and our Allies into replenishing supplies which ought never to have been taken from the country.

Mr. M'NEILL: Granting that it is the duty of the occupying power to do this, still is it possible for the Allies to do anything to alleviate distress if it exists?

Lord ROBERT CECIL: We have had various proposals submitted to us, but so far none which, in our view, could possibly be applied without serious military disadvantage. The matter is a very difficult one.

Germany and Islam.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, answering a question put by Sir Philip Magnus, said that the substance of the orders issued by the German Government to their resident officers in East Africa forbidding the practice of some of the essential tenets of Mohammedanism with a view to the restriction of the observance of their religion by the natives were telegraphed to India, and had a broadcast circulation.

Prisoners at Philippopolis.

Mr. TENNANT, replying to Sir J. Lonsdale, said that telegraphic information had recently been received that the prisoners of war in hospital at Philippopolis were well treated, but no recent report had reached the Government of the condition of the bulk of the prisoners there. He understood that parcels were reaching them. The American Chargé d'Affaires was doing everything to supply the men with such things as were most needed, and his Majesty's Government were most grateful for his efforts. He was informed that four men of the Royal Irish Fusiliers were prisoners of war in Bulgaria, but could not say whether they were at Philippopolis.

Our Bucharest Correspondent reports that it has been decided to add a dental department to the Roumanian Army Sanitary Service. The new department will probably be organised on the French plan. This is another proof of the activity which has been displayed in all branches of the army since the outbreak of the war.

OF TURKISH POETRY.

A small gathering of literary people assembled last Monday at the rooms of the Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-arts, to hear Dr. Henri M. Léon lecture on Turkish poetry. The lecture was preceded by some Eastern music, rendered by Mr. Walter Yélin.

Dr. Léon said that the first Turkish poet appeared about the end of the reign of Osman, and was a shepherd, who used to compose little poems while tending his sheep. From that time until to-day poetry had continued in vogue. Its votaries were found not only among peasants and literary men; of the thirty-five Ottoman Sovereigns not less than twenty-seven had been poets, and some of them poets of no mean order. Mohammed the Conqueror was a great poet, and Murad, the immediate predecessor of Abdul Hamid, wrote exquisite verses while in prison. The choice of subjects for Turkish poetry was limited; except for epics, running sometimes to considerable length, it nearly always dealt with love. Although the Turks were so warlike a nation, they had but few good military poems. One of these was written by a man who was of the first party of eighty who crossed the Bosphorus on a raft to attack the Greek shore, and he wrote it while recrossing on the raft with some prisoners. Another dealt with the incident of Ertogruhl's coming, with his band, to the aid of the Seljukian Sultan, without even knowing whom he was assisting. Besides its merit this poem was remarkable in another way. The writer had been banished for a previous poem, but "The Coming of Ertogruhl" so pleased the Sultan that its author was recalled. There are mines of literary gold in Turkish poetry, said Dr. Léon, but unfortunately it has not been studied by Western scholars as it might have been. He illustrated his remarks by reading a number of English translations, chiefly his own. Of the two poems which follow, which were among those read, the first is remarkable as being a work of Abdul Hamid, while the other is a translation of a poem centuries old made by Dr. Léon only a few days ago.

THE WINDS.

Cold blows the North wind,
Thickly falls the snow,
Would that it were my shroud,
If my love loves me no;
Pure as snow, yet, oh! so cold!
Why reject my love untold?

Bleak blows the East wind,
Piercing is its blast;
Blacker still for me all seems,
Sky dark and overcast.
For my love does not relent:
To my plans will not consent.

Damp comes the West wind,
Bringing with it rain;
All the tears I've shed for thee,
The sea could not contain.
But after rain comes sunshine:
May that pleasure yet be mine!

Warm comes the South wind,
Sunshine follows shower;
Melt her heart and make it kind:
Oh! let it feel love's power.
Kindle there love's burning flame,
South wind thus maintain thy fame.

ZAHIR ISHARET. THE MANIFEST SIGN.

Throughout the Universe, one mighty sign is shown;
Allah, Ahad, the One, who all the worlds doth own;
At his mighty command, each sun and star hath grown,
And countless worlds beyond, as yet to man unknown:
No one hath these worlds seen, neither of *jinn* or men,
No chart doth them contain, recorded by no pen,
This world knows naught of them, nor shall know until when
The will of Allah 'tis, they come within its ken:
The mind of man alone, can not conceive such land,
Nor those, who dwell therein, happy angelic band;
No tongues can faintly lisp a theme so high, so grand,
E'en voice doth fail of those, who in Al Jannat stand.
The power of Allah 'tis, to fashion and create:
None hath such power but He, the Mighty, Incarnate.
No trouble 'tis to Him, Qadir, Zorlu, Elate,
Khallak, Amil, Banna, the Monarch, He, of fate;
Kayim, Azaliyat, For ever, without end.
On sekiz binalem, the universe transcend,
To Him are but a grain, for 'tis His power to send,
A thousand thousand more, in number without end.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Mesopotamian Muddle.

In one of the strongest leading articles of the war, written admittedly at "the risk of being shut down," the *Morning Post* (April 6) returned to the Mesopotamian campaign. After referring to the capture of the Turkish position at Umm-el-Hannah, the article says that the attempt of the politicians' Press in England to shift responsibility is ominous. The *Post* itself is of opinion that Mr. Winston Churchill was in the first place responsible for the despatch of the expedition, and continues:—

If a motive for the mad and sorry business might be suggested it would, no doubt, be found in an attempt to divert the Turks from the Gallipoli Expedition. So true it is in war as in other things that one mistake leads to another. Upon the whole, the responsibility seems, like most things, rather mixed. Sir John Nixon advised; the Imperial Government assented; the Indian Government directed; General Townshend conducted the expedition. We have heard that General Townshend is an excellent officer, and that he protested upon the inadequacy of his strength to the undertaking. But the protest was overruled. And we would like to know what data the Imperial Government possessed that they should presume to sanction such an expedition over the head of the Indian Government. Did they know the local conditions or the strength of the Turks or the equipment and condition of the Expeditionary Force? Or did they simply seize upon any chance, however wild, of retrieving the ghastly blunder of Gallipoli?

However that may be, and willingly or unwillingly, the Indian Government were immediately responsible, and the Imperial Government "ultimately" or "finally" responsible for an expedition which is reported to have been as badly supported in men and material as anything we have done in this war—which is saying a good deal.

The article continues with a formidable array of questions as to the truth or otherwise of various rumours to the discredit of those responsible for the expedition.

An Indian View.

A short article on the same subject from an Indian point of view appears in the *Indiaman* (April 7) under the signature of "Observer." We take the following extracts from the pen of this writer, who thinks that until we know all the facts it is only fair to suspend judgment:—

The military authorities in India are primarily responsible for its defence and tranquillity within its own borders. These alone are no light matter. But in response to Imperial needs large numbers of Indian troops were sent beyond the seas to other fronts. On the top of this, military activities in the neighbourhood of the Persian Gulf had to be undertaken by the Government of India. So successful at first were the relative operations that a more ambitious project—a penetration, in short, inland to Mesopotamia—was forced on the Indian authorities. In the earlier stages of this campaign no complaints were heard of the hospital and medical supply arrangements, which were, in fact, all that could be desired. But as time went on more and more troops were required, and were contributed from Egypt and other bases besides India. The relative auxiliary services were also sent, India meantime having contributed all the doctors and medical supplies that she had available, and the fact that some of these arrived later than the troops for whom they were required is one that need cause no surprise to anyone who is familiar with the enormous shipping and transport difficulties that have attended the whole campaign.

Serbia's Future.

In the *Sunday Times* (April 9) M. J. Condurier De Chassaigne recounts the gist of a conversation with M. Pashitch, with whom, as with the Crown Prince of Serbia, M. De Chassaigne had the privilege of a private interview in London last week. Of his conversation with the Crown Prince the writer only records his Royal Highness' expression of admiration for the French Premier. The following quotation is taken from that part of his article which deals with the writer's talk with M. Pashitch:—

Like the Prince Regent, he protested against any idea of an interview, but as he asked me to give expression to some important points of his Government's policy in view of the reconstruction of the Balkanic equilibrium, I cannot do so without mentioning my authority for quoting the following outlines of his programme.

During our discussion of the political situation in the Near East M. Pachitch made two statements which once for all discredit the perfidious efforts of those pro-Bulgarians who continue to spread false reports concerning the methods of the Serbian Government in Macedonia up to the time of the last Bulgarian invasion. Accusations of cruelty have appeared in print against Serbians, who are supposed to have treated the population as a conquered race. We have also been told that a part of Macedonia was inhabited by genuine Bulgarians. In answer to these allegations, M. Pachitch made the following declaration:—

"The truth is that there exists a small pro-Bulgarian party, purely political, but it is to my mind of such little importance from a national point of view that, even in the case of a plébiscite, the great majority of the population would pronounce itself in favour of a complete union with Serbia.

"These pseudo-Bulgarians would, therefore, by a free vote, prove my contention.

"I, for one, am quite content to abide by their choice," said M. Pachitch, and, with a smile in his clear eyes, he added, "*and I have no doubt as to their decision.*"

Could there be a more liberal or more statesmanlike proposition?

The same spirit of true Liberalism inspires the other statement made by M. Pachitch with regard to the creation of a great Southern Slav Federation, which should result from the victory of the Allies.

M. Venizelos on Greek Policy.

The *Morning Post* (April 11) publishes long extracts from the Greek newspaper *Kyrix*, in which M. Venizelos replies to the statements contained in the alleged interview with King Constantine recently published in the *Berliner Tageblatt*. M. Venizelos says that the "conservative" policy of neutrality exposed Greece not only to the danger of becoming a field of battle by reason of an Austro-German attack upon the Allies at Salonika, but also to the danger of having to resort to arms in the end in order to drive the enemy out. He continues:—

We ought to have remained loyal to our alliance with Serbia (the more so since we failed to secure an alliance with Roumania), and we ought not to have allowed the Serbians to be crushed by Bulgaria. In all probability Bulgaria would not have dared to draw the sword if she had not been certain that Greece would remain neutral.

But even if Bulgaria had none the less attacked Serbia, we ought to have allied ourselves to the Entente Powers and to have helped Serbia, since these Powers guaranteed the integrity of our territory and offered us, in the event of victory, Thrace and part of Asia Minor, while Great Britain was prepared to cede Cyprus to us at once, quite independently of what the war might bring forth.

If the combined Serbian, Greek, and Anglo-French forces had fallen back, almost intact, into Greek territory, they would have represented an army of 750,000 men, with over half-a-million bayonets. Against such an army it would have been impossible for the enemy to array superior or even equal forces, even if the troops had been available on other fronts, owing to the absence of means of transport and supply.

Thus Greek territory would have been secured against all hostile invasion, a result that the present policy of neutrality has not been able to assure to Greece.

If Greece had been able to crush Bulgaria, the defeat of the latter would shortly have involved the defeat of Turkey, since the Turks, too, would not have been able to obtain fresh ammunition from Germany.

If the Central Powers are beaten, as I am convinced they will be, Greece, by the adoption of my policy, would have laid the foundations of a prosperous and powerful State.

In the contrary event, we were assured of a seat at the peace conference, supported by five Great Powers (two of whom, Great Britain and Japan, can never be beaten); we risked no loss of territory; we should have gained the valuable possession of Cyprus; and we should have avoided any economic crisis, since the Powers would have advanced our war expenditure and would have guaranteed us their financial support for the future.

But, blind that we were, we have chosen to violate the Constitution and to follow a path that has led to disastrous results.

The *Birmingham Post*, in a leading article, says that "Greece must advance now, or decline hereafter; she cannot stand still."

The Balkan Kaleidoscope.

The *Globe* (April 8) discusses the position of Germany's Balkan allies, and anticipates kaleidoscopic changes in the Balkans, "where the unexpected always happens":—

With Russia confident and aggressive on the Eastern front, Italy active and persevering on the Southern, and France and Britain determinedly and grimly pushing back the Huns all along the line in the West, the German administrative grip in the Balkans and in Turkey will slacken, if it is not thrown off in open revolt by both Bulgar and Turk in a very few weeks' time. Unless Germany gains great victories and can keep up subsidies her misguided allies will fail her in her sorest need. Germany, however, cannot now show superiority in arms or afford to be lavish with money. That is fatal to her influence in the Balkans. The condition of Bulgaria is said to be appalling. Poverty and disease are everywhere, and Bulgaria begins to doubt the value of her victories. She is learning she has been befooled, and opinion in Turkey is marching in the same direction. When the "rats" desert the German ship we may be sure it is doomed.

Article to Note.

"The Prolongation of the War." By Cecil Battine, in the *Fortnightly Review* (April).

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The Cyprus estimates for 1916-17 are now available. The revenue is calculated at £389,810, as compared with £392,190 for 1915; and expenditure at £388,687, as against £372,744. The Cyprus share of the Ottoman debt stands at £92,800, and this burden on the island resources, needless to say, gives rise to discontented comment. Complaint is made, as in late years, that so little is done to encourage agriculture. The agricultural vote remains unaltered, except that the salary of the inspector (whose office is now vacant), formerly £300, is reduced to £200, rising by yearly increments to £300. In the Forest Department there is an increase, for felling and transport of forest produce, from £5,500 to £10,000. As to Public Works, provision is made, *inter alia*, for the construction and improvement of various sections of main roads.

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The price of wines, from the manufacture of which so many Cypriots derive a living, has always been subject to great fluctuation. Happily, the peasants are obtaining comparatively good prices at present. Wine in Cyprus is sold by the vintage manufacturers by the "load" of 128 okes (i.e., the load of two donkeys or mules). Red wines, called "black" (*mavro*), which form the bulk of the output, in bad years fetch as low a price as 8s. or 10s. the load—hardly covering the cost of production and transport. At present the villager is obtaining from 45s. to 50s. the load, and the year is therefore a good one as regards disposal of the last vintage. The sweet *commanderia* wines, the manufacture of which has very largely decreased, comes into the market later in the year.

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News from Roumania this week is of little consequence and scarce. According to a belated message from Bucharest, the debate on the Budget has been opened, but no further details of the Finance Minister's statement are to hand, save his interesting proposal to impose a tax on games of chance at the watering-places of Constantza and Sinaia, the said tax to be one of 50 per cent. on the gross receipts in addition to the temporary tax of 20 per cent. applicable to all clubs. The introduction of this measure, from purely fiscal and not prohibitive motives, has been before the Roumanian Government for years, and ought to prove a productive tax—gambling at Constantza and Sinaia has always proved lucrative to the concessionaires of gaming-tables, and in view of the wealth now accumulating in Roumania, it is not likely to have been hit hard by the war.

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If definite news from Roumania is sparse, rumours of philandering between that country and the Central Powers are as numerous as they are naïve. One report says that Germany and Roumania signed on April 7 an agreement mutually to export their surplus products—a statement so vague as to be incomprehensive. I do not think it at all likely that Roumania is going to bind herself to the Kaiser's chariot, and, if not, the supposed agreement is worthless. Reuter's Agency, on the other hand, reported from Bucharest on April 6 (delayed in transmission), the day previous to the supposed signing of the agreement, that "the concessions made by Germany to Roumania in return for the conclusion of the recent contract for the sale of cereals have been finally settled, and Germany will send Roumania £6,000,000 worth of raw materials. She has also agreed to send drugs and to permit the transport of sixty truckloads of drugs bought in Switzerland, and will forward thirty-five locomotives ordered in Germany before the war the delivery of which had been stopped." Part of this message—namely, that relating to the importation by Roumania of German products and the final acquisition of the locomotives, was foreshadowed by our Correspondent some weeks ago. Doubtless, the truth of the matter is that Germany, not possessing the gold necessary for the purchase of the cereals, has come to an arrangement whereby she pays for them in manufactured articles. The moral of the affair is this: if we had seized the bull by the horns when the opportunity offered, and had bought up the whole or the major part of Roumania's available cereal stocks, Germany would not have been in a position to buy them. We hesitated, and the Hun did not. The old, old story modernised in August, 1914. Incidentally it may be pointed out that the *Morning Post* (on what authority is not stated) asserts that "sales under the later Austro-German contract are to be delayed until deliveries to Great Britain are completed." Later developments seem to negative that report.

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Reuter's correspondent, alluded to above, states that the British bureau looking after our purchase some months ago of grain in Roumania has obtained "from the competent authorities permission to store in all available railway warehouses up to 30,000 truckloads. A large number of warehouses will be specially built." It will be noticed that no mention is made as to who is building the warehouses—a matter previously discussed at some length in these columns. For further particulars of the conditions of the sale and storage of the grain, see previous issues of THE NEAR EAST.

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The following further messages were received during the week. Paris (Central News) reports that the Roumanian Government is believed to be about to "introduce legislation in the Chamber with a view to the strict regulation of the exportation of cereals. All exports of this kind will be prohibited except those in respect of which transactions have already been concluded or those for which export licences may be issued." Reuter's Agency, on the other hand, states that "the Central Committee of Importation is displaying great activity with a view to assuring the supply of raw materials for industry and merchandise for commerce. Special commissions have been sent to Russia, Switzerland, and Holland for this purpose. An arrangement has been made with Germany for the establishment in Berlin of a special bureau to receive and execute Roumanian orders. This lattter is, I think, devoid of any political significance. If, in return for her cereals, Roumania has to content herself with German goods instead of with German gold, it stands to reason that someone must be on the spot to prevent the Prussians dumping worthless stuff—as is their custom—on the Roumanian market. No one can place their trust in the Huns: they have to be continually watched.

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The Turkish Mission which has been visiting Bucharest was reported to have had as object the conclusion of a separate peace with Russia. This has been flatly denied by the Russian Legation. Reuter's Bucharest correspondent states that the purpose of the Mission is to discuss economic questions. After the signing of the recent contract with the Central Exportation Commission for the purchase of 100,000 wagon loads of cereals, the Central Powers ceded 20,000 wagon loads to Turkey. Kiazim Bey, an official of the Turkish Ministry of Finance, has come to Bucharest to sign the said agreement. In spite of Turkey's urgent needs, the agreement has created a very bad impression in Constantinople, for the Germans have taken the revictualling of Turkey entirely into their own hands, and thus deprived numerous merchants of their profits.

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The Board of Trade direct the particular attention of all manufacturers and traders concerned to the need for scrupulous care in the transaction of their business abroad, in view of the fact that some traders in some neutral countries are making themselves agents for the supply of goods to and from enemy countries. Especial care should be taken in opening new accounts in neutral countries and in relation to any orders or inquiries of an abnormal character. In any case of doubt as to particular firms abroad, business should be suspended pending reference as regards firms in foreign countries outside Europe to the Controller, Foreign Trade Department, Lancaster House, St. James's, London, S.W.; and as regards firms in Europe, to the Chairman, War Trade Intelligence Department, Broadway House, Tothill Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

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The dividends of the Egyptian banks have now been published. The National Bank, a report of whose meeting is published elsewhere, is paying a dividend of 4 per cent.; this is the same as in 1914, but prior to the war shareholders were accustomed to 8 per cent., so that we are still behind pre-war times. However, this set-back does not really reflect the economic situation in Egypt, net profits this year (£242,213) being higher than last year (£206,404), which tends to show that the country is recuperating. The real cause of this year's low dividend is a provision of £122,213 which has had to be made for "depreciation of securities," leaving £120,000, or 4 per cent. on the share capital, for distribution. After all, the fall in securities is a matter entirely beyond the control of the National Bank, which on all other accounts has done well.

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The Agricultural Bank has likewise done well, thus proving again that the position of the Egyptian fellaheen is not at all unsatisfactory. Whereas a year ago the dividend was down to 2 per cent. on the ordinary, it has now been restored to the 6 per cent. which was the rate for 1913-14. The deferred dividend is £15, against £2 10s., but is still below the £20 for 1913-14. The report of the Board has not been published up to the present in this country, but it is eagerly awaited. The meeting is to be held in Cairo within the next few days.

COMMENTATOR.

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Alexandria Prize Court.

S.S. Lutzow (Cargo ex).

On Thursday, March 2, the following judgment (extracts) was delivered in the Alexandria Prize Court, by Judge Cator (Presiding), *in re* the claims of the American Trading Company :—

This is a claim made by a company called the American Trading Company for the release of goods bought by a branch in Hamburg and transmitted to another branch at Kobe, in Japan. The company is incorporated in the State of Maine, and has its head office in New York, but does business in all parts of the world. It claims on two grounds, first, that the Hamburg branch merely acted as "buying agents" for the company or its Kobe house, and, secondly, that on the outbreak of war the company at once took steps to close that branch, that it engaged in no new business in Germany, and only remained there long enough to wind up its affairs.

I confess that I no more appreciate what is meant by a "buying agency" as a distinct form of commercial activity than Sir Wm. Scott could understand the term "nominal firm" in the Jonge Klassina. If it means a commission agency, or an agency which merely arranges purchases between third parties without the handling of goods, it is clear that the claimant's business in Hamburg was not a "mere buying agency." For to take the example now before us, the branch had bought the goods itself from German vendors. It had shipped the goods itself, and had itself drawn a long-dated bill on the Kobe branch to finance the transaction. The property in the goods was indubitably at one time in the Hamburg branch, and I think the property remained there at the time of capture. I think that a branch of a company must be treated on the same footing as any other commercial house, and that in respect of the business a company transacts abroad each of its branches has a separate entity as a house of trade, and that in relation to other branches it must be governed by the same rule relating to the transfer of property as would apply if the different houses had no connection with each other. I have no doubt whatever that at the time of capture the ownership of these goods was still in the Hamburg branch, and they must be treated prima facie as belonging to an enemy on the well-known principle that property attributable to a business carried on in the enemy country is to be deemed enemy property, even though the business should be that of a national, of the captor State or of a neutral.

There is no controversy about this rule, but there has been great discussion as to what indulgence, if any, should be shown to a non-enemy who severs his connection with the hostile country on the outbreak of war. That some indulgence was due to him was, I think, conceded in theory from a very early date, but the question was complicated by the fact that the theory appeared to conflict with the strict rule which forbids a British subject to trade with the enemy, and, as a consequence of this conflict, an idea seems to prevail that the rule may be invoked for the benefit of neutrals, but not for that of British subjects.

I have come to the conclusion that this idea is erroneous, and that whatever may in practice have been the hardship to individuals, no such distinction has ever been formulated by the Prize Court. That a great distinction between neutrals and the subjects of a belligerent Power in regard to matters of trade does, in fact, exist cannot be gainsaid. For a neutral who has no house of business in the hostile territory is at perfect liberty to trade with the enemy provided he does not contravene the rules about contraband and blockade, whereas a British subject is prohibited by the laws of his country from holding any intercourse whatever with the enemy except under special licence from the Crown and at times the rules respecting non-intercourse have been pressed with astonishing severity against British subjects.

[There follows a lengthy study of some cases bearing on the subject (s.s. Hoop, February 13, 1799; s.s. Vigilantia, November 6, 1798; s.s. Madonna delle Gracie, February, 1802; s.s. Dree Gebroeders, March, 1802; s.s. Ocean, January 27, 1804; s.s. Diana, January, 1804; s.s. Juffrow Catharina, March 13, 1804; s.s. Venus, 8 Cranch 253, Scott's Cases, 591; and s.s. Rapid, Scott 557.]

I have been at some pains to illustrate from decided cases what I conceive to be the principles upon which the Prize Court acted more than a century ago, but it is no less important to consider whether those principles still maintain their old force. For I have to ask myself whether time has brought about any changes in methods of trade or in the world's attitude towards warfare of which the Court ought to take account. . . The whole tendency of the past fifty years has been towards a relaxation of the severity of the laws of war. Even those who scoff at idealists dreaming of its abolition have concurred in seeking to rob it of some of its horrors to individuals. And if some of our enemies have not acted up to their professions there is no reason for us to follow their example. These efforts have found expression in international conventions familiar to us all, and one of them appears to me to bear directly on the principle which I have been discussing in this case.

I allude to the VIth Convention of the Hague Peace Conference of 1907, which recommends that on the outbreak of war all enemy ships and goods found in the harbours of a belligerent should be granted a reasonable time within which to leave the country. What a change in sentiment from the days when, if relations became strained, it was customary to place an embargo on all the vessels of a possible enemy with a view to their confiscation in the event of hostilities being subsequently declared! To this convention we were parties, and in the present war we acted on it, and it would be a topsy-turvy world indeed if, in deference to sentiments of humanity, we should allow the property of our enemies to be withdrawn from our harbours and at the same time confiscate that of neutrals and British subjects because it may be tainted with an enemy origin.

Moreover, the doctrine has quite recently been recognised in the case of partnerships both in this Court and in England. In the Manningtry (1 Trehern 497) Sir Samuel Evans discusses the rule and treats it as settled in favour of foreign partners in an enemy firm. He was not called upon to do more, but he certainly shows no disapprobation of the wider rule contended for by Chief Justice Marshall.

But I am glad to think that the old rule, as I read it, expounded by Lord Stowell himself, is sufficient to protect all individuals who may have been overtaken by the hurricane of war. No one can wish to inflict needless hardship on British subjects or on neutrals, and if on the outbreak of war a non-enemy, be he neutral or British, resident or non-resident, promptly closes his business and merely takes the steps necessary to remove his own property from the enemy country I think he is entitled to do so. He gives no aid to the enemy by his action, but rather the reverse, and I think he should receive every consideration from the Court provided no attempt be made by a British subject to evade the rule against illicit trading with the enemy. But naturally the burden of proof must rest on the shoulders of the claimant, and until he discharges that burden his goods will be in jeopardy.

In this case we have only to deal with a neutral claimant domiciled in a neutral country. For, whether the domicil of a trading company is to be considered that of the place from which its affairs are directed, or of the place where it is incorporated, the American Trading Company must be judged to be neutral. Unless, indeed, as may possibly be the case, the phrase "trade domicil" is at bottom merely a convenient term for expressing the possession of a house of trade in a given country irrespective of actual residence, so that a man may have a trade domicil in two countries simultaneously. But I need not pursue this speculation, for if it is really the underlying principle of the old cases we should only have to ascertain where the principal house is situate, and in this case it is clearly in the neutral State.

The directors of the company say that immediately on the outbreak of war they decided to close their house in Germany, and I have no reason to doubt their statement, though the evidence at present before the Court does not justify me in releasing their goods. I will grant time for further proof, and if the claimants satisfy the Procurator that they can bring themselves within the protection of the rule which I have enunciated, there will be no need for me to consider the matter further.

SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC.

The number of ships passing through the Suez Canal last year was 3,708, or 1,094 fewer than in 1914 and 1,377 fewer than in 1913, according to a statement in Messrs. Worms and Co.'s Shipping List. The gross tonnage last year was 21,027,457, being 5,838,883 less than in 1914 and 6,709,723 less than in 1913.

Of the total tonnage last year 76 per cent. was British, 8.8 per cent. Dutch, 4.7 per cent. French, 3.7 per cent. Japanese, 2.4 per cent. Italian, and 1.1 per cent. Danish.

The proportion of tonnage owned by other nations was in each case less than 1 per cent.

SUEZ CANAL PILOTS.

Mr. Basil Peto, M.P., chairman of the Imperial Merchant Guild Parliamentary Committee, who has been making inquiries at the Foreign Office regarding the employment of persons of Austrian nationality as pilots on the Suez Canal, has received a letter from Sir E. Grey stating that the matter was fully considered by the General Officer Commanding in Egypt and the Suez Canal authorities at the outbreak of war, and that his Majesty's High Commissioner at Cairo also inquired very thoroughly into the question at the time when the steamship Teiresias was mined in the Canal. This letter proceeds :—

"Nothing was, however, proved against the Austrian pilots, who were largely the sons of men who held the same posts before them, and the Canal Administration at the beginning of the war decided not to dispense with their services, whilst referring any final decision to the military authorities, who considered this arrangement to be satisfactory. In Sir H. McMahon's opinion all the employees on the canal are trustworthy men. Most of them have passed many years in their present posts, have large pensions to look forward to, and are far from likely to jeopardise them. All the employees of the canal company against whom there were any grounds of suspicion were removed at an early stage of the war. It is difficult to find trustworthy and capable pilots, and those now employed have given evidence of their loyalty and reliability. I would add that a number of the pilots of Austrian nationality have received certificates entitling them to protection by the Russian or Italian authorities for the duration of the war."

During the second half of February, says *Oil News*, the crude oil in Roumania remained steady at about 4,250 tons per day. Exports, however, were at a standstill, as it was not until the 26th of the month that the railway authorities resumed accepting tank wagons

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

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EGYPT'S TRADE RETURNS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Cairo, March 21.

The Custom returns for February, just published, show that trade is beginning to pick up, in imports as well as exports. During the month imports amounted to £E2,254,517, and exports to £E4,763,071, as against £E1,165,174 and £E3,037,881 in February, 1915. The figures for 1914 were, it may be noted, £E2,068,936 and £E2,817,249.

Imports.

The principal imports were skins and tanned goods, £E19,275; barley, mostly for the troops, £E23,777; potatoes, to make up for the short local crop, £E11,881; flour, £E67,138; coffee, £E53,990; jams and preserves, mostly for the Army, £E36,935; beer, £E40,541; petroleum, all from the United States, £E42,814; construction wood, £E87,307; coal, £E211,115—the effect of the high freights can be seen from the fact that whilst the value of the imports has gone up by £E26,335, the quantity has dropped by 66,185 tons; indigo, all from India, £E26,477; chemical manures, £E70,725; textiles, £E733,013—considerably more than what came in in February, 1,914; and worked iron and steel, £E60,925.

Exports.

Under exports the chief items are eggs, £E104,998 (about 25 per cent. more than last year); skins, £E17,369; cereals, £E146,214 (just about ten times what went out in February, 1914); cotton seed, £E139,321; oilcake, £E34,205; sugar, £E10,723 (the exports were seriously affected by the dearth of shipping); cotton, £E4,162,883 (but although the amount was £E1,899,466 more than last year, the quantity was 134,204 cantars less, so that the country is benefiting by the rise in the market); wool £E21,555; and gold and silver bar, £E13,444 (about 20 per cent. of what went out last year during the month in question).

With regard to the countries participating in the trade of Egypt Great Britain and her Mediterranean possessions sent half the imports, whilst a further £E131,000 came from the British possessions in the East, mostly flour, coffee, and textiles; and Canada sent £E30,052, all but £E2,052 of which was construction wood. This is the first time that Canada figures for such a large amount in the statistics, and it is to be hoped that the interruption of the wood imports from Austria and Turkey will turn to the profit of our North American dependency. France, the United States, and Italy considerably increased their sales, the latter country trebling hers to £E236,596. In exports the British Empire took 50 per cent., of which £E1,803,864 was cotton; the United States quadrupled their share and Japan trebled hers, all being cotton. All the eggs went to England, as also 65 per cent. of the cereals, of which 25 per cent., mostly maize, also went to France. The latter doubled her share, whilst Italy and Russia showed a slight increase. It is noticeable that again Switzerland showed a very marked falling off in her purchases, her share during February dropping to £E30,546 from £E468,722 a year ago.

The Sudan.

Trade with the Sudan underwent considerable expansion during February, imports into Egypt rising to £E81,654, as against £E19,946 the previous year, and exports to the Sudan to £E94,680, as against £E54,078. Sales of livestock by the Sudan rose slightly, but the more important items were skins, £E3,980; maize, £E17,767; sesame, £E27,023; gum, £E2,500; and senna, £E2,707. These commodities figured for very small amounts in the returns of last February. Of exports to the Sudan the more important were refined sugar, £E18,987; coffee, £E8,281; biscuits, £E2,574; cotton tissues, £E20,305; and arms, £E4,076. All these articles account for the advance in the export trade of Egypt with the Sudan.

Numerous Bulgarian municipalities have petitioned the Government to stop the exportation of all foodstuffs in order to save the population from hunger.

SUDAN AND ABYSSINIA.

Continual Trade Improvements.

(From a Correspondent.)

Eleven years ago the first trading steamer left Khartoum for Gambela. The distance of the steamer transport is about 880 miles, and up till now the number of voyages between Khartoum and the Abyssinian trading port of Gambela have averaged seven or eight per annum. Thus, in 1911, there were seven voyages, each averaging in value £E444, making a total for that year of £E3,108. The next year saw a decided increase both in the number of voyages and the value of the trading done. There were nine voyages, each averaging in value £E1,100, or, say, a total for the season of £E8,165. The year 1913 recorded fewer voyages but considerably better results, for while there were but five journeys they each averaged in value £E2,433, or a total of £E12,165. The increase in the amount of trading between the two points from £E3,108 to £E12,165—or about 400 per cent. in the space of two years—must have proved most inspiriting to the Government, and, no doubt, intensified their wishes, not only to maintain, but to increase this promising market. To support this trade and to offer every legitimate encouragement, the Administration decided last year (1915) to still further modify the freight rates. It was only in the month of May, 1914, that special rates had been introduced, but as from May 1, 1915, these were abolished, and an entirely new and more favourable scale of charges adopted. The goods carried from the Sudan to Abyssinia are divided into four categories, each category being charged at difference rates; thus, wines and spirits pay the highest, while flour, cement, building materials, and agricultural implements pay the lowest. Arms, matches, clocks and watches, chemicals, china and porcelain are in a class of their own, as are the most largely dealt in articles such as silk and cotton goods, tobacco, tea, machinery, furniture, provisions, blankets, soap, candles, and aerated waters. The hope that the reduction in the freight charges would result in improved trade, as already indicated, has been realized.

Transit and Re-Export.

The trade with Abyssinia is mainly transit and re-export, and most of it is carried on viâ Gambela. Of the total of such trade conducted in the Sudan in 1914, and amounting to £E144,776, no less than £E64,365 went to Abyssinia. The whole value of the trade done with Abyssinia for the same period came to £E117,780, which, if rather less than that done in the previous year—£E139,242—was, nevertheless, deemed satisfactory. The imports from Abyssinia, consisting mainly of such commodities as beeswax, ivory, coffee, hides and skins, are also marking an advance—slow, but steady. Rubber has not been included, however, in such advance, the quantity as well as the quality showing distinct signs of falling off.

While the outlook for Sudan trade viâ Gambela with Abyssinia is very cheering, the Administration is doing what it can to promote it additionally by way of both Gallabat and Roseires.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

It is reported from Teheran that the British Vice-Consul at Lingah (on the Persian Gulf) and his two brothers have been murdered by German partisans. The murdered men were Persians.

During the last two months big consignments of tobacco were imported at Alexandria from Greece (says the *Egyptian Gazette*). During February the imports were to the value of about £E120,000, and during this month about £E90,000. Greece alone is supplying Egypt with tobacco just now.

It has been decided by the Odessa branch of the Anglo-Russian Chamber of Commerce to open an exhibition of Russian goods in London and an exhibition of British goods in Odessa. It has also decided to consider questions bearing upon the revision of the Anglo-Russian commercial treaty.

EGYPTIAN TRADE.

Appeal to Merchants.

At a recent meeting of the Commission on Trade and Industry, the President, Ismail Sidky Pasha, said that the Government had given the Commission wide powers to deal with two matters especially. The first was the discovery of suitable means for removing the obstacles in the way of union among merchants and manufacturers arising from the general disorganisation and international changes caused by the War; and the second was to take steps to improve Egyptian commerce and industry after the War so that the country would be less dependent on foreign markets. While both these problems were important, Sidky Pasha said that he thought that for the present the Commission's energies should be primarily directed towards the first.

The Commission adopted Mr. Craig's proposal to institute relations with the British Board of Trade, under whose auspices a similar Commission had been established in England.

The Commission makes an urgent appeal to merchants and manufacturers to assist in its work by pointing out what local products have lost the whole or part of their usual outlet owing to the War; what manufactured articles or raw materials required in their industry have had this importation cut off or considerably reduced by the War; what difficulties they have encountered because of the lack, scarcity, or high price of these materials, and finally, what steps they have themselves taken and in what way they think the Commission can be of assistance in minimising as far as possible the difficulties arising from the present exceptional circumstances. The Commission hopes for the help and support of all interested in the matter, and will be glad to receive any information that is likely to be of use in its investigations. All communications should be addressed to the Commission at the Offices of the Department of Technical, Industrial, and Commercial Education, No. 14, Sharia Abdin.

ENEMY FIRMS IN EGYPT.

The *Official Journal* of March 23 contains the following notices :—

Notice is hereby given that the Licence No. 246, granted to the Socété Anonyme pour la Fabrication des Cigarettes Egyptiennes marque "Hadges Nessim," has been cancelled, and that Mr. E. D. Joyce, Imperial Ottoman Bank, Alexandria, has been appointed by the General Officer Commanding in Chief the Forces in Egypt receiver of the business of the said company, with power to liquidate the affairs thereof in Egypt.

Notice is hereby given that the following firm has been granted a licence to trade without special restrictions, in place of the restricted licence granted to it as stated in Section *B* of the Notice published in the *Journal Officiel* of January 13, 1916, No. 4 *bis* (*vide* Near East, February 4, 1916) :—

No. 181, Picciotto Bros. and Co., Rue Matrah, *ex* Okelle Dumreicher, Alexandria.

The following firms have been granted licences to trade in Egypt with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain, in accordance with the terms stated in Section *B* of the Notice published in the *Journal Officiel* above-mentioned :—

No. 349, Grun, Bernard. P.O. Box 600, Cairo.

No. 350, Maria, Haddad and Co. 29, Boulevard de Ramleh, Alexandria.

No. 351, Klat and Co., Hector. 27, Rue Mosquée Attarine, Alexandria.

The following firms have been granted licences to trade for the purposes of liquidation only, in accordance with the terms stated in Section *C* of the Notice published in the *Journal Officiel* above-mentioned :—

No. 257, Sterzing, Otto. 45, Rue Abdine, Cairo.

No. 348, Blumenthal Freres, H. and J. Sharia Bosta el Kadima, Cairo.

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TRADE NOTES.

Egypt.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade is in receipt from the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior of copies of the statement of conditions, etc., in connection with a call for tenders for the supply of Ghafir clothing required by the Stores Department during 1916, including blue drill belts, drawers, and qamis. Two metres of cloth of the kinds which the tenderer intends to use must be submitted to the Director of Stores, Bulac, Cairo, at least ten days before the adjudication. Copies of the specifications, with forms of tender, etc., may be obtained at a cost of 2s. per copy, from the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W., where also sealed samples of the articles required may be inspected. Sealed tenders, on the proper form, will be received, up to noon on April 22, by the Under-Secretary of State (Personnel and Equipment Department), Ministry of the Interior, Cairo. Date, April 22.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-18). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Date, June 1.

Tenders are invited by the Director, Bulâq Technical School, Cairo, for the supply of 560 sets of workshop overalls (jackets and trousers) required for the students during the session 1916-1917. Specification may be seen and all information obtained at the school. Date, April 29.

The Commercial and Agency Company, Limited, were recently the successful tenderers to the Customs Department for the supply of shoes.

Sudan.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on May 10, 1916, for the supply of stores and material required by the above Department during the current year. Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, the Agent, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria, or to Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, London, S.W.

Greece.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that a Greek Ministerial Order was published in the official *Gazette* of March 3 prohibiting the exportation of the following articles from Greece, viz.:—Bladders, entrails, casings and skins of sausages; bones of all shapes, whole or in pieces, and bone ash; caseine; cork and cork dust; soap; and vegetable fibres and tissues made thereof.

U.S. DRAFTS IN GREECE.

The U.S. Consul-General at Athens writes:—

Since the outbreak of the European war Greek banks have paid more for American drafts or bank notes than for American gold. This is principally due to the prohibition of exportation of gold by the Greek Government. Even were this not the case, it is probable that gold would still be less in demand here at the moment than paper, owing to the excessive freight rates and insurance premiums throughout the world and to the relative bulk of gold. Bank notes, therefore, bring better prices, and drafts still more. This is due to the ease with which bank notes and drafts can be sent to the United States; the latter can be sent by registered mail.

A prominent local bank buys $100 in gold at 5.14 drachmas to the dollar, bank notes at 5.18 drachmas, and drafts at 5.21 drachmas.

MOROCCAN TRADE.

The complete disarrangement of Moroccan trade (says Kelly's *Monthly Trade Review*) caused by the war and badly felt up till May, 1915, gave way during the latter part of last year. However, economic conditions have been aggravated by the fact that large sums have been employed in real estate speculations. The rate of exchange in Morocco is always a prominent feature in all commercial transactions, the Hassani-Native currency being subject to almost barometric fluctuations. Thus, in the summer, if the crops are considered satisfactory, the value is relatively higher, and when the harvest is well got under roof the reaction sets in. Also, the Hassani exchange is subject to hourly variations arising from a multitude of circumstances, but chiefly from local speculation. The French administrative authorities in the French zone of Morocco have imposed further limitations on the export trade from that zone. The combined trade of Germany and Austria-Hungary in 1913 represented 24 per cent. of the export and 14 per cent. of the import trade of Morocco, and as the German-Austrian transactions in normal times amount to some £1,031,250 in import and some £412,500 in export, it is obvious that this portion of the enemy trade should now fall into other hands. We are glad to hear that a British Chamber of Commerce has been instituted in Tangier, and likewise that a British bank has established a branch office, contemplating likewise establishing branches in various coast towns. A continual stream of commercial travellers pass through the country, and a new line of Dutch steamers has been instituted to acquire the carrying trade, formerly held by German and Austrian steam services to a very large extent. Manufacturers interested, or likely to take interest, in the Morocco markets should remember that prices must be quoted c.i.f. Tangier, or other Moroccan ports, and that transactions under terms for cash against shipping documents must be regulated in Morocco, as the merchants are very much adverse to place funds when giving the orders.

The State Bank of Morocco is a very up-to-date institution, undertaking transactions of all kinds. It is important for a manufacturer who desires to develop this market to secure reliable local agents, because one of the chief elements of success in trading with Morocco is the *personal* contact with the client, and a customer once found should be periodically called upon by the representative or traveller, and it can safely be assumed that 50 per cent. of any business transaction is in connection with courtesy in the way of manipulating a client. To illustrate the special advantages of such methods of propaganda and to indicate the peculiarities of the Moroccan market, it should be pointed out, for instance, with reference to cotton prints, one of the principal imports, that each port of entry along the Atlantic seaboard is a distributing centre of materials for certain sections of the interior, through which the demand varies as to colour, dimensions of materials, length of piece, etc. Goods answering the requirements of one district are practically unsaleable in other districts of the country, because the Moor is a fastidious customer, and invariably rejects all merchandise that does not strictly conform with the traditional habits of *his* tribe or locality. If he is accustomed to buy a certain class of goods in brown wrapping-paper he would certainly refuse next time to receive it in blue wrapping-paper, and so on. In view of the very special features of the Moroccan market resulting from the mixture of languages, the diversity of customs, and the difficulties of transport, there is little or no chance of success in doing business here unless a well-known *local* agent is engaged for the purpose. This agent should not be forced or asked to purchase goods on his own account; his function should simply be to propagate business and obtain orders on a commission basis. We observe lately some neutral countries have been flooding the country with advertising literature. This is, to say the least, a silly method in view of the existing conditions, owing to the very undeveloped state of the country.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, March 13.

I referred on a previous occasion to the contraband of gold which had been smuggled into Roumania across the Bucovinean frontier, and mentioned that some sixty arrests had been made. I now learn that the legal proceedings which were to be taken against the persons arrested have been adjourned *sine die*, with the object, no doubt, of shelving the affair, since it has been discovered that some of the highest representatives of Austrian finance are involved. It will be remembered that the gold had been supplied to the contrabandists by the Wiener Bank Verein, the Hypotheken Bank, and other well-known financial institutions.

Austrian War Funds.

The Austrian Monarchy must be in an advanced state of financial embarrassment, for it has recourse to the most varied expedients for the purpose of obtaining war funds. The peasants are forced to contribute to the war loan and, in Bukovina, at least, the methods of coercion used are ingenious, if not honourable. Thus on every twenty crown note which the peasant changes, two crowns are deducted for the war fund. On every 100-Crown note changed not less than fifteen crowns are retained. And in order to force the people to change the notes in their possession the authorities have simply withdrawn from circulation the major part of the small coin.

LAC INDUSTRY IN EGYPT.

The Entomological Section of the Ministry of Agriculture has for some years been studying the possibility of introducing a lac industry into Egypt.

Shellac is a substance formed by the scale insect, and at present is produced only in India. In Egypt the difficulty has been to find a suitable host plant to grow it on. In India one of the best qualities are grown on Butea frondos trees, and the Ministry's original importation of breeding material was seed lac from Butea trees, sent by the Imperial Indian Government. For some reason, although there appears to be only one species of insect from which shellac is produced, there are many races each of which can grow only on one kind of plant. The breeding material grew without difficulty on a Butea tree in Cairo, and from seed lac raised on that tree transplantation was tried on other trees. The trees experimented on include Ficus nitida, Albizzia lebbek, Acacia nilotica, Zizyphus jujuba, Erythrina sp., all being trees readily available in Egypt. None of these trees were suitable, and even where larvæ had settled and started growing no lac insects matured. Two generations mature yearly in Cairo, the winter brood in December-January, the summer brood in July-August.

Last January experiments were made to transfer the lac on to Indian pigeon peas, Cajanus sp.; the larvæ settled and throve on this plant, and although belonging to a Butea frondosa inhabiting race, they have matured and reproduced by the beginning of August, lac insects of the second generation now being found on the Cajanus. It is hoped to be able to get this race thoroughly established on pigeon peas, and acclimatized to Egyptian conditions.

The lac industry is an extremely valuable one, the supply rarely equalling the demand, and it would be well worth extending. The Indian lac exported from India in 1905-1906 is stated to have reached the value of 33,139,786 rupees, or approximately £E2,209,000.

JUTE-GROWING IN EGYPT.

At a recent meeting of the Egyptian Commission on Trade and Industry, Cattaoui Pasha announced that jute should be cultivated in Egypt, as it could be used in the manufacture of sacks of which Egypt used a large quantity; moreover, they formed a very remunerative article for export purposes. Cattaoui Pasha said that a supply of jute seeds had been ordered from India and when they arrived experimental sowings would be made on the land of the Agricultural Society.

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Engineering Notes.

Tread Attachment for Tyres.

The difficulties which surround the travelling of motor vehicles over sand or mud are too well known to be emphasised. They are, as a rule, the cause of annoying delays, breakdowns, and often abandonment of the journey. Several devices have been invented to overcome these difficulties, but one of the latest to be patented will particularly interest, at the present time, motor-car users in sandy and muddy districts in the East, owing to its simplicity and great adaptability. It is an auxiliary attachment for tyres which provides side extensions to the tread of the wheel, consisting of flat metal, fabric bands, or metal chains supported by a number of steel saddle members on the tyre. The extension rim, which can be quickly attached to or detached from the ordinary wheel rim, does not, even if left on the wheel, interfere in any way with the usual working of the car.

Cephalonia, the Naval Base.

The announcement that the Allies had decided to land forces in Cephalonia, one of the largest of the Ionian Islands belonging to Greece, and use the port of Argostoli as a naval base, created considerable interest, and several descriptions of the island have since appeared in the press. Some of them, however, are not correct, and although in these notes it is intended to refer only to some natural curiosities that exist in the island, and over which engineers and scientists have often been interested, it may be mentioned, *en passant*, that the inference that Cephalonia is called Samos by Homer in Odyssey is not quite correct, because he also calls its inhabitants elsewhere Cephaloneans, whom he describes as the subjects of Ulysses. He probably used the name Samos or Sami as referring to the name of the largest and most populous of the cities of Cephalonia situate near the shore, on the strait opposite Ithaka, the island of Ulysses. Some very interesting ruins of Samos still exist, overgrown with ivy and wild flowers. The harbour of Samos is well sheltered, and owing to its position on the channel between Cephalonia and Ithaka, offers the most direct communication between the Adriatic and the Corinthian Gulf, but Argostoli was preferred by the Venetians, its harbour being used by them as a naval station, and the seaport of the fortified town of St. George, the capital of Cephalonia. Later, in about the middle of the eighteenth century, they began to build the town of Argostoli, which at present is the capital of the island. The town extends along the shore and partly on the overlooking hill. It has an excellent quay, wide streets, and in a large square there is a statue of Maitland, one of the British High Commissioners of the Ionian Islands.

Natural Curiosities.

Outside the town of Argostoli and near the entrance of the harbour a strange phenomenon is to be perceived, the water of the sea flowing into the land in currents or rivulets, which are lost in the bowels of the earth, at a place where the shore is low and cavernous. The descending streams of salt water flow with such rapidity that, while the Ionian Islands were under the protection of England, an enterprising Englishman erected a water-wheel on one of them by which he obtained sufficient power to work a pair of flour mills. Several engineers and scientists visited, and continue to visit, the place, and much money was spent by the British authorities to find out where the water goes to, but without result. During a short examination of the cavernous shore some years ago the writer calculated that considerable power could be obtained by the construction of a single deep canal which would concentrate and, at the same time, increase the volume and fall of the sea water which now falls into the abyss in small and irregular streams. Such a power might be used for the production of electricity or any industrial purpose. Another similarly curious phenomenon occurs in the Bay of Samos, previously mentioned, a stream of fresh water rising in the sea about half a-mile from the shore; on a very calm day it may be seen gushing up at least a foot above the surface, while near the shore at this point there is a subterranean lake, or abyss, open at the top, the circumference of which is about 180 to 200 yards.

THE OIL FIELDS OF MESOPOTAMIA.

Oil News reproduces the following article by Otto Debatin, which appeared recently in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* :—

The Mesopotamia oil deposits appear, from the most recent investigations, to form the western limit of the vast system of petroliferous strata which extend from the Apsheron Peninsula (Baku and neighbourhood) on the Caspian Sea to the mountainous frontiers of Persia and to Baluchistan. The Ahwaz wells are situate in the neighbourhood of the Persian Gulf, and their oil has been most acceptable to the British Navy because of its splendid qualities as a liquid fuel. Turkey was bound, therefore, to secure possession of this Ahwaz oil territory.

The most productive areas of Mesopotamia are found at Mendeli, of which the oil has a similar, and not inferior, composition to that of Baku. The deposit of Hit, on the Euphrates, is noted for its numerous and good bituminous springs, which rival the asphalts of Trinidad. The springs of Mendeli and Hit, and those of Romadi and Nafata, also on the banks of the Euphrates, belong to the Vilayet of Baghdad and to that of Mossul, situate to the north-east of the first-named. Here also are the still richer springs of Kerkuk, where the oil appears on the surface, as well as those of Tuz-Charmati, Kifri, Gahara and Nimrud. At Kerkuk the oil is obtained in many places from hand-dug wells three or four metres deep.

The total production, of a value of 30,000 to 40,000 piastres, is at present sent into Kurdistan. At Kerkuk is the celebrated spring mentioned by Strabo, the source of the "eternal fires" worshipped by the Arabs. At Sulphur Mountain, Kifri, where there are the ruins of an ancient Sassanide castle, about half-a-dozen rich oil springs flow. Generally in this region the oil sources are found in the faults of gypsum beds; the oil above salt springs, and the local Arabs utilize both the salt and the oil, sending all to Baghdad. Except the petroliferous area of Tuz Charmati, all the fields above mentioned are the property of the Turkish Civil List.

Contrary to the conclusions, not very encouraging, of the commission sent to Mesopotamia in 1905 by the Deutsche Bank, there was published last year a favourable report by the German explorer Piper, who made a complete investigation of the Mesopotamia deposits, not only on their productivity but on their considerable extent and the richness of their oil in all products. The development of these deposits has hitherto been on an exceedingly modest scale, limited to satisfying the local demand, and with no relation to the international market. It is true that the Sultan Abdul Hamid had the intention of developing on his personal account all the discovered sources, but the project was not carried into effect. Before the war, French and English syndicates had made all possible efforts to obtain charters for developing oil in the oil lands of Turkey; there was even a question of a Turkish syndicate. The Turkish Government, on the other hand, had the idea of a State monopoly for the development of its lands on a large scale, but none of these plans was realised.

A rational development of the oilfields of Mesopotamia is always severely handicapped, first of all by the great difficulties of transport; but as the British have shown at Ahwaz, the difficulties can be surmounted by money and determination. The above-named deposits are situate partly in the neighbourhood of the Baghdad railway, whence branch lines could easily be constructed. The rich oil deposits of Gahara are even crossed by this line. There being no cheap coal, the locomotives of this line and its branches (of which that of Tuz Charmati is projected) could with great advantage burn oil fuel. The most valuable fields, as in America and Roumania, could also be connected by pipe line with the Mediterranean coast. The great length of line would not be an obstacle. Steamers below Baghdad already use oil fuel. A further use for the oil would be for light oil engines for irrigating the low plains near the oilfields.

Germany's Object.

Germany would be glad to turn to profit her intimate associations with Turkey to rid her markets of the domination of American and Russian oil. It is not England that Germany fears in Mesopotamia, but the omnipotent Standard of the United States, which has already laid hands on the oil deposits adjacent to the Dead Sea. The Standard has already prepared in this region considerable means of communication, and it will not be long before American derricks will be erected in the Holy Land. The Germans, then, are of opinion that it is high time to negotiate with their Turkish allies to secure at least the oil deposits of Mesopotamia.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, April 13.

Currants.

The market continues quiet, a state which may safely be attributed to the large sales that have recently taken place; prices, however, remain very firm, and without any sign of possibility for reduction on the part of the holders. Provincials are quoted 42s. to 43s. 6d., Amalias 44s. to 46s., Patras 46s. to 49s., Gulf 48s. to 53s., Vostizza 48s. to 55s., and Smalls 43s. to 55s. The stocks of currants in London on March 31 were 8,393 tons, against 5,563 tons the same period last year.

Sultanas.

Only very small business has been done during the week at unchanged rates. The stocks in London at the end of last month were 2,242 tons, against 2,083 tons the same period last year.

Figs.

The market has generally been very quiet for this article the last few weeks, but prices are well maintained.

(Note.—It may be reminded here that the prices quoted above do not include duty, which on currants is 2s., and on sultanas and figs 10s. 6d. per cwt.).

Dates.

There has been only a moderate demand, but prices remain very firm.

Seeds.

Linseed is firm, with a fair demand at higher prices. Calcutta to London, spot 96s. paid, whilst afloat and March-April 69s. 6d. is asked, and April-May 69s. 6d. paid. Bombay to London, April-May and May-June, 71s. is asked; and Bombay to Hull, March-April, 70s. 6d. Cottonseed is steady, although in very moderate request. Egyptian to London, spot, £13 and April £12 15s. Bombay to Hull, spot, £11 is asked. Rapeseed, dull.

SUDAN COTTON.

The following extract is from the report of the April meeting of the British Cotton Growing Association:—

The crop on the experimental stations at Barakat, Tayiba, and Zeidab is likely to be a normal one, although it was feared at one time that the cotton had suffered from the cold weather which prevailed during January. During the month of January the temperature was the lowest ever recorded in the Sudan, and in Egypt the month of January was the coldest for the last forty years; there was a great improvement in the weather early in February, and the outlook for the cotton crop in the Sudan has improved considerably.

A letter from the Director of the Department of Agriculture and Forests, Sudan Government, was read, with regard to a small consignment of cotton which has been made to the Association. This cotton is all of the American type and has been grown without irrigation. The cotton from the Upper Nile Province was grown by the natives on the White Nile in the region between Renk and Tewfikia, from whom it was purchased by the Department in the absence of any dealers in this class of produce. The seed used was derived from the Nyasaland variety, originally obtained from the Association. The cotton from Sennar was grown on the Department's demonstration plots in that province, and was mostly produced on what is known as "gerf" land, which are really the berms of the Blue Nile. These in years of good flood are inundated for a short time, and even when the river does not rise to a sufficient level to actually flood the land, percolation from the river supplies a sufficiency of moisture to mature the crop, provided sufficient rain falls to germinate the seed and start the plants. Beside the "gerf" lands there are certain areas known locally as "maias," which are depressions in the country behind the river banks, and which fill with water when the Blue Nile is in flood and gradually drain back as the river falls.

It is expected that this part of the country will prove a future source of supply of cotton of the American type sufficient to assist materially in the development and prosperity of the Sudan.

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COMPANY MEETING.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The sixteenth annual general meeting of the shareholders was held on March 25, at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo, Mr. F. T. Rowlatt, the Governor, presiding.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, we beg to lay before you the balance-sheet and profit and loss account* for the year 1915, a year which has been so full of stirring events. The net profits after deducting expenses amount to £242,213 12s. 2d., which compare with £206,404 7s. 5d. the preceding year, but we again have to provide a large sum for depreciation of securities—namely, £122,213 12s. 2d. —which just leaves us £120,000, equal to 4 per cent. on the share capital of the bank, available for distribution. This depreciation, which brings the valuation of our securities to the middle market quotation on December 31, 1915, is almost entirely on Government securities, and to the extent of £94,000 on those securities deposited in guarantee of the note issue, whereas last year we also had to depreciate heavily the shares we hold in the Agricultural Bank of Egypt. As to whether we shall have to depreciate securities again at the end of 1916, I shall not venture to predict.

Our profits, I think, can be considered quite satisfactory, and it is regrettable that we have to write them down for depreciation on securities. It is interesting to notice in connection with this subject that our annual profits are increased by the interest on the provisions set aside for depreciation. Of the £94,000 by which the securities deposited in the note issue safe are depreciated £45,000 are secured by sinking funds on British and Egyptian Government securities for their redemption at their nominal value. As the nominal value of these particular securities is £670,000 and their value in our books is £538,000, you will see that we have a profit of £132,000 to come in. As to the £49,000—the balance of the above sum of £94,000—this amount represents depreciation during the last year on £378,000 nominal of Egyptian preference and unified bonds, which stand in our books at £260,000. The depreciation of £27,000 on the bank's ordinary holding of securities is represented as to £4,000 on Egyptian preference and unified bonds and £21,000 on other Government securities, the reimbursement of which at par is provided for annually.

The striking feature of our balance-sheet this year is again the increased amount of the bank-note issue—namely, £E11,550,000, as compared with £E8,250,000 on December 31, 1914. As arranged at the commencement of the war, our notes continue to be legal tender throughout Egypt and the Sudan and at the bank. It was natural for the Egyptian Government to expect a return for this advantage, so we have discounted their Treasury bills on particularly favourable terms—namely, 1 per cent. These Treasury bills form part of the securities held in guarantee of the note issue. We venture to say the notes have proved themselves to be a satisfactory medium of exchange. Against deposit of gold and securities either here or with the Bank of England, the Government Commissioners and the National Bank of Egypt have been able quickly to expand the issue to meet the demand for currency and to contract it again as notes return, releasing the equivalent in gold and securities. By this facility the rate of exchange on London has been kept steady. It is sincerely to be hoped that a general use of notes has come to stay and that the yearly burden of importing and exporting millions of gold will cease for good. The rates of exchange in Egypt for bills on the Continent of Europe have, of course, remained at an abnormally low figure, but that is beyond our control and is governed by the exchange between London and the Continent. It may interest you to know the amounts of the various denominations of notes in circulation on February 1, 1916, in comparison with the amounts at the same date last year. The maximum was touched on that date of this year:—

—	1916.	1915.
£E.	£E.	£E.
½ Notes	1,438,956	839,865
1 ,, ...	1,977,900	560,296
5 ,, ...	2,227,265	1,569,770
10 ,, ...	2,526,380	1,690,470
50 ,, ...	1,238,850	1,229,300
100 ,, ...	2,099,600	1,926,300
Total	11,508,951	7,816,001

The minimum circulation in 1915 was £E5,521,521 on July 24.

It has always been our custom at the Bank to consider the Egyptian commercial year from September 1 to August 31, to coincide with the Egyptian Cotton Statistics, and as the war began in August, 1914, it gives us also a comparison between a year of peace and a year of war. For the year ended on August 31, 1915, Egypt exported £E22,642,000 worth of merchandise, and imported merchandise for £E15,327,000, in both cases less than the preceding year by respectively £E10,000,000 and £E13,000,000. The balance of trade in favour of Egypt was therefore £E7,000,000, and since the end of August last this balance has further increased by £E5,000,000, the exports up to the end of January, 1916, having been £E14,696,000, against imports of £E9,754,000. The figures for the corresponding period of the previous year were £E9,726,000 of exports and £E4,868,000 of imports. This shows a satisfactory improvement. Although the cotton crop of 1915 is estimated at only C.4,800,000 owing to the restriction of the area planted, yet the increased price brings its value to approximately the same figure as that realised for the C.6,500,000 of 1914. We have, however, already shipped most of the 1915 crop, so it is not likely that this rate of export will continue in the immediate future, but if the present price of about £4 per cantar is maintained, and the crop of 1916 turns out to be an average one of, say, C.6,500,000, the country's trade should assume large figures again next autumn.

The import trade has not only been affected by reduced exports, but also by difficulties of obtaining delivery and high freights. This accounts to a considerable extent for the increased trade balance in favour of Egypt. This trade balance, augmented by the enormous expenditure of the British Army in Egypt, accounts for the extended currency as indicated by the note circulation, while the prosperity of a large section of the community is also shown by the increased deposits with the banks. You will see in the balance-sheet that at the end of 1915 the "Deposits and other accounts" at our bank alone amounted to £6,224,000, against £3,146,000 on December 31, 1914. I am informed that the same is the experience of the other banks in Egypt.

The recent improvement we have seen in the local Stock Exchanges indicates the investment of profits. The commercial position therefore appears to be thoroughly healthy, and the more so as a system of cash against goods has been forced upon the country by the general situation. The fact, however, remains that a very low price was realized for the 1914 cotton crop, and that the 1915 crop, although prices were good, was necessarily very short in quantity. For these reasons many of those engaged in agriculture have to practise strict economy, and must receive a certain amount of consideration from their creditors, but, on the other hand, it is not unreasonable to expect for next autumn a good price and a fair crop of cotton.

Turning again to the figures of the balance-sheet, you will see that "Government Securities" figure at £2,190,000. At the end of the preceding year the figure was £447,000. The increase is due to the investment of our spare funds in British Treasury bills and short-dated Exchequer Bonds. The "Advances on Securities" have diminished during the year from £2,154,000 to £1,616,000. As I stated above, the market seems to be in a healthy state. You will see it noted in the balance-sheet that £604,000 is to our credit with banks in enemy countries. This includes bills and Treasury Bonds mentioned last year, and which have since matured and been encashed to our credit by our correspondents. We are glad to see that in spite of continued heavy work during 1915, the "General Expenses" only show an insignificant increase. If it had not been for increased expenses connected with the development of the Note issue, and other unavoidable increased expenditure, the general expenses would have shown a decrease in comparison with 1914.

As I stated last year, the "Advances otherwise secured" are guaranteed by mortgages, bills, contracts, Government guarantees, personal guarantees, etc. The "Current Accounts" consist of loans without any special security to important companies and estates of undoubted credit. The "Bills of Exchange," £3,351,000, are first-class bankers' acceptances, negotiable on the London market, almost entirely cotton bills. The "Money at Call and Short Notice," £1,160,000, is placed on the London money market against the usual first-class security. I do not think, gentlemen, that there is anything further in the figures of the balance-sheet that I need call your attention to.

Our work in the Sudan goes on regularly and satisfactorily in spite of the war. We have to note that during 1915 the exports from the Sudan reached a record figure of £1,570,000, against £1,020,000 in 1914 and £1,185,000 in 1913. The rains and Nile were very satisfactory, and the energy shown by the Sudan Government in finding new markets for produce has had its reward. We see a remarkable increase in the exports of cattle, butter, hides, millet, senna, and cotton. The imports into the Sudan for 1915 were £1,704,000, for 1914 £1,870,000, and for 1913 £2,109,000. The decrease in imports is due to the dearth of shipping, and to the fact that in 1914, owing to the failure of the millet crop, which is the staple food of the population, millet to the value of £214,000 had to

* The balance-sheet and profit and loss account were published in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST.

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be imported in order to avert famine. On the other hand, the millet crop in 1915 was a bumper one, and was exported to the value of £207,009.

Fifty-seven members of our staff in Egypt and the Sudan are fighting in the Allied Armies. We have to mourn the loss of Mr. H. L. Dallemagne, a French member of our Cairo office staff, who was killed in action. From our London agency of the permanent staff of twenty-nine males, fifteen have joined the British Army. It is with difficulty that we have been able to keep from the colours those members of the superior staff who cannot possibly be spared. In remaining at their posts they are performing an essential duty, but they would rather be at the front. Owing to the reduced staff there has been a great deal of hard work and practically no leave. Our thanks are due to the sub-governor and staff for the capable and zealous way they have carried out their duties. The retiring directors this year are H. E. Victor Harari Pasha, C.M.G., Baron Jacques de Menasce, Mr. E. W. P. Foster, C.M.G., and the Hon. Sidney Peel, who offer themselves for re-election with the exception of Baron Jacques de Menasce, who has decided not to do so. We have also received the resignation of H.E. Maurice de Cattaui Pasha. We cannot but appreciate the spirit in which the resignations of Baron Jacques de Menasce and H.E. Maurice de Cattaui Pasha have been made, and it is with sincere regret that we see them leave the board, where we have had their valuable collaboration since the bank was founded in 1898. At the same time, on account of his nationality, we must propose to you the annulment of Mr. Wilhelm Pelizaeus's directorship, and we cannot but feel the parting from a colleague who has worked with us so long and well.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.—The Board have decided to recommend the following dividends for the year ended January 31, 1916 :—Ordinary shares, 6s. per share; deferred shares, £15 per share.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN LAND ALLOTMENT COMPANY.—Coupon No. 7 of the ordinary shares is payable at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., 27, Clement's Lane, E.C., at piastres 12 per share at 97½ rate of exchange, less income-tax.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for the week 20 tons (last week 14 tons); Hurgada production for the week 488 tons (last week 567 tons).

EUROPEAN OIL COMPANY.—Week ended 2nd inst., 103,200 poods.

GREEK GUARANTEED TWO AND A-HALF PER CENT. GOLD LOAN OF 1898.—The numbers are announced of 661 bonds purchased for the Sinking Fund.

LAND AND MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.—The numbers are announced of ninety-eight bonds of the Five per Cent. Debentures for £300,000, amounting to £165,000, which have been drawn at the offices of the company and will be paid off at par on May 15.

OTTOMAN THREE-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. LOAN OF 1894 (secured by the Egyptian Tribute).—Messrs. Dent, Palmer, and Co. give notice that the half-yearly dividend due on the 15th inst., on the outstanding bonds of the above loan will be paid at their offices, No. 1, Gresham House, London, E.C., on and after the 15th inst.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION.—The directors of the Penisular and Oriental Steam Navigation announce a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock (less tax), and an interim dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock (free of tax) for the half-year ended March 31 last.

PIRÆUS, ATHENS, AND PELOPONNESUS RAILWAY FOUR AND A-HALF PER CENT. BONDS.—The coupons and drawn bonds, due on the 15th inst., will be paid on and after that date at the offices of Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons.

COMPANY REPORTS.

North British and Mercantile.

This company (says the *Financier* in its Insurance Supplement published on Wednesday), is an example of the large composite offices whose records constitute such a standing tribute to the sterling qualities of British insurance companies as a whole. Over 100 years old—having been established in 1809—its progress has been steady and persistent. The office was formed originally to underwrite fire insurance risks, but in 1823 it commenced to develop a life department, whilst within the past few years it has acquired important interests which enable it to undertake a considerable volume of business in marine and accident insurance. In 1908 it acquired the share capital of the Ocean Marine Insurance Co., Ltd., and in 1910 it obtained control of the Railway Passengers Assurance Company. When war broke out and a slight set-back was experienced in the life department and the loss ratio on fire account was well above the normal, the accident branch contributed towards restoring the situation. The company's total funds existing as security to policy-holders reached an aggregate, at the date of the last balance-sheet, of over 25½ millions sterling.

City Life Insurance Company.

This company, said the *Financial Times* in its recent Insurance Supplement, is responsible for an excellent war policy, suitable for men joining the forces. Provided that the premium for whole of life assurances is not less than 35s. per cent. per annum, and for endowment assurances not less than £3 per cent. per annum, the directors are prepared to grant policies on eligible lives whereby the full sum assured will become payable until such time as the assured leaves the United Kingdom on foreign, military or auxiliary service, or enters the aviation or naval service, when the liability of the company would be reduced by only a percentage of the sum assured being payable, though this proportion increases with each year that the assured is on service until the full amount is reached. Until such time as any of the war risks are incurred the assured will, subject to satisfactory medical examination, receive life cover for the full sum. Policies issued under with profit tables are entitled to share in any bonus distribution which may be declared upon the full sum assured before war risk is incurred, but no interim bonus will attach to the policy in the event of a claim arising as a result of the war. After the declaration of peace the assured can exercise any of several options dealing with his policy provided he does not continue in any branch of the forces.

New Grosny Oilfields.

Under the above title a company was registered on March 31 with a capital of £360,000, in 10s. shares. The company is to adopt an agreement with the Fanieff Oil Syndicate, Limited, to acquire any petroleum, asphalte, naphthaline, or oil-bearing lands in the Russian Empire or elsewhere, and to carry on the business of refiners and dealers in petroleum and other mineral oils, natural gas, etc. The seven signatories include R. H. Wheeler, 17, Gracechurch Street, E.C., merchant; N. J. Kampers, 34, Gray's Inn Road, W.C., mining engineer; and F. H. Bennett, 51, Horsham Avenue, North Finchley, insurance broker (who each take one share).

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 29 février.

Prêts Existants:

	1915. £E.		1916. £E.
Prêts à court terme	4,381	..	3,559
Catégorie "B"	5,491,749	..	4,949,057
Total	5,496,130	..	4,952,616
Echéances:			
Dues	—	..	—
A échoir	999,580	..	818,800
Total	999,580	..	818,800

Perceptions:

	1915. £E.		1916. £E.
Arriérés au 31 janvier	1,394,546	..	1,209,186
Restant	1,348,057	..	1,192,993
Perçu	46,489	..	16,193
Echéances:			
Perçu	—	..	—
Total perçu sur annuités échues	46,489	..	16,193

LONDON EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90½
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	77½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	65½
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	65
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	54
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	47
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	44xd
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	52
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	50xd
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	65
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94½	—	77
Do. 3½ % Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	68½
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	—	4½
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	—	6½
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69xd
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10½
Bank of Abyssinia	½	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	1½
Bank of Roumania	8½	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6½	—	4½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	—	11½
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	nom.
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8½	—	5½
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	—	12
Do. do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13½
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1½	—	¾
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	½	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2½	—	2½
Do. Do. Def.	½	—	—
Béhéra Co.	5½	—	5½
Do. Pref.	4½	—	3½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/-
Do. Def.	½	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	—	8/6
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	93	—	81
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	⅝
Gharbieh Land Co.	1½	—	¾
" Founders	½	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9½	—	6½
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	70½
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	6/9
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	¾
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/10½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11½
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	¾
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	—	23/6
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	—	15/6
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	—	16/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	—	3½
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr.500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2½	—	1½

OIL.	Price on Mar. 28.	April 5.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/-	7/9
Anglo-Persian	19/3	19/3
European Oilfields	4/-	4/-
Roumanian	14/9	15/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Mar. 27.	April 5.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	445	445
Canal de Suez	4050	4035
Credit Foncier Egyptien	605	—
Turkish Unified 4%	57	57
Egyptian Unified 4%	88.60	88.50
Serbian, 1895	60.70	—

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 259.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Once more the Russian army in Asia Minor has surprised the world by the rapidity and unerring precision with which its major blows are dealt. On April 6 the column advancing along the Black Sea littoral found its progress barred by a Turkish force on the east bank of the Kara Dere, twenty miles from Trebizond. The Turks were driven across the river; but the arrival of fresh reinforcements brought up from Constantinople added considerable strength to the enemy's position on the west bank, and for nine days the Russian advance was held up. On April 15 the Turks were once more routed, and the pursuit had brought the Russians within twelve miles of Trebizond. Even then, in view of the reports that the town had been strongly garrisoned, it seemed reasonable to suppose that the Grand Duke would require time to develop his attack. He is, however, a firm believer in keeping the enemy on the move. As in the case of Erzeroum, his army, following up an initial advantage, pressed close on the heels of the retreating Turks, and on April 18 Trebizond itself was taken.

The importance of Trebizond lies in the fact that it is the chief Turkish port east of the Bosphorus, and is the main avenue of supply for the Turkish army in eastern Asia Minor. Its capture by the Russians will not only throw out of gear the greater part of the organization on which the enemy has relied for the defence of this region, but it will also give the Russians a more than proportionate advantage in equipping their own forces in the field. With the Russian fleet in command of the Black Sea—its co-operation has contributed in no small measure to the fall of Trebizond—this port will play a larger rôle in the future operations of the Russians than it did while the Turks could only count on irregular communication with it. Our Allies in the meantime are pressing forward at other points in the sweeping movement which began early in the year from the Caucasus frontier. The column operating along the Upper Chorok Valley has had the most serious natural obstacles to overcome, but should now be within measurable distance of Baiburt. Farther to the south each Russian force has in turn been confronted with Turkish reinforcements recently arrived from Constantinople; but invariably the Turkish resistance has been broken. It would seem that the enemy is finding it easier to rush troops to the front than to ensure that they are adequately equipped and supported when they arrive there.

The relief of Kut is proving a hard nut to crack. As the days and weeks pass, bringing many fluctuations in the progress of General Gorringe's expedition, the anxiety lest the help for the beleaguered garrison arrive too late of necessity increases. Last week we had to record a British check at Sanna-i-Yat after the forcing of the Turkish lines at Umm-el-Hannah and Felahieh. The official *communiqué* was restricted to the bald statement that the attack had failed. An enemy report that the British had left 3,000 dead before the Turkish trenches elicited the tardy and not very comforting information that the total casualties in killed and wounded were "much below this figure." This week's record is a repetition of last week's. Finding himself held on the north bank of the Tigris, General Gorringe attacked the enemy on the south bank, and as a result of two engagements, on April 12 and 15, his left wing was able to advance some three miles to a position that would enable it to enfilade the Turkish trenches on the north bank. This success was challenged by the Turks in a series of heavy counter-attacks on the night of April 17-18, as a result of which the British lines were forced back in places some 500 to 800 yards.

In itself this check may not be serious, but it means much when days, and possibly hours, are of vital importance to General Townshend's force. Even when the Sanna-i-Yat position has been captured, there remains what may well prove to be a still more formidable barrier at Es Sinn. The Turks are making the most of the advantages that the ground offers. They are also assisted by the elements. The wet weather has greatly extended the marsh ground on either side of the Tigris, and the British column is compelled to attack on an ever-diminishing front. If it were not that transport considerations keep the relief expedition to the Tigris, the policy of trying to force the bottle-neck position which the Turks have had ample time to fortify might be open to criticism. Any other strategy, however, would have entailed operations on a bigger scale, and little inclination has been shown to attempt more than the minimum which the situation demanded.

The air raid on Constantinople, carried out by three naval aeroplanes on the evening of April 14, will have served to remind the Turks in the capital that the withdrawal from Gallipoli has not necessarily rid them of all danger from British attacks. According to the official statement, bombs were dropped on the Zeitunlik powder factory and the aeroplane hangars. The flight from the Dardanelles to Constantinople and back

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measured over three hundred miles, and, although fine weather prevailed at the start, we are told, adverse conditions supervened, with wind, rain, and thunderstorms. British aviators are not going to reproduce German practices in Turkey by dropping bombs indiscriminately on towns, so that an air raid of this nature is not calculated to produce a panic in Constantinople. It had a definite military objective, and for that reason is the more likely to cause misgivings in the minds of the Ottoman authorities. By penetrating as far as Constantinople—a simultaneous attack was made by a single aeroplane on the Adrianople railway station—our airmen have shown that they can reach all the vulnerable spots in European Turkey. Among the eventualities, therefore, which the Turks have now to face is the destruction of some vital link in the single line of railway that connects them with Germany.

A logical development of the new order in Egypt, introduced by Lord Kitchener on the occasion of his hurried visit to the Eastern Mediterranean last year, has been witnessed in the recent attack on Turkish camps in the Sinai Peninsula. For practically a year, both before and after the Turkish advance in February, 1915, the military authorities in Egypt were content to have the Canal as their first line of defence, with the result that there was always the danger of the enemy being able to interrupt the navigation of the Canal, while the pursuit of his forces after they had been repulsed from the banks was rendered difficult. Lord Kitchener, it is understood, changed all that. The first-line defences of Egypt were removed from the Canal to a point many miles to the east of it, and they were strengthened to a degree quite unknown to the earlier lines on the west bank. The promised second attack on Egypt has not materialized, for the Turks have had other matters to engage their attention. But the Egyptian line of defence is now able to serve as a base for an attack on the enemy who, since the outbreak of war, has been allowed to regard the Sinai Peninsula as Turkish territory. A successful air raid was recently carried out on El Hassana, where the Turkish camp was bombed. On April 13 a column of Australian troops attacked the camp at Jifjaffa, some sixty miles east of Ismailia, on the middle road of the Turkish advance in 1915. The camp was occupied, and among the thirty-four prisoners taken was an Austrian engineer-lieutenant. Katia, an oasis about thirty miles to the north-east of Kantara, has also been occupied by British troops. The ground thus gained has a sentimental rather than a military value; for while it is desirable that the Turks should not be able to boast that they have been left in undisputed possession of Egyptian territory, there can be little need to undertake on a large scale a land campaign against them starting from Egypt.

The troubles of the Greek Government show no signs of ending. To the encroachments of the Franco-British forces have now to be added certain inconvenient inquiries on the part of the Russian Government regarding a number of sacks belonging to it which had been left stored in Salonika. On the strength of statements contained in a cipher telegram, said to have been sent on November 8, 1915, by M. Passaroff, the Bulgarian Minister at Athens, to the Bulgarian Premier, the Greek Government, and more particularly M. Gounaris, as the Minister concerned, are accused of having handed over these sacks to the Bulgarian authorities for military purposes. The telegram is explicit on this point. M. Passaroff met the charge by declaring the document a forgery; but as the Allies are able to produce proof of its authenticity, his statement may be dismissed as coloured by too close association with Germans. M. Skouloudis, the Greek Prime Minister, repudiates all responsibility for the contents of the despatch which incriminates M. Gounaris, a member of his Government, and declares that the sacks in question, having been stored in the name of a Greek subject, were requisitioned by the Greek military authorities, and are now in use in the Greek military depôts at Salonika and the Piræus. It looks as if the deal between M. Gounaris and M. Passaroff did not come off; but M. Skouloudis would be in a stronger position if he produced the elusive sacks and recommended M. Passaroff for another sphere of usefulness.

A further difficulty has arisen owing to the decision of the Allied Powers to despatch the bulk of the Serbian army by rail across Greece instead of round by sea in ships, which might attract the attention of German submarines. The Greek Government finds itself unable to consent to the proposal, on account, as far as can be judged from the utterances of the Germanized Press in Greece, of its desire to keep in the good books of the Central Powers. As reasons for its refusal it is pointed out that the railways and rolling stock are inadequate for the purpose and that the transportation of so many troops would take too long on a single track. The excuses are supposed to disguise the anxiety of the Government not to appear to acquiesce willingly in any of the Allies' demands. A leading Venizelist paper, however, reduces the controversy to its proper proportions. There can be no question, it points out, of the action constituting a violation of Greece's neutrality or sovereignty in view of the fact that Greece has already officially recognised the presence of the Allied troops at Salonika and that Greece is still the ally of Serbia. On the other hand, if there are any *bonâ-fide* objections to the scheme, such as a suggestion that the Serbian troops may be still in the least tainted with cholera or typhus, or if the Serbians propose to encamp along the route during their transportation, then the proposal must most certainly be refused. We could wish, and we have little doubt that the Allied Governments wish also, that a *modus vivendi* could be reached between themselves and the Greek Government which would obviate the constant friction. Better things were expected of M. Skouloudis, the Prime Minister, but it is unlikely that he is master in his own house.

The situation in Greece, it is to be feared, is not improved by the pointed criticism in which M. Venizelos indulges through his organs in the Press. Compared with him the Ministers of the day are mere tyros in the art of administration, and his advantage over them is used to the full. Two questions that he has put to his opponents remain unanswered; the first is how Greece is to meet her liabilities if the army is to be kept mobilized indefinitely and she is unable to count upon the good will of the Allies for a loan? The second is, how will Greece fare if the Allies suddenly abandon Macedonia and leave a Greater Bulgaria master of the situation? The answer to these questions would entail looking ahead, and, therefore, cannot be given by a Government which is content to live from hand to mouth. As far as can be gathered, the Greek people remain for the most part aloof from the strange pass to which politics in Greece has been reduced. Certain it is that they do not share the Government's objection to the presence of Allied troops. Wherever these come, they are welcomed as valuable assets by the local population.

In his speech delivered at the opening of the new session of the Cyprus Legislative Council the High Commissioner was able to announce that the expenditure during 1915-16 is expected to show a saving on the original estimate, in spite of increases in cost of material and supplies and some new calls for war expenditure. Referring to the gift of two thousand tons of wood fuel for the troops in Egypt, made by the island, he announced that Cyprus sailing vessels were delivering it as quickly as possible. Another result of the war on which his Excellency touched was the influx of refugees and the use of the island as a convalescent station for our soldiers. The number of refugees, he stated, had been limited to between two and three hundred British subjects, maintained at the cost of his Majesty's Government; but the value of the island as a convalescent station was being increasingly recognised. For the rest, he expressed his confidence that whenever opportunities occurred of rendering assistance "to the great and just cause in which we are engaged" he could rely on the support of the Legislative Council.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 4.

The Mixed Courts.

At the last Council of Ministers H.H. the Sultan signed a decree appointing Signor Falqui-Cao and M. Constantine Vryakos judges of the Mixed Court of First Instance. The first-named has for several years been judge in the Italian Consular Court, and his appointment to the new judgeship accorded to Italy in the Mixed Courts has been received with widespread approval. M. Vryakos is also an excellent choice. He is an eminent Greek advocate, and is Procureur-General at Athens. He will fill the judgeship left vacant by the death of the Greek judge, M. Demetriades.

So far no one has been appointed to succeed Mr. H. W. Halton, who has been promoted to the Mixed Court of Appeal to fill the vacancy created there by the recent death of Mr. L. Sandars, and it has been stated that the British Government has decided not to appoint another Englishman, but to substitute the extra Italian judge for the English one, thereby reducing the British representation in the Mixed Courts to four, the same number as that now accorded to both France and Italy. That statement, which was published by one of your local English contemporaries, is, I have the best authority for saying, absolutely incorrect, and its publication is all the more regrettable, since it could only tend to create unnecessary irritation in British and Italian circles.

Italy has at no moment either prior to or during the recent negotiations complained of the extra representation enjoyed since the outbreak of war by Great Britain, as the above-mentioned statement would naturally lead one to infer. Far from that, Rome expressly stated that it admitted Great Britain's position on the Mixed Courts bench, and that its claim for an extra judgeship was merely based on the fact that it considered that Italy should have representation equal to that of France, to whom an extra judge had been accorded. The Egyptian Government has now conceded the point to Italy, and the incident is satisfactorily closed. The non-appointment of an Englishman to fill the vacant English judgeship is solely due to the fact that there are but three more months to the close of the judicial year, and as certain of the Englishmen must have leave, which has already been too long delayed for them, and some transfers are to take place in the autumn, the Egyptian Government prefers to wait until later on in the year before making its selection. Similarly we must not expect a successor to be appointed for the present to Mr. D'Alpoim, the Portuguese judge of the Alexandria Court of First Instance, who died the other day.

It is a matter for general satisfaction that our Foreign Office took the opportunity of the Mixed Courts negotiations with Italy to come to a further understanding with Rome on the question of the future judicial and administrative reforms to be introduced in Egypt. Italy had already, in 1904, recognised the British Occupation, and had given us a freer hand to deal with Egyptian affairs: but as we had simultaneously declared our intention not to alter the political status of Egypt our declaration of a Protectorate had somewhat altered the situation. The understanding now come to readjusts matters. Italy agrees to the essential abolition of the Capitulations and the reform of the judicial administration, provided the other Great Powers similarly give their consent. And this amounts to a recognition of our Protectorate over Egypt.

The Egyptian High Commissioner.

From the latest home papers we learn that Lord Robert Cecil, replying in the House of Commons to Mr. Ginnell, declared that there is no foundation for the statement that the title of the British High Commissioner in Egypt had been changed to Representative of the King, and the name of the British Agency to that of House of Protection. Unfortunately for Lord Robert, although Egypt's latest champion at Westminster may have penned his question wrongly, there is some very good foundation for the statement referred to, seeing that the official Arabic translation of the title of H.B.M.'s representative at Cairo is "Naib el Melik" (Representative of the King), and that of his residence "Dar-el-Himaiya" (House of Protection). Since the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs in his reply added the gratuitous information that the title of his Majesty's representative in Egypt was that of High Commissioner, and that the name of the former Agency and Consulate General had been altered to Residency, he might quite easily at the same time have given some further explanation of the matter, instead of delivering such a categorical denial. It is to be presumed that he did not make any local inquiries, or that, if he did, he did not consider it necessary to divulge the information which Cairo must certainly have given him. Cabinet Ministers and their Under-Secretaries would, however, be well advised when framing their replies to questions in the House, to bear in mind the fact that when these questions deal with matters concerning Imperial dependencies their replies are read, not only by the British public, but also by the inhabitants of those dependencies. In the case in question Lord Robert Cecil's reply conveys to the Egyptians the altogether erroneous impression that the home Government does not approve of or recognise the Arabic title by which the High Commissioner and his residence have been officially known in Egypt since the new régime was instituted a little over a year ago. This particular case may not appear of very great importance, but it certainly serves to point the moral.

The Ministry of Wakfs.

An interesting innovation, and one of which it is impossible not to approve, has just been made by the Government. Hitherto, although there have been one or two isolated exceptions where foreign Christians have been appointed to special posts, notably Herz Pasha, who held the position of Chief Engineer of Arab Monuments, appointments to the Ministry of Wakfs have been restricted to Moslems. Ibrahim Pasha Fathy, the able Minister of Wakfs, has quite rightly come to the conclusion that, in order to be able to carry out in the most satisfactory manner the administration of the vast property committed to his charge, he must have reliable and fully qualified assistants to his hand. Since there are no Moslems sufficiently capable or experienced to fill the post of head of the mechanical service, Fathy Pasha has selected an Englishman, Mr. B. P. Greenwood, whose record in and outside the Government service eminently qualifies him for the position, and who is about to be transferred from the Public Works. This appointment must not, however, be regarded as heralding any wholesale introduction of a foreign or non-Moslem element into this essentially Moslem administration. The latter's religious, charitable, and educational activities will still continue to be carried on by Moslems; and it will only be in purely technical matters that the co-operation of non-Moslems, in every case Englishmen, will be sought.

The Anzac Hostel.

This week there took place the inauguration of the Anzac Hostel, which the Australian and New Zealand authorities have decided to establish for the use of their troops in Cairo. The Bourse building has been secured for the purpose, and has in an incredibly short space of time been converted into what is a combination of club, hostel, and house of entertainment. General Sir W. Birdwood was to have performed the opening

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ceremony, but owing to his sudden departure for an "unknown destination" that duty fell upon Major-General Sir A. Godley, who made a very happy speech in the course of the concert with which the hostel was inaugurated. The object of the Australian and New Zealand military authorities, who will run the "hostel" themselves, is to provide the men who come up to Cairo periodically on duty or on leave with some place where they can get a decent bed and bath and wholesome food at moderate prices, and where they can find healthy entertainment. The Bourse, which, even in better financial times, was always a very bare building, has been entirely transformed and well fitted up to answer the purpose for which it is intended; and to judge from the alacrity with which the rank and file have patronised it in the short time that has elapsed since its opening the Anzac Hostel meets a very great want and is assured of success.

The Gezira Racing Season.

On Saturday the last race meeting of the Cairo season was held at Gezira, and from next week onwards racing will be carried on at Alexandria. The season that has just closed has comprised sixteen meetings, somewhat more than in normal years, and the Gezira Sporting Club are to be congratulated on the success which, from both a sporting and a financial point of view, has crowned their efforts. There are many who are of the opinion that race meetings are out of place at the present juncture, when as a nation we are fighting for our existence. Circumstances, however, alter cases, and there can be little doubt that the G.S.C. committee were very well advised to extend rather than restrict their activities in this respect. The race meetings that have been held in Cairo have afforded interesting and healthful entertainment for the many thousand troops who have been stationed in Egypt this winter, and that fact alone fully justifies the extension given to the normal racing season in Cairo and the reopening of the Alexandria one, which is about to take place.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cyprus, March 26.

The new members of the Cyprus Museum Committee have been elected. An additional sum of £100 has been allotted in the Estimates towards the fund which was established for its support. Many of the leading Cypriots have taken great interest in the Museum and in the preservation of the island monuments. They have regarded with great and not unjustifiable jealousy the acquisition of Cypriot "antiquities" by individuals and museums outside the island; and it was largely owing to the strong movement made by them to prevent their exportation that in 1905 a law was passed to supersede the old Turkish Act of A.H. 1291, under which General de Cesnola, Mr. Hamilton Lang, and others carried out their highly profitable excavations of tombs and temples. No antiquities can now be exported without the permission in writing of the High Commissioner. All objects belonging to the Museum are held by the Government "in trust and for the benefit of the inhabitants of Cyprus." Antiquities in Cyprus comprise all architectural memorials and sculpture, or works of art in general, from the most ancient times up to the Turkish conquest of the island; and include statues, reliefs, statuettes, inscriptions, paintings, mosaics, vases, arms, ornaments, gems for rings, coins, and, indeed, all objects of antiquarian interest. The only objects excepted are coins of Byzantine, Lusignan, and Venetian times. Whether it will be possible to conduct any excavations this year is not yet known. There are no doubt still many localities in which work could be usefully carried out in the interests of the Museum and of Cypriot history; but the need of money is one of the standing obstacles.

The Estimates have been passed without discussion, as was the case last year.

Locusts have appeared in the Famagusta, Larnaca, and Nicosia districts in several localities, and the menace will have to be met with energy.

With a view to the creation of a public garden, Mr. L. Z. Pierides recently presented a plot of land to the municipality of Larnaca. The Government has now presented another piece of adjacent land for this purpose. It is time that the town should possess such a pleasure ground. It would be well if it could also raise a good band. At Limasol quite a good band was formed by local effort some years ago, and plays weekly in the Public Garden and on other occasions.

MOSQUES OF THE SUDAN.

(From a Correspondent.)

The solemn assurance given to the people of the Sudan by Lord Cromer at the time of the British Occupation—"there will be no interference whatever in your religion"—has not only been faithfully kept, but the Administration has, upon numerous occasions, taken pains to manifest its deep sympathy with the Moslem population, and to encourage their religious observances. Thus we find that the provision of mosques throughout the country has received much practical assistance in the form of donations of money and the granting of building sites. One of the latest acts of this description has been a public meeting under official patronage in Nahud for the purpose of collecting money to erect a mosque worthy of the town and its importance as a great trade centre. Thanks to the encouragement thus afforded, the very substantial amount of £E150 was obtained at the meeting.

There exist about six hundred mosques in the Sudan, and the number is being continually added to. These buildings—mostly simple and unadorned—are distributed in Khartoum and throughout the provinces. The greater number are public, while the remainder are private, buildings. The most numerous edifices of this kind are to be found in the province of Dongola, and the more handsome of the constructions in Khartoum town. In regard to the Upper Nile, the Bahr-el-Ghazal and Mongalla, no mosques existed before 1906; to-day there have been erected some makeshift buildings at Renk and at Kodok, in the first-named province; but they are only used by the local Jaalin and Dongalawi merchants. At Wau, in the Bahr-el-Ghazal, there is now one stone-built mosque and another small one at Rega; while at Mongalla the few Mohammedans are still without a regular place of worship. At El Obeid, in Kordofan, a handsome new building, composed of concrete blocks, is in course of erection, but, the available funds having run out, it seems as if the faithful must pray in an uncompleted edifice, without either windows or roof. The Government of the Kassala Province has assisted financially to provide two small mosques for the towns of Gedaref and Gallabat, while at Berber as many as six small buildings were run up during 1911. The worshippers at El Damer mosque have been able to add a minaret, and also to improve considerably the interior of their building. The present structure is of mud brick, but there is hope of a stone edifice being commenced at no distant date.

Next to the handsome building in Khartoum town, the finest mosque will be found at Port Sudan, when the construction is finally completed. The Government in this case again proved liberal, contributing a sum of £E150 towards the cost, which will ultimately run into some two or three thousand pounds. There are at Suakin several small mosques, although the majority of them stand in sad need of restoration. So bad is the condition of the oldest of the buildings that it has now been abandoned. In 1913 there were altogether seven new public mosques and four private mosques opened in the Sudan, a number not very likely to be exceeded during 1915-16.

With regard to the construction—or, rather, reconstruction—of one mosque at Berber, which was commenced in February, 1912, work was stopped a few months afterwards (August) owing to complaints of the quality of the work and material, and civil proceedings resulted. The Atbara mosque is a small but handsome building, much of the labour in erecting it being given free of charge by Moslem railwaymen and others in their spare time. At Monagil, in the Blue Nile Province, there is a mosque of stone and brick, with a roof of jack arches and steel girders, forming, on the whole, quite an imposing building. The Wad Medani mosque has also been re-roofed with jack arches and steel girders. In the Nuba Mountains Province there are, as yet, no permanently built mosques; but at Kosti, in the White Nile Province, there is a very nice mosque just completed, which will add considerably to the appearance of the town. The design was drawn by Mr. Baskett, when acting as District Engineer in that province. It is a substantial building, the foundations being upon inverted arches. The sum of £E1.697 had already been subscribed by natives before the building was far advanced, while the Government subscribed £E300 to meet the deficiency, or part of the same.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Salonika, March 26.

Germano-Bulgars in Greek Territory.

Some misguided Greeks were long under the delusion that their old enemies the Bulgarians would refrain from entering Greek territory. This delusion has now been dispelled by the occupation of several Greek villages on the Macedonian frontier, where the Bulgarians and their taskmasters, the Germans, are making themselves quite at home, and where they exercise their customary occupation of pillaging the inhabitants under the very noses of the Greek troops. The invaders are even seizing telegraph and telephone apparatus and other Government property without any protest being made. The Greek soldiery, acting, presumably, under orders from higher quarters, meekly retire, and the soil which the Greek Press and so many political personages declared must never be desecrated by the feet of their quondam enemies is evacuated by its rightful owners on the first approach of their so-called foes.

This attitude of the Greek military and the reported declarations of the King to a correspondent of the *Berliner Tageblatt* have created a painful impression upon the Allies here, and the relations between them and the Greeks have again become strained. It is even reported that Greek officers friendly to the Allies are being recalled from Macedonia.

Operations at the Front.

For more than a week past the Allied and enemy forces have been almost daily in touch—mainly in the direction of Ghevgeli. The operations at present are almost entirely confined to the artillery, but in one or two places the troops have come into contact, and a few casualties are recorded. There have been several aerial combats, in which the Germans have had the worst of it, but they have brought down two French aeroplanes within the last few days. The first was hit by a shot from the enemy's aircraft guns, and fell into Lake Doiran, the aviator and observer being drowned, and the second, which was only slightly damaged, was able to descend in safety within the French lines, the aviators being uninjured.

About a dozen German prisoners have been taken and conducted here, where they have been transferred to a warship.

Zeppelin Visits.

On several occasions during the past few days Zeppelins and other aircraft have crossed the Allied lines and attempted to reach Salonika, but all the Zeppelins and most of the aeroplanes have been quickly driven back by the French aviators or aircraft guns. When such visits are signalled the electric light current is always cut off from the town. Cinema shows have then to close and the cafés must use gas or the humble wax candle.

General Sarrail and the Correspondents.

All the foreign correspondents are charmed with the courtesy and consideration with which they are treated by General Sarrail. About 7 o'clock every evening we meet in an antechamber adjoining the General's own room at the French headquarters. Here we find colleagues representing most of the leading European newspapers and make the acquaintance of many well-known writers. We are, by the way, not all Press men; there is one Press woman, representing a Swiss paper, who attends with great regularity. Then the General himself comes into the room, gives us the news of the day within the sphere of operations of the Allies, and hands over the messages he has received regarding the operations in other theatres of the war. After giving all necessary explanations in the most charming manner, he invites questions from his auditors, who form a circle round his tall and striking form. Then we cross-examine and "heckle" him without mercy. But the General is wary; he tells us as much as he thinks is good for us, and to other questions he shrugs his shoulders and smiles in a meaning manner.

Another Newspaper Prosecution.

In a former letter I referred to the prosecution of *L'Opinion* and the *Makedonia*—both pro-Entente papers (the former being printed in French and the latter in Greek)—when the editors were condemned to fifteen days' imprisonment for "exciting the public mind." This time the *Makedonia* was prosecuted alone for "insulting the Government" in the course of some remarks made regarding the activities of German submarines in Greek waters. The jury this time acquitted the editor, but the proceedings show how bitter against the friends of the Allies are the "powers that be" in Greece.

British Trench Theatre.

After the arduous duties of the day on the Macedonian front our soldiers, who are usually in a cheerful mood notwithstanding the hardships they have often to endure, devise all sorts of means of amusing themselves. The most ambitious attempt is at a certain spot in close proximity to the defending guns, where our men have fitted up a regular theatre, large enough to accommodate 400 spectators. There is plenty of talent among them, and here they have really excellent entertainments. The "orchestra" is a little off the usual lines: it consists of one pianist, two guitarists, and no less than fifteen mandolinists. I hear that similar places of entertainment have been established at other points.

THE STATE OF SYRIA.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Cairo, March 29.

The recent rumours about the alleged attempt on Enver Pasha's life have evidently been meant as a blind. While they were being persistently spread, Enver was touring the Arab provinces trying to win over Arab opinion both in Syria and Arabia proper. The Russian successes in Armenia must have considerably alarmed the Young Turks as to their probable effect on Arab opinion, already deeply agitated by the former's insane excesses. It is known that some of the Arab leaders in the capital were worked up to help in the tardy campaign of reconciliation, and that considerable sums had been sent for distribution among unscrupulous leaders in Syria and Arabia in order to pave the way for Enver's tour.

Although Enver has ordered a general amnesty for political offenders and the liberation both of those who had been detained and of those exiled to distant parts of the Empire, and although fair promises have been made to the Arabs regarding their national aspirations, yet it seems very doubtful whether any real success has been achieved. At best the Arabs will bide their time. If they are at all human they will not forget the wrongs to which they have been subjected, the wholesale hangings of their intellectuals, the sacrifice of their best manhood on the altar of the Young Turks' inordinate ambitions, and the hundred and one ways in which their country has been devastated by a war that was none of their seeking. Nor will they be tricked any more by the Turks' promises, when these have been treacherously broken over and over again, and after the Young Turks have been foolish enough to preach openly their German-inspired creed of racial domination, even at the expense of the Moslem faith. Besides, what value can such promises have in the eyes of the Arabs of Syria, when misery prevails in the land, when famine is beginning to rear its head, and when they can see the Turks plunging headlong into the suicidal abyss?

Recent accounts depict the economic condition of the country in black colours. If the last locust invasion had taken place a couple of months earlier, when the grain crops were still green, these, which constitute the life-blood of the country, would have been completely destroyed. As it is, the fruit trees and the vines have suffered most seriously; and it is said that the grape crop, which in Damascus alone is estimated at about £100,000, was destroyed.

What aggravated the situation was the calling up to the colours of all able-bodied men, and the effect may be imagined when it is known that over 80,000 of Syria's men have been taken from their agricultural occupations, and about 20,000 deserters are scattered in the wilds of the Lebanon. The effect of calling to the colours men up to the age of 50 can be nothing short of disastrous.

It is said that in certain parts the sowing of dari-seed was delayed about two months, while that of other grains, such as lentils, peas, beans, etc., was altogether neglected. So far the Government has been withholding the seed corn from the population.

The Lebanon in general, and such coast towns as Beyrout, have been deprived, at times, of their bare needs of grain. Although the means of transport have been seriously interfered with by the war, yet it is still sufficient to meet adequately the actual necessities of the population without interfering with military exigencies, and the arrivals could have been so regulated as to leave no surplus which might eventually be seized by an enemy expeditionary force. The only explanation, therefore, is that the Government meant to keep in a state of famished submission the population of districts known to be at heart distinctly antagonistic to Turkish rule.

A Salonika telegram reports that in the course of a fight between Germans and Bulgarians for the possession of a telegraph office in a village west of Lake Ochrida four men were killed, and several wounded on both sides.

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, March 30.

Army Changes.

Notable changes are about to take place in the Roumanian Army. A large number of promotions will be made, which will result in an increase of the total number of officers as follows:—Infantry: Ten colonels, thirty-four majors, thirty-eight captains, and 408 sub-lieutenants. Artillery: Eleven colonels, three lieutenant-colonels, and eighty-four sub-lieutenants. No less than seven generals who have attained the age limit will be passed into the reserve. Among these we find General Zottu, Chief of the General Staff. In all probability General Christesco, who is one of the most promising officers of Roumanian Army, will be appointed in General Zottu's place.

On the Bulgarian Frontier.

The *Nationalist* writes as follows:—"From a well-informed source we hear that the measures taken by the Bulgarians on our frontier are becoming of a more and more aggressive nature. The Bulgars have here accumulated troops whose number exceed 120,000, and all their preparations bear an eminently offensive character."

The same journal informs us that visitors will not be admitted this summer to the well-known resorts of Bushteni, Azuga, and Predeal, these localities being regarded as forming part of the zone of military operations.

Recent Legal Measures.

The Chamber of Deputies has been doing rather more useful work than usual. On March 21 its members voted a law prohibiting every kind of export except through the channel of the Central Commission of Exports. On March 25 two other laws were voted, one empowering the Government to requisition alimentary products according to the needs of the population, the other to requisition the mills. This law also makes provision for the punishment of speculators my means of fines amounting to £200 and terms of imprisonment up to six months.

The purpose of these various measures is, of course, to reduce the speculation brought into play by the high prices offered. It is this speculation which is responsible for the exorbitant cost of living and the shortage of foodstuffs in a country whose granaries are bursting with their contents. A similar state of affairs obtains in Russia, where there are two harvests that have not been exported, and which have been purchased by speculators at absurdly low prices with a view to speculation after the war.

The Parliamentary session has again been prolonged, so that the presumptive date of its closure is now April 1. There is, however, reason for anticipating a further adjournment when that date is reached, to be followed possibly by others.

Magyar Gratitude.

The Near East has more than once referred to the persecutions to which the Roumanian subjects of Austria-Hungary have to submit, and mentioned in a recent issue the suppression of the Roumanian Nationalist organ, the *Românul*. The Magyars have now had the satyrical bad taste to reproduce at the National Theatre of Budapest a piece by Victor Rakosi named "The Silent Bells," in which the Roumanian element, it is said, is held up to ridicule and insult. This is the way in which they express their gratitude for the hundreds of thousands who have sacrificed their lives for the further glory of their Mongol persecutors.

But it is not only the Roumanians *de dincolo*—"from over there," as those from Transylvania are called—who have cause for complaint. The Roumanians of the Kingdom, though, of course, not exposed to persecution in the same sense, are subjected to considerable vexations in the course of their travels through Hungary. I have referred to these before, but since then they have become even more accentuated, so much so that the Minister for Foreign Affairs was recently requested in the Senate to make representations in the right quarter with a view to obtaining more consideration for the Roumanian passport and rather more civilised treatment for its bearers. A political personage recently returned from a journey through Austria-Hungary made the remark that you have merely to show a Roumanian passport in that country in order to be literally maltreated.

The New Rector of Jassy University.

The retirement of M. Stere had left the University of Jassy without a rector. Three gentlemen have qualified for the vacant post as a result of the recent University elections; and from among these M. Jean Duca, the Minister of Education, has selected M. Mathew Cantacuzino, who thus becomes rector for a period of three years. He is a professor of law at the University and a prominent Liberal, having passed over recently from the Conservative party.

M. Stere has also resigned the presidency of the Liberal Club at Jassy.

They are Nine.

The "babe" are nine in number, and each *baba* is an old woman who stands for one of the first nine days (Russian style) of the month of March. One *baba* will smile, another will weep, a third will scold, a fourth will show a dour, mournful face, but it is the last of the nine who gives you the keynote of the year's weather. She is lazy, she comes a day late in the spring season, and she explains not the why and the wherefore of her predecessors. But tradition has no patience with punctilious pedagogism and abhors our pretensions to reason. So we will humour her, and be content with the last *baba*, who this year speeds the season on its course with gentle words and smiling face.

ROUMANIA THROUGH GERMAN SPECTACLES.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports that the *Berliner Tageblatt* has published a long report from Dr. Lederer, its Bucharest correspondent, on feeling in Roumania, which he summarises as follows:—My impression of the situation is that: first, Roumania will undertake nothing against the Central Powers, who are her Allies, so long as the armies of Austria-Hungary are victorious, and so long as the Entente armies achieve no considerable success in the East or the West or before Salonika, and no new States of decisive weight join the Entente. Secondly, Roumania still cherishes a slight hope that developments will allow her to join the Entente in order to realise her national aspirations in Transylvania and the Bukovina, without, on the other hand, flatly renouncing the idea of co-operation with the Central Powers. Thirdly, Roumania, yielding to circumstances, no longer offers that passive resistance to the extension of her economic relations with the Central Powers which we still had to encounter a few weeks ago.

TO OUR READERS.

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

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

Abroad The Near East is obtainable at any of the following agencies:—

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

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

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

KHARTOUM. Sudan Stationery and Bookstore.

CYPRUS. Cababe and Wilson, Nicosia.

SALONIKA. Librairie Française, Rue Sabri Pasha, and Vafiades and Co.

ATHENS. Librairie Th. Vafiades.

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

CALCUTTA. 1, Royal Exchange Place.

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

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THE OCCUPATION OF ISPAHAN.

(From a Correspondent.)

Ispahan, March 21.

By the middle of last September, German gold and propaganda had excited the local Press, the mollahs, and a gang of the roughest ruffians to a high pitch of frenzy against the Russians and British. Bands of Germans and Austrians kept arriving from the Turkish frontier bringing with them large supplies of small arms and larger supplies of gold (Turkish and English pounds), till about the middle of September things seemed to be critical. The British Consul was fired upon by an armed ruffian and wounded in the hand, while his Indian sowar was killed. Bands of armed tribesmen—German hirelings, of course—galloped about the town showering all the abuse Oriental imagination could conceive upon the Russians and English. The Persian gendarmerie had rebelled and refused to obey the orders of the Government as to keeping neutrality. The Governor of Ispahan was either unable to restore order or he had received some of the gold referred to above.—It turned out afterwards to be the latter.

The Russian and British consuls then decided to abandon all British and Russian concerns and leave for Teheran and Ahwaz, and by September 20 the Germans had the field to themselves. They openly occupied the gendarmerie barracks and organised bands of armed tribesmen, which, as soon as they were ready, left Ispahan to "fight" the Russians, who were now near Kum. The population cheered them and decked them with flowers, and exacted promises that they would kill the last Russian on earth and bring in every Russian woman as a slave. On November 19 an armed band invaded the office of the Indo-European Telegraph Company —the only British establishment left open—which was in charge of an Armenian officer—a sergeant of the R.E. They seized the office, and the Armenian officer had to flee from Ispahan for his life. The revolted gendarmerie then took possession of the Telegraph and the Post Office, and censorship of the wildest and most exaggerated form began. The Russians had now occupied Kum, which had hitherto been the headquarters of the Germans and so-called "Democrats" and "Nationalists," who began to pour into Ispahan several thousands strong, accompanied by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires and others.

The stock of German gold seemed to have run low by now; so it was decided to declare "war" on funds forcibly collected from the public. Armed ruffians exacted heavy sums at the point of the revolver, and many respectable merchants were grossly insulted for not paying specified sums. An amount quite out of proportion to their number was demanded from the Armenians of the town, which, if not paid, would "prove that they were in sympathy with the Russians and British."

"Touch the pocket, feel the heart." The inhabitants of Ispahan began to sing a different song now; they were tired of "war and *Allegmanees*," although not a soul dared to say this openly. The Germans saw this would not do, so the evacuated English Bank was broken into and looted. Most of the bank's valuables, however, seemed to have been in a strong steel safe, which they could not break. They hammered at it, pounded at it, and fired volleys at it; but it remained closed, so it was given up as a bad job and left lying in the bank compound.

Ever since the commencement of the war the Armenian quarter had been in momentary danger of a raid and massacre, on account of its pro-Russian and pro-English sympathies; but thanks to the kind efforts of a few leading *ulema*, nothing serious had happened.

The Russians had now reached Kashan, and about a fortnight ago news reached here that they had started for Ispahan, and would be here in a week. The Germans and all their hirelings left *en masse*, taking the precaution, however, to blow up the stock of ammunition they had. Even the Bakhtiari Governor of Ispahan left, giving the town into the charge of a deputy-governor, and for the next ten or twelve days the town seemed as calm and serene as before the war. The Russians were timed to arrive some time between Friday, 17th, and Sunday, and all preparations were made to receive them quietly and peacefully. Several notables went out a day's journey to meet them, and pitched tents for their reception. Suddenly, about noon on Friday, a band of some three hundred armed Bakhtiaris entered Ispahan, occupied the houses and gardens on the main road, and fortified them with sandbags, etc. Their chief (Reza Khan, a highway bandit) proclaimed himself the Governor of Ispahan, and demanded several thousand tomans to "repulse the Russians." They looted the tents and the effects of the officials, and things seemed to look serious again. The Russians were now about four miles from the city, and on Saturday morning a Russian (evidently a despatch rider) was captured by Bakhtiaris, shot, stripped naked, and cast down in the market square of Ispahan. The Bakhtiaris were busy fortifying themselves all Saturday. On Sunday, about 1 p.m., the Russian guns boomed out. Everybody knew that fighting had commenced; and everybody rushed to the roofs of the houses, from which a long string of some 300 horsemen could be seen galloping full speed on the road back to their native district; they had fled after the first Russian shot. One Russian was killed and one wounded, not including the despatch rider killed the previous night. The Bakhtiaris had about ten killed. While they were fleeing the Persian guards of the revenue office (from whom the Bakhtiari thieves had exacted a receipt for five thousand tomans on the previous day) took revenge, and fired a volley among them, killing three or four more.

The Russians arrived here about 3 p.m. on the same Sunday afternoon, and now all is well. As I write this (Tuesday afternoon), batches of Cossacks are passing singing. They have left their rifles at their barracks, as the town is quiet, and there is no necessity to carry arms.

In conclusion, it may be remarked that great credit is due to the Persian Government for having preserved neutrality in face of such overwhelming propaganda; and still greater credit is due to the honest and quiet population of Ispahan, who with great tact and determination preserved order in spite of the great number of roughs and rowdies collected together by "Kultur."

Sonorous.

SUDAN SURVEYS.

(From a Correspondent.)

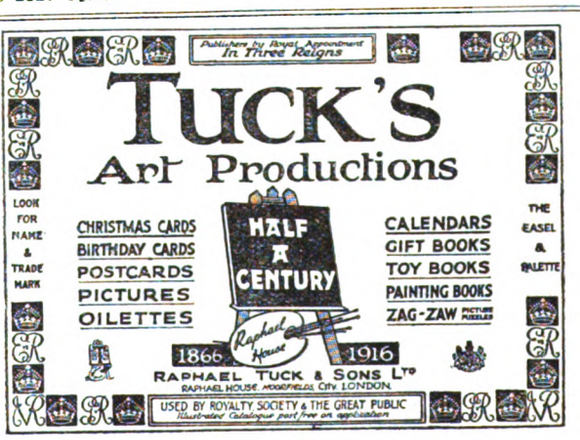
The return to the Sudan—after an absence of nearly eleven years—of Major M. G. Talbot, who acted as Director-General of Sudan Surveys between 1900 and 1905, means that the Government does not intend to allow any slackening in its efforts to bring the topographical and survey section of the Administration to a state of complete efficiency. An immense amount of useful work has been accomplished of late years, and Major Talbot will find his old department in a state of thorough maturity. In this connection it is interesting to recall that there is in existence a well-preserved Egyptian tomb-plan dating back fully 3,000 years, and also a map, probably produced about 1370 B.C., showing the situation of alluvial gold mines in what is now the Sudan.

Among other officials who have at various periods assisted in mapping the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and helping to bring up its triangulation to a stage of completeness have been Captain Coningham, who, some five years ago, accomplished some excellent work, enabling the Administration to issue a reliable—and up to that time the only—map of every inhabited portion of the country, and Lieutenant McNeill, who rendered great assistance in regard to the systematic survey of the more important areas. He mapped the Nuba Mountains Province at the time that it was being separated politically from Kordofan, the scale of his work being 1/125,000, contour lines being shown at 100 ft. vertical intervals.

The triangulation of the Sudan is not considered to be difficult, but up till recently the European officials have not been particularly successful in their efforts to employ natives of the country upon purely topographical work. The survey of the Nuba Mountains Province, which alone was expected to take six years to complete, is now practically finished. But this province represents but a very small portion of the million square miles for the maps of which Major Hugh D. Pearson, the Director of Surveys, is responsible.

Mr. Lubbock, Captain Thwaites, Mr. Shakerley (of the Irrigation Department), Captain Kelly, R.E.—who, during his ten years' service with the Sudan Government performed a prodigious amount of work on his expedition from Nimule eastward towards Lake Rudolf, and northwards to the Boma plateau—Mr. A. W. Fraser, Captain Davenport, Captain Logan, Captain Crawford, Captain Hutton—all three of the last-named have worked in the Sobat-Pibor country—Captain Marshall (in the Nuer-Dinka country), Captain Wauchope (in the country lying between the Zeraf and the Bahr-el-Jebel), and Mr. R. A. Bence-Pembroke (now a Second Inspector in the Khartoum Province, but located at Nahud, in Kordofan) are among those who have contributed materially to the services of the Survey Department.

A Bucharest message received in Amsterdam states that the Roumanian Chamber has adopted a Bill calling to the Colours the 1917 class.



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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The fate of the fine painting of Mohammed the Conqueror, which was one of the gems of the collection of pictures formed by Sir Henry Layard in Venice, is still undecided. Thanks to the energetic action of Sir Rennell Rodd and the friendly attitude of the Italian Government, the pictures have reached this country safely; but some of them now form the subject of an action in the Appeal Court. The case is still *sub judice*, and of course I do not purpose entering into any discussion of it. But I may be permitted to pass on a strange story told to the Court by Sir Robert Finlay, who appeared for the trustees of the National Gallery. Bellini, the painter of the portrait in question, had (said Sir Robert) painted for his patron, Mohammed, a picture of Herodias, in which figured the head of John the Baptist on a charger. The Sultan boggled over the appearance of this accessory, and asked Bellini whether he thought it should be shown. The artist replied in the affirmative; whereupon the Sultan clapped his hands. A slave entered, and the Conqueror at once struck off his head. "There," said he to the artist, "do you really like it?" Where Sir Robert got the tale from I do not know. It hardly seems to me to square with what we know of Mohammed's character; but it is a grim little story, and must have caused a not unpleasant thrill in the musty Courts of Law. Moreover, the whole case will add yet another page to the interesting history of this famous painting.

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I am glad to see that Ivan Mestrovic's "Mother and Child," which has recently been exhibited at South Kensington, is to be secured for the nation. I am not sure whether the requisite £1,000 has already been subscribed, but there is little doubt that the committee, of which Mr. John Lavery is the head, will have no difficulty in raising the sum quickly. Art being the medium by which the intellectual life of a nation finds expression, we should miss no chance of securing as far as possible the best that our Allies have to give in this respect, for a full understanding is the soundest basis of lasting friendship. I should, indeed, like to see translations of the works of Serbia's poets placed before the British public, especially those which lay bare the fighting spirit of our comrades. Where the bard holds the soul of a people, it does not know defeat. And the Serbian people to-day, bereft of almost all that spells life to the free-born, are still unconquered because of the tradition that is in them.

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Apropos of the impudent attempt of the German propagandists to represent that the Hohenzollerns are descended from a sister of Mohammed, I have been looking up facts and making inquiries, and the result is that I am more amazed than ever at the unblushing cheek of the claim. The facts, as far as known, are summed up as follows by a valued correspondent, who is a fine Arabic scholar and has consulted the best sources:—"Mohammed had no brothers or sisters. According to Moslem accounts of his life, his father, Abdullah, died at the age of eighteen, before the infant was born. His mother, Aminah, died when he was six years of age; and none of his children survived him except Fatima, wife of his first cousin, Ali, the fourth Khalif, and mother of the unfortunate Hassan and Hussein, the victims of Moawya and his son Bayazid. According to Abulfaraj's account, Abdullah, the father, died two years after the Prophet's birth. This, however, is certainly incorrect. For in Mohammed's mother's account of his birth she says that she was alone when he was born, his grandfather, Abd-ul-Muttalib, being in the Temple at Mecca; and she makes no mention of his father." But, of course, such trifling things as facts do not trouble the Supermen. They have proved—to their own satisfaction, at least—that Shakespeare was a good German; they announced the capture of Verdun weeks ago; and they still persist in telling the world—or such part of it as will listen to their nonsense—that the British Fleet "won't come out." With such liars what *are* you to do?

***

In the interesting account of Dr. Léon's lecture on Turkish poetry, which appeared in last week's NEAR EAST, I notice that the lecturer's reference to the popularity of the "tender passion" as a subject for the poet is duly reported. But the advice given by the old poet to his younger confrère in regard to the choice of subject is not reproduced. It was:—

Birinji, Sevgu; Ikinji, Mahabbet; Utchinji, Ashq; soura, Sevgu; hepsi, Ashq.

Firstly, Love; secondly, Love; thirdly, Love; afterwards, Love; always, Love.

Such a choice of synonyms is calculated to turn our own poets green with envy. In the English language "love" is surely one of the hardest-worked and most used of words. And, incidentally, not a few of our novelists' ideas of what the word means are enough to nauseate any self-respecting man.

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A German newspaper has been good enough to explain to the world the reason why the Egyptians have remained loyal to Britain. According to this paper, it appears that the scales fell from the eyes of the people too late; when they were bound hand and foot by financial bonds to the oppressors who had also prevented them from arming themselves indiscriminately. If these be the only reasons which hold the Egyptians to loyalty, it does not say much for Oppenheim and Hatzfeld, who laboured so consistently to educate the people to revolt. It is small wonder that the Germans are bitter. They sunk thousands of pounds in Egypt, confident that the day would come when they would redeem the cash with interest. That hope, feeble enough some months ago, is now for ever dead. News travels swiftly in the East, and when the perfidy of the Arch-Humbug of Potsdam regarding Mohammedanism becomes fully known there is not a Moslem in Egypt but will thirst for German blood. The Kaiser has proved himself to the Moslem world as false and as blasphemous as he had previously proved himself to be to the Christian. The meanest donkey-boy of Cairo has higher notions of honour and of the sanctity of religion than William of Germany.

***

I hear that Alexandria has been taken by storm by a troupe of pierrots who style themselves "The Empties." At first sight the name does not appear to be particularly happy, but, as the advertisements say, "There's a reason." The troupe is composed of members of the Mechanical Transport branch of the A.S.C. This branch of the service is known as the M.T. This suggested the designation referred to. Much of the success which the troupe has met with—it cleared £100 at a charity performance at the Alhambra—is probably due to the fact that an enterprising officer took the town by storm with advertisement. A thousand posters were displayed announcing that the EMPTIES would perform on such-and-such a night, and seven native sandwichmen paraded the streets, each one bearing one of the above letters. As none of the bearers could spell, and as they were frequently called upon to talk with admiring and inquiring friends, the letters became much mixed at first, but after careful drilling each fully entered into the spirit of the thing, and marched in order with all the self-conscious dignity of a provincial mayor on a State occasion. Nothing, of course, could keep them silent, however, but at least they succeeded in the desired object of attracting attention—indeed, on several occasions ordinary traffic was in peril of suspension, so great were the crowds which thronged to gaze at and comment upon the unusual sight.

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I see that, according to Reuter's special correspondent on the Greek-Bulgarian frontier, British cavalrymen have broken through the prejudice of ages and have added frogs' legs to their menu. Thousands of Englishmen have, consciously or unconsciously, eaten frogs' legs before this, but for some reason or another we had a sort of national dislike of the idea for all that. Now, however, Tommy has altered this, and, armed with a piece of meat fastened to the end of a string, he goes out to catch his savoury with as much ardour as any Frenchman who ever breathed. No more will the lusty bull-frog be able to cast with impunity his base defiance at the weary but sleepless Englishman, lest he goad his victim too far and be marked down for breakfast. Personally I have always been a conscientious objector where frogs are concerned, although I was sorely tempted to kill on one occasion. It was up-country in the Sudan, and at dinner the first night I entertained an uninvited host of ants and other crawling things which had swarmed up the legs of my table. The following night all went well for some time, as the legs were placed in broad, deep tins of water, and greedy ones hurrying to the feast were drowned. Suddenly, however, the table shook beneath me, and I turned hastily for my rifle, as the atmosphere vibrated to a most terrific roar. I have always hoped that my servant mistook the jump for my rifle as a piece of realistic acting and nothing more, for he calmly drew my attention to the tins of water, and there, upon my word, was a portly, croaking bull-frog in each.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

GERMANY'S "DRANG NACH OSTEN."*

We know of no more masterly analysis, in a short compass, of the trend of German policy during the last half-century, which gradually and inevitably led to the present war, than this pamphlet. Dr. Prothero marshals his theme in the following order:—First, he analyses the ideas and principles, the ambitions and motives, which have produced in Germany a state of mind favourable to war; he then summarises the historical events and the economic and political conditions which have contributed to strengthen the warlike tendency thus aroused; and, finally, he deals with the course of international politics during recent years, which have made an armed conflict very difficult to avoid, if not inevitable. Special attention may be directed to the interesting theory developed in the pamphlet to account for the readiness with which the German Socialists abandoned their former attitude and placed themselves at the disposal of the Government. "German industrial and financial expansion has been built up on a vast system of credit. The result is a huge and growing accumulation of debt. The necessity of securing the capital already involved and the payment of interest necessitate a larger output, and therefore an increased outlay, the capital for which can only be obtained by an increase of indebtedness. . . . Thus in order to secure the progress made and to avoid collapse, the pace has ever to become faster, the output larger—and this in the face of gorged markets, and markets which show a tendency to be more and more closed to foreign goods." If Germany were suddenly to find herself confronted with a Customs Union between France and Russia, or a Tariff League embracing the British Empire, or a great rise of tariffs in the United States, involving such restrictions as would practically stop the sale of foreign products in those countries, collapse must result from the fact that she is so deep in debt. Her need for fresh and unrestricted markets is vital, and there was little chance of her obtaining fresh colonial or other reservoirs, or even of making sure of those that exist, except by war or by diplomatic efforts backed by military force. In the pressure to the East Dr. Prothero finds the master key to German foreign policy, and if any further confirmation of this view were required it would be supplied by yet another pronouncement of Dr. Paul Rohrbach, the German publicist, as recently as March 5. In an address before such a peaceful audience as that of the General Evangelical Protestant Mission Association, Dr. Rohrbach elaborated his contention that Germany's future lay in a complete understanding with Turkey, which would enable her to exercise pressure on Russia, and, by making Syria a military base with railway communication and fortresses, to close the Suez Canal if Great Britain at any time threatened Germany's interests. "Everything depends on making the East an assured member of the Alliance." Fortunately for Great Britain, Germany's plans have miscarried. Instead of being able to develop her plans in her own time, she has been forced to reveal her hand, and the Powers she hoped to deal with piecemeal she has united in an unshakable determination to eliminate the standing menace to the tranquillity of Europe

The April number of the Palestine Exploration Fund's "Quarterly Statement" contains a good portrait of the late Chairman of the Fund's Executive Committee, Sir Charles M. Watson. Dr. Masterman and Professor Macalister contribute several more interesting "Tales of Welys and Dervishes." Mr. E. J. Pilcher writes on "Hebrew Weights in the Book of Samuel"; there is a further instalment of "The Immovable East"; and Mr. Joseph Offord, besides contributing "Archæological Notes," writes on "Babylonian and Theophoric Names."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Blackest Page of Modern History. Armenian Events of 1915: The Facts and the Responsibilities. By Herbert Adams Gibbons, Ph.D. (G. B. Putnam's Sons. 3s. 6d. net.)

* "German Opinion and German Policy before the War." By G. W Prothero, LL.D. Litt.D. (Mr. Murray, London.)

Any Books mentioned on this page, or any other Publication, can be obtained at the published price, plus 3d. postage in the United Kingdom, or 6d. abroad, from
THE NEAR EAST (Book Department),
16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

ITALY AND MONTENEGRO.

Under date of April 17, Reuter's Rome correspondent reports: In the course of his speech in the Chamber yesterday upon foreign affairs Baron Sonnino remarked that it had been said that Italy ought to have sent a military expedition to Montenegro for its protection, but this theory would not hold water for an instant. King Nicholas preferred exile to signing a separate peace, having confidence that the final victory of the Allies would restore the independence and territorial integrity of his country. The occupation of Durazzo had the temporary object of safeguarding the Serbian Army when the latter was attacked. The Italian land forces were concentrated at Valona. The embarking of the troops at Durazzo was accomplished in particularly difficult circumstances, and the operation reflected great credit on the quality of the Italian forces. The total losses were 307 men, a small figure when compared with the much greater losses inflicted on the enemy.

As regards the legal position in North Epirus following recent events, he was assured that the Greek Government had formally recognised that the occupation of this region was of a purely temporary character and for purposes of policing and not of conquest. Greece recognised to-day the decisions of the Ambassadorial Conference in London relative to Albania.

LETTERS AND PARCELS FOR TROOPS IN EGYPT.

An official notice issued on Monday evening states:—

In consequence of a revision of the arrangements for delivering letters, etc., to troops in Egypt, correspondence and parcels for such troops should not in future be addressed to any particular place; but the final words of the address should be "Egyptian Expeditionary Force." This arrangement applies to all troops in Egypt, including the troops forming the Force hitherto known as the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, as well as those forming the Force in Egypt (late Army of Occupation).

The regulations of the postal service are shown in the leaflet entitled "Letters and Parcels for the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force and for the Salonika Force," copies of which are obtainable on application at the larger post offices.

COMFORTS FOR THE WOUNDED.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Will you kindly allow Mrs. Anderson and myself to offer our most grateful thanks to those of your readers who have so generously responded to the appeal for mufflers for the wounded, as a sufficient number has been received?

I shall be very thankful for further contributions to my Eau-de-Cologne Fund, as I have not much money in hand at present, and this little luxury is deeply appreciated by the poor sufferers. As the weather gets warmer it will be more needed than ever.

The eau-de-Cologne sent is of good British make.—I am, etc.,

MARION LEE.

19, The Paragon, Bath, April 9.

A Corfu telegram, received last week, reports that the Serbian Press Bureau declares that a reign of terror exists in the Doiran district and other places from which reports have been received. Komitaji bands are murdering and robbing merchants, gold being chiefly exacted. Twenty citizens of Resan have been taken to Sofia, where, it is reported, they have been put to death.

A semi-official statement, issued by the Serbian Press Bureau in Corfu, says that the Bulgarians are meeting with no success in endeavouring to recruit Albanians for their army. Owing to outrages against Albanian women, the inhabitants of some districts, notably Pishkopeia, have taken up arms against the Invaders.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. April.	1916. April.		1334. Jumada II.	5676. Nisan.
21	8	Friday	17	18
22	9	Saturday.....	18	19
23	10	Sunday	19	20
24	11	Monday	20	21
25	12	Tuesday	21	22
26	13	Wednesday	22	23
27	14	Thursday	23	24

Prince Mirko of Montenegro has been examined by Professor Ortner and a number of specialists in Vienna. He is suffering from under-nourishment.

Prince Alexander of Serbia left Rome on Sunday morning. Before leaving he expressed to the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* his great satisfaction at his reception in London.

Under date of April 17, Reuter's Corfu correspondent reports:—Prince Alexander of Serbia on his arrival here at five o'clock this evening was received by Ministers, members of the Diplomatic Corps, chief officials, members of the various Missions, and representatives of the Allied Armies. French and Serbian guards of honour, with their bands and flags, were in attendance, and an immense crowd filled the streets. After inspecting the guards of honour, Prince Alexander went to the Esplanade, where the Serbian troops marched past. The review was an imposing spectacle, the troops having the appearance of a young army full of dash and enthusiasm, and completely recovered from the stress of the recent campaign. The Prince expressed his lively satisfaction, and the crowd cheered frantically both Prince Alexander and the Serbian Army.

The *Egyptian Gazette* of March 28 reports: Lord Chelmsford, the new Viceroy of India, has arrived at Cairo and was entertained by the Sultan at a banquet at Abdin Palace on Saturday evening. Among the other guests were Lady Chelmsford, the Ministers, M. Albert Defrance, the French Diplomatic Agent, M. Alexander Smirnow, the Russian Diplomatic Agent, Sir Ronald and Lady Graham, Sir Milne and Lady Cheetham, and the Hon. Mr. R. Lindsay.

Lord and Lady Chelmsford, during their brief stay in Egypt, were the guests of the High Commissioner and Lady McMahon. On their departure the High Commissioner accompanied them as far as Suez, and on the morning of March 27, accompanied by the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Archibald Murray, rode out to Moses Well, and from there made a tour of the outer defences of Suez, returning that night to Cairo.

Sir Ralph Paget left London for Scotland on Tuesday.

Sir Afsun ul Mulk has arrived in Cairo, and is staying at Shepheard's Hotel.

The marriage arranged between Lord St. Davids and Miss Betty Rawdon-Hastings will take place at St. Margaret's, Westminster, at 2.15 next Thursday.

The Crown Prince of Serbia has conferred the Order of the White Eagle, Class V., on Dr. Elsie Inglis, Commissioner of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service, in recognition of the work which she did in Serbia. Dr. Inglis, on whom was bestowed the Order of St. Sava III., is the first woman to be decorated with the Order of the White Eagle, which is the highest order in Serbia.

On Thursday of last week Lady Paget attended a meeting of the Serbian Relief Fund Committee, and gave a preliminary report of her experiences with her hospital during the retreat of the Serbian Army and the subsequent occupation of Skoplje by the Bulgarian and German troops. The Committee expressed its deep appreciation of Lady Paget's fortitude and of her narrative.

We learn from a correspondent that Messrs. Tod, T. D. Cree, and J. L. Battey, who are shut up in Kut with General Townshend, were all well a fortnight ago.

The marriage took place on the 11th inst., at St. George's Church, Campden Hill, Kensington, of Lieut.-Colonel Lindsay Sherwood Newmarch to Mrs. Rose, widow of Capt. J. C. Rose, New Zealand Artillery. The Rev. J. R. Robbins officiated. Colonel Newmarch was from 1902 to 1903 Acting Consul-General at Baghdad. In the latter year his appointment as Consul-General was confirmed, and he held the position till 1906, when he returned to India.

Efforts are said to have been made to interest Prince Boris in securing the release of Dr. Gennadieff, the Bulgarian ex-Minister, who was recently arrested. Later reports state that he has been set at liberty, and paid a visit on Tuesday to M. Radoslavoff.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (March 30):—

George Enesco, the great violinist, has been very seriously ill with mumps. His numerous admirers all the world over will be glad to hear that he has now completely recovered, and will shortly recommence his concerts.

M. Stanoevitch, Secretary of the Serbian Legation, left Bucharest on March 20 for Corfu, being seen off at the station by numerous friends and colleagues.

M. C. Dissesco, who is one of Roumania's leading politicians and a brilliant orator, has been suffering for some years from his throat. His ailment has necessitated repeated operations, of which the last was carried out a few days ago by Professor Gluck.

Herr von dem Busche, the German Minister, who has recently spent a few days in Berlin, has now returned to Bucharest.

The *Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to grant permission to Lieut.-Colonel (temporary Brig.-General) Francis Pitt Stewart Taylor, C.M.G., Army Service Corps, to wear the Insignia of First Class of the Order of the White Eagle, conferred upon him by the King of Serbia in recognition of valuable services rendered.

Many readers of THE NEAR EAST will have read with much pleasure the announcement in the *London Gazette* that "the King has been pleased to give and grant unto Lieut.-Colonel Henry Philip Picot, late Indian Army, formerly Military Attaché to his Majesty's Legation at Berne, his Majesty's Royal licence and authority to wear the Insignia of Officer of the Legion of Honour, which decoration has been conferred upon him by the President of the French Republic in recognition of valuable services rendered by him." Colonel Picot was at one time Military Attaché at Teheran, and for two years was also Oriental Secretary to the Legation. He is a recognised authority on the Near East, and has many important interests in that part of the world. On the death of Mr. H. F. B. Lynch, M.P., he succeeded to the latter's interests in the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company, and he took an active part in securing the control of the oilfields of Southern Persia for this country. During his service with the Indian Army he took part in several campaigns and was frequently mentioned in despatches.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Order of the Nile, third class, upon El Miralai J. Powell Bey, M.B., of the Medical Corps, on his retirement from service in the Egyptian Army.

The King has been pleased to grant permission to Mr. Kenneth Peel Birley, ex-President of the British Chamber of Commerce at Alexandria, to wear the Insignia of the Second Class of the Order of the Nile conferred upon him by the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered.

Speaking at the luncheon given at the Mansion House last Friday in connection with the annual meeting of the Association of Municipal Corporations, the Lord Mayor referred to the story that an ancestor of Lord Derby was once offered the Throne of Greece. Lord Derby, in reply, said that he had never been able to get to the truth of the story, but he rather believed that his father's elder brother was approached on the matter. Had he accepted the offer, added Lord Derby, there would have been no question of Greek neutrality to-day.

The Rev. John Hilton Molesworth, lately chaplain of All Saints' Church, Cairo, has been appointed by the Lord Chancellor to the living of Feltwell, in Norfolk, about twelve miles from Ely, where he hopes to commence work at the end of May.

Mr. E. B. Norton, formerly of the Egyptian Public Works Department, is at present Commandant of the Al Hayat Depôt, Helouan, with the rank of Major.

The death took place last Friday at Hove of Mrs. Wallis, widow of Mr. John Edward Wallis, Judge in the Mixed Tribunals of Egypt. Mrs. Wallis was eighty-four years old.

The death is announced of Mr. Charles Alfred Cooper, a former editor of the *Scotsman*, and the author of "Seeking the Sun," a series of letters from Egypt. He was 87 years old.

It is announced that Lieutenant-Colonel Richard C. B. Throckmorton, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, attached Wiltshire Regt., has been killed in action. He served at Malta from 1894 to 1896, and at Aden from 1896 to 1897, and afterwards took part in the South African War.

It is officially announced that Major Oswald Head Lawson (Indian Army) has died of wounds. He took part in the expedition to Dongola in 1896, and received the Egyptian medal. Afterwards he fought in the Tirah Campaign (1897-98) and took part in the Tibet Expedition.

Lieutenant Louis Latham Baird, R.F.A., who died of wounds on April 11, aged 33, was the elder son of the late Peter Baird, of Muiravonside, Stirlingshire, and grandson of George Latham, M.Inst.C.E., who in 1862 surveyed the route from Basra to Alexandretta. Lieutenant Baird was a mining engineer in Jalisco, Mexico, where he had spent fourteen years. Some months before the war he was taken prisoner, and held to ransom, by the Mexican rebels under Villa. On the outbreak of war he wound up his affairs at Jalisco and returned to this country, and at once received a commission in the R.F.A. He served all through the Dardanelles fighting.

The death is reported of Mr. Arthur Roy Alderson, youngest son of Mr. George B. Alderson, of Alexandria, who was killed in action in France, after having just returned from leave in England, where he leaves a widow and one child, a son, born in October last. Mr. A. R. Alderson, who was the sub-manager at Cairo of the firm of Messrs. Allen, Alderson and Co., had been in Flanders since May, 1915. He joined the Army in October, 1914, and held a commission in the Royal Engineers.

The death took place last Saturday of Mr. A. M. Broadley, who was senior counsel for Arabi Pasha at his trial in Cairo in 1882. He figures largely in Mr. Wilfrid Blunt's "Secret History of the English Occupation of Egypt" and "Gordon at Khartoum."

The Gold Medal of the Royal Asiatic Society, annually offered for competition in the Public Schools, has this year been awarded to J. R. Hassell, of Denstone College, for his essay on "The Emperor Baber."

In response to letters received from officers serving in Mesopotamia deploring the absence of comforts for the men in our forces, especially the wounded, Lady Reid is sending by the most expeditious route such comforts as

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are possible. Subscriptions or gifts can be sent to 1, Melbury Road, Kensington. The things most desired are goggles, tinned fruit, chocolate, Bovril, cocoa tabloids, jelly tablets, tobacco, Virginia cigarettes, light pyjamas, socks, cotton vests, medical bandages, aspirin, and disinfectants.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (April 4):—

M. Alexander Xenopol, the well-known professor of History at the University of Jassy, has been seriously ill with double pneumonia. We are glad to hear that he is now out of danger.

Baron de Beak-Friis, the Swedish Minister in Vienna, who recently presented his credentials to King Ferdinand, has returned to Vienna. The Swedish Military Attaché, Major de Ström, who accompanied him to Bucharest, has likewise left.

M. Padeanu, Roumanian Consul at Rustchuk, is for the moment in Bucharest.

Noury Zia-Bey, Secretary of the Ottoman Legation at Bucharest, has been transferred to the Turkish Embassy at Vienna.

The Inquiry Department of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John continues to make inquiries concerning British prisoners of war in Turkey and Bulgaria. All inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Inquiry Department, British Red Cross, 18, Carlton House Terrace. It is necessary to give the name, number, rank, company, and battalion of the man to be inquired for, together with the nature and date of the casualty.

Next Tuesday will be the first anniversary of the landing of the Australian and New Zealand soldiers in Gallipoli, and arrangements have been made to commemorate the occasion. In the morning the King and Queen will be present at a memorial service for the Australasian soldiers who fell in Gallipoli to be held in Westminster Abbey. About 2,000 members of the Australian and New Zealand Imperial Forces will march through London to the Abbey, where most of the space will be reserved for them.

After the service a luncheon will be given to the Australians at the Hotel Cecil. In the afternoon a concert, organised by the High Commissioner for Australia and the Agents-General, will be given at His Majesty's Theatre, which has been lent for the purpose by Sir H. Tree. Mr. Hughes, the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, will give an address. Over 1,500 members of the Australian Imperial Force, mostly wounded and convalescent men, will be present. A limited number of seats are available for the public at prices from 2s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. Application should be made to the Australian Military Office, 130, Horseferry Road, S.W.

The Lord Mayor, President, Viscount Bryce, Vice-President, Mr. Aneurin Williams, Chairman of Committee, and the Rev. Harold Buxton, Hon. Secretary, in an appeal on behalf of the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund state that about £40,000 had been collected up to March 1 last. As rapidly as the funds had been received they have been telegraphed to the Russian Caucasus, through reliable intermediaries, including H.M. Consul-General at Moscow, the Mayor of Tiflis, the Catholicos of the Armenian Church, the Central War Victims Relief Committee in Tiflis, and the American missionaries who are engaged in relief work. Money has also been telegraphed to H.M. Consul in Tabriz for the Syrians and the other refugees who have fled to Persia. Cheques should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, at the office of the fund, 96, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

Mr. A. O. Lamplough, whose pictures of Egypt are so well known, is again visiting the Nile, and is expected in Cairo shortly.

The *Egyptian Gazette* reports the death by drowning in the Nile of the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carrick, of Luxor.

The Serbian Relief Fund is already in touch with upwards of 16,000 Serbian prisoners of war in various camps in Germany and Austria-Hungary, and has been able to send supplies of food direct to these camps, through the Russian organisation at The Hague. Shirts, socks, and underclothing are being sent from the Serbian Relief Fund Depot, at 5, Cromwell Road, S.W.

The Sultan of Egypt is having a series painted of all the rulers of that country from Mohammed Ali to the Khedive Tewfik. These pictures will be among the new decorations of Ras-el-Tin Palace. The portrait of the Sultan will head the series.

Sir George Hugh Wyndham, K.C.M.G., C.B., of Rogate Lodge, Petersfield, a former Secretary of Legation at Athens, Petrograd, and Constantinople, and afterwards Minister to Serbia and Roumania, has left unsettled property of the value of £9,549.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

Captain Rhys Williams, D.S.O., K.C., has been appointed Acting Military Attaché to the British Legation at Teheran.

The Governor-General of the Sudan has appointed Captain E. C. Midwinter, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., General Manager, Sudan Government Railways; and Captain M. R. Kennedy, C.M.G., D.S.O., Director of Works, Sudan Government, as additional members of the Governor-General's Council.

Mr. Hargraves, Inspector Egyptian Ministry of Finance, has been definitely appointed Director of the Public Health Department Accounts, and Mr. Emile Cassab, as Director of the Tanzim Department Accounts.

El Bimbashi (temporary Kaimakam) C. R. K. Bacon, of the 15th Sudanese, has been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam, and appointed Officer Commanding 15th Sudanese.

El Bimbashi H. M. Craigie-Halkett, of the Blue Nile District, has retired from service in the Egyptian Army.

Captain Avendell F. C. Martyn, Royal Army Medical Corps, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army, with the rank of Bimbashi, vice El Miralai J. Powell Bey, M.B., struck off. This officer is posted to the Medical Corps.

Captain H. C. E. Jebb, and Lieutenant H. B. H. White, having reported their arrival in Egypt from England, have been attached to the Egyptian Army as Special Service Officers and granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi. Captain Jebb has been posted to the 12th Sudanese and Lieutenant White to the 1st Battalion.

Miralai Woodward Bey, D.S.O., Governor of Upper Nile Province, Sudan, has reverted to the British Army on completion of ten years' service with Egyptian Army. Before his departure, the officers, employees, merchants and notables of the Upper Nile Province expressed to him their regret at his severing connection with them and their best wishes for success in his future career.

A number of the engineers and officials of the Egyptian Public Works Ministry have made a subscription for a presentation to Mr. Williams, Inspector-General of Irrigation on the occasion of his retirement from the service on April 1.

Major C. C. Lamb, the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) has ceased to be attached to the Egyptian Army as special service officer with effect from April 1, 1916.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

GORDON—On March 26, at Alexandria, the wife of Stanley I. Gordon, of a son.

GRAY.—On March 24, to Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Gray, Teheran—a son.

MARRIAGE.

NEVILL—LE BAS.—On January 4, 1916, at the British Consulate and the Church of the Epiphany, Port Said, Egypt, Cuthbert St. John Nevill, of B Battery H.A.C., elder son of Sir Walter and Lady Nevill, of St. Bernard's, Highbury New Park, London, to Eunice May, daughter of the late Philip and Mrs. Le Bas, of St. Andrew's, Guernsey.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1916.

THE LULL IN THE NEAR EAST.

The threat of big things in the Near East has not materialized. On the one hand, the attack on Salonika, which was to round off the successful thrust of the Germans and their allies through Serbia, has not been undertaken; on the other hand, it is open to the enemy to taunt the Allies that on the only occasion on which they have not sent, as the saying is, a boy on a man's errand, they are reduced to impotence. There can be little doubt that the Franco-British force at Salonika is not yet "pulling its weight" in the Allied boat. It has kept the enemy out of Greece, and to this extent has thwarted his plans; it is preventing a certain number of German and Austrian troops from being employed elsewhere; but in the general scheme of things it cannot be said that so far the results of the landing at Salonika have been proportionate to the effort. This is, however, not to say that the expedition ought never to have been despatched. It was, as we know, too late to achieve its primary object—the protection of Serbia—and from the date of its arrival it has remained, through no fault of its own, more or less in the air. The presence of a Franco-British force at Salonika to be effective required the co-ordination of several other military movements. If the Serbians could not remain long enough in Serbia to enable it to bring them help, it was out of the question that this force should unaided carry on the war in the Balkans. What was required when the expedition arrived too late to save Serbia was the immediate correlation of every effort that the Allies could put forth in this theatre. An understanding with the Roumanians would have sufficed to set in motion both the Salonika force and the Roumanian army. Together they represent a factor that at any time would be decisive in the Balkans, and only bad business management has kept the two idle for so long. There is no desire to overlook the difficulties in the situation. Roumania's participation in the war is dependent on the fulfilment of certain conditions, and unfortunately the absence of a single driving power in the Allies' conduct of the war has prevented these conditions from being fulfilled. An advance from Salonika presupposes an entirely new form of transport, and unless there could be an adequate mobilization of effort to provide that transport, the absence of it constituted a sufficient argument against an advance. Again, the absence of a single driving power among the Allies, which, having decided upon the landing at Salonika, would naturally see it carried out to its logical conclusion, is responsible for an unbusinesslike waste of so much potential war energy.

Whether even now the most is to be made of the Allies' opportunities in the Balkans cannot be stated with certainty. Counsels, it is known, have been divided on the subject. One school of thought is strongly opposed to any dissipation of strength, and advocates that Serbia and the Balkans should be left for all time to themselves, while the two main armies continue to confront one another in parallel lines of trenches on the western front. This line of argument, if pressed, would compel the French Commander-in-Chief to concentrate his forces, say, at Verdun and Ypres, while leaving other parts of the line, from the Channel to Switzerland, undefended. There seems to be as much reason in challenging the enemy's advance in the Balkans as there is in holding him now on the Franco-Belgian frontier. A serious defeat at any one point in the western line must affect the position along the whole length of it. A similar reverse in the Balkans may not result in the killing of so many Germans, but it will affect no less materially the whole strategic outlook for the enemy. If Bulgaria could be detached from the alliance which King Ferdinand and his bribed Government contracted with the Central Powers, Turkey's resistance would come to an end at once. The Allies and Roumania could invade Hungary and threaten the enemy at a vital spot. To enable Bulgaria to break with her present allies, whose presence in the country is resented by the mass of Bulgarians, it may only be necessary to deal one or two decisive blows on the army in the field. The far-reaching objects to be attained are at least worthy of the attempt. What immediate prospects there are of the Allies breaking the German line in the west we have no means of knowing. The effort will at least have a better chance of success, and must prove far less costly, if it is launched when the Central Powers have to defend themselves on yet another front in the Banat. A vigorous thrust in the Balkans, not necessarily confined to the difficult mountain tracks that lead from the Salonika district into the interior, is the one preliminary step needed.

Those who believe that the duration of the war can be materially shortened by military action in the Near East will perhaps allow their hopes to be raised by the negotiations now in progress between the Allies and the Greek Government regarding the transportation of the Serbian army over Greek railways. If the Franco-British force at Salonika is to remain at its present strength, and is to be reinforced by the whole Serbian army, it is difficult to believe that the offensive is not shortly to be taken against the Bulgarians. In the long run the problem resolves itself into a question of men, and for that reason the ultimate decision may depend more on the solution of the recruiting question in Great Britain than on General Sarrail's estimate of the difficulties of the undertaking. On both sides, therefore, the lull in the Near East has reflected to some extent the exhaustion of the belligerents. In the case of the enemy, we hope and believe that the exhaustion represents a permanent factor—with the Germans and Austrians an exhaustion of fighting strength which cannot be replaced; with the Bulgarians an exhaustion of moral and of the enthusiasm which impelled the army against the Serbians, but fails it when it is called upon to drag out the campaign against the Entente Powers. As far as Great Britain is concerned, there can fortunately be no question of her resources being used up at this stage; but we may trust that at last the policy of uncertainty and *laissez faire* has been exhausted. General Sarrail at Salonika may well hesitate to advance until he is satisfied that a steady flow of reinforcements is assured. No such promise is likely to have been given him so long as the demands allowed on the British Army were to be subordinated to an inadequate supply in preference to a policy which would open the doors of supply to the widest limits in order that all possible demands should be instantly met. When the sounder course is adopted the period of marking time in the Balkans should come to an end.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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JOURNEYINGS IN ASIA MINOR.

By MARY A. POYNTER.

IV.—From Eski-shehr to Konia.

The railway line from Eski-shehr to Konia seems to be laid out with more direct intention than that from Eski-shehr to Angora, the former it would seem being impressed with its ultimate destination—Baghdad. When the line from Constantinople viâ Eski-shehr and Konia to Baghdad is completed, the journey must be made in seventy-two hours, so that calls at the stations must be hasty ones instead of the pleasant and many minute visits the train makes at each town and hamlet it passes through to-day. This latter way of travelling is more agreeable, especially if one is not in any particular hurry, and also has the desire to get acquainted with the country and its people. Even getting up to take a five o'clock train of a spring morning is not a laborious undertaking, since it does not involve bustling through a restful old landscape at express speed, or any other exciting experience out of keeping with the country's environment.

And here I would say a word relative to the exigencies of the present situation in this part of the world. From our comparatively recent experience with railway travel in Asia Minor, it seems rather difficult to imagine how these one-track lines, running most leisurely up hill and down dale, and even over high mountains as they do, lines not too well laid and with limited equipment, short also of men and material in this time of war, are going to transport great armies and at the same time to carry even the necessary food supplies to Constantinople and its neighbourhood. All this, to say nothing of their attempting to supply the Balkan States and Austria and Germany with the provisions of which Turkey so sorely stands in need herself, since all communication has been cut off with Black Sea ports and with the Mediterranean. It looks very much as if the Germanic Powers had been counting spoils that could not be delivered.

On starting out from Eski-shehr we took the precaution to provide ourselves with provisions for the whole day's journey, for the wayside stations do not provide refreshment stands, though they offer plenty of quiet entertainment otherwise. A pair of gay saddle-bags, which we, as outsiders, unfortunately did not possess, is the Asia Minor equivalent for a Gladstone bag or a smart dress-suit case. As on the Eski-shehr-Angora line there is a fountain, a well, at every station, and the Faithful, with common clay jug (often of antique pattern), with pitcher and bucket, rush from the train for a cooling draught. If it chances to be one of the five appointed hours for daily prayer, the men will say their *namaz* on the station platform, or will go into the adjoining fields that offer more room, though scarcely more privacy. When the train is ready to start, it sometimes happens that the men engaged with their prayers are oblivious to the usual summons, and the motley crowd at the well takes no heed until the gendarme cries "Haidé! haidé!" and the train shows symptoms of getting under way. Then there is a great scrambling towards the third-class carriages, and jeers from the onlookers at the station as some poor elderly *baba* almost succeeds in being left behind. The great proportion of passenger traffic—indeed nearly all—is third-class, as tourist travel can hardly yet be said to have begun in this part of Asia Minor.

The railway along this route follows at first up the valley of the Pursak—the same Pursak that joins the Sangarius river midway between Eski-shehr and Angora—winding for some miles among the limestone hills, crossing and recrossing the river, rumbling through tunnels and narrow cuttings, glimpsing many weird rock formations and artificial caves, doubtless once the habitations of man, until Alayund, a station on the eastern edge of the great plain of Kutahia, is reached. Here there is a branch line running up to Kutahia, some eight miles away. Kutahia (old Kotyäon), which lies at the foot of a mountain, was in its day surrounded by fine walls, and was the seat of the Sultans of Karaman until it came under Ottoman sway in the time of Mohammed the Conqueror. In the nineteenth century it offered refuge to many Polish and Hungarian refugees, even to so distinguished a fugitive as Louis Kossuth. Kutahia was a centre also where art—at least in pottery—was encouraged, and flourished to a really notable degree. Its wonderful old work in faience—after Persian methods—sometimes so good that it has been confused with Rhodian ware, has decreased in output and degenerated in quality; though occasional specimens that are offered for sale at the station of Alayund and elsewhere show a pleasing, if rather glaring, colouring, and the persistence of some of the old forms and patterns indicate that the art is not completely lost.

After Alayund the railway runs in a south-westerly direction along a river valley called the Tchai Su until it reaches another broad upland plain. This plain opens the way to many interesting districts. On a spur of the mountains some twenty-five miles to the left of the railway station of Duver the traveller with an inquiring mind may find the site of the chief city of the old Phrygian kingdom; here also are the rock tombs, comparatively recently discovered, of the old Phrygian kings. Some of these royal tombs are wonderfully sculptured and ornamented, and one of them records that it is the tomb of King Midas, or one of his kingly descendants. But the Midas touch that turned all things to gold has ceased for long centuries to perform such function. The inhabitants of Phrygia to-day see little gold, though much hard labour falls to their share. The mountains here are wooded dense and deep in places, and the air is gloriously pure and exhilarating and not too cold during the summer months. Already there have been one or two expeditions, "camping out" parties, in the neighbourhood of the Phrygian tombs, and delightful stories are told of camp life among the pines and of the wonders to be seen among these mountains.

The villages on the great plains leading down, or rather up from Eski-shehr to Konia seem to be better built and look a trifle more prosperous than those on the plains leading on to Angora; and the carriage roads—perhaps it would be more accurate to say cart roads—may present fewer bumps and inequalities than those in some parts of Asia Minor, or Anatolia, as this part of the world is more frequently called at the present time. One of the most interesting survivals of a past going back into the dawn of history is the Phrygian cart with its two solid wooden wheels revolving on a wooden axle. This cart is seen to more æsthetic and quite beautiful effect on a frieze of the classic sarcophagus called "The Weepers," now in the museum at Constantinople. But it is seen in modern life, and most interestingly, as it goes creaking over the Phrygian plains to-day, carrying not too heavy loads and drawn by placid white oxen or the kindly, though ugly, black water buffaloes, who never seem to hurry with their burden. During the heat of the summer much of this sort of travel goes on at night, and a friend who was camping out in this region one season asked the driver of one of these carts why he did not oil his wheels to keep them from creaking. "Aman, aman," he answered, "it keeps the oxen awake!" And so they go creaking down the centuries, creaking so loudly in their leisurely progress that sometimes they can be heard even above the roar of the train.

Before the railway came the only really long-distance burden bearers were the camels, and caravans of these wind solemnly through the landscape still, led or preceded as usual by the donkey—this custom being an affront which the camel, on one of the occasions when he has been credited with the gift of speech, said he would never forgive!

Dark-visaged Kurdish soldiers and their hardy mounts were seen at some stations on their way homeward-bound from the war. I think they felt, as they looked, rather foreign among the peaceful-looking population of these particular plains. The dogs of the whole countryside have learnt to know what time each train is due, and are waiting in numbers for its arrival; and very persistent beggars they are beneath the windows of those who are taking their lunches on the train. The favourite feeding-grounds of the storks are the occasional marshy places on the plains, and there seems to be enough food for them and to spare, for during the stork and frog season there is a continuous chorus throughout the day as well as during the night from these happy feeding-grounds. The stork stands in the shallow pools in dozens, posing on one leg with a grave, meditative air, and it is not often one can catch him losing his dignity enough to grasp crudely for the dinner that is croaking at his feet.

On our visit to Konia, Spring's armistice with Winter was over, peace had been signed, and full Summer was at hand. The yellow iris was growing luxuriantly in the moist places, and all over the plains there were bright patches of colour of the different flowers known to Phrygia. Anyone travelling through these places at the end of May, as we did, perhaps might hardly recognise them two months later, burned as they would be by the sun that shines so hotly during the summer days. But everywhere we stopped on these highlands we were told of winters many months long and of snows that lie deep and winds that blow exceeding chill. So the traveller who visits this part of Asia Minor for pleasure, business, or in the interests of archæology usually chooses the five mild months for his journey. The site at least of almost every modern town was chosen centuries back by a people who left temples and written records in marble and who bore names more impressive than those borne by the poor people who now occupy these places. But the ancients who chose to build their cities here must have been a hardy race—as are the people who continue the succession, though not the old traditions, to-day.

We came to the important town of Afium Kara Hissar about mid-day on our journey, and its striking appearance commanded immediate attention. A great rock rises precipi-

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tously about eight hundred feet above the plain and the fortress or citadel built upon its top by Ala-eddin seems to crown a sheer height—from the railway one can see no road or a place for a road that would seem to lead to the summit. The town itself lies at the base of this impressive rock and against a gently-sloping hillside behind. In ancient times it was called Akro Enos, and doubtless it has always been an important place, unique certainly as to situation, and important in earlier days as a station on the old caravan road that led south and eastward. Now Afium Kara Hissar is the home of some 20,000 people, mostly Turkish, and is the junction where the railway from Smyrna joins this, the Anatolian railway proper. Its carpets and inlaid woodwork are in demand, and the opium it exports is said to be the best in the world. The poppy fields spread out in all directions, a mass of mauve and white blossoms in the early summer, and the broad plain is fertile and produces many crops other than that grown for the production of opium. The special interest that this town has for us here in England at this moment is that a number of British and French prisoners of war are now confined there, of whom we hear not too uncomfortable reports occasionally through the newspapers.

From Afium Kara Hissar a three hours' drive to the westward will bring one to the wonderful marble mountain of Synnada—wonderful for the varied and many beautiful marbles it furnished to the classic world, though all unworked to-day. In the long ago Synnada was one of the chief cities of Central Phrygia. Strabo speaks of it and its marbles, and says: "Although the distance from the sea is so great, this forms no obstacle to the export to Rome of pillars and tables of immense size and of surprising beauty." Cicero refers to the town of Synnadensius, which he passed on his way from Ephesus to Cilicia. The old town is gone, but its marbles endure. Rome and other parts of Italy have beautiful and extensive samples of them,* but perhaps they are seen to most beautiful advantage of all in the decoration of the inner walls of Santa Sophia at Constantinople. Paulus Silentiarius, the royal poet, who sang the praises of this church—perhaps Justinian's greatest achievement—says, in the year 563 A.D.: "Yet who, even in the measures of Homer, shall sing the marble pastures gathered in the lofty walls and spreading pavement of the mighty church? . . . the many coloured marbles from the Phrygian range in which a rosy blush mingles with white, or it shines bright with flowers of deep red and silver . . ."; and again this poet tells that "Some of the fair columns that the masons have set up are from the Phrygian land towards the Mygdonian heights, hewn with strong axes; and looking on these flowers of stone one would say that white lilies mingled with rose cups or the soft petals of the short-lived anemone. Here . . . . is abundance of red and a mere tinge of white; there . . . thin sinews mix with the veins which dye the columns deep red as with drops from the Laconian shell." It is suggested that the famous so-called Alexander the Great sarcophagus and the other royal sarcophagi found at Sidon late in the last century were sculptured from this same Synnadic marble. The friend—since passed away—who gave me much data and many interesting accounts of this ancient marble storehouse said of his visit there: "We wandered over the mountain day after day, each day feeling the more one's incapacity to express the extent and the richness of the marble treasures here exposed to view. We visited twenty-five of the principal old quarries, which were all we could examine in the time at our disposal, . . . but truly their number is best expressed by the Oriental figure of one thousand and one. The largest quarry, known to the peasants as the 'great beehive,' is stupendous. As one climbs up the adjoining hill, made of marble chips, it suddenly bursts upon the sight, and the view of its extent, length, breadth, and depth has a most startling effect on the beholder. It looks like the end of a world, a scene of ruin and confusion, and the wonder increases when one reflects that all this has been wrought, not by convulsion of Nature, but by the puny hand of man, indicating what the toil of armies of slaves during untold ages has accomplished. A valley has simply been hewn out of the solid mountain; the clear-cut, precipitous sides stand sheer up on either side two hundred feet above present levels, . . . while at either end are peaks of hills of chippings." My friend further speaks of the wonderful variety and rich colourings of the marbles, and of one great quarry where the marble "was almost entirely of the purest and finest statuary marble." And adds that, "although man has worked these quarries for probably 3,000 years, he as yet has done nothing more than nibble at their treasures." Phrygian, Roman, Greek, and Byzantine mined here in their day, but these peoples and nations underwent great changes, and in course of time even the Roman road to Ephesus by which they carried their marbles to the sea became, through disuse, lost to man as a thoroughfare.

* As a single example, take the interior pillars of St. Paul's. Outside the Walls at Rome, pillars originally a part of Hadrian's tomb.

The plain onward from Afium Kara Hissar is bounded by quite high mountains, one of them, Sultan Dagh, reaching a commanding height, as its name would indicate. There are long stops at many small towns, as, for example, at Tchai (of old, Julia Ipsos), a place of importance in early days and also during the First Crusade; to-day it possesses the ruins of a Seljuklan *kan* and a *medresseh* that are worth inspecting for the beauty of their tiles and general ornamentation.

The great swampy lake of Ak Shehr is seen on the left for some time before the town of Ak Shehr is reached. This lake furnishes an abundance of fish, and, since there is no river of any size on this plain, it performs a very useful mission, and offers a good excuse for covering so large an extent of territory. Ak Shehr (formerly old Philomelion in Pisidia) is a town of distinct interest even to-day. It possesses some buildings, notably the Tash medresseh, with its beautiful gateway built in the thirteenth century, whose tiles, carvings, and other ornamentation show that the Seljuks had an art, borrowed perhaps in the first instance from Persia and Arabia, but in the end made quite distinct and, so to speak, their own. Here also is the tomb of Nasr-eddin Hodja, that humorist, fool, pious and wise man combined, who lived in the beginning of the fifteenth century, and whose tales and sayings, though so truly Turkish, are "relished by the best of men" far beyond Turkish borders. Even many modern tales and sayings of the Near East are attached to his name, which seems to have magic in it, and always ensures them a hearing. Nasr-eddin's tomb is a favourite place of Moslem pilgrimage, and to its lattices are attached many bits of garments, cloths, etc., put there by those in sore need and with the hope that some of the Hodja's accredited powers of healing may adhere thereto. The tomb has a gateway, but no surrounding wall or railing which would be the reason for having the said gateway. Perhaps this was done with a view of perpetuating the inconsistencies of the oracle himself, according to his sprightly and sometimes—though not always—subtle tales.

We were greatly tempted to step off at Ak Shehr on our journey to Konia, and go on horseback or take one of the comfortable-looking, gaily covered *talekas*, always in wait at the station, across the high hills to the right to a point where Sir William and Lady Ramsay had just pitched their summer tent—the former to carry on his work of excavations at the little village of Yalovatch that occupies the site of old Antioch-in-Pisidia. We had been asked to visit this camp, but, as this would involve the expenditure of more free days than we could then command, we reluctantly gave up that side expedition. Sir William Ramsay's name is a password throughout Asia Minor, and his work in connection with his discovery of the sites of Derbe and Lystra and of some of the Phrygian tombs, as well as his researches in all this region of St. Paul's labours, has been recorded in permanent and deeply interesting book form. Here in Antioch-in-Pisidia he has discovered one of the last of the old pagan temples, and has found therein inscriptions bearing record of Christians recanting (doubtless under pressure), and has made many other discoveries relative to this town of old, where, to hear Paul and Barnabas preach, "almost the whole city gathered" on a certain Sabbath, and where, "though many believed," the Jews stirred up trouble and persecuted them, so that "they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium."

The train after leaving Ak Shehr (white city) soon skirts a great salt desert with hardly a tree in sight, then wanders through another valley, and comes to the town of Ilghin, near a lake bearing the same name. At this town, in a year something more than 500 B.C., Æsop, of the many fables, was born. Here also are medicinal springs, probably better known and more frequented in former times than they are to-day. Near Maidan the railway reaches its highest point, some 4,335 ft. above sea-level; then it descends into the great plain, a great amphitheatre as it were, of Konia. It was nightfall when we descended into this plain, but not too late to be greeted by a vesper chorus from skylarks, although, when the city of Konia itself was finally reached, it was time for each bird's head to be under its wing and too dark for us to see any of the sights of the town.

MAILS FOR EGYPT.

Beginning this week the mails for Egypt (by British packet) and India and for the Far East generally and Australia, *via* Suez, will be dispatched earlier from London, and the latest posting times for letters will be:—At the General Post Office, London, up to 2 a.m. on Friday without late fee; up to 3 a.m. on Friday with late fee of 1d.; at other offices in London, in time for the night mails on Thursday; in the provinces, corresponding times to ensure arrival at the General Post Office, London, before 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Newspapers and other printed matter should be posted, as at present, to reach the General Post Office, London, before midnight on Tuesday.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Trebizond.

The news of the fall of Trebizond has naturally been received with the greatest satisfaction in England, and most of the London papers publish it together with leading articles on the great Russian success. *The Times* (April 19) discusses the effect which it will have upon the general campaign, and concludes:—

But details about the position of the Russian forces in this campaign are relatively unimportant in comparison with the actual and prospective advantages of their possession of Trebizond. It enables them to make full use of their command of the sea; it secures to them the fruit of their capture of Erzeroum; and it sets its seal upon their remarkably rapid and effective advance from the Caucasian frontier. The fall of Trebizond will be known in Constantinople before long, as the fall of Erzeroum became known, for all the attempts of Enver and his colleagues to suppress the news. Its moral effect must be great, though little evidence of it may reach the outside world for some time to come. Great Britain watches with strained attention and quick appreciation these swift and crushing blows struck by the Grand Duke against the Turk. They quicken our recognition of his military qualities, and heighten, if that is possible, our admiration of the gallant troops whom he commands.

The *Daily Chronicle* (April 19) says:—

The Russian capture of the great Black Sea port of Trebizond is the most important event that has occurred outside Europe since the capture of Erzeroum. . . The immediate military effect is, that the invading Russian armies in Asia have cleared and secured their right flank. Their centre can now act freely against Erzingian, the main Turkish inland concentration point in Western Armenia. When this is captured, as it may be before very long, Armenia north of the Taurus will be all in their hands. Thus held, the country would be for them a natural fortress, from which there is small risk of their ever being dislodged.

The *Morning Post* (April 19) appends to the news of the fall of the port a despatch from its Petrograd correspondent, from which the following passages are quoted:—

Communications over the whole front are to-day what they were when Alexander the Great fought across the same regions, and must be reckoned in terms of marching men. In other words, the modern machinery of warfare is required to operate under natural conditions which obtained over two thousand years ago. The Turks have on their side all the advantages of superior communications laterally along their strategic front. But these have been discounted by the strategic combinations of the Russians. The steady pressure upon the Turkish centre has been maintained for two months past, during which several advances to secure tactical advantages have been made. The Russians then delivered a heavy attack upon the Turkish left, which caused a diversion of one or two army corps in that direction. Apparently the Turks had been encouraged to hope for success in the direction of Bitlis-Mush, where the Russians are now marking time and repulsing hopeful attacks of the reinforced Ottoman armies. . . . Trebizond has fallen easily, thanks no doubt to attacks from sea and land. On the east, whence the Russians came, it is dominated by a high hill, Boz Tepe, which was no doubt strongly fortified, and to the north of it, at Kalmek Point, the Gasel Serai forts face the sea. Two rivers, the Iskele Boz and Kazghin, flow through the town, entering the sea at the Old Port.

The Defence of Egypt.

The *Morning Post* (April 17) published an interesting article on the above subject from a correspondent who wrote from Eastern Egypt on the 4th inst. The writer thinks that even the misguided Turk must now regard the scheme of holding up traffic on the Suez Canal as a hopeless adventure:—

His preparations continue in a half-hearted fashion; perhaps his pride prevents an open acknowledgment of inevitable failure; but whenever he does anything substantial the energy, the resource, and the bombs of our airmen—an invincible combination—scatter the results of his labours to the four winds. The Turk has not the remotest prospect of success. Probably he appreciates the impossibility of damaging the Canal, but to keep some Bedouins with him, and, what is more important for German policy, to endeavour to influence the Arab population of Asia and Africa, he may pursue a campaign of pinpricks in the shape of affairs of patrols. Anything in the nature of a serious attack on Egypt during the summer months is absolutely out of the question.

The writer goes on to say that our works have been developed at a speed "highly creditable to our troops," and that the Turk will be denied a reasonable chance of ever casting his eyes upon the waterway. A general description of the military works it is, of course, impossible to give, but the writer concludes with the description of the point which we quote below:—

Gebel Murr stands some ten miles north of Musa, a gaunt, stern sentinel guarding the approaches to the Canal on a far-flung line. It is the Gibraltar of the southern end of the zone, a mass of red stone as hard as granite, and with a surface polished by the sands drifted across it through the ages. With the assistance of fifty blasts a day arranged by skilful English miners and quarrymen, Indian soldiers have prepared that inhospitable top, and their officers are satisfied the fortress will stand the tests of war. An enemy marching westward must come through one of two passes, from which he would debouch in full view of Gebel Murr, who rears a head nearly 400 ft. above the sand, yet looks low and unimposing compared with the jagged ridges of Gebel Raha away to the west. Gebel Murr will take toll of any column that issues from the passes, and would welcome as soft music the bursting of high explosives against its face as a preparation for infantry attack. "Will he come?" Do not say he will not to anyone on Gebel Murr, or the monotony of months spent in carving rooms and underground passages in the toughest stone will be unrelieved by a hope which has almost become the prayer of the patriot.

The Position of Turkey.

Captain H. M. Johnstone, in his monthly War Notes contributed to the *United Services Magazine* (April), naturally devotes the greater portion of his space to a consideration of the battle of Verdun and its bearing upon the other fields of war. We quote the concluding paragraph of his notes, which follows a brief description of the Turkish positions against the British and Russian armies:—

We are expecting too much in the immediate present from our Russian Ally's successes. He is doing great things, but the exits from the Erzerum plateau are very troublesome at this season. His most promising moves from our point of view are the capture of Bitlis and the work he has done towards Kermanshah and Kirind, where he is said to be only 130 miles short of Baghdad. But the occupation of Kirind is almost certainly only by a mounted party of no great size, far ahead of the main body, and there are formidable passes, and he is operating in a country where his lines of supply to the rear of his columns are both long and difficult. The end of the Turkish resistance in Mesopotamia no doubt is beginning to show above the horizon, but the horizon is still some distance off. Meantime, General Townshend's situation seems to be pretty happy.

An American Opinion.

The *Christian Science Monitor* (March 30), of Boston, Mass., contains an interesting study of the present position in the Near East. After commenting upon the fact that the armies of the Central Empires and Bulgaria "have almost worked themselves to a standstill," while, on the other hand, the Allies, reinforced by the reconstituted Serbian army, have large and powerful forces at their disposal, the writer continues:—

Everything points, in fact, to a thorough-going offensive in Macedonia of some considerable importance. The Anglo-French contingencies now at Salonica are considerably stronger than is necessary for the mere defence of that port, and, when they are properly equipped for mountain warfare, there is no reason why, with the aid of the Serbian army, a forward movement should not be made with every hope of success. The object of the movement would, of course, be to threaten the flank of the German communications with Constantinople, and also to commence the work of the liberation of Serbia. The only thing which is likely to cause serious inconvenience is the absence of roads and railways in a country which is distinguished by its mountainous character. Against this, it must be taken into account that they could move forward simultaneously from three bases—namely, Salonica, Kavalla and Santiquaranta.

In regard to the possibilities of an offensive by our enemies, the writer thinks that this danger is past:—

The Austrian and German troops are urgently needed elsewhere, and, as far as is known, some of them have been transported into Bulgaria and others into Galicia. On their part, the Bulgars have done all that they bargained for, and are disinclined to battle themselves to pieces against the defences of Salonica unless they are assured of some adequate recompense for the sacrifices involved. This would entail the cession to them of either Kavalla or Salonica, or perhaps both, and as such payment would herald the entry of the Greek army, it is not practicable for the Germans to go so far in present circumstances. In short, the military operations of the Central Empires in the Balkans have led them into a cul-de-sac, although it must be admitted that their main object—*i.e.*, that of opening up communications with the Turks—has been successfully accomplished.

By order of General Sarrail, a Salonika newspaper has been suspended for publishing information regarding movements of Allied troops.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Turkish Reports. April 13.

Lord STRACHIE referred to the Turkish *communiqué*, published in the morning papers, announcing a British defeat on the Tigris on April 9. In the evening papers this was amplified by a statement that on the previous Sunday the Turks counted 3,000 dead in front of their trenches. As a result of this being published without any correct British statement accompanying it, friends and relatives of our men had been needlessly distressed. As we had at the present moment such a strict censorship of the Press, and nothing was supposed to be published which was inconvenient or against public policy, surely it would have been right to censor such statements as this, about the truth of which the Government knew nothing.

Lord SANDHURST: With reference to the Turkish report that some 3,000 British dead were collected in front of the Turkish trenches after the attack of the 9th, Sir Percy Lake reports that our total casualties in killed and wounded are much below this figure. He has satisfied himself by personal inspection and from inquiry amongst the wounded themselves that the medical arrangements generally have been satisfactory.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Advance on Baghdad. April 10.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN informed Mr. Bryce that the proposal to advance on Baghdad after the battle of Kut-el-Amarah was made neither by the Government of India nor by his Majesty's Government, but by the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Mesopotamia. General Townshend was under the command of General Sir John Nixon, and he did not communicate either with the Government of India or with his Majesty's Government.

Message from General Townshend.

Mr. ASQUITH, replying to a question put by Mr. Malcolm, said:—The King has graciously permitted me to read to the House the following telegram from Sir Percy Lake, dated February 17, 1916:—

"General Townshend has asked me to kindly communicate the following message to the King-Emperor:—'It is hard for me to express by words how profoundly touched and inspirited all ranks of my command have been by his Majesty's personal message. On their behalf and my own, I desire to express to his Majesty that the knowledge that we have gained the praise of our beloved Sovereign will be our sheet-anchor in this defence. —GENERAL TOWNSHEND.'"

Germany and Islam.

Lord ROBERT CECIL informed Mr. R. M'Neill that the contents of the papers recently captured in East Africa revealing the German attitude towards Islam were at once telegraphed to the British authorities in Egypt in order that the widest publicity might be given to them in Egypt and the Sudan, and copies of the papers were sent to the French and Italian Ambassadors in London. The French and Italian Governments had doubtless considered how they might best be used. Steps were being taken to obtain photographic facsimiles of the original documents, and these would be made available in the same way for circulation in Moslem countries.

A Suppressed Telegram.

Lord ROBERT CECIL informed Sir A. Markham that the telegram of the Tsar to the Kaiser, dated July 29, 1914, stating that it would be right to give over the Austro-Serbian problem to The Hague Tribunal was omitted from the German White-book. He understood that after its publication in the Russian Press the telegram was published in Germany with an unconvincing explanation as to its omission.

Consular "Hostages."

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Col. YATE, said information had been conveyed to the German Government that the German Consul at Salonika was being held prisoner by the French Government at the request of his Majesty's Government pending the release of the British Consul at Shiraz, in Persia. The intimation was made to the German Government on January 21. No fixed time was named within which the exchange was to be effected.

Germans in Persia.

Lord R. CECIL, answering Col. YATE, said information had been received to the effect that the Persian authorities had recently arrested certain German officers in Southern Persia, and his Majesty's Minister at Teheran had been instructed to ask, if this was the case, that the persons in question might be detained pending the release of the British prisoners at Ahram.

General Townshend's Position.

Mr. PETO asked the Under-Secretary for War whether the fact that, owing to the course that the operations in Mesopotamia had taken, General Townshend had been passed over for promotion had been considered; and whether he could undertake that, if and when he was relieved, the fact that the forces under his command had been besieged for the past four months would not be a factor which would operate to deprive him of rank which, under other circumstances, he might have been given.

Mr. TENNANT: I am informed that Major-General Townshend is forty-ninth on the list of major-generals, and that he has not been superseded. I cannot give any undertaking in the sense mentioned in the latter part of the question, but the House may be well assured that none of the circumstances attending General Townshend's skilful and gallant defence of Kut and his conduct of the operations connected therewith will fail to receive adequate and sympathetic consideration.

Greece and the Allies. April 18.

Mr. OUTHWAITE asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether any protest had been made by the Greek Government in connection with the recent occupation of Greek territory by the forces of the Allies; and, if so, could he make any statement on the subject.

Sir E. GREY replied that certain protests regarding the measures the Allied Governments have been obliged to take on Greek territory and in Greek territorial waters had been received from the Hellenic Government. The circumstances which rendered such measures necessary were as follows:—The French and British Governments originally decided to dispatch troops to Salonika on the invitation of the then Greek Prime Minister. Shortly afterwards there was a change in the Greek Government, accompanied by a change of policy on the part of Greece, but the Allies could not recede from the undertaking they had given. Serbian territory was overrun by hostile forces, and the Allies had to take the Serbians to the nearest available place of refuge. The presence of the Allied forces at Salonika and the Serbian forces at Corfu had led to the Allies taking certain naval measures and precautions in Greek islands and waters to provide for the safety of the forces themselves, and the shipping employed in keeping the forces supplied. The reason for these measures was apparent: it was due to the action in the Ægean of enemy submarines using Greek islands as bases of operation. Any steps of this nature which the Allies might take followed as a natural consequence on the decision to send an expedition to the help of Serbia, a decision which was come to in the first instance at the request of Greece herself.

The Future of Constantinople.

Mr. OUTHWAITE asked whether the Foreign Secretary's attention had been called to a statement by M. Longuet, of the French Chamber of Deputies, to the effect that the Socialist Parliamentary Party had called on its representatives in the Government to urge that the Russian Government should be invited to forgo its claim to Constantinople in order to make possible the withdrawal of Turkey from alliance with the Central Powers, and to the further statement that this proposal had been favourably considered by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French Parliament, and would he give consideration to the subject.

Sir E. GREY: I know nothing of this statement.

Prisoners in Turkey and Bulgaria.

Sir E. GREY informed Mr. MALCOLM that reports had been received from the representatives of the United States Government upon the treatment of British prisoners of war interned in Bulgaria and Turkey. The Porte agreed last January to the inspection of camps where British prisoners were interned. A strong protest had been made against the attitude now adopted, which was more inexcusable in view of the excellent treatment that the prisoners of war in our hands received. In reply to a further question, he aded that he could not promise to publish a report on the British prisoners in Bulgaria.

Later, replying to Mr. MALCOLM, Mr. FORSTER said that he had not yet obtained information as to the way in which the Bulgarian and Ottoman Governments were treating and lodging British prisoners of war. He had asked the Foreign Office to ascertain the facts through the American Government.

The Suvla Bay Landing.

Mr. HOHLER asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether any report had been received from Sir Frederick Stopford on the subject of the operations under his command at Suvla Bay, would he state when it was received, and would he cause it to be published seeing that the reports of Sir Ian Hamilton and General Monro had been published.

Mr. TENNANT replied that dispatches had been received from Sir Ian Hamilton and Sir C. C. Monro, and it was customary to publish only the dispatches of the Commanders-in-Chief.

Sir E. CARSON inquired whether Sir F. Stopford had asked for an inquiry.

Mr. TENNANT: I believe that to be so.

Mr. HOHLER: Does the right hon. gentleman remember the case of Sir C. Warren and Sir R. Buller, whose reports were both published, and will he say why the case of Sir Frederick Stopford should not be put before the country as well as that of Sir Ian Hamilton?

Mr. TENNANT: I cannot recall at the moment whether the dispatches to which the hon. gentleman refers were, in fact, published before the conclusion of the war. I think not, but I would not be sure.

Egypt or England?

Mr. CATHCART WASON asked the Under-Secretary for War if orders had been issued that New Zealanders who might be wounded on the Western front must be sent to Egypt; and, in view of the fact that there was ample room in the hospitals in and around London, and that there were many objections, heat, flies, dysentery, infected soil, to sending wounded to Egypt, he would reconsider the matter.

Mr. TENNANT: The whole matter is now under consideration.

For Troops in Irak.

Mr. MALCOLM asked whether the Under-Secretary for War could inform the House what arrangements had been made for shutting the British and Indian troops on the Lower Tigris during the coming hot weather.

Mr. TENNANT was glad to be able to say that provision for proper accommodation was being pushed on.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is informed by the United States Ambassador that an arrangement has now been concluded between the Bulgarian Government and the Swiss Postal Administration for the transmission of all postal packets addressed to British Prisoners of War interned in Bulgaria. Under this arrangement the Swiss Postal Administration undertakes the delivery of the packets to the Bulgarian Post Office at Sofia, which will be responsible for the subsequent distribution to the addressees.

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Our Bucharest Correspondent's interesting account of the second German deal in Roumania throws some further light on a most remarkable operation. The grain deal has gone through at terms favourable for the Roumanians, though they are not less so for the Germans. As a matter of fact, if, on paper, Germany has to pay gold for her grain purchases, Roumania becomes her debtor for the new locomotives, and for the delivery of materials of first necessity to the value of £6,000,000, so that, in reality, the Huns are paying partly in kind, which is regrettable, though, after all, one cannot blame Roumania. A hopeful sign of the times, however, is the fact that Roumania has insisted on the return of her property —twenty-one engines—which the Germans ruthlessly took from her at the beginning of the war. It shows that neutrals are beginning to understand the unscrupulous business methods of the Huns, and are taking due precautions. If ever the day should dawn when a foreign country can say to us: "Give us back the goods you stole from us, or we shall have nothing to do with you"—then it will be time for Britannia to abdicate.

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According to the German papers, the grain bought by them in their second deal amounted to 140,000 (not 100,000) trucks, as follows: 30,000 wagons of wheat and rye (i.e., all available stocks held in the country after the British deal, exclusive of 40 per cent. kept for home consumption), 100,000 wagons of maize, and 10,000 wagons of barley, beans, and peas.

***

The following further announcements have been received from Roumania during the week. One message reports the arrival from Germany of stocks and gold to the value of £2,500,000 for the part payment of cereals. It is now reported that, as a result of the institution in Berlin of a branch of the Roumanian Importation Commission—referred to in these columns last week—the Germans are organising a similar bureau in Bucharest. Further, Reuter reported on April 14 (delayed in transmission) that the Exports Commission "has intimated to corn merchants in Roumania that at the last meeting of the Commission it was decided that dealers who have offered 40 per cent. of wheat for home consumption may register at the British bureau for the sale of 30 per cent. of their stock."

***

The Roumanian Government has decided on an internal loan of £6,000,000, redeemable in forty years. At a meeting on the 17th inst., at Bucharest, of the nine principal banks (says the *Times* correspondent in the Balkan Peninsula), it was decided to guarantee this loan, to be issued at 84 with commission at 1½ per cent. The interest will probably be 5 per cent. It is expected (adds Reuter) that the amount will be easily raised, which, from what I know of Roumania, seems to me more than likely.

***

With reference to the Egyptian cigarette industry in February, the *Egyptian Gazette* of April 4 quotes from the *Monthly Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt for March (page 57) to the following effect: "The most noticeable increase (in the exports of cigarettes) was to Holland, which took £E4,451 worth, as against £E1,818 last January, although this was probably not for home consumption. It seems a pity that the Government cannot see its way to allowing the exportation of Egyptian cigarettes to Germany through neutral countries. If we can get good gold from the enemy and give them nothing in return but smoke, surely it is not such a bad exchange."

***

Strange to say, the *Daily Chronicle* yesterday, in an editorial article on "Fighting the Blockade," referred to tobacco. It said: "The blockade can never deprive the German Army of tobacco, as the Central Empires are considerable producers of tobacco themselves, while they can draw upon the Balkan States and Turkey. If Germany likes to waste her money in buying and importing such an article of luxury as tobacco, for the sake of the civilian population, there is no special reason why we should complain, unless she is paying for the tobacco in goods."

***

In the above case, the difference between payment in kind and gold is practically nil. The real difference lies between right and wrong, between trading with the enemy and not trading with the enemy. In the case of Egypt, there is, on the surface, no reason why as many cigarettes as possible should not be exported, considering that the industry is the staple one of the country. But beneath the surface there are many reasons why Germany should obtain *nothing* from Egypt. One exception to this law will create another, and, therefore, it is better that there should be no exception at all. In any case, it does seem extraordinary that the official journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt should have suggested —if the *Gazette's* quotation is accurate— that the local cigarette manufacturers should be allowed to trade with the enemy.

***

The capture of Trebizond by the Russians is the best news we have heard for many a day. The principal Turkish port in the Black Sea, with 60,000 inhabitants, an import trade of nearly £3,000,000, and an export trade scarcely less valuable, the maritime importance of Trebizond is due to its being the terminus of the great trade route from Persia and Central Asia to Europe. In any other but Turkish hands, it would have kept pace with the progress of the world; but, as the *Morning Post* Petrograd correspondent pointed out in a recent despatch dealing with the Russian advance, "it is only half protected from the treacherous winds of the Euxine, and Turkish improvements have been confined to a single mole, badly placed and worse executed, and not more than half-a-dozen modern steamships of medium tonnage can find shelter at one time." Incidentally it may be mentioned that before the war broke out an agreement had been signed between the Turkish Government and Messrs. Sir John Jackson, Ltd., for the construction of the port of Trebizond.

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An amusing eagerness, says the *Daily Chronicle*, is being displayed in the leading commercial cities of Germany to establish trading companies having for their objective the Levant and the Near and Middle East. The most recent company founded with this object is the "Berlin Central for Furthering German Economic Interests in the Orient." The company's programme deals with the Balkan States, Greece, Turkey, and Persia, and announces the formation of an ancillary organisation which will have as its objects "Study and Propaganda." There are to be bureaux established in the countries to be exploited, and these offices are to be manned by a competent staff of experts. Unfortunately all these various organisations are at loggerheads, and all are jealous of one another. The "B.C.F.G.E.I.O." is bitterly attacked in a leading journal for arrogating to itself claims to which it has no right, and for trenching on the peculiar province of the "German-Turkish Union," the "German Austrian Economic League," the "Balkan-Orient Association," and several other companies with equally sonorous titles and equally unsubstantial claims to the support of the public. In reading the prospectuses and schemes of these noisy promoters, one receives the impression of a number of wily persons engaged in exploiting the prevailing enthusiasm for the Near East and the prevailing ignorance as to what the Near East can do for Germany.

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Which reminds me that recently the *Frankfurter Zeitung* published a note booming the German Asia Minor Society for all it was worth. It was founded in 1906, and has now decided to extend its Asiatic sphere of propaganda to Bulgaria —surely an undeserved compliment for the Bulgars—by organising a system of cinematograph lectures in every village and hamlet and town in Bulgaria, illustrating German kultur—exclusive of Namur and Liège—and industry. According to the paper quoted, the G.A.M.S. is the only association of its kind that can promote Teuton interests in the Near East —an assertion which, I feel sure, will be roundly condemned by the B.C.F.G.E.I.O. and its kindred circuses.

***

According to a Bill published in the *Cyprus Gazette* on March 24, the exportation of timber, charcoal, and firewood, being the produce of Cyprus, and of bark, tar, pitch, and resin, is to be allowed, provided that the High Commissioner grants special permission for said purpose. Prior to the publication of the Bill, the exportation of the above articles was strictly forbidden in any and all cases.

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A supplement to the *Board of Trade Journal* (April 13) gives a list of Prohibitions of Export in force in, *inter alia*, Egypt, Malta, and Cyprus. The information given supersedes that given in the Supplement of January 13, 1916.

COMMENTATOR.

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Cyprus Shipping Dues.

The following Bill, revising the method of levying shipping dues, including port, health, and light dues, appears in the *Cyprus Gazette* of March 24 :—

Dues shall be paid in respect of every ship arriving in any port (Larnaca, Limassol, Famagusta, Boghaz, Kyrenia, Lefka, Paphos, and Latzi) in Cyprus from a foreign port at the following rate, namely :—

(*a*) Ships not exceeding a registered tonnage of 1,500 tons.—For every ton up to 800 tons, 2 cp.; for every ton exceeding 800 tons, 1 cp.

(*b*) Ships exceeding a registered tonnage of 1,500 tons.—For every ton up to 2,500 tons, 30 paras; for every ton in excess of 2,500 tons, free.

When the above-mentioned dues have been paid in full at a port in Cyprus in respect of a ship and such ship proceeds to a second or third port in Cyprus, without between her calls at any of such ports having called at a foreign port, there shall be paid in respect of her call at such second or third port dues at half the above rates.

When the above-mentioned dues have been paid in full at the first, second, and third ports in Cyprus in respect of a ship, and such ship proceeds to a fourth or subsequent port, in Cyprus, without between her calls at any such ports having called at a foreign port, no dues shall be payable in respect of her calls at such fourth or subsequent port provided such calls at such fourth or subsequent ports take place within four weeks from the date of leaving the third port.

Subject to the provisions of this law there shall be paid in respect of every ship of whatever tonnage arriving at any port in Cyprus from a foreign port or from another port in Cyprus and leaving such port in Cyprus without having taken cargo, and (*a*) being in ballast, or, (*b*) having on board, empty barrels or empty cases only and discharging such empty barrels or empty cases and no other cargo, dues at following rate: For every ton of registered tonnage, 1 cp.

Provided that the amount of dues payable under the provisions of this section shall not be in excess of the amount of dues which would be payable under the provisions of previous sections.

Dues payable in respect of any ship, other than a steamer, may be compounded for by the payment in advance of one shilling for each ton of the ship's registered tonnage for every half-year. A half-year shall be deemed to be any period between January 1 and June 30 or between July 1 and December 31 in any year. Dues shall not be leviable in respect of a ship for which they have been compounded, during any half-year for which they have been so compounded.

When any ship shall be compelled to call at any port for the sole purpose of performing quarantine for another port in Cyprus and shall not there discharge or receive cargo, the dues mentioned above shall not be payable in respect of such call, and such call shall otherwise for the purpose of this law be treated as though it had not been made.

The above-mentioned dues shall not be payable in respect of the following ships :—

Ships of war.

Transports in His Majesty's service.

Ships hired or chartered by His Majesty's Government for the conveyance of troops or stores for His Majesty's service, and flying the Admiralty transport flag.

Yachts belonging to recognised yacht clubs and wholly in ballast.

Ships which, having entered a port under stress of weather or for obtaining provisions or water, shall leave it without having effected any commercial transaction.

Steam tugs employed solely in towing and not having goods or passengers on board.

Ships which have entered a port for the purpose of loading or discharging cargo and which are prevented, through stress of weather or quarantine restrictions, from loading or discharging any cargo.

Boats licensed under the Boats Regulation Law, 1884.

Ships under ten tons registered tonnage owned by persons domiciled in Cyprus.

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PRIZE COURT APPEALS.

S.S. "Concadoro."

On Friday in Judicial Committee the Privy Council gave judgment in the appeal of the master and owner of the Austrian steamship "Concadoro" from a judgment of the Supreme Court of Egypt, condemning her as good and lawful prize.

On August 1, 1914, the "Concadoro" left Cardiff with a cargo of patent fuel for Port Sudan. She arrived at Port Said on August 18, the master being till then ignorant of the fact that war had been declared between Great Britain and Austria-Hungary. The vessel remained at Port Said, and on September 22 the master received the following letter from the captain of the port :—

Sir,—I am instructed to inform you as follows: The coal cargo of the "Concadoro" being required at Port Sudan, you are requested to proceed to that port and discharge it to the consignees' order. If you will agree to do so the Egyptian Government is authorised by the British Foreign Office to grant you a safe conduct to the said port, and from thence to the Port of Basra, a neutral port, on the following conditions :—

1. The "Concadoro" must leave port Said on or before September 27, and must proceed direct to Port Sudan, arriving there not later than six days from date of departure from Port Said.

2. She must discharge without delay the 1,900 tons of patent fuel to the consignees, Messrs. Contomichalos, Darke, and Co., and forty-eight hours after completion must leave Port Sudan for the neutral port named above.

3. The "Concadoro" will be liable to capture in the event of any infringement of the foregoing conditions.

You are requested to give me a written answer to this letter as soon as possible, and in the event of your acceptance of the conditions named you will be good enough to apply to this office for the safe conduct referred to, at the same time informing me of the date and time you propose to enter the canal.—I am, etc., C. E. TRELAWNY, Captain of the Port.

The master, being without funds to continue his voyage, believing that Port Said was a neutral port, and fearing capture by a British man-of-war if he put out to sea, decided to remain in the harbour. On October 15 Egyptian officials were put on board, and eventually the ship was taken out to sea and seized by his Majesty's ship "Warrior." She was thence removed to Alexandria, where the Admiralty Court declared her a good and lawful prize. From this judgment the present appeal was instituted, the appellants alleging that under The Hague Convention the ship was entitled to an absolutely safe conduct, and not one clogged with the conditions laid down in the port captain's letter. The vessel being in ignorance of the war when she sailed, and until she arrived in Egypt, was entitled to the protection laid down by the Convention. In any case, she was liable to detention only, and not to condemnation or confiscation. The Crown, on the other hand, contended that the ship was always free to leave Port Said, but, in consequence of the outbreak of the war, never intended to do so, and continued there at her own risk.

Lord Parmoor, in delivering their lordships' judgment, said the claim of the master not to prosecute his voyage to Port Sudan before the end of hostilities was virtually a claim to treat and use Port Said as a port of refuge. The master urged that he was entitled to a wholly unconditional pass direct to the port of destination, or other place, and not a "safe conduct" to which conditions were attached. Their lordships agreed with Mr. Justice Grain, that the conditions were eminently reasonable, and did not invalidate the pass. They also rejected the condition that, being in want of funds to prosecute the voyage, the ship was detained by *force majeure*. They would advise his Majesty that the appeal should be dismissed, with costs.

S.S. "Panariellos" (ex cargo).

Last Thursday, before Lord Penton, Lord Sumner, Lord Parmoor, Lord Wrenbury, and Sir Arthur Channell, sitting as the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the appeal was dismissed against a recent decree of the Prize Court, pronouncing 1,020 tons of silver lead, part of the cargo of the Greek steamship Panariellos, to have belonged at the time of the seizure to the Compagnie Française des Mines de Laurium, trading with enemies of the Allies, and condemning the proceeds of the sale, after confiscation, as good and lawful prize and as "droits and perquisites" of his Majesty in his office of Admiralty.

Lord Sumner, in delivering their Lordships' judgment, said that on August 11, 1914, the Panariellos left Ergasteria for Belgium and the United Kingdom with a cargo of minerals belonging to the French company. The cargo consisted of about 1,020 tons of lead stowed in the bottom of the ship, and 3,500 tons of calamine and 600 of speiss stowed above the lead. There were three bills of lading—one for the entire cargo, one for half the lead, another for the other half. Each bill expressed that the cargo was consigned to the appellants themselves. The lead was made deliverable at Newcastle; the bill for the entire cargo made it deliverable at Antwerp and Newcastle, but the calamine, at any rate, was in fact to be discharged at Antwerp. The bills of lading incorporated a voyage charter, dated July 18, 1914, for Antwerp and Tyne below bridges. It gave a lien for freight and demurrage.

The loading of this cargo began on July 29, 1914, and finished on August 10. The appellants, whose *siège social* was in Paris with an office at Laurium, where they exploited mines, had not contested that at all material times they were aware of the outbreak of war between Great Britain and France and Germany. The appellants had long been in commercial relations with the firm of Beer, Sondheimer, and Co., of Frankfurt-on-the-Main, who traded in metallic ores.

Their Lordships being of opinion that the ore was so shipped as to be engaged in commercial intercourse with the enemy, the burden was upon the claimants to establish that subsequently such events happened or such a course was taken as effectually relieved it from liability to forfeiture.

His Lordship read from the affidavit of the collector of Customs at Swansea and examined the appellants' contention that at the time of the seizure all trading with the enemy had ceased. Continuing, he said that in the circumstances of the case the alteration of the port of delivery certainly did not constitute an abandonment of the old voyage and an undertaking of a new one. Not as an exercise of dominion over the goods, so as to change their character, but largely at the instance and for the safety of the ship, a Bristol Channel port was substituted for a North-East Coast port. If the destination of the ore was for enemy hands and enemy control, that change did not affect it. Their Lordships were of opinion that on these facts the appellants had failed to discharge their obligation to show that the engagement of the ore in enemy trading had been abandoned in time.

Their Lordships would therefore humbly advise his Majesty that this appeal should be dismissed, but, as the Procurator-General made no submission that costs should be allowed, without costs.

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Trade Notes.

Egypt.

H.M. Consul at Cairo has forwarded conditions of contract in connection with a call for tenders by the Egyptian Ministry of Finance for the supply of stationery articles required for the use of the various Government Administrations during the year 1916-17, including pencils, penholders, pen wipers, pins, gum, paper clips, sealing wax, ink, etc.

Copies of the conditions and form of tender may be obtained from the "Economat Central, Ministère des Finances," Cairo, at which address also sealed tenders, made out on the proper form and accompanied by samples (in duplicate) of the goods it is proposed to supply, will be received up to noon on June 1.

Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received, up to April 29, by the Director of the Technical School, Bulac, Cairo, for the supply of 560 sets of blue linen overalls (jackets and trousers) required for the school during the year 1916-17. Copies of the cahier des charges and form of tender may be obtained from the Model Workshops, Bulac (Cairo), where also samples may be seen. A copy of the cahier des charges, together with particulars of the overalls required, may be consulted at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., by firms in the United Kingdom.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of War for the supply of (1) forty tons of coco-nut oil and (2) 100 tons arachis oil into the War Department Stores, Tura. Date, May 16.

Sudan.

In an article on the Sudan published in the current issue of *Kelly's Monthly Trade Review*, the following appears :—

Khartoum and Omdurman, being the general emporia, take all kinds of goods, but there is a specially active demand for foods and articles of luxury required by the ruling and professional classes, merchants, wealthy natives and visitors. Alert agents, carrying supplies as well as samples, are needed.

In Dongola Province there is an opening for active-minded merchants. The people are well-to-do, and purchase fairly freely foods, perfumes, cottons, crockery, cutlery, hardware, and even appreciate agricultural implements.

In Kordofan there is a demand for foods, including sugar and salt, metal ware (including hoes and axes), blue, white, and coloured cotton goods and muslins with open-work designs, but all with fast colours.

Darfur (which exports ivory, ostrich feathers, rhinoceros horn, pepper and tobacco) imports largely tea, sugar, and cotton goods.

The Commercial Agent of the Department of Commerce, United States of America, reports that "a good business might be built up in cotton planters, ploughs, cultivators, and harrows." He also considers that there is room for crude oil engines of from 20 to 100 horse-power, suitable for pumping and grinding mills, as well as for builders' ironware and sundries.

As regards cotton goods, it is somewhat characteristic that while importers have a preference for medium bales containing from 125 to 150 pieces, we send them well-packed bales containing from 200 to 300 pieces. The Italian bales contain 25 pieces, a fault on the right side when camel and donkey transport has to be faced.

Various small points of this kind require to be studied on the spot. This is also true of all sundries intended for natives in the far provinces. For instance, along the Sobat coloured fancy cottons are in favour. There is a demand for brass wire suitable for manufacturing into jewellery and other articles. For barter small blue and white beads, the size of a pin's head, are used. But other beads are also sought after, including ambers, large and small opaque whites, and black beads with small white spots. On the other hand, the Dinkas, to the south of the Sobat, prefer black beads with red and white spots. Forty of these make a necklace and will purchase a sheep; five will buy a hen or five eggs. Barter is also carried on among them with brass wire. There are changes of fashion, of course, but novelties must be introduced discreetly, or trade may be very bad. To a large percentage of the population, especially south and far west of Khartoum, money has no value, makes no appeal, so barter is the rule, and for this purpose small articles of practical use (knives, hand tools, saws, coffee-grinders, mortars, cheap picture-frames, glass bottles and glassware, coloured pencils, pins and needles, scissors, tobacco pipes and pouches, carpets (small sizes), pomades and cheap perfumery, soap, buttons, and similar goods) enjoying local currency must be employed. What is wanted is trade established on the basis of what the Germans call "Handels-Niederlassung"—stations whereto products are brought by the natives in exchange for manufactures such as mentioned. Such stations proved of great value to the Germans in Cameroon, Togoland, and elsewhere.

Morocco.

H. M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier reports that the prospects for trade in Morocco in 1916 are not very brilliant. The continuation of the war and the consequent requisitioning by the French Government of all stocks of wheat and barley, and the restrictions on the shipments of many of the principal articles of export, necessarily have a very serious effect on the commerce of the country; but it is a remarkable fact that the import trade of Morocco in the year 1915 reached considerable dimensions, and when statistics are available it will probably be found that the value of articles imported in 1915 exceeded that in 1914.

With the making of roads, a demand for motor cars, motor lorries, motor cycles, etc., has sprung up, especially in the French zone, the total value imported during 1914 amounting to £94,258. The cheaper makes suitable for rough roads have been most in request so far, but with the improvements in roads better class cars will doubtless be introduced in greater numbers.

There should be a good opening in Morocco for British cement now that supplies from Germany are cut off. There should also be an opening for British trade in hardware; the principal items under this heading are tools, cutlery, etc., household utensils, nails, locks, and bedsteads.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of copy of an Order of the General Commander in Chief in the French Zone in Morocco, dated February 2 and published in the *Bulletin Officiel* for March 6, which increases the maximum quantities of maize and chickpeas which may be allowed to be exported from the ports of the French Zone to French, Allied, or neutral ports in virtue of Article 4 of the Decree of October 18, 1915, from 5,000 to 10,000 metric tons in the case of maize, and from 6,000 to 7,000 metric tons in the case of chickpeas.

The Board are also in receipt, through the same channel, of copy of an Order of the General Commander in Chief, dated March 2, and published in the *Bulletin Officiel* for March 6, which prohibits the exportation and re-exportation from the French Zone in Morocco of wools known as "aboudia," "zekrouia," "ourdigha" and the like; and authorises the export from the ports of the Zone to French, Allied and neutral ports (under conditions prescribed in the Order) of wools known as "beldia" and the like which are not required by the "Intendance." The Order also authorises the shipping of wool coastwise between one port of the French Zone to another, subject to special conditions.

ENEMY FIRMS IN EGYPT.

The *Official Gazette* of March 28 publishes the following notice relative to the Proclamation of August 16, 1915 :—

Notice is hereby given that the following firm has been granted a licence to trade without special restrictions :—

Padova and Co., Giulio, Rue Hoche Issa, Cairo.

The following firms have been granted licences to trade in Egypt, with the British Empire and with Allies of Great Britain :—

Mergler, Samuel, 25, Rue Abou Dardar, Alexandria.

Meutemadian Frères, Zagazig.

Meutemedian, Iskender, Zagazig.

Van der Zee, W. F., 3, Rue Gare de Ramleh, Alexandria.

The licence granted to George Meinecke, Suez, No. 150, has been modified. The business has been placed under the supervision of Mr. J. M. Norman, Port Tewfik, as Controller.

MOROCCO AND EGYPTIAN SUGAR.

A correspondent writes to the *Morning Post* from Mogador :—

Such home readers as are concerned in the stiffening up of British seaborne commerce will be interested to learn that the effort made last year by certain London and Manchester firms of world-wide repute to introduce Egyptian sugar into Morocco has achieved brilliant success. Nobody at all acquainted with this country need be told that green tea is the national beverage, and holds the same position here as does coffee among the people of the Mid East. Now green tea, to suit the critical palate of Moorish critics, must be very strongly sweetened. But for nearly half a century Morocco has been fed up with the beetroot substitute, very largely made in Germany. With the first arrival of cane sugar, shipped from Alexandria, Morocco made a discovery. Here at last was the real thing, at about the price of the imitation, and vastly more economical, inasmuch as ½ lb. of the Egyptian article goes as far as ¾ lb. of the German substitute. In one month of the year 1915 this seaport alone imported 18,000 sacks from Alexandria, valued at something over a million francs, or £40,000.

The shipments covered by this very respectable sum were solely for account of one London firm, which has also to be credited with a like amount supplied to other Moroccan ports, so, including shipments made by other firms about which I have so far no definite figures to quote, the total importation for 1915 may be safely estimated at about £120,000. And Morocco is still asking for more. It is no breach of confidence to say that a small group of British merchants in this country, on the initiative of the Patriotic League of Britons Overseas, is interesting itself in strengthening this new economic link between the Mid East and this far-Western realm of Islam. With a very little encouragement from the Egyptian refiners we may look forward to Morocco supplying herself for many a year almost entirely from Nile Land, for cash against delivery of shipping documents, and the only other question worth consideration is how to benefit the British mercantile marine. By the present outlook it seems that the first English steamer company which approaches the refiners with a reasonable freight tariff will have but little difficulty in securing the contract for transport, Alexandria to Tangier, and any other Moroccan port where the Bank of British West Africa may have a branch.

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Motor-Cars in Turkey.

Trade After the War.

The following extracts from a report from the U.S. Consul-General in Constantinople (January 5, 1916) and published in the U.S. Consular Reports will, though intended to give sound advice to American manufacturers, interest our own exporters of cars who wish to extend their market after the war is over :—

The first automobile was seen in Constantinople in 1908—a small 8-9 horse-power one-cylinder French car that had great difficulty in travelling over the narrow, encumbered, ill-paved streets of the Ottoman capital, and could not venture on any road outside the city. Conditions have steadily improved since then. Following the example of the Constantinople municipality, all the larger towns of the empire adopted a programme of public improvements. Streets were widened, paved, and extended, while the Central Government let large contracts for the building of public highways. With better driving possibilities, better cars were imported, and to-day the most up-to-date type of motor vehicles can be seen on the streets of Constantinople. Still, their number is insignificant compared with what it certainly will be in the near future.

Motoring in Turkey.

That motoring in Turkey is yet in its infancy is shown by the absence of effective municipal regulations relative to number plates, speed, lights, etc., and by the lack of skilled chauffeurs. At present a yearly tax of about £6 is collected on each pleasure car. It is understood, however, that a new schedule of taxation based on horse-power is being elaborated, and the large number of men trained in the military automobile school since the beginning of the war will raise the average of efficiency among chauffeurs to a higher level.

Garages in Constantinople are far in advance of motoring. There are several well-equipped garages, able to hold many more cars than they do. The builders anticipated a considerable growth, and developments have more than justified their hopes and predictions. It is now conceded that, no matter what the issue of the present war may be, Turkey will begin reaping the benefits of its natural riches, and the automobile business will flourish.

On account of the relative backwardness of the people in automobile matters Turkey's needs have not shaped themselves into any definite form or direction. The market demands one thing to-day and is apt to prefer something else to-morrow. Therefore, in order to obtain a correct idea of conditions, the observations that follow should be read in the light of this constant evolution.

When the first cars were sold the buyer paid attention to appearance and low price exclusively. He ignored the construction, and thought that all cars had to run equally well. Little by little he found out the points that did not suit him. So, for instance, he does not want a leather-faced cone clutch. Their mechanical knowledge being scant, chauffeurs dislike features that may require the replacing of worn-out parts like the leather face. They prefer the multiple-disc clutch. They know the Bosch high-tension magneto system, and favour it at the expense of other good systems and makes. The popular carburettors are the Zenith and Claudel, both of French manufacture and of the metal-float system. In view of the important part carburisation plays in the proper running of automobiles one may imagine how easily the motor may be blamed for defects due to a faulty handling of the carburettor if the system is not known to the driver, and this also applies to other parts of the mechanism.

Such was the experience with a number of American cars which were in operation for a few months, and then ceased to give satisfaction. It was claimed that the carburettor and the ignition system were too complicated and of a type not known here, and further that the design of the body was not elaborate enough, and that several parts, like gears, valves, and springs, were wearing out very quickly. If the agent is not in position to keep a stock of spare parts on reasonable terms, because the factory will not deviate from its custom, it is easily perceived how such a representative is handicapped in selling cars. Service after the sale (*i.e.*, advice and help by the dealer) is of capital importance, and is expected by the buyer.

Up to the present vertical four-cylinder motors cast *en bloc* have given better satisfaction than six-cylinder motors. The latter, being heavier and more intricate, require a degree of skill that is lacking among native chauffeurs. Right drive, with side control, as found in European cars, is regarded as essential.

As already mentioned, both city streets and country roads are susceptible of improvement. The paving in Constantinople consists either of cobblestones or of macadam, considerably in need of repairs. Asphalt is confined to the sidewalks pending completion of the sewer system and the electric and gas installations. Constantinople, with its steep hills, requires not only an engine with enough reserve power, but also a powerful rear structure to pull the car. A native buyer will seldom inquire into the type of transmission box, but will firmly insist on shaft drive for better appearance. He requires, although he may not ask for them, high-grade transmission gears when of the selective sliding type, a very strong rear axle, and a rigid chassis. Brakes acting on metal parts, like the shaft, will be welcome, as they eliminate the trouble and expense of replacing the drum lining on rear wheel brakes. The jolting roads make a three-point suspension of the motor and high clearance imperative, high springs and reasonably small wheels being popular for economy's sake. The rough highways also render the gas tank under the driver's seat necessary.

Type of Car.

Clincher tyres and auxiliary wheels are commonly used, while demountable rims so far have enjoyed but scant success. It cannot be doubted, however, that they will come into favour as soon as country driving is taken up on a larger scale. Wheels should be of the usual artillery type. Bicycle steel spokes are considered less resistant, because they do not look as sturdy, although they are more elastic.

Concerning the body of the car it should be noted that closed types, chiefly landaulets, have been mainly in demand, torpedo shape being always insisted upon. The colour is a rather important question, and it is essential to offer a number of colours to select from. Usually the pleasure cars imported vary between 15 and 30 European horse-power, the low-powered cars being more numerous. All these conditions must, however, be considered as a stage in the motor education of the public, and will undergo continuous changes.

Trucks are even less advanced in commercial circles than pleasure cars are among the general public. Twenty to forty horse-power trucks of heavy structure with double rear wheels, solid tyres, and a simple engine under the hood are preferred. In the way of lighter cars, the Post Office Department operates in the capital a number of 18-22 horse-power mail wagons. The service has been satisfactory, and it is contemplated to increase the number of vehicles after the war and instal similar services in the interior. In general it may be said that, outside of Government deliveries in Constantinople, the majority of trucks will be sold for service in the interior, where the lack of railways will make rapid transit dependent on motor vehicles. As soon as proper warehouses are built in Constantinople, trucks will come into general use also in the capital. The question is, however, what effect the many steep inclines will have in the supplanting of animal traction. It is generally conceded that motor trucks will pay best for heavy hauls on long distance—*i.e.*, where the excess of power they can develop over teams may be fully utilised. Constantinople spreads along lengthy shores and numerous hills, which latter are very hard on horses in summer, and, further, there are no powerful horses in Turkey. A team of native Anatolian horses hauls about one-half ton only, so that conditions of transportation appear to be highly favourable to mechanical traction.

While proper taxicab service is lacking in Constantinople, the local autobus company up to the beginning of the war seemed to be making progress in spite of financial difficulties. Seven up-to-date British sixty horse-power buses, with a seating capacity of eighteen persons each, were put in service early in 1914. The excellent riding qualities of their valveless engines were immediately appreciated, but in the long run the engines proved to be too fine a mechanism to withstand the tampering of unskilled chauffeurs and the jolts and jars on the poor pavement. Further, the automobile trade here is not very exacting in the choice of gasoline and lubricants. Baumé 64/66° naphtha is commonly used, but valveless engines require the finest grades in order to ensure proper operation of the sleeves. The Société Anonyme Ottomane d'Autobus de Constantinople was formed in 1909 by native capital amounting to £26,400. It is thought that a (American) group could, with comparatively small investment, buy out this company and profitably combine a well-organised system of motor-buses and taxicabs. The present means of conveyance in the city of Constantinople, as well as in other towns in the empire, are inadequate.

Credits.

From several inquiries received at this office, as well as from correspondence, local dealers have had, it is evident that in order to do business in Turkey and throughout the Levant American manufacturers must modify their attitude with regard to credits. French and German dealers send cars on consignment against proper guaranties and allow several months' time for payment. The Peugeot, de Dion Bouton, and Benz works have done considerable business in Turkey by virtue of their policy of accommodation. Generally speaking, no car can be sold from catalogues. (A point not to be disregarded when catalogues are used is the language in which they are printed. So far French has been indispensable.) In the case of Government business the purchasing commission is bound by an ironclad rule; experts must test the car or the truck before the particular type is adopted.

The Fiat, Isotta-Faschini, and Bianchi works (Italian) have promoted the Société Générale d'Automobiles pour le Commerce en Orient, which company acts as their agent. The organisation has been particularly successful with the Fiat cars, among which the Fiat "Zero" has found the most buyers—all of whom are greatly pleased with the low gas consumption of the 10-15 horse-power four-cylinder motor. The fuel and tyre economy, combined with the luxurious appearance and the comparatively high speed attainable, won the hearts of many who did not care to invest more than £286, the retail price of the car. The cost to the dealer is about £170 c.i.f. Constantinople.

The tariff Bill now before the Ottoman Parliament specifies the following import duty per 220 pounds on motor vehicles, to take effect March 14, 1916: Commercial or agricultural vehicles, complete, 16.50 dollars; motor omnibuses, 30.80 dollars; chassis of commercial and agricultural vehicles or motor omnibuses, 16.50 dollars; tools and spare parts for the foregoing, 30 dollars; pleasure cars—complete 29.70 dollars, chassis 15.40 dollars, tools and spare parts 39.60 dollars. In the average, these rates should work out to much less than the present 30 per cent. ad valorem duty.

The price of motor spirit before the war was about 2.75 dollars, and that of lubricating oil 7.50 dollars per ten gallons. These prices are expected to drop as soon as the native oil deposits are exploited.

It is manifest that coming conditions in this country are distinctly in favour of the development of the trade in power-propelled vehicles.

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Engineering Notes.

Launching Seaplanes from Warships.

Mr. Pemberton-Billing is not, apparently, a great admirer of the seaplane, and in one of his recent speeches suggested that the floats of many in service should be knocked off and the machines, lightened as they will be, used as ordinary aeroplanes with better and more effective results. Yet, the seaplane, as a naval scout, is very valuable, and its usefulness on many critical occasions has been proved. The drawback, however, is that it cannot get a start from rough waters, and the arrangements made or adopted up to now by various navies to launch a seaplane from a warship have not been always quite satisfactory. This drawback and other difficulties can apparently be surmounted by a device invented by an officer of the United States Navy. This officer realised that a fighting ship cannot afford to be encumbered with long launching platforms, such as have been, and still are, used in some navies. He knew that space must be economised and the sweep of guns uninterrupted. Therefore, he conceived a short-run catapulting railway that could be quickly erected and just as rapidly dismantled and stowed away. In principle, according to the *Scientific American*, the launching device consists fundamentally of a car propelled along a narrow-gauge track. Upon this car rests the seaplane, and the aircraft is secured to the vehicle until the latter reaches the end of the run-way. When the car stops the seaplane is automatically released, and the acquired inertia suffices to sustain the flying machine until its propellers are able to provide the necessary propulsive effort. As a rule, however, the aircraft's motors will be speeded up to this point by the time the end of the track is reached. The method of operating is as follows:—The plane is lifted on to the car and secured to it, then the motors are set going, but not at full speed. This is accelerated after the catapulting begins. The aviator takes his seat in his craft, and when everything is in readiness the car, with its load, is drawn along the track at an increasing rate. This gathering momentum is so nicely controlled that a velocity of about fifty miles an hour is attained by the time the aeroplane is cast loose from the car. The car is brought to a standstill a very few seconds later. Originally, the track was sent overboard at the end of its run, but in service aboard a ship under way at sea this would be undesirable, because it would be necessary either to stop or slacken speed in order to haul the car aboard, even if it were held by a line. Clearly it would be impracticable to abandon the track and to hold in reserve any number of them. The motive power employed for moving and speeding up the catapult car is compressed air. By means of a throttle worked by a cam the air impulse is progressively increased upon the operative piston or plunger, which functions the wire rope purchase by which the truck is pulled during its comparatively short run of something less than fifty feet. The actual stroke of the piston is in the neighbourhood of one inch for each foot of advance on the part of the truck; the turns of the wire rope over pulleys serving to produce this multiplication of movement. The air required by the catapult is supplied from the torpedo air service of the cruiser, and at a pressure of something like 300 pounds per square inch. The run-way is made up of light steel angle iron and raised only three feet or so above the ship's deck, to which the structure is secured by attachments that can be quickly released when it is desired to dismount the apparatus. The only sensation on the part of the pilot at the final catapulting is like that due to a sudden blast of air in the face. The new device has been tried on board the North Carolina, steaming along a cruising speed. It is interesting to note that a scout cruiser is capable of covering a visual front of but twenty miles under favourable atmospheric conditions. An air scout 4,000 ft. aloft can observe ships seventy miles away. There is no need, therefore, of elaborating upon the strategic advantage obtained by the use of scouting seaplanes. It is just this widened field of observation which the aeroplane catapult makes possible.

Construction of Large Oil-Engined Ships.

It is evident that the great difficulties experienced at the present time throughout the world in the supply of coal are responsible for the remarkable increase in the construction of ships fitted with oil-engines; and it is noticeable that there is also a parallel increase in the size of such ships. It has been reported from Copenhagen that the East Asiatic Company has ordered there six ships of 12,800 tons, fitted with oil-engines, to be completed between 1918 and 1920, six similar ships of 11,800 tons to be finished between September, 1917, and January, 1920, and six of 10,000 tons to be completed between 1918 and 1920. The largest ships are 530 ft. in length, and in each of them two engines of 2,650 h.p. are to be installed, whilst in the rest two of 2,000 h.p. Several other oil-engined ships are also being built now in Denmark.

One Film on Two Screens.

The difficulty of providing a greater number of, if not all, the spectators in a cinematograph theatre with "good" seats from which the moving pictures can be seen to the full advantage as regards distance, etc., has apparently been solved by an American contrivance which has recently been patented. By a simple, yet ingenious, arrangement one moving picture apparatus may be made to serve two audiences. In one wing of an "L" shaped hall the picture is shown on a screen as usual, while the audience in the other wing views the reflected picture on a mirror placed behind the fabric curtain and at an angle of 45 degrees.

VERMIN EXTERMINATION.

New Fumigating Process.

The following account (from the *Agricultural Journal of Egypt*) of a process employed successfully in Cairo to cope with the vermin (bed-bug) pest in barracks will interest many householders in Oriental countries which are infested with the disgusting insect:—

Experience in South Africa during the Boer War showed that the only satisfactory method of dealing with these objectionable visitors when they get firmly established in a building is fumigation with hydrocyanic acid gas (prussic acid). Accordingly, as a stock of nearly half a ton of sodium cyanide was remaining over from last year's orchard-fumigation campaign, the method was given a trial in that part of the Old 'Abbassîa barracks which was occupied by the South Notts Hussars.

The method employed was as follows:—All windows had a strip of paper pasted down the central line where the two halves meet, and were then unbolted so that a vigorous push from the outside would burst them open. Where the windows on one side of a building were inaccessible from the outside, ropes were attached to some of them on the inside and carried across to the doors opposite, so that they could be opened and a through draught could be obtained after fumigation without entering the room. All broken panes were, of course, pasted over, and ventilators were covered with fumigation sheets. All kit-boxes were opened, and bedding and other materials were spread about to assist the penetration of the gas to every point.

When the room was thus made ready the fumigants were prepared. The doses were reckoned according to the South African formula of one ounce of cyanide and one ounce of sulphuric acid in two ounces of water for every 100 cubic feet of space. For practical purposes the cyanide was weighed out in 3-lb. lots, which were wrapped up in muslin bags, and corresponding quantities of sulphuric acid and water were mixed in empty paraffin tins. The requisite number of tins of acid and bags of cyanide were then distributed to the different rooms.

When all the rooms had been started sentries were posted to prevent anyone going in or near the buildings. The necessity for this precaution was emphasised by the fact that as many as seven sparrows, in one case, fell dead in the verandah outside the rooms that were being fumigated before any of the doors or windows had been opened. The gas was given four hours to act, and then as many windows and doors as possible were opened without entering the rooms. The latter generally became inhabitable again after about two hours, more or less according to the amount of wind blowing and the arrangement of the rooms in question.

The rooms occupied by one squadron were done each day, and required very nearly one hundredweight of cyanide. The maximum dose given for a single room was 40 lbs.

After the operation was finished vast quantities of bugs were to be found lying dead. In one room one or two are said to have been found still showing signs of life, but this was certainly an exception. The military authorities were so satisfied with the results that further requests for similar treatment were soon received. The Egyptian Army Artillery barracks, near Heliopolis, were the next to be done in preparation for being converted into a hospital. They were followed by several blocks of buildings at the Citadel which were being used as a convalescent hospital. When these were finished the stock of cyanide was practically exhausted and the work had to be abandoned, although several urgent requests were on hand. As soon as the three tons of cyanide arrive, which at the time of writing are on order from England, the work will be resumed on a large scale.

In conclusion, it might be well to add a few words on the construction and fitting of barracks with a view to the prevention of the necessity for fumigation. In the first place, all wooden ceilings, floors, and stairs should be absolutely forbidden. All other wooden fittings should be reduced to a minimum, and the wooden kit-boxes at present in use should certainly be replaced by metal ones. Folding metal bedsteads of the type at present employed are very unsuitable, as they contain far too many cracks and joints in which the bugs congregate, as is shown by the fact that no less than forty bugs were counted in one case as having fallen out of the joints round a single leg of a bed. A more suitable type with fewer resting-places for bugs could certainly be found, and might be improved by having a rim round the base which could be filled with vaseline, which would prevent bugs climbing on to the bed from the floor. The wicker crates which have been so largely used in the hospitals as temporary beds are about the worst possible things to use from the present point of view, being one mass of holes and cracks, in which the bugs find ideal shelters. More than 500 have been seen to fall from a single one of these temporary bedsteads as a result of fumigation. Where their use is unavoidable they should certainly be fumigated at regular intervals.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

PRODUCE REPORT.

LONDON, April 20.

Currants.

Owing to the approaching holidays very little business has been done this past week; the market, however, is very firm, holders being confident of higher prices in the very near future.

Sultanas.

There is only a small demand, with small business passing, mostly in Afghan and Indian fruit at unchanged rates.

Figs.

There has been better demand, and prices are well maintained.

Dates.

The market has been quiet for this kind of fruit these last two or three weeks, but values have been well maintained, and a better demand is expected.

Seeds.

Linseed has been active and dearer this week; London-Calcutta spot is quoted at 72s. 6d., afloat and March-April ditto. Bombay ordinary, May-June 72s. 9d., small ditto 72s. 1½d. La Plata-Hull, March-April 69s. 6d. Rape-seed has been firmer, Toria, April, Hull, is quoted at 64s. 6d. Cotton-seed is steady but quiet, London Egyptian spot is quoted at £13 per ton. Canary-seed, 85s. to 110s. per 464 lbs. Lentils, 23s. to 26s. 100 lbs.; and mustard, 28s. to 36s. per cwt.

Oils.

Linseed oil has been firmer: Spot pipes landed £38 10s., barrels ditto £39 10s. Rape oil is quiet, ordinary brown, naked, nominal; English refined, barrels, £55 to £56. Cotton oil remains firm. Crude spot pipes £43 10s., refined pipes, pale, £48 10s., and barrels, sweet, £53 to £54, as to make.

Oil Cakes.

Egyptian cotton cakes are firmly held on spot at full prices of £9 5s. to £9 7s. 6d., although there are some sellers of April shipments at £8 15s. to £9 ex-steamer. English makes are unchanged at £9 7s. 6d. to £9 10s.; and Bombay at £9 per ton.

Linseed cakes: There has been only a moderate demand, with small business passing at late rates; the market, however, remains somewhat steadier. Best London made are quoted at £11 to £11 7s. 6d. East India seed pure, £11 ex-ship. Fine seedy Calcutta are quoted £11 10s. to £11 15s. afloat.

The Egyptian Ports and Lights Administration has made a proposal to the Customs Administration, after consulting the Ministry of Finance, to place under the control of the latter the quays of the Western harbour (Alexandria), the harbour dues, and the tax on shipping tonnage.

LIFE IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

The *Morning Post* Budapest correspondent writes on April 2:—

"M. Abel Barabas, a Hungarian journalist living in Constantinople, writing under date March 27, says that, compared with the difficulties the Turks have to put up with as regards the prices of food and everyday necessities, life in Germany and Hungary must be a paradise. According to M. Barabas, sugar in Constantinople costs about 3s. per lb., coffee 6s. 10d., potatoes 5d., bread 4d., rice, 1s. 6d., butter 3s. 6d., petroleum 2s. 6d. per quart, and coal 10s. per cwt. A small box of matches costs 2d. and a short tallow candle 5d.

"Although the majority of the stock is very inferior, one can only get it, says M. Barabas, with considerable trouble. In most families honey is used instead of sugar, and coal has been dispensed with during the winter. 'It was fortunate,' the writer adds, 'for the Turks that the winter was this year a very mild one, otherwise the poor would have perished of cold.'

"M. Barabas also complains of the disastrous condition of the Austro-Hungarian exchange in Turkey, where during the winter Austro-Hungarian money depreciated 60 per cent. Since then serious representations have been made, and the exchange has improved somewhat, but even now for £T1, 33 kronen are asked, whereas in peace times the rate was 21 kronen for £T1."

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CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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ROUMANIAN BUDGET.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, April 1.

The Minister of Finance will shortly frame the Budget for the financial year 1916-17.

The estimate for revenue is placed at 645,719,300 lei, or an increase of about 45,000,000 lei over the two preceding years.

The chief sources of income are:—

	Lei.
Direct taxation	57,235,000
Indirect taxation	134,600,000
State monopolies	101,185,000
Ministry of Finance	81,023,400
Public services	156,015,000

Expenditure is estimated at 640,266,838 lei, or an increase of about 43,000,000 lei over last year's expenditure.

The surplus of about 5,500,000 lei is to be added to the general reserve for supplementary and extraordinary credits.

The War Budget for 1916-17 calls for special attention: It includes expenditure to the amount of 85 million lei, distributed as follows:—

	Lei.
Officers' salaries	50,000,000
Soldiers' upkeep	25,000,000
Equipments, etc.	10,000,000

These figures represent an increase of expenditure of nearly 17,000,000 lei on that of the preceding year. In the year 1906-7 the War Budget amounted to 44,000,000 lei.

ROUMANIA AND GERMANY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, April 1.

The signature of the contract for the last sale of cereals to Germany—the sale which, to distinguish it from the others, is known as that of the 100,000 wagons—was announced to have taken place some time back, but, as a matter of fact, the agreement in its definite form was only signed on March 21.

The signatories for the Commission of Exports were MM. Constantinesco, the Minister of Domains, Démètre Greceano, and Fotin Enesco. The total quantity of grain in the country left over from the previous sales—apart from that reserved for internal consumption—is sold to the Germans. Only a rough estimate of the amount can be made at the present stage. It will include in all probability about 100,000 truckloads of Indian corn, at most 5,000 of peas and beans, and a little barley. There will probably be no wheat left over from the British deal. Exports are to begin next month, and to be terminated by the end of September, the greater part being conveyed by way of the Danube.

As in the previous deals, the National Bank of Roumania has had its own way in so far as the terms of payment are concerned. The total sum is payable in gold—one-half to be paid at the National Bank of Roumania, the other half to be deposited at the Imperial Bank of Berlin in the name of the National Bank. The rate of exchange for the mark in gold has been fixed at 1.17.

But the transaction has another aspect which merits some attention. The Roumanian Government has formulated a series of demands which the Germans have agreed to satisfy. These are:—

(1) The delivery on the part of Germany of 38 new locomotives ordered in that country before the outbreak of the war, as well as of 21 Roumanian machines which had been sent there for repair, and have been retained in Germany up to the present.

(2) The delivery of several truckloads of drugs which had been ordered in Germany and *paid for*.

(3) The transit through Austria-Hungary of 60 truckloads of drugs, etc., recently purchased in Switzerland.

(4) The delivery in Roumania of materials of first necessity to the value of 150 million francs.

COST OF LIVING IN CYPRUS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Prices differ very considerably in the different districts. Limassol has always, even in Turkish times, had the unenviable distinction of being the dearest part of the island—the cost of living there being about 30 per cent. higher than at the capital. Next to Nicosia, Larnaca and Famagusta are comparatively cheap. Pepho is after Limassol, the dearest. To show how all classes, but especially the poor, are affected, a statement of present prices of some of the chief articles of food, as compared with *ante-bekum* prices, may be of interest. They are those of the dearer parts of the island, and are given in piastres (at 9 to the shilling), except where otherwise mentioned:—

Before the War.	Present prices.
Flour, 21s. to 23s.	50s. to 52s. the sack
Sugar, 3½—4	9½
Potatoes, 1½	3
Beans, 3—4	11—12
Onions 1—2	3
Olives, 7—9	20
Olive oil, 16	54
Native cheese, 6—7	24—26

Wheat now fetches 9s. to 11s., and barley 5s. to 6s. the bushel. Mutton and lamb are cheap, as prices now rule, being sold at 12-15 piastres the oke. For some years there has been a large exportation of this meat to Egypt. Beef is scarce, and the price of poultry has risen considerably. Altogether the cost of living in Cyprus is different to what it was in the early years of the occupation.

CYPRUS FINANCES.

The *Cyprus Gazette* of March 24 contains a Bill for the appropriation of a sum not exceeding £247,396 to the service of the island for the twelve months ending March 31, 1917. The schedule of appropriation is as follows:—

	£
Pensions	8,246
His Excellency the High Commissioner	336
The Legislature	768
Chief Secretary's Office	3,457
Government Printing Office	2,217
District Administration	9,046
Treasury	17,508
Customs Department	11,478
Land Registration and Survey Department	23,223
Audit Department	1,884
Legal Departments	4,124
Police Department	37,724
Prisons Department	8,499
Medical Department	12,432
Quarantine Department	869
Education Department	10,897
Postal Department	12,527
Agricultural Department	10,692
Forest Department	20,284
Railway—Evrychou extension	1,997
Public Works Department	4,219
Public Works Annually Recurrent	18,305
Public Works Extraordinary	21,100
Miscellaneous Services	5,564
	£247,396

COMPANY REPORTS.

Ionian Bank.

The directors, in submitting to the proprietors the accounts for the year ending December 31, 1915 (old style) or January 13, 1916, have to report that the net profit, after payment of all expenses and making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, amounts to £25,594 9s. 4d., to which has to be added the balance of £4,237 13s. 10d. brought forward from 1914, making a total of £29,832 3s. 2d., out of which an interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, absorbing £12,139 10s., was paid on September 7. There remains a balance of £17,692 13s. 2d. to be dealt with, and the directors recommend the payment of a final dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax (making a total distribution for the year of 5 per cent.), which, as shown by the accounts, will absorb £12,139 10s., leaving £5,553 3s. 2d. to be carried forward. The dividend, if agreed to, will be payable on and after Wednesday, May 3. During the year the sub-branch of the bank at Bouche, in Egypt, has been transferred to Beni-Suef, and a branch has been opened at Salonika. The directors have appointed Mr. Warrington Laing a director of the bank, and he will be proposed for re-election. They also appointed his Excellency, Dr. E. Politi, for many years chairman of the local board at Corfu, a director, but with deep regret they have to announce his death on January 13, 1916. They further have to report, with regret, the resignation of their colleague, Mr. N. P. Calogeropoulos, of Athens. The directors retiring at this meeting are Messrs. Falconer Larkworthy and John E. Hubbard, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Royal Exchange Assurance.

The report of the actuary of the Royal Exchange Assurance on the quinquennial valuation December 31, 1915, shows that new business for the period 1911-15 comprised 9,580 policies, assuring a sum of £4,286,724, representing £173,232 in single and annual premiums. Net assurances in force numbered at December 31 last 23,655 policies for £11,150,254, the premiums amounting to £356,962. The premium income during the quinquennium shows an increase of £373,997 over that for the preceding five years. Death claims—the sum paid in the period showed an increase of £104,647 over the preceding five years, of which increase £64,678 arose in respect of war claims. Life assurance fund has increased by £584,331 in the last five years, notwithstanding that sums amounting to £172,000 in all have been written off for depreciation on investments. Of the surplus shown in the valuation balance-sheet—that is, £373,383—it is proposed that £45,383 shall be carried forward to the next division of profits and that the balance—that is, £328,000—shall be distributed as to (a) £40,527 to the stockholders, being a one-seventh share, less the sum of £6,330 already carried in respect of certain profit brought forward; and (b) £287,473 to the participating policyholders. It is also proposed that the sum last named shall be applied in granting to all policies sharing in profits at December 31, 1915, and effected at full profit rates, a reversionary bonus of 28s. per annum for each £100 assured, increasing with the duration of the policy after it has been ten years in force. The total net new

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1841.

CAPITAL - Dr. 20,000,000. RESERVES - Dr. 13,500,000.

Head Office: ATHENS.

BRANCHES.

Aegion, Agrinion, Almyros, Amalias, Amphissa, Arta, Atalante, Calamata, Calavryta, Céphalonia, Chalkis, Corfu, Corinth, Cythère Dimitsana, Gythium, Ithaque, Janina, Karditza, Kyparissia, Lamia, Larissa, Lévadia, Mégalopoli, Messina, Missolonghi, Naupacta Nauplia, Patras, Paxos, Piræus, Poros, Pylos, Pyrgos, St. Maure, Salonika, Santorin, Sparta, Syra, Thèbes, Trikkala, Tripoli, Volo, Zante

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annuity business was 717 deeds, for purchase money of £417,005, the annuity secured being £44,759. Annuities in force (including deferred annuities) number 1,562, the net annuity payable being £107,021.

Aboukir Company.

The directors, in presenting their report for 1915, record the great loss the company has sustained by the death in action on August 21 of Lieut.-Colonel Samuel Gurney Sheppard, D.S.O., an esteemed member of the board, and also, on September 25, of Mr. H. C. L. Keable, of the staff in Egypt. There were no sales during the year. The total sales of land in previous years are as follows:—4,090.6 23-24 feddans sold for cash, £73,909 5s. 2d.; 15,287.8 22-24 feddans sold on deferred payments, £498,601 0s. 3d.; or a total of 19,377.15 21-24 feddans for £572,510 5s. 5d. Reclamation was again retarded owing to scarcity of water. The rent roll for the three Aboukir divisions and Bourlos Estate for 1916, as compared with 1915, shows a reduction on Mandara and Bahari divisions, and an increase on Wastani and Bourlos. The net decrease, of about £E.1,000, is due chiefly to the bad supply of summer water. There was a further reduction in the average cotton yield per feddan. The damage done by insect pest was less severe, but the scarcity of summer water again caused considerable damage. The price obtained was £4 9s. 6d. per kantar, as against £2 18s. last year. An additional 40 rooms of burnt brick have been built to provide further accommodation for the tenants, bringing the total of rooms built to date to 2,125 on Aboukir Estate, and 243 on Bourlos Estate. Arrears of instalments due by purchasers on December 31 last amounted to £9,599 7s. 5d., of which £1,420 3s. 11d. has since been paid. The profit and loss account, after transferring the sum of £1,250 to an insurance fund, shows a credit balance of £6,036 4s. 2d., which, with the balance brought forward from the previous year of £144 11s. 4d., makes a total of £6,180 15s. 6d. There has been added to the reserve fund the sum of £6,000, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £180 15s. 6d. The directors much regret being unable to recommend the payment of a dividend for the past year. They consider the interests of the shareholders will be better served by placing the profit earned to the reserve fund. Mr. Robert Leonard Carter has been elected a director to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Lieut.-Col. Sheppard, and now offers himself for re-election.

Cairo Water Company.

The ordinary general meeting of the Cairo Water Company took place in Cairo on March 27, Sir Joseph Saba Pasha in the chair. The accounts, the board's report, and several proposals were all passed, and a dividend of 5 fr. for each "action de jouissance" and 72 fr. for each founder's share was decided upon. The year's receipts amounted to £E223,755 against £E222,770 in 1914, an increase of £E985. The expenditure amounted to £E73,881 against £E80,254 in 1914, a decrease of £E6,373. The report points out that the decrease in the amount of water supplied to the public in the latter part of 1914 continued during 1915, but the supply of water to the troops was on the other hand exceptionally large.

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

ABOUKIR COMPANY.—The twenty-ninth ordinary meeting of the shareholders will be held at the company's offices, 134, Palmerston House, E.C., on April 27, at 12 noon.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Yemsah production for the week, 21 tons (last week 20 tons); Hurgada production for the week, 555 tons (last week 488 tons).

THOS. COOK AND SON (EGYPT).—The coupon due 1st prox. on the Five per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures will be paid by the London County and Westminster Bank, Temple Bar Branch, on and after that date, between the hours of ten and two (Saturdays excepted). The coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the ten days ended March 20 amount to £E4,985, or an increase of £E943 over the corresponding period of last year.

EGYPTIAN UNIFIED BONDS.—The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due the 1st proximo. The necessary lists can be procured on application at the Dividend Pay Office.

IONIAN BANK.—The annual ordinary general meeting of the proprietors will be held at the offices of the company, 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C., on Tuesday, May 2, at 11 a.m.

INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.—The board of directors have declared an interim dividend in respect of the year ending December 31, 1915, at the rate of £2 12s, 6d. per share, free of income-tax, payable on and after May 1 next. Coupons (No. 92) of shares to bearer are payable on and after that date at the company's bankers, Messrs. Barclay and Co., Limited, 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

ROYAL ROUMANIAN GOVERNMENT FOUR AND A-HALF PER CENT. REDEEMABLE GOLD BONDS, 1913.—Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co. beg to announce that they have now received the necessary funds for the payment of the coupon and drawn bonds of the above issue due on the 1st inst. Coupons and bonds can now be lodged at their counting-house between the hours of eleven and two o'clock, and must be left for examination three clear days before application is made for payment.

SUEZ CANAL.—Receipts for the 12th inst. amounted to 200,000 fr., as compared with 190,000 fr. for the corresponding day last year.

TELEPHONE COMPANY OF EGYPT.—Dividend of 6 per cent., free of tax, on preferred and deferred shares, making 10 per cent. for the year; £7,965 for directors' additional remuneration; £193,469 forward.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Proprietors will be held at the Offices of the Company, No. 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C., on Tuesday, the 2nd May, at 11 o'clock a.m. precisely, to receive the Report of the Directors and the audited Accounts for the year ending the 31st December, 1915 (O.S.), or 13th January, 1916, to consider the dividend as recommended by the Directors, to elect Directors, to appoint Auditors, and for general purposes.

The Transfer Books will be closed from the 20th April to 3rd May, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Court of Directors,
JOHN LINDSEY, Acting Secretary.
25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.,
17th April, 1916.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Côtes du 4 Avril, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt	£	11 1/16	ex coupon	
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	89	to	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11	,,	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5	,,	5 1/2
priv.	L.E.	2 15/16	,,	3
Lots Turcs, oblig	Frs.	126 1/2	,,	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	93 1/2	,,	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs.	48	,,	
Privilégiée	Frs.	92	,,	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	71 1/2	,,	—
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2 5/16	,,	—
Comptoir Financier and Commercial d'Egypte	£	3/4	,,	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	31/32	,,	—
Union Foncièr d'Egypte	L.E.	9/16	,,	5/8
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	3 1/8	,,	—
Bonded Warehouse	L.E.	4 1/2	,,	—
Unifiée	L.E.	80	,,	—
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4 1/8	,,	—
Fondateur	£	18	,,	—
Pressage et dépôts	£	27	,,	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	1 1/8	,,	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	3 1/8	,,	3 3/16
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3 7/8	,,	—
Ord.	£	14/6	,,	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3 3/8	,,	—
Egypt. Delta Light Railway	£	5	,,	5 1/8
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£	108	,,	—
Jouissance	£	158	,,	160
Egyptian Markets		22/9	,,	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	160	,,	—
Div.	Frs.	108	,,	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	85	,,	90
Egyptian Salt and Soda		15/-	,,	15/3
Crédit Foncier d'Egypte	Frs.	575	,,	—
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	312	,,	—
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	257	,,	—
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	253	,,	—
Delta Land	£	3/4	,,	—
Port Said Salt		30/3	,,	—
Cotton Ginners	£	5/16	,,	1/32
New Egyptian	£	6/-	,,	—
United Land	P.T.	4	,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.		24/6	,,	25/-
Fondateur		85/-	,,	90/-

Marché faible.

LONDON EXCHANGE.

	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89 1/4xd
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½ % do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 5%, 1909	99	—	90 1/2
City of Constantinople 4% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3 % Guar. Loan	93 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	85	77 1/2
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	78	64 1/2xd
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82 1/2	73 1/2	63xd
Do. 4½ % State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80 1/2	75	75 1/2
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	55
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	45	46 1/2
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	42
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	52	52
Do. 5 % Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	49
Do. 4 % Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	65
Do. 5 % Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76 1/2
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82 1/2	—	—
Persian 5 % Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, &c., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4 % Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4 % Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4 %, 1891	94 1/2	—	77
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	67xd
Do. 4 % Loan, 1902	82 1/2	—	—
Do. 4 % Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4 % Loan, 1908	65 1/2	—	49
Do. 4 %, 1909	69	—	47 1/16
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4 1/2	—	4 1/16
Do. 4 % Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7 1/2	—	6 3/8
Do. 3½ % Bonds Red.	80	—	69xd
Do. 3½ % Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10 3/4
Bank of Abyssinia	3/4	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	2
Bank of Roumania	8 1/2	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7 1/2	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3 1/2	—	3 1/2
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6 1/2	—	4 1/2
National Bank of Egypt	13 3/4	—	11 3/4
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	—
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8 1/2	—	5 3/4
Do. do. 5 % Debs., Red.	98	—	87 1/2
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½ % Debs., Ser. I.	89 1/2	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88 1/2	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17 1/2	—	12
Do do. 6 % Cum. Pref.	22	—	13 1/2
Do. do. 4 % 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5 % 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½ %	90	—	—
Do. do. 3 % Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 3/16	—	1 1/16
Do. 5 % 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	1/4	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2 1/2	—	2 1/2
Do. Do. Def.	1/4	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8 1/2	—	5 3/8
Do. Pref.	4 1/2	—	3 1/8
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/-
Do. Def.	1/8	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5 % 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	8/6
Do. Gov. 4 % Irr. Tst.	98	—	83 3/4
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	3 3/4
Gharbieh Land Co.	1 1/8	—	3/4
,, ,, Founders	1/4	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5 % Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9 1/8	—	6 1/8
Do. 4½ % 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	70
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	6/9
Sidi Salem Co.	3/8	—	1/4
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1 1/2	—	1
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/7 1/2
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12 1/2	—	10 1/8
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt.	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1 1/2	—	1/4
Do. 4½ % 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/8	—	24/-
Do. do. 5 % Debs. Red.	99 1/2	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	—	15/9
Do. 5 % 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	3/4	—	16/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3 1/2	—	3 1/2
Do. do. 4½ % 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179 1/2	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2 1/2	—	1 1/8

OIL.	Price on April 5.	April 18.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/9	7/-
Anglo-Persian	19/3	19/3
European Oilfields	4/-	3/7 1/2
Roumanian	15/-	13/-

PARIS BOURSE.

	Mar. 27.	April 5.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	445	445
Canal de Suez	4050	4035
Credit Foncier Egyptien	605	—
Turkish Unified 4%	57	57
Egyptian Unified 4%	88.60	88.50
Serbian, 1895	60.70	—

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 260.—Vol. X. FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1916.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The garrison in Kut has now been besieged for twenty weeks. If it succeeds in holding out until it is relieved, it will have performed a miracle of endurance. For three weeks General Gorringe has been hammering away at the Turkish positions which separate him from Kut, but his force has only been able to advance in all some nine miles. The first attack on Sanna-i-Yat was delivered on April 9. On the 20th and 21st the enemy's position was systematically bombarded, and a fresh attack was made on the 23rd, only to be repulsed. By this time the floods had increased to such an extent that a single brigade alone could attack over a very contracted front. In these circumstances it could hardly be expected to win through. But the enemy's first and second lines were penetrated, and some of our troops even reached the third line. The brigade, however, was not able to maintain itself under the Turkish counter-attacks, and other brigades, pushed up on the right and left to reinforce the attack, were unable to reach their objectives across flooded and boggy ground under heavy machine-gun fire.

It is impossible to read the official accounts of these unsuccessful attempts to reach Kut without regretting the hard fate which compels General Gorringe to storm impossible positions instead of trying to turn the Turkish flank or take the enemy in the rear. The flood season is not yet at its zenith, and may well continue for several weeks. But the urgency of the task entrusted to General Gorringe has apparently left him no time to embark on entirely fresh strategy. Two or three months ago, when some idea of the strength of the Turkish positions could be formed, and with the knowledge that floods must be expected in April and May, prudence should have dictated an alternative line of advance. The occupation of Nasriyah and occasional liveliness in that direction held out hopes that such a course was being adopted. But expectations have not been realized. The accumulated experience of this war has all gone for nought, and General Gorringe is still expected to hurl his forces against an enemy strongly entrenched and amply supplied with machine guns, artillery, and reinforcements. That the Turks fare no better than the British when they launch an attack is small consolation. For them an attack is a luxury, for the British it is a pressing necessity. It is learned now that the counter-attacks of April 17-18 were launched under the impression that the British force operating on the south bank had become isolated by floods from the main column. As it happened, supports were being moved up at the moment when the Turks advanced. The enemy found our troops well prepared, and lost 3,000 men killed out of the 10,000 who took part in the attack.

The easy capture of Trebizond is now explained by the fact that, after the Russian victory at the Kara Dere, fourteen miles to the east, the Turks decided to abandon the town. Rearguards were left to delay the Russian advance, but the main forces of the enemy had proceeded in a southerly direction nearly two whole days before the Russians entered Trebizond. The landing of a Russian force at Platana, to the west of the town, may also have contributed to the Turkish decision. It will, in any case, assist the further operations of the Russians. The present position is that the enemy hold the road leading from Trebizond to Ardasa at a point a few miles to the south of the former town. From here their line extends in a south-easterly direction to Baiburt, opposing the Russian advance along the Chorok Valley and again holding Baiburt against the columns advancing from Erzeroum. Until this important position is captured, it will be difficult for the Russians to approach Erzinjan, unless the enemy disposes of so few reinforcements that they are encouraged to attempt a bold stroke, the cutting off of the retreat of the force holding Baiburt by taking the position in the rear from the north and south.

There is little news of Russian operations in Persia; but a recent telegram to Petrograd from Teheran announces that "the Persian Government is informed that the chief of one of the loyal tribes, Nazir Ali Khan, has captured near Burujird the principal leaders of the Turco-German faction in Persia. Among the prisoners mentioned are Herr Schönemann, German Consul at Kermanshah, who instigated an attack on the Russian and British Consuls at Kangavar; Major Chillander, a Swede attached to the Gendarmerie, and two German agents. If this news be correct, and the prisoners are placed in the safe custody of the Russians, the pacification of Persia has a better chance of proceeding on smooth lines. There may be other Turco-German agents at large, but the bulk of them will have tried to flee the country before the last of the Turkish forces evacuated it.

Attention has been called in Parliament to the case of Major O'Connor, the British Consul at Shiraz, who

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was taken prisoner by insurgents, and with the rest of the British community in that town remains in their hands. Unless our information is at fault, there can be little doubt not only that Major O'Connor was well enough informed of conditions in Persia to realize that a revolt of the Gendarmerie was to be expected, but that a few days before the *coup d'état* which deprived him of his liberty he applied to the Home and Indian authorities for leave to withdraw the British community at Shiraz. Unfortunately, the information of the British Legation at Teheran did not tally with Major O'Connor's; he was assured that things were improving, and was instructed to hold on. Within two days the Consulate at Shiraz was surrounded by the insurgent Gendarmerie. Organized resistance might well have resulted in the massacre of the whole British community, and Major O'Connor surrendered at discretion. The impression has been created that his case has already been prejudged. We can but hope that this is a mistake; for clearly no opinion ought to be formed on the incident until Major O'Connor's statement has been submitted.

Certainly there was nothing in the whole course of British policy in Southern Persia to encourage a British Consul in Shiraz to put up a game fight in the expectation that, if things came to the worst, a relief expedition would be sent to his aid. It must be remembered that an attitude of studied neglect of British interests in a given region, of resort to every possible and impossible device rather than a straightforward acceptance of British responsibilities, does not act as a stimulus to quixotic heroism on the part of British representatives, official or unofficial. The fate of Corfield of Somaliland, it is to be feared, closed the door for ever on the old feeling of confidence that prompted officials in outposts of the Empire to go ahead in the certainty that, come what might, the Government would see them through, whether alive or dead.

It would seem that the enemy, in spite of his preoccupations elsewhere, has no intention at present of abandoning the Sinai Peninsula without a struggle. Whether the forward movements to Katia and Jifjaffa, recorded in these columns last week, merely forestalled a Turco-German advance or directly provoked a counter-attack is not yet established. But British troops had not occupied their new positions for more than a week when they were subjected to a determined effort on the part of the enemy to oust them. The attack was launched on April 23 simultaneously at Katia and Duweidar, on the northern or El Arish route across the Peninsula. The enemy force at Katia is said to have comprised a thousand Germans as well as picked Turkish infantry mounted on camels. They completely outnumbered the British troops, who were compelled to fall back, fighting a rearguard action. The Worcestershire Yeomanry, the official report states, made a determined stand, but owing to their horses being put out of action by shell fire they were unable to time their retirement so as to co-operate with the other regiments, and a number of them were captured.

The attack on Duweidar, fifteen miles west of Katia, was less successful for the enemy. Aerial reconnaissance had reported the presence of hostile parties in the neighbourhood, and when these attacked in the early morning there was time, thanks to the stand by one company of the Royal Scots, to bring up reinforcements. The enemy were not only driven off with substantial casualties, but were pursued by a regiment of Australian Horse and by aeroplanes, which inflicted further losses upon them in their retreat. As a result of these operations the Turks appear to have withdrawn from the whole district, Katia included, and have now no force nearer the Canal than Bir-el-Abd, which is forty-four miles distant. Their camp at this place, and another at Bir-el-Bayud, eight miles to the south, have been attacked by British aeroplanes. The Turks, or the Germans with them, have replied by dropping bombs on Port Said, but apparently without doing any damage.

When it was announced that British troops had been sent forward to Katia and Jifjaffa it was hoped in many quarters that the movement was a prelude to some decisive action in the East. This is not the season for desert operations, but there would be no reason for confining our activities in the Eastern Mediterranean to the Sinai Peninsula. It cannot be overlooked that, so far, since the declaration of war against Turkey, British forces have placed no conspicuous achievement to their credit. The attack on the Dardanelles was a bold conception, but it failed; the occupation of Baghdad would have created an immense impression throughout the East, but instead of bringing off the *coup* we have allowed the Mesopotamian Expedition to cut a sorry figure amid the Tigris swamps; Egypt has been successfully defended, but the achievement is a negative one. There can be no wish to subordinate military operations to political requirements; but in the East the two are inextricably dovetailed, and ought to be considered together. Although Germany remains, and must remain, the real objective, it is well that Great Britain should bear in mind the importance of the East in the scheme of Empire.

Egypt is to have a new Governorate on the western frontier. The territory comprises the scenes of the recent successful fighting against Senussi and Bedouin marauders—Mersa Matru, Sidi Barrani, and Siwa, in the north, as well as the oases of Farafra, Dakhla, and Kharga, in the south—and the step thus taken should have the effect of placing Egypt in a better position to deal with future menaces from across the border.

In the Balkans air raids are the order of the day and night with both belligerents. The record for long-distance raids, which was won on April 14 by British airmen with a flight from the Dardanelles to Constantinople and back, has again passed to the French, who despatched on April 20 a single aeroplane from Salonika to Sofia and back, a distance of 350 miles. From the point of view of actual results achieved, the French have been more successful in their short-distance raids on the enemy's positions just across the frontier. For four nights in succession they appear to have reached their objectives with remarkable precision—enemy camps at Nigorsi and Bogoroditza, the barracks at Ghevgeli and Garen, hangars at Nitorsi, the camp at Padagessi, and the station at Strumnitza. In the absence of a forward movement from Salonika, the persistence of these attacks is the most welcome feature in the situation.

It must be the wish of King George and of the Prince of Wales himself that during a war of the desperate character of the present struggle the movements of the Heir to the Throne should be made the subject of special reference as little as possible. His Royal Highness for the time being is a soldier, and, as is well known, takes his profession seriously. At the front, therefore, he is engaged in carrying out his military duties, and he cannot desire that any attempt should be made to differentiate his work from that of any other officer of his rank and position on the Staff. An exception, however, must be made in the case of the visit which the Prince paid to the Sudan at the beginning of April. It was impossible on such an occasion that he should divest himself of his Royal prerogatives, nor would it be right that he should attempt to do so. In making the visit a State one the Prince of Wales showed that the Royal interest in the country and its people, which received such notable expression when the King and Queen visited it four years ago, is not only maintained, but has not unnaturally been enhanced by the splendid record of the Sudan during the war. The Prince's visit was the occasion for fresh enthusiastic demonstrations of loyalty, and was in every way a great success.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 11.

The Western Frontier.

The recent success on the western frontier, culminating in the re-occupation of Sollum, has been followed by the creation of a new administrative district to be known as the Western Governorate. This district will comprise all the reconquered area from Mersa-Matrah to the frontier, and will extend to the south to include the oases of Siwa, Bahria, Farafra, Dakhla, and Kharga. This new district, like the one created in the Sinai some few years ago, will depend directly from the Ministry of War, and will be directed by Lewa G. Hunter Pasha, who, whilst exercising the powers of military governor, will continue to act as Director-General of the Coastguards. Hitherto the oases of Dakhla and Kharga have been administered by the Mudiria of Assiut, that of Farafra by the Mudiria of Minia, and that of Siwa by the Mudiria of Behera, which also had under it certain parts of the area now reconquered. This division of responsibility was bound to prove unsatisfactory in the long run, especially as the entire area is desert; and the new measure is certainly a wise one, bringing, as it does, this vast frontier region directly under the control of the Coastguards Administration, which is theoretically responsible for the preservation of the land as well as the sea frontiers of Egypt.

The Assay Laws.

Apropos of the recent note that appeared in your columns with regard to "gold exports" and the reference made therein to the work done by the Government Assay Office, a curious case has just occurred here. Although gold sold in the country need not be stamped, any fraudulent stamping is severely punished. Some little while back some jewellery was sent to the office for verification by the purchasers. It was found to be inferior to the stamp on it, and the merchant was prosecuted, the Assay Office report being used as evidence against him. The merchant contested the accuracy of the Assay Office statements, and set up the defence that the standards fixed by that office were merely its own and were based on a law which had never been recognised by the courts. As proof of this he produced the Government Statistical Annual, which put on record the fact that no trace of the original laws of 1846, 1848, and 1849, in which the present regulations are based, could be found, and that consequently the Courts had refused to recognise those laws, which, therefore remained without effect. In the face of these facts, the Court ordered a new assay of the articles in dispute to be carried out by the Assay Office in conjunction with an expert proposed by the accused merchant.

Before the order could be carried out a curious and most fortunate discovery was made. Some sacks arrived at the Assay Office from the Government Archives, who had no idea of the nature of their contents, except that they appeared to concern the Assay Office, and had sent them over, as that office had some time before asked for all papers which in any way referred to it to be handed to it for filing in its own archives. The sacks were, of course, examined, and at the bottom were found the original copies of the laws as they had been received from the Diwan, which at that period represented the present Council of Ministers. These documents supported in every respect the regulations which are to-day in operation. The sacks also yielded up another curious document, a petition from the Gold Merchants' Guild, presented in 1893, praying that they should be treated in accordance with the terms of these old laws, one of the signatories to this petition being the father of the merchant accused in this case!

This accidental, but opportune, discovery of such important State documents causes one to wonder what other valuable papers that have been lost to sight, or of the existence of which no one is aware, lie hidden beneath the "waste paper" of the past century, which has evidently accumulated and been left unindexed in the State Archives. With this striking instance before it, might it not be worth the Egyptian Government's while to have a thorough examination made of all such papers? The "Assay" sacks can surely not be an isolated case, and it is highly probable that a very little outlay in staff and files would result in the bringing to light of old State documents of great value, not only by reason of their bearing on the administration of the country, but also from the historical point of view.

The Commission of Industry and Commerce.

The Commission of Industry and Commerce, the creation of which was noted in this correspondence some few weeks ago, continues to be very active in its inspections and its deliberations. From what I can gather, great things are expected in Egyptian circles from its efforts; but it is sincerely to be hoped that the Commission will not be led to map out too ambitious a programme for itself and the country. The main reasons why Egyptians have failed in all commercial and industrial enterprises hitherto have been that they have aspired too high, and have not been content with modest beginnings, and also that once they have got their enterprise started they have shown such a lack of administrative ability and ordinary foresight that their ventures have been foredoomed to failure. In particular they have at times jeopardised the future of promising industrial undertakings by failure to overhaul their machinery and keep it up to date.

The Egyptians must remember that the great industries of the West and Far East all had modest beginnings, and that they have only succeeded in turning out their present-day high-class articles with profit because their founders and their successors contented themselves at the outset with being able to produce the lowest-grade articles: only as they gained in experience and skill did they gradually improve their production until they attained their modern high standard. Also they must not forget that those industries have progressed and become prosperous because their workers have moved with the times, and have by their own individual efforts forestalled or met outside competition whenever it presented itself in any potential form.

In the direction of founding new local industries, or of encouraging existing ones, the work of the new Commission should be mainly educative. It is out of the question for Egypt to think of being able to-day, or in the very near future, to compete with any of the better-class foreign-made articles which she at present imports; and she must confine herself to trying to produce the lower-grade goods, into the price of which freight and other expenses enter in such a large proportion, and which her notoriously cheap, though comparatively unskilled, labour may enable her to produce at a cost that will compare favourably with that of the foreign manufacturer. The Commission's efforts should certainly be concentrated in this direction; and if it can devise a scheme whereby, whilst producing their low-grade articles, the Egyptians can be afforded an opportunity to train themselves along the lines that alone can lead to the success and the better things towards which they must naturally aspire, it will have deserved well of the country.

Another Commission, called the "Commission of Agricultural Commerce," has now been created for the express purpose of watching over the development of the agricultural products of the country from the commercial point of view. It will deal with them in the same manner as the Commission of Industry and

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Commerce will handle the question of local industries, viz., it will find new markets abroad, and will endeavour to substitute home-grown products, or products from British Allies and neutral countries, for those hitherto imported from enemy countries.

Coal in Egypt?

The local and especially the vernacular Press has during the past week given much publicity to the statement that coal had been found at Edfu, and numerous articles have appeared pointing to the obvious benefit that would accrue to Egypt from the working of local coal mines. Nothing definite is, however, known about this discovery. The geological conditions in the region have always led mining specialists to suspect the existence of coal of sorts. It is, indeed, an old question, which has no doubt been reopened owing to the coal crisis through which Egypt is passing. But even if the experts who are now carrying out investigations report that coal exists at Edfu it would be foolish to jump to the conclusion that Egypt's salvation in the matter of fuel is at hand. Much depends on the position and nature of the coal strata and whether they can be worked as a business proposition. Many people doubt whether coal does really exist at Edfu, or indeed anywhere in Egypt. We must await, first, the report of the geological experts, and then if their verdict is favourable the last word will still remain with the engineers, who will have to decide whether the coal could be worked profitably. It is obvious, however, that the present crisis cannot be affected by the discovery of coal in Egypt.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Legislative Council.

The session of 1916 was formally opened on March 21. The High Commissioner was received by the Chief Justice, the Puisne Judge, and the Chief Secretary. Sir John Clauson in his speech dealt at some length with the financial situation, and referred to the Estimates for the coming year. The forest revenue has been increased, owing to the closing of foreign ports. The quality of the island timber is superior to that of Austria and Anatolia, which has been generally imported to a considerable extent. The Vote for Public Works will be devoted almost entirely to roads throughout the island. This, besides meeting one of the principal needs, will provide work which is widely called for. Very few legislative measures will be introduced. The war, as was anticipated, has affected the island. Owing to its position, it has been a place of refuge for many in trouble. The High Commissioner's speech was duly translated into Turkish and Greek. A sub-committee, consisting of the Chief Secretary, the Commissioner of Nicosia, one Turkish and three Greek elected members, was appointed to draft the reply to the High Commissioner.

The High Commissioner and the Council.

The Greek members of Council abstained from any criticism of the Budget, on the ground that the present period is only one of transition; but they asked for an interview with Sir John Clauson, in order that they might informally submit certain complaints and proposals. His Excellency received them in a body, and they submitted the following requests:—(1) That relief works should be carried out throughout the island on a liberal scale; (2) that in the locust campaign the system of spraying with poison should be abandoned in favour of the old method of purchase by weight, as being far more effective; (3) that the export of wheat and vetches should be absolutely prohibited, and also that of barley if it should be shown that the whole yield of the coming harvest will be required for the needs of the island; (4) that the Government should provide, in the interests of commerce, for the regular and uninterrupted export of Cypriot products, by improved steam service, as may be deemed best. The High Commissioner listened with interest to the proposals, and promised that they should meet with full and serious consideration.

News Items.

A Turk named Hussein Saleh has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment at Nicosia for using language tending to a disturbance of the peace.

A letter published in the Greek paper *Kloio*, in Egypt, gives further warnings to would-be emigrants to the United States, setting forth the difficulties that are to be encountered.

The Holy Synod is now sitting at Nicosia under the presidency of the Greek Archbishop.

THE PRINCE OF WALES IN THE SUDAN.

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales arrived at Port Sudan from Cairo on April 3 and proceeded to Khartoum, where he was received with every sign of welcome and appreciation. The visit was apparently a surprise to most people in the Sudan, but it was evidently a very pleasant one, and it will undoubtedly do much to strengthen the loyalty of the country. In chronicling the event, the *Sudan Times* (April 5) says:—

It is now a little over four years since the Sudan was rejoicing on the occasion of the visit of their Majesties King George and Queen Mary to this country. The occasion was such a great and important one that ever since January 17 has been observed as a national feast throughout the Sudan. The rejoicings of the inhabitants of the Sudan are now renewed on the occasion of the visit of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Just as the visit of their Majesties four years ago was highly appreciated by all in the Sudan, as a mark of Royal favour and as a sign of the great interest which his Majesty takes in the welfare of the Sudan, so the present visit of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is gratefully appreciated by all classes of the population as a new mark of Royal favour and of continued interest in the country and its people.

The following details of H.R.H.'s visit are taken from the same source:—

The Prince, who was accompanied by Colonel Murray, Colonel Watson, and Captain Lord Claude Hamilton, was met at Port Sudan by Colonel Wilson, the Governor of the Red Sea Province, the officials of the province, and Colonel Carroll, P.M.O., E.A., and Mr. Willis, the Assistant Director of Intelligence. The Royal party left Port Sudan at 8.30 a.m. by special train for Khartoum, stopping at Sinkat for a short time en route, where the Prince visited the tree planted by the King on his Majesty's visit there in 1912.

At Khartoum his Royal Highness was met by the Governor-General, Sir Reginald Wingate, who was attended by his A.D.C., Major Edwards, and the following officers and officials—Colonel the Honourable M. Talbot, C.B.; Mr. E. Bonham Carter, C.M.G.; Colonel E. E. Bernard, C.M.G.; Colonel Drake, C.M.G.; Lieutenant-Colonel Purdon, O.C., of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment; Captain M. R. Kennedy, C.M.G., D.S.O.; Mr. R. E. More, Governor of Khartoum; and Major L. K. Smith, the Officer Commanding Khartoum District. A guard of honour of the 5th Battalion E.A. was drawn up at the station with its band, and a saluting battery of the Egyptian Artillery was posted near the station; while the route from the station to the Palace was lined by troops of the 6th and 7th Battalions of the Egyptian Army and the Khartoum Police.

As his Royal Highness descended from the train a salute of twenty-one guns was fired, and the band struck up the National Anthem. After inspecting the guard of honour, and having presented to him those who were in attendance, the Prince drove with the Governor-General to the Palace. Here were assembled a number of British and Egyptian officers of the British garrison and the Egyptian Army, and of senior officials of the Sudan Government, Ulema, and religious chiefs and notables, who had the honour of being presented to his Royal Highness.

In the afternoon the Prince rode through the city with the Sirdar and suite, inspecting the Fort, the British Camel Corps, and Gordon College, where he witnessed some physical drill by the boys.

The streets through which the Prince passed were lined with British troops, under Major MacDermott, and by the City Police force. The whole ride from beginning to end was marked by enthusiastic demonstrations of loyalty by the population, the Prince being everywhere met with hearty acclamations. His Royal Highness was evidently very appreciative of the loyal and enthusiastic manner in which he was received.

On the following morning the Prince rode through the streets of Omdurman, where he was greeted by similar manifestations of loyalty from the immense crowds that thronged the streets.

A reception was held at the Palace in the evening.

Please

HELP SUFFERING ARMENIA!

Armenian Refugees in the Caucasus are dying of typhus, spotted fever, and want. Relief pay is less than 4d. per head per day, while food is at famine prices. The following cablegram is dated Tiflis, February 23rd, 1916: Condition of Refugees pitiable in the extreme. We are giving clothing, bedding, soap, sugar, tea, petroleum and fuel to 20,000, but there are 180,000 no better off than these we are helping. Funds in hand permit us to do no more.

Donations, large or small, will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, Miss E. J. Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, April 7.

The Government's Difficulties.

The position of the Government becomes daily more insecure, as is admitted even by its own journals, which advise it to be more united. In point of fact, besides the external difficulties, due to the lack of tact of its President, the internal economy of the Governmental régime is completely paralysed. The quarrels and incidents that have arisen lately prove their incapacity to govern and the lack of harmony between them and the Chamber, which is a veritable bear-garden. The Minister of Finances, while seeking to create fresh sources of revenue, by means of an amendment inadvertently introduced, in connection with the tax on alcohol, created a deficit of six millions. When he saw his error he sought to withdraw the amendment, but, the Chamber having threatened to overturn the Government, he had to give way. This blunder, and the scandal imputed to him of having made a present of 25,000,000 to the Mussulman landowners, having seriously shaken the Cabinet, M. Dragoumis found himself compelled to resign. But as that would just suit M. Gounaris, who would ask nothing better than to replace him by his old Minister of Finances—the only man who could take charge of the Department of Finances at the present time—and thus begin to reform the Cabinet step by step with men of his own party, the other Ministers, especially M. Rallis, oppose the withdrawal of M. Dragoumis. In these circumstances the life of the Government begins to be problematical, more particularly by reason of financial difficulties, which seem likely to become insurmountable. Lately they have again applied to Paris for a loan, but have been left without any reply.

Upper Epirus.

The ill-advised declarations which M. Skouloudis made recently to the Chamber to the effect that the northern portion of Upper Epirus might be considered henceforth as constituting an integral part of the Greek Kingdom, have compelled the Entente Powers to address to him an identical Note, asking courteously for explanations regarding the elections in Upper Epirus and the admission of the elected deputies to the Chamber; also regarding the substitution of civil for military authorities. The four Powers, describing these measures as arbitrary, reminded the Government that they have only recognised Greece's right to proceed to a military occupation of the district, since the Conference of London gave no definite ruling on the question; and that the final fate of the region will be decided after the war, at the peace conference. The Hellenic Government replied to this Note, but the Ministers of the Powers notified M. Skouloudis that the explanations given were inadequate; and he was compelled to give further assurances, by which the Government renewed its former declarations that the steps taken were imposed by administrative necessity, and will not affect the ultimate fate of the region, which will be decided by the Powers at the peace conference.

"Benevolent Neutrality."

The Ministerial journals, taking as their text the recent arrests effected by the Allies at Patras, Corfu, and elsewhere, and their naval perquisitions at various points on the Greek coast, contends that if the Entente Powers abuse the Government in this fashion, and subject it to such humiliations, they do so because they are encouraged to it by the Venezelists. The Government will not understand that it is its own attitude which inspires mistrust. In order to convince it that such is the case, the *Patris* recalls the fact that M. Zaimis's Government also followed a policy of neutrality, and that the Entente Powers, nevertheless, avoided any act that might wound national susceptibilities while he was in power. The fact is that M. Zaimis maintained a really benevolent policy towards the Entente; while it is impossible to say as much for the present Government, in spite of the promise of a "very benevolent" attitude made by the President when he came into power.

Soldiers' Wives.

A short time ago the Ministry of the Interior was invaded by the wives of men who have been mobilized, who demanded the subsidy voted for them by the Chamber, which, it seems, they had not received since December. Now, these poor women, unable to obtain anything, have been demonstrating in large numbers before the Parliament, with their children, crying out that they have no bread. Driven away by the police, they made their way to the Royal Palace, where they renewed their demonstration. The Venezelist journals ask how it is that the Government can pay the salaries of civil servants in full and cannot retain a part of them to pay the modest sum allowed to the families of those who are serving their country. It seems that the Government has now promised to devote five millions to the payment of these arrears.

A Scandal.

For the past three or four days the Ministers of the Entente Powers have been having lengthy interviews with M. Skouloudis every day. As the strictest secrecy regarding these interviews was, at the request of the Hellenic Government, observed by both sides, it was generally thought that some question of high policy was involved. But the mystery with which the Government sought to invest the subject has been exposed in all its details to-day by the *Patris*; and it transpires that it concerns a new scandal. The Russian Government had deposited a large number of sacks in the Greek Custom House at Salonika, which had given a formal receipt for them. After the Serbo-Bulgarian declaration of war last year, the Bulgarian Government, having need of sacks, and knowing of this stock at Salonika, made representations to a Minister, a member of the Cabinet—evidently M. Gounaris is indicated—and obtained the use of these sacks, which were forwarded in the wagons then sent to Bulgaria to transport the wheat which she had agreed to let Greece have. The receipt and forwarding of these sacks was attended to by the Bulgarian Consul at Salonika, to whom M. Radoslavoff sent a telegram informing him of the Greek Government's action in the matter.

This telegram having been discovered in the archives of the Bulgarian Consulate, which were seized by the Allies two months ago, the Russian Minister in Athens called the other day upon M. Skouloudis and, producing the receipt for the sacks, demanded their prompt delivery. M. Skouloudis replied that the sacks were not available, and that he did not know what had become of them; whereupon M. Demidoff took from his pocket and showed to him M. Radoslavoff's telegram to the Bulgarian Consul at Salonika. The President of the Council expressed surprise, and promised to inquire into the matter. But the next day all the other Ministers of the Entente Powers collectively made representations to him on the subject, pointing out that this action was prejudicial to the interests of the Allies, since the sacks in question were the property of Russia and that they were material of war, inasmuch as they were useful as shelters. The Ministers having asked for satisfaction, M. Skouloudis replied that in three days he would be in a position to give them an answer. We shall see how he extricates himself.

General Mahon's Visit.

General Sir Bryan Mahon's visit to Athens was sudden and brief. His long interview with the King, however, was in connection with very important questions. Sir Francis and Lady Elliot gave a dinner at the Legation in his honour, and this was followed by a reception.

A large part of the Legation is now occupied by the commercial section, to which more than twenty officials have been attached. This section is under the direction of Mr. Waugh, who has, as one of his helpers, Mr. Dawkins, Director of the British School of Archæology, who has offered his services voluntarily, and other well-known Englishmen. On one side there is an annexe, which is also given up to the commercial service and the intelligence department. The Legation has taken on the aspect of a ministry which, in spite of its great responsibilities, works admirably, thanks to the tireless energy of Sir Francis Elliot, who himself attends to every detail.

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SALONIKA LETTER.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Salonika, April 2.

The Recent Aeroplane Raid.

Particulars of the latest aeroplane attack by the Huns on the civil population of this city have already been telegraphed to London, and I will therefore refrain from going into details. I wish, however, to call attention to one or two points of special interest and significance. This has been the most murderous bombardment to which Salonika has been subjected since the arrival of the Allies. If the attack had been confined to Allied positions and depots at the front, or even on the outskirts of the town, the enemy might perhaps have been justified in doing all the damage he could; but the fact is that most of the bombs were dropped on parts of the town far removed from the stores or encampments of the Allies, and occupied only by the peaceful civil population. This is proved by the fact that the victims of German barbarism were largely women and children. Besides, most of those killed were Jews, who are credited with strong sympathies towards our enemies. Some Greek soldiers were also killed.

If the Germans had decided to estrange all their friends here and elsewhere in Greece, they could not have chosen more effective means than this massacre. The resentment which has been aroused among all classes of the population is intense. Many thousands, consisting mainly of Jews and Greeks, attended the funerals of the victims, shouting in the streets, "Down with the German and Bulgarian murderers." The people of Athens are also greatly excited; but the present pro-German Government of M. Skouloudis is doing its utmost to crush any open expression of the people's resentment. Even the most peaceful protest meetings are prevented by the police under orders from headquarters—two attempts have been made to hold harmless meetings at the White Tower here, but the first was forcibly dispersed by mounted and other police, while the other was prevented by the same authorities. M. Skouloudis contents himself with a half-hearted protest, to which the German savages reply in characteristic lying fashion by declaring that the bombs were only dropped on Allied positions to the north of the town and on the ships in the harbour!

I myself have special and painful reasons for remembering this attack, because I still bear the marks of a slight injury received. I was awakened at daybreak by the detonations, and jumping out of bed I approached the window to look out, when a terrific explosion took place quite near. The window of my room, which opens inwards, was violently flung back by the concussion, and the framework struck me on the head, knocking me down. It seemed as if the house was tumbling to pieces, and I thought the end of all things had come, so far as I was concerned. I soon found, however, that the injury was not serious, and these letters will therefore continue for the present.

The Languages of Salonika.

It has been said that for every language a man knows he is so many more times a man. If this were true as applied to the people of Salonika, they should represent the concentrated manly qualities of many individuals, seeing that they usually speak several languages besides their own mother-tongue. I am afraid, however, that this would be too flattering an estimate of the qualifications of the natives of this place. At all events, the characteristics concentrated in these people are not always the most desirable in the various personalities which they are supposed to represent. The chief end of man as understood by the people of Salonika is to "do" the stranger within his gates. The question of language is to a large extent connected with the fleecing process. If you speak English only, you must be prepared to pay the highest price for everything, as there is a rooted conviction among the people of the Levant that all Englishmen are rich, and can afford to pay more than anyone else. The shopkeeper's English, too, is usually very limited, and you cannot argue with him to advantage. If you speak French and do not wear an English uniform you may get the goods a little cheaper, because the French are reputed to drive a hard bargain, and, as most shopkeepers know French well, the price can be adequately discussed, and you may not be recognised as a British Crœsus. The man who speaks Greek or Turkish has a further advantage, because the vendor knows very well that no one can speak these languages fluently unless he has resided a considerable time in the Near East. The shopkeeper also realizes that his customer is familiar with the "tricks of the trade." But the very best bargain is secured by the person who speaks Judæo-Spanish. It is an "open sesame" to the Jew's heart, and, as the customer in nine cases out of ten is a Jew also, he secures the best bargain available, although even in that case it may take some argument to fix the price.

Spanish, then, is the principal language, although French is widely spoken for business purposes. Turkish comes next, then Greek and various Western languages which the natives speak in addition to their own tongue. But for variety of languages Salonika must yield first place to Constantinople. It has been said that if you stood on the Galata Bridge, spanning the Golden Horn, for half-an-hour listening to the passers-by you would hear about twenty languages spoken by people of as many nationalities. In Salonika you might hear half that number.

A HINT.

The following passages are extracted from a letter written by a soldier serving in Mesopotamia, and published in *The Times* (of April 22):—

At present we are resting after our first ten days in the trenches, where we had a spell of wet weather and had to work and bustle round practically the whole time, sleeping when convenient, which was seldom. It was my first taste of trench warfare, and I must say I don't like it. Bullets and shells don't matter much—one gets used to them—but mud and wet and dirt are decidedly not nice, and these I shall never get used to.

Mails are very scarce here. For eight weeks after leaving you we had no letters at all, and even now we have had only a few. Tobacco and cigarettes—that is, smokable ones—are conspicuous by their absence. . . . There is one thing that I think you might do, if you have the time—that is, write a letter to the Press for us, drawing the attention of one of the societies for distributing comforts to the troops to the fact that British troops are also fighting in Mesopotamia. Our poor Tommies here have not had a single comfort distributed to them, and considering the discomfort of this awful country it is really pitiable. It is not like France; there are no billets, nothing but tents, and fresh food is very rarely to be seen. Sweets and decent cigarettes cannot be bought, and writing paper and envelopes are as rare as precious stones.

TO OUR READERS.

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

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

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CYPRUS. Cababe and Wilson, Nicosia.

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

CALCUTTA. 1, Royal Exchange Place.

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

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ROUMANIAN LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Bucharest, April 4.

The Cost of Living.

The public and the Press have for a long time been raising loud protests against the high prices current in all parts of the country. Many of the most elementary things, such as articles of food and accessories of the kitchen, are either lacking entirely or command prices which preclude their purchase by the lower and middle classes. The authorities have so far not found the means of coping with the difficulty, in spite of resolutions and promises. This state of affairs is the more exasperating for the reason that in many cases the articles in question exist in abundant quantity. One example among many will suffice to illustrate the point. The maximum price has been fixed for the produce of the State Fisheries, which has a shop and stalls of its own in the market places of Bucharest. But a visit to the latter reveals the fact that the Government stall presents empty benches for one's inspection, while the neighbouring ones are provided with an ample supply of fish, for which impossible prices are asked. The explanation is that the fishmongers, having bought up the whole available stock early in the day through the medium of individuals, pretending, for example, to purchase large quantities for restaurants, are enabled to demand arbitrary prices and thus defeat the good intentions of the Government. This state of affairs has led to violent altercations in the market-places between salesmen and would-be buyers, not infrequently necessitating the interference of the police.

Disturbances at Ploeshti.

On March 30 the workmen of Ploeshti, to the number of several thousand, went out into the streets to protest against the apathetic attitude of the authorities in connection with the high price of living and the speculation in articles of food. Violent speeches were delivered in different parts of the town, but the crowd was held in check by three regiments of infantry and a squadron of cavalry, so that it ultimately dispersed without any serious disturbance having occurred. The workmen's syndicates announced another gathering for Sunday, April 2, and threatened a general strike in the event of suitable measures not having been taken by that date. The strike has not yet taken place, but the population was in a state of considerable agitation on Sunday, which the presence of infantry, artillery, and cavalry did much to calm. A number of political personages who mingled with the crowd finally persuaded the people to return quietly to their homes on the ground that the law against speculation would very shortly become effective.

An Explanation.

This war has affected Roumania more widely than people generally realise, but it is not sufficient to spend a week in a Bucharest hotel, to drive on the Chaussée, and to stroll up and down the Calea Victoriei, in order to gauge the extent of the war's influence upon the social and economic life of the country. Observers who note that "Roumanians are more recklessly extravagant than ever in their pursuit of pleasure," and who see only a "joyous crowd dancing madly round the edge of an active volcano," have gazed upon but one small corner of the picture which represents the Roumania of to-day. They describe what they see fairly accurately, perhaps, but they see too little. In my letter of February 1 I insisted upon the fact that much of the "luxury, dissipation, extravagance—and indifference"—to borrow a second time the words of "An Englishwoman"—with which the population of Bucharest has been taxed, was the appanage of middle-men, or "samsars" as they are here called—a class which has gained numerous recruits, not always children of the soil, since the war has been in progress. But these people are not the exclusive produce of the Roumanian capital; they are parasites who thrive on any favourable medium. In the same letter I tried to emphasise the contrast—inadequately, I fear, according to a fair reader whose qualities of heart and mind lend special significance to her opinions—between the showy extravagance of this class and the correct, but to a superficial observer necessarily less apparent, attitude of those whose traditions and interests bind them down to the Roumanian soil, and who may in consequence be regarded as the most representative elements of the nation.

Roumanian Orphanage at Sibiu.

There are at present in Austria-Hungary at least half a million Roumanian children whose fathers have either lost their lives in the war or have remained permanently disabled and unable to earn a livelihood. The project for the establishment of an orphanage at Sibiu in Transylvania, therefore, corresponds with a very great need. For this purpose a subscription was opened a few weeks ago, and it is pleasant to note that the Roumanian public has shown no reluctance to making material sacrifices for an object not only humane, but eminently patriotic. In Roumania alone 200,000 francs have already been collected, and an equal sum has been subscribed in Transylvania. The Roumanians of Bukovina, who have been terribly tried by this war, have also decided to collect funds for the purpose of founding a local orphanage.

One example among many suffices to illustrate the extent of the losses suffered by the Roumanians "from over there." The 2nd Regiment of Infantry, with headquarters at Brashov, the bulk of which is made up by Roumanians, has enrolled since the beginning of the war 28,000 men. At the present moment it numbers no more than 4,000 men.

M. Radeff's Machinations.

A week or two ago the *Nationalul*, which is carrying on a strenuous campaign against the Bulgarians in general and against M. Radeff, the Bulgarian Minister in Bucharest, in particular, brought to light the fact that this gentleman had added a note in Bulgarian to the passport of a Roumanian subject wishing to visit Bulgaria for family reasons, to the effect that the bearer should not be allowed to return before the end of the war. The Bulgarian Legation published an emphatic denial, declaring that the statement was a calumny. The paragraph in the *Nationalul* had meanwhile come to the notice of the Roumanian authorities, the passport was confiscated, and the bearer prevented from leaving the country. There seems to be strong evidence in favour of the correctness of the *Nationalul's* allegations.

But M. Radeff's activity is far-reaching. A number of Bulgarians have been expelled on the charge of espionage, and they all seem to have been in direct communication with the Bulgarian Legation, some of them being related to the Legation servants. Some fifty young Bulgarians, Roumanian subjects, who were recognised as fit for military service, have deserted into Bulgaria at the instigation, it is said, of members of the "Dobruja Society," with which the Bulgarian Minister is known to have close connections.

The *Nationalul* persistently urges that this state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue, and demands the recall of M. Radeff.

OUTRAGE ON ROUMANIAN DIPLOMAT.

Under date of April 25, Reuter's Bucharest correspondent reports:—The Roumanian Military Attaché at the Legation in Berlin, while carrying a diplomatic case to Bucharest, was arrested on Friday at Brashov by the Austro-Hungarian authorities, who subjected him to a thorough search, and even wished to compel him to open the case. This the Attaché refused to do, and demanded permission to telegraph to his Government; but this was not allowed. Finally, he obtained permission to continue his journey, but had to leave his case behind. As soon as he arrived at Bucharest the Government made a *démarche* through the Foreign Minister to the Austrian Minister, who had the case returned intact.

The incident has produced a painful impression in Roumania, and the severity of the Austro-Hungarian authorities to a diplomatic courier is not understood.

Forty thousand Roumanian soldiers have been sent on leave to do agricultural work.

The Germans have given it out that the Russians at Marseilles are really Serbians in disguise.

A Copenhagen message says that four Swedish officers in Persia have been made prisoners by the Russians near Shiraz.

Notice is given by the Serbian Legation in London that by order of the Serbian Government all Serbian subjects between 18 and 45 years of age inclusive, also those who have been for various reasons exempted from performing their military service with the Serbian Army, are to present themselves within ten days at the Serbian Legation in London or at the nearest Consulate, with a view to communicating to them the order concerning their military duties.

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BULGARIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 3.

The Change in the Calendar.

The proposals for the reform of the calendar in Bulgaria have been approved by the Sobranje, with a large majority. Before being passed, however, the Bill was modified in a way which takes from the reform the character that King Ferdinand desired it to have. Article 6 provided that in future all religious feasts should be celebrated on the same date, but according to the modern calendar; by which means they would coincide with those of the Catholic Church, and thus a big step would have been taken towards a religious *rapprochement* with Austria-Hungary and towards separation from Russia. This attempt has failed. In face of vigorous opposition in Parliament and signs of strong agitation in the country, the Government has beaten a retreat; Article 6 has been struck out, and the religious feasts will remain on the dates of the old calendar.

Loot!

It is reported from Sofia that every day sees the arrival of trainloads of furniture of all sorts and articles of value in iron and copper which have been stolen in Serbia. Apparently the greater part of this loot comes from the Morava region. A special commission receives the spoils and distributes them amongst Government functionaries. It is stated that some eighty pianos alone, "the property of officers," are awaiting purchasers at Sofia station. Agricultural and other machinery is taken to the Sofia Arsenal, where it is overhauled and repaired. The agricultural machines are to be made over to the larger agricultural proprietors and peasant associations.

From Belgrade comes the news that the Austro-Hungarian military authorities have ordered the requisition of all draught and farm animals still remaining in Serbia. This order applies not only to horses and cattle, but also to swine, dogs, and even fowls and geese! The luckless inhabitants are generously permitted to retain one-tenth of their fowls and geese. Any person concealing any of his property is, of course, threatened with the direst penalties.

Lies About Verdun.

A traveller recently arrived from Philippopolis gives the following description of the situation in that town:—"Eight days ago public criers announced that Verdun had fallen to the Germans, and the people of Philippopolis were forced to celebrate the event with great *éclat*. Immediately shops were shut, and the flags of the Central Powers were hoisted over public buildings and the barracks, and at night the town was illuminated and torchlight tattoos took place. The next day the troops marched past the Commandant and Germano-Bulgarian officers in parade order, and the school-children were given a holiday. As far as Philippopolis is concerned, Verdun has already fallen.

"Flour being so short, the Bulgarian authorities have adopted the German bread-ticket system.

"At the police-station there are now two offices, one for Bulgarians and the other for Germans, and nothing can be done without the authorisation of both—one controlling and counter-signing any permit issued by the other. It was only with great difficulty that I was able to get away from Philippopolis. Everywhere there was most minute inspection of papers and of baggage, and the slightest ground for suspicion led to endless interrogations."

We regret that, owing to a misunderstanding, a notice of an Essay read before the Royal Historical Society by Dr. G. W. Prothero, which is about to be published in pamphlet form under the title "German Policy Before the War," was inserted prematurely in our issue last week. The Essay in the form in which it reached us was being circulated privately by the Society. A little time may elapse before it is published by Mr. Murray.

Reports from Czernowitz to German newspapers say that 6,600 horses for the Roumanian cavalry have passed through Bessarabia.

Part 88 of *The Times* "History and Encyclopædia of the War," which has just been issued, is devoted to the Tragedy of Serbia.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

AN INJUDICIOUS EFFORT.*

When we take up a new book by Mr. Pickthall we always hope it may prove a bookshelf companion to "Saïd the Fisherman." Unfortunately "The House of War" disappoints that hope. As in "Saïd" and "The Valley of the Kings," the scene is laid in Syria, but the new story is far more reminiscent of the second than of the first of the others mentioned. Europeans figure largely in it, and we have once more the native scheming to obtain a kind of proprietorship, so to say, over a European, and plotting desperately, now with and now against other natives, to that end. We have also a good deal about missions, "mission ladies," and native Christians—of which and of whom Mr. Pickthall, obviously, does not approve. But in the new story the Europeans are even more in evidence than they are in "The Valley of the Kings," and as a result we find it less satisfactory; for, though Mr. Pickthall can write with sympathy of his own people in their own country—as witness some of his "Tales from Five Chimneys"—he seems to find it difficult to see any good at all in them when they set foot in his—and our—beloved East.

Briefly, the story is that of a young English lady, Elsie Wilding, with sincere "convictions," but narrow views, and a profound lack of both experience and tact, who, finding herself in the East, sets out to "convert" it, with a great deal more zeal than discretion. The people of the native Christian village in which she takes up her residence are prepared to put up with her eccentricities, if not to tolerate them, in the hope of securing certain substantial benefits for themselves; and they persuade their priest to suffer her presence in their midst—at a price. She, however, develops more independence than Jemileh, her self-appointed mentor, had anticipated, and insists on holding open-air services in a neighbouring Moslem village. By something like a miracle she misses securing the martyrdom to which her crude insults—unintentional, be it understood—of the Moslem faith would richly entitle her, and in the end learns a little wisdom. The *dénouement* it would be unfair to disclose. It is probably as satisfactory as it could be with such an unsatisfactory heroine.

The subject, it will be seen, is a difficult one to handle, and, owing to the cause indicated above, Mr. Pickthall has, we fear, failed to handle it successfully. Sharing his views of the relative merits of the "Native Christian" and the Moslem, and of the inadvisability of trying to convert the latter, or of lending too ready an ear to the complaints of the former, we feel that "The House of War" is an honest attempt to put certain facts forward in their true light and perspective. But it seems to us to fail. Mr. Pickthall's method is too severely objective. It serves well to show up the petty intrigues of Jemileh and of "Barsi," but it breaks down badly when applied to the description of Elsie's attempt at missionary preaching, which surely calls for a more psychological handling. Admitted that the young woman's confusion between *qalb* and *kelb* is ludicrous, and that her whole course of action is as unwise and obstinate as could be, yet her motives, one gathers, were sincere and disinterested; and for the sake of fairness, as well as of art, we should have liked to have had the point emphasized. The villagers of Aïneyn, we feel, rose to the occasion more worthily than has the author, who appears to us to have missed a fine opportunity.

Unhappily none of the characters in the book stands out with the vividness of "Saïd," or appeals to us even as did Iskender in "The Valley of the Kings." Elsie herself is lamentably unreal; the hero is a very shadowy, sketchy kind of person; and the rest of the Europeans, with the possible exception of the two mission ladies and the Consul, strike us as mere caricatures. The natives are more satisfactory. Amin, the professional murderer, who yearns for a quiet and respectable life, and deprecates violence of any kind, even in conversation, is an excellent bit of portraiture. We like, too, Hasan Pasha, the Governor, and Sheykh Bakîr; while Abbas, the doorkeeper at the mission house; Antun, the parish priest of Deyr Amun; and Abu Fâris are all worthy of Mr. Pickthall's art. The egregious Barsi (Percy), with his veneer of Americanism, is a faithful, if rather merciless, bit of character drawing, as is his scripture-reading papa, the Khawajah Yusuf; and Jemileh, the arch-schemer, is so admirably delineated that we dislike her intensely from the first page to the last. There are many delightful human touches in the book—such as the description of Elsie given by the sheykh of the village: "By the blessing of the Highest, she is wealthy and of small intelligence. She gives away her money easily." And the descriptions of scenery and of native life are entirely enjoyable. But we still wait for a second "Saïd."

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* "The House of War." By Marmaduke Pickthall. (Eveleigh Nash. 6s.)

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THE STATE OF SYRIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 3.

After a silence that has lasted several months, we have now received some first-hand information of the state of affairs in Syria. Two Syrian refugees have recently arrived in Cairo. One came here by a comparatively direct route; the other had a most adventurous trip across country from Beyrout, down the Euphrates to Busreh, whence, after a short rest, he came on to Egypt. I had a long conversation with the second refugee the other day, and although his information dated three months back, it was most interesting. *Al Mokattam* has just published a series of articles recording the experiences and impressions of the other refugee, and I propose to summarise those articles, supplementing them in certain parts by additional details given me by my own informant.

Few people can picture to themselves the terrible sufferings which Syria has had to endure and is still enduring. Turkish persecution, famine, and disease have brought about a state of affairs beside which the terrors of 1860 pale into insignificance. The striking feature of the present crisis through which that country is passing is that all classes and all sects of its population are suffering in the same manner.

One is at once on arrival struck with the great change that has come over the land. At Beyrout all the people one meets look pale and emaciated. The bazaars, where luxuries used to be sold, and which were formerly thronged with people, are now vacant; most of the shops are closed; those that remain open are rarely frequented, for the simple reason that there is little to sell and few have any money to spend. The import of foreign-made goods has, of course, stopped, and so prices of clothing, metal-work, and woodwork have risen considerably. Even people who were previously well off do not buy any but the barest necessaries, and it is the rarest thing to see anyone in new clothes.

The most serious feature is the lack of provisions, and the resultant exceedingly high prices which the existing stocks command. Bread has become very scarce, and the Unionists, imitating their German masters, have ordered that everyone should receive a ration. This has been fixed at two okias, roughly 1 lb. per head per diem, and can only be obtained by means of a ticket. The price is seven and a-half Turkish piastres per oke; but the bread is exceedingly bad, and differs widely from the sweet white bread for which Beyrout is renowned. So great is the distress that if a well-to-do man purchases a sack of flour he has to take it to his house in the dark of the night; otherwise he will be attacked and the flour stolen from him, as has happened on more than one occasion; whilst if one gets to a restaurant one finds the doors besieged by a hungry mass of men, women, and children, who fight for the scraps that may be thrown out to them.

The locust invasion last summer did a good deal of harm, and has accounted for the dearth of flour and cereals. But an important contributory factor in the enormous rise that prices have undergone has been the paper money which the Turkish authorities have put into circulation. This consists of notes for £T50, 5, 1, ½, and ¼; the two latter series have not been issued yet, but the one-pound notes are cut in half and used as £T½ notes. The notes are signed by Talaat and Jahid, ex-director of the *Tanin* and now vice-president of the Chamber of Deputies and member of the Public Debt Commission. There is no gold reserve against this note issue. Certain bankers and other Syrians managed to send some of these notes secretly to Europe, and had their suspicions speedily confirmed, for not even the German banks would accept them. This fact soon got about; old people told the younger generation how, fifty years ago, they had accepted Government paper in large quantities, and had lost all their fortunes, as the paper proved worthless. As a result, people hesitated to accept the notes, but the Government forced them into circulation by arresting all who discredited or refused them; some were executed, and others were sentenced to from seven to fifteen years' imprisonment. These tactics have not, however, prevented the notes from depreciating by 25 per cent. in value, and shopkeepers, if they find a customer is going to pay in paper, increase their prices enormously, if they cannot find a suitable excuse for crying off the deal. Gold is very rarely to be met with, and the Government has spies who watch for everyone who pays out any yellow coin, and he is at once arrested and has all that he possesses taken from him and exchanged for notes. The only foreign coins that are allowed to circulate in the country are the German silver and nickel ones.

Government paper and the locusts are, therefore, responsible for the present state of famine, but my informant told me that a great clearance of local stocks was made just previous to the expected arrival of the Germans last autumn at Constantinople, whither all the cereals that the authorities could lay their hands on were sent for shipment to Germany. The poor pick up and feed on orange and lemon peel and also chewed pieces of sugar-cane, and when the rains stopped the women and children went out into the fields and picked the weeds and other green stuff that sprouted up, in a desperate endeavour to keep body and soul together. There is no coffee, and the few cafés that are open sell "hourmos" (pea) and "tormos" (lupin) coffee, but even then the price is such that only the richer few can afford. Sweets, for which Beyrout was once famous, are also scarce, and cost 2 mejidias an oke.

Forage has become very expensive, and there is a great lack of horses and mules, owing to their nearly all having been requisitioned by the Government. Carriage hire has quadrupled, and as much as £12 has been paid for a drive from Beyrout to Tripoli.

Things in Beyrout are, however, in no way to be compared with the state of affairs in other parts of the country, especially the Lebanon, where positive famine exists. Between Beyrout and the Mount one meets crowds of starving men, women, and children, many of whom die on the roadside. Grain is still to be obtained in Aleppo, Homs, and Damascus, where a ton fetches two thousand Turkish piastres, but it must be transported to the Lebanon and other districts, owing to the lack of vehicles, etc. The train service was at one time entirely stopped, but now one train runs every week between Beyrout and Damascus. The tickets are printed in Turkish and German, there being no Arabic on them at all now. Owing to the lack of coal, wood has had to be used on a large scale, and deforestation has resulted.

The climax was reached in the sufferings of this unfortunate country when typhus broke out. It has spread in a most alarming manner, and is raging in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Tripoli, and has now reached Damascus. It is to be feared that it will attain most serious proportions, for there are no drugs or medicines left in the pharmacies, and all the able-bodied doctors have been sent to the war zone. The only doctors left are the staff of the American College and a few old Syrians, who were unfit for military service. Eight thousand persons have died in Aleppo vilayet, and sixty cases have been reported in Tripoli.

The monasteries have done valiant work in relieving and assisting the people. So also have the Americans, who obtained from the States large subscriptions for the purpose. But the Turkish authorities intervened and refused to allow any relief to be given. From the replies they gave to those who remonstrated, it is evident that those in control of the country want to see the inhabitants die off. "These Arabs wish to get rid of us and side with our enemies," said one high officer, "but we will get rid of them first" —and they are doing their best to bring this about.

A reign of terror has been introduced by the court-martial that has been sitting at Aleih. The original members refused to inflict sentences to order, and were quickly replaced by less scrupulous men. Innocent men have been sentenced wholesale to death, exile, and penal servitude. In Aleppo there are at present 240 prisoners, 180 of whom are so-called political offenders, and include prominent Moslem and Christian residents, ex-deputies, and *ulema*. One and all are most shamefully treated. The Greek Catholic Bishop has been deported to Amasia, in spite of his ill-health, his colleague of Baalbek has been sent to Konia, and the Greek Orthodox Bishop of Beyrout has been forced to resign and enter a monastery, where he is kept close prisoner. One of the Maronite Bishops only with difficulty succeeded in clearing himself of a charge of treason. The numerous public executions that were taking place were beginning to have a bad effect on the people, so the authorities stopped them and continued their work of extermination in private. As a result of this general state of affairs, crime has increased all over Syria, and the Lebanon, which was one of the most peaceful and orderly districts, is now a hot-bed.

So great is the distress and so desperate have the people become that every time any Allied warships are sighted a rush takes place to the beach, and frantic efforts are made to row out to the ships, so as to escape the further horrors and privations that await them on land. The authorities have tried to prevent these escapes by securing the boats by chains to the shore, by scuttling a good number, and by only allowing a very few fishing boats to continue to ply their trade. But whilst these measures have, on the one hand, merely served to reduce the quantity of fish on which the coastal population might feed, they have, on the other hand, not had any far-reaching effect on attempts to get away from the country. Daily the people try to swim over to the island of Ruad, where the French have a base. Some succeed in the attempt, but a large number are drowned on the way or are killed by the coastguards, who have strict orders to shoot anyone who tries to get away by swimming.

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PERSONAL & SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK.

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

Gregorian. (New Style.)	Julian. (Old Style.)	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1916. April.	1916. April.		1334. Jumada II	5676. Nisan.
28	15	Friday	24	25
29	16	Saturday.....	25	26
30	17	Sunday	26	27
May.				
1	18	Monday	27	28
2	19	Tuesday	28	29
3	20	Wednesday	29	30
			Rejeb.	Iyar.
4	21	Thursday	1	1

To-day is the birthday of Prince Paul Kara-Georgevitch, son of Prince Arsène Kara-Georgevitch, the brother of King Peter of Serbia.

Wednesday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Helen of Greece, eldest daughter of King Constantine, who was born in Athens on April 20, 1896 (O.S.).

Thursday is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Catherine of Greece, the youngest daughter of King Constantine, who was born in Athens in 1913.

The King honoured General Sir Archibald Hunter (Commander Aldershot Training Centre) and Lady Hunter with his presence at luncheon at Government House, Farnborough, on Wednesday.

The Queen has presented to the Cairo Empire Nurses' Red Cross Club a large box of books and games for the use of the members.

General Sir William Birdwood was received by Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House on Saturday.

King Constantine has paid a signal compliment to the British Naval Mission to Greece by acting as sponsor in person at the christening of the son of Admiral Cardale, the second-in-command of the mission, which took place in the British Church in Athens yesterday morning.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes:—"In accordance with a religious custom, a Requiem service for the soul of the late Queen Elizabeth was celebrated at the Monastery of Curtea-de-Argesh on April 8, this being the fortieth day after her death. The whole Royal Family took part in this service, as well as the President of the Council, M. Bratiano, and several members of the Cabinet."

General Sir John Maxwell left London yesterday afternoon for Ireland. Mr. Asquith announced in the House of Commons that the General has been given plenary powers over the whole of the country, and the Irish Executive have placed themselves at his disposal to carry out his wishes.

Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne left town for Castle Macgarrett, Claremorris, Co. Mayo, for Easter, and will probably remain there a fortnight longer.

The Earl and Countess of Bessborough spent Easter at Port Eliot, St. Germans, Cornwall, as the guests of the Earl and Countess of St. Germans.

Sir Reginald Wingate and Lady Wingate left Khartoum for Erkowit for the summer at the beginning of this month.

Lady Maxwell, who recently returned from Cairo to 7, Grosvenor Place, underwent a severe operation on Saturday, and is progressing as favourably as can be expected.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Hutcheson Poë, Bart., has arrived in England from Luxor, Upper Egypt.

Lady Grogan has received the Order of St. Sava (third class), which has been forwarded to her by the Serbian Minister, M. M. Boshkovitch.

At the annual service of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, which will be held on May 4, at noon, in the Chapel of the Order in St. Paul's Cathedral, the banner of the late Sir Charles Rivers-Wilson will be removed and laid on the altar.

An unconfirmed report reaches us that Mr. Morgenthau, who is at present in America on leave, has tendered his resignation of the post of United States Ambassador to Turkey. We can only hope that this report is incorrect, for Mr. Morgenthau has worthily upheld the traditions of his service and his country in Constantinople. Since Turkey joined in the war he has looked after the interests of British subjects in the Turkish Empire with a tireless energy and courage that have earned him the sincere gratitude of all our countrymen.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, and M. Jankovitch arrived at Stockholm on Wednesday on their way to Petrograd.

H.E. the Roumanian Minister and H.E. the Serbian Minister attended a midnight service at the Russian Church, Welbeck Street, on Saturday, Easter Eve.

In celebration of the Russian Easter, the Russian Ambassador and Countess Benckendorff entertained a number of guests at supper in the early hours of Sunday morning. Among those present were the Greek, Roumanian, and Serbian Ministers, with their staffs.

The Crown Prince of Serbia has conferred on Sir Francis Gore the Order of St. Sava (fourth class) in recognition of his services in connection with the Serbian Relief Fund.

The Crown Prince has conferred the Order of St. Sava (second class) on Sir Edward Boyle, of the Serbian Relief Fund.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Order of the Nile (third class) on Miralai F. W. Woodward Bey, D.S.O., late Governor of Upper Nile Province, and Miralai N. W. Gardner Bey, Officer Commanding the Arab Battalion.

King Ferdinand of Roumania has given the sum of 1,250,000 fr. to be distributed in aid of the population of Bucharest, who are suffering from the dearness of food. The Queen of Roumania and the princesses will personally distribute a portion of the gift. The King's letter, addressed to M. Bratiano, the Premier, announcing the gift, has produced an excellent impression.

Essad Pasha, who is now on a visit to this country, is staying at the Savoy Hotel.

Mr. B. Christian has received, through the Serbian Legation in London, the Order of St. Sava (second class) for his services to the Serbian Relief Fund.

The Serbian Order of St. Sava has been conferred on Miss Gorse, of the Scottish Women's Hospital.

In a telegram dated April 22 a special correspondent of the *Times* states that, "according to a report from Smyrna, Abdul Hamid is interned under a strong guard at Magnesia, which is said to be the only town in Asia Minor still loyal to the Young Turks."

M. Voyslav M. Yovanovitch, formerly director of the Serbian Press Bureau at Nish, has arrived in London on a special mission.

A Reuter's message from Simla, dated April 21, reports that Mr. O. Hughes, Acting Political Agent and Commandant of the Mekran Levy Corps, and also Second Lieutenant G. P. Horst, a Reserve officer, recently attached to the corps, were shot dead at Mand by two tribesmen, brothers of a well-known outlaw. The levies promptly killed the two assassins.

The Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., of the British Red Cross Society, has received from the Serbian Minister in London the Order of St. Sava (third class), awarded to him in recognition of his services to Serbia.

Brigadier-General George Darell Jeffreys, Grenadier Guards, who was last week reported wounded, received his brigade command early in this year. He entered the Grenadier Guards in 1897, and within thirteen years received his majority, and a few months later he was appointed Commandant of the Guards' Depôt at Caterham. He took part in the Nile Expedition of 1898, when he fought in the battle of Omdurman, and served in the last two years of the South African War.

Major Stewart Francis Newcombe, D.S.O., R.E., who is reported wounded, had been employed with the Egyptian Army for some time before the war, and was in charge of the surveying party which in 1913-1914 was employed in connecting the triangulation of the Egyptian and Palestinian surveys. To the value of that work and to the exceptional ability which Major (then Captain) Newcombe displayed in carrying it on, Mr. T. E. Lawrence paid a glowing tribute in the "Annual" of the Palestine Exploration Fund, 1914-15. The passage referred to was reproduced in a recent number of THE NEAR EAST, in which the P.E.F. "Annual" was reviewed, and the hope was then expressed that Major Newcombe's talent for organisation was not being lost to the country. Major Newcombe served in the South African War, taking part in the fighting at Paardeburg and at Dreifontein, and he holds the Queen's South African medal and two Egyptian orders. He received the D.S.O. for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near Anzac, Gallipoli Peninsula, on October 29, 1915, when he entered a mine tunnel soon after the first casualties were reported; and, although suffering from the effects of fumes, continued to lead rescue parties till he was completely disabled by the gas.

Miralai C. H. Townsend Bey, Governor Kassala Province, passed through Cairo recently on his way from the Sudan to England on leave

In a recent order, published in Cairo, the Commander-in-Chief records the gallantry of Lieutenant W. A. C. Perry, Royal Engineers, who attempted unsuccessfully to rescue two soldiers from drowning in the Lock at Belbeis. It was dark at the time, and Lieutenant Perry jumped into strong current from a height of 20 ft.

Miss B. Hunter has been awarded the Cross of the Misericorde by the Crown Prince of Serbia in recognition of her services to the Serbian sick and wounded.

Anzac Day was celebrated in London by an impressive service in Westminster Abbey, which was attended by the King and Queen, who came up from Windsor to be present, by many Ministers of State, and by some 2,000 Australian and New Zealand soldiers. General Sir John Maxwell, General Sir Ian Hamilton and Lady Hamilton, General Sir William Birdwood and Lady Birdwood, Sir George Reid, M.P., and Lady Reid were amongst the congregation.

The High Commissioner (Mr. Fisher) entertained a thousand soldiers at luncheon at the Hotel Cecil. At this a noteworthy feature was a speech by General Sir William Birdwood, who was loudly called for by the soldiers, and who finally consented to give "a private talk," which was received with signs of unmistakable enthusiasm. There was also a special performance at His Majesty's Theatre for the Australian troops, while the New Zealanders now in training in this country were reviewed "somewhere out of London."

In Cairo the day was celebrated by a memorial service at the Anzac Hostel, at which telegrams from the New Zealand Minister of Defence, the Australian Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, and the Australian divisional generals were read.

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One of the most remarkable events of the present war has been the large number of British commanding officers with the British troops who, previously having distinguished themselves in the Sudan during the operations of 1898-9, have likewise attracted favourable attention in the present hostilities. Among these soldiers of the higher command has been General Gorringe, whose operations in Mesopotamia are being watched with an intense and sympathetic interest by his former brother officers in the Sudan, some among whom are still serving there. General Gorringe, who is now but forty-eight, was still a very young man when he was entrusted by his chief, Lord Kitchener, with the task of re-constructing the town of Khartoum. Previously he had taken a prominent part in the campaign, having been present at the action of Abu Hamed and the Battle of the Atbara. Gorringe was barely five and twenty years old when he found himself entrusted with the responsible duties of D.A.A.G. of the Headquarters Staff of the Egyptian Army, to which he was attached. It was he who was associated with Sir Reginald Wingate in the pursuit of the Khalifa Abdullahi bin Sayd Mohammed (of the Taaisha section of the Baggara tribe) after the battle of Om Debrikat, and with his subsequent death (at the hands of General Wingate) on November 24, 1899.

The winning back of Khartoum, which for thirteen years had been in the hands of the frightful Mahdists, gave Gorringe a further opportunity of showing his administrative ability, and well did he come out of the test. He found the condition of things in the town of Khartoum in even worse state than he could have imagined. The hideous straits to which the unhappy wretches living there were reduced to obtain food wrung even his heart, and no one who knows Gorringe would accuse him of being either a sensitive or a sentimental man. During one of his official rides on the outskirts of the town he noticed the native camelry being followed for miles upon the road by starving women and little children, who scrambled for the noxious excreta dropped by, perhaps, the most filthy animal living. This foul substance was collected in baskets, and, having been dried in the sun, was crushed into a powder, after which the digested portion of the grain (*dura*) was separated and ravenously eaten.

Among other of the Mahdists' prisoners who were released at this time was a German named Charles Neufeld, who had been in their clutches for over twelve years. This Neufeld, still a tall, handsome man, with a patriarchal white beard and plentiful snow-white hair, had suffered much cruel ill-treatment as a prisoner. He would at all times thereafter talk freely of his bitter experiences to anyone interested, and tell of the joyful hour experienced when the British troops, led by Kitchener and Wingate, entered Omdurman and struck from his maimed and bleeding wrists the heavy iron manacles which he had worn for so many years. And this typical German manifested his deep appreciation of the kindness then shown to him by the British troops by lending his immediate and willing aid as *agent provocateur* of the German Government at the outbreak of the present war—endeavouring by every dishonest means in his power to stir up strife and rebellion against the authorities in Egypt and the Sudan.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

The *Patris* last week announced the recall of M. Passaroff, the Bulgarian Minister at Athens. M. Passaroff, however, officially denied this statement in the *Hesperini*.

Miralai Woodward Bey has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army, with effect from March 23.

The Egyptian papers report a rumour that Judge Bond, Vice-President of the Egyptian Native Court of Appeal, intends coming to England on leave shortly and retiring from the service on pension at the expiration of his leave

The *Temps* announces that M. Kyriakos Venizelos, the eldest son of the great Greek statesman, has arrived in Paris, having been appointed an Attaché at the Greek Legation in that capital.

OBITUARY.

Major Sir Henry Paulet St. John Mildmay, Bart., late Grenadier Guards, whose death took place three days ago at Dogmersfield Park, saw service in the Egyptian War of 1882, for which he held the medal with clasp and the Khedive's Star, and in the Suakin Expedition in 1885, during which he was mentioned in despatches and received the brevet rank of major.

Brigade Commander (temporary Brigadier-General) Augustus de Ségur McKerrell, C.B., died suddenly on Tuesday night in his quarters at Dundee. From 1893 to 1903 he was employed with the Egyptian Army, and did good service in the operations in the Sudan and in the Dongola and Nile Expeditions, obtaining his brevet lieutenant-colonelcy and the Medjidieh and Osmanieh Orders. Afterwards he was successively Governor of Dongola and Berber, and he commanded the 2nd Battalion Cameron Highlanders from 1910 to 1912. He was created C.B. in 1908.

We regret to announce the death, which occurred on Tuesday last, from wounds received at the Front, of Captain Ian Ross, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ross, of Alexandria. Born in 1892, the late Captain Ross was educated at Loretto, and on leaving school entered a firm of cotton brokers in Liverpool. A few days after the outbreak of war he joined the King's Liverpool Regiment and was gazetted lieutenant in March of last year. Promotion followed rapidly, as on the following day he was made temporary captain, and was gazetted captain on December 18, 1915. Captain Ross saw a good deal of fighting in France, having taken part in the engagements of Neuve Chapelle, Ypres, Rue du Bois, Festubert, etc., and on more than one occasion distinguished himself by his gallantry. Once, while under fire, he went to the rescue of a Gurkha officer who had been wounded. He was himself struck down by a trench bomb and died at the base hospital an hour or two afterwards. Captain Ross was of a very genial disposition, and was extremely popular with the men of his battalion. He returned to France from sick leave only last month.

News was received in London last Friday that Field-Marshal von der Goltz, often known as "the reorganizer of the Turkish Army," died of spotted fever on April 19, after ten days' illness, at Turkish headquarters. It is suggested in certain quarters that his death was really due to assassination. It was in 1883, when he was forty years of age, that von der Goltz went to Turkey, at the invitation of Sultan Abdul Hamid, to undertake the reorganization of the Turkish Army. Though confronted by many difficulties, including much suspicion on the part of Abdul Hamid, he accomplished solid work, and in 1895, when he left Turkey, the country possessed an army very much better equipped, armed, and trained than it had when he arrived. He revisited Turkey in 1908, in 1909, and 1910, and continued to advise and assist the Young Turks in military matters; and though the defeat of Turkey by the Balkan Allies certainly shook his reputation, he still retained the confidence of many leading Turks, and his influence undoubtedly did much to bring Turkey into the present war on Germany's side. In the early stages of the war he was for a time Governor of Brussels, but when Turkey joined the fray he returned to Constantinople; and it is understood that he had lately been to Erzeroum and to Baghdad, when he probably took a considerable part in the direction of the military operations. Apparently his death took place at Baghdad. It was on his advice that the Turks made their unsuccessful attempt to invade Egypt; but against that failure we must, in fairness, set his good work on the Gallipoli Peninsula and in Mesopotamia.

The Indian Soldiers' Fund has sent to Mesopotamia two large motor-boats, to be used for conveying up the Tigris supplies which the fund sends to Indian troops at the front. One of the motor-boats has been fitted to accommodate a number of wounded men on the return journey down the stream.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

DEATH.

Ross.—Died of wounds, on the 25th inst., Captain Ian Ross, King's Liverpool Regiment, only son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ross, of Alexandria, and 57, St. James's Court, S.W., aged 23.

IN MEMORIAM.

Doughty-Wylie. — Lieut.-Colonel Charles Hotham Montagu Doughty-Wylie, V.C., C.B., C.M.G., who gave his life for his country at Sedd-el-Bahr, April 26, 1915.

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GREECE, BULGARIA, AND THE ENTENTE.

In a series of articles written by M. Venizelos, or under his inspiration, the new official organ of the Greek Liberal Party has contrived to throw no little light on the Balkan negotiations which preceded Bulgaria's entry into the war. Though primarily intended for the enlightenment of the Greek nation, these articles are of special interest to British readers, for they state very clearly, and, we must infer, accurately, the part played by Great Britain at the time in question. According to M. Venizelos; the Greek Government, of which he was then the head, secured from the British Government in September, 1914, an assurance that the Powers would not ask Greece to make any territorial concessions to Bulgaria. The further assurance was given that neither from Serbia would any considerable concessions to Bulgaria be expected. Greece, for her part, pledged herself not to accept territorial compensation in any part of Southern Albania that was not inhabited by Greeks. This arrangement was prompted by the knowledge that "there remained both in England and in Russia various people who urged that Greece should cede Kavalla to Bulgaria." Taking advantage of the presence in Athens of representatives of this school of thought, M. Venizelos discussed the question with them and put forward the suggestion that the time had come for Greece to realize her national aspirations in Asia Minor. In due course concessions on a large scale in that region were offered by Sir Edward Grey. On a former occasion M. Venizelos stated that the British Foreign Secretary's communication was dated January 24, 1915, and that the latter declared that any proposal by the Greek Government would be favourably considered. Even then there was no suggestion that Greece should make any return to Bulgaria, but it was stipulated that she should withdraw her objection to concessions by Serbia to Bulgaria, her main *quid pro quo* being, presumably, military co-operation with the Powers of the Entente. Greece, however, did not feel justified in taking part in the war without Bulgarian support, or at least an understanding with Bulgaria; and it was the desire to secure one or the other that led M. Venizelos to propose to King Constantine that Bulgaria's aid should be purchased by the cession of Kavalla. His proposal was rejected, and he resigned.

In the opinion of M. Venizelos, the course of events in Greece caused the British Government to abandon all hope of Greek co-operation, and it set about at once to try to gain Bulgaria's support. Kavalla once more was to be the price offered. Greece was to be induced to exchange Kavalla for concessions in Asia Minor, and negotiations to this end were opened at Sofia and Athens. M. Venizelos continues:—"Unhappily, the Entente committed the grievous error of making this offer without having discovered beforehand whether Bulgaria would accept. Thus the Greeks were gratuitously offended, and their co-operation was rendered problematic, even after the return of M. Venizelos to power." When this latter event did take place in August, or, we may suppose, about a month later when Bulgaria's purpose was revealed, M. Venizelos "secured from the Entente Powers the withdrawal of the promises made to Bulgaria, and their assent to the proposal that Greece should have Thrace, if she took part in the war against Bulgaria, who would then be driven back from the Ægean." But Greece was not to be moved from her neutrality, and the painful story of Great Britain, hat in hand, begging at every Balkan door in turn comes to an end. Not so the Balkan question, which, thanks to the British Government's vacillation, remains as much of an unsolved problem as before. Its interest for the Allied Powers, however, has not changed. The one desideratum from the point of view of Europe as a whole is that there should be permanent peace in the Balkans. How do the Allies propose to achieve it? By confining Bulgaria for ever in the prison house of unrealized national aspirations, with Serbia and Greece as head gaolers, or by settling once and for all differences which estrange the Balkan States? There is no third course, and the measure of peace attained by the first would certainly not be permanent. Sooner or later the question has to be faced. The policy to be adopted by the Allied Powers ought to be decided now; but if the hand-to-mouth diplomacy which resulted in such a tragic fiasco in 1915 is still in vogue, we may expect a crude settlement gratifying to the resentments of the moment, but assuredly laying up a heritage of fresh trouble for the future.

The main cause of the discomfiture of the Allies' diplomacy in the Balkans was their failure to have a policy of their own. As far as the British Government was concerned, its guiding principle in dealing with the Near East appears to have been to say "Yea and Amen" to M. Venizelos. We yield to none in our estimation of M. Venizelos, and would gladly have seen him more strongly supported by the Allies, but this attitude ought not to prevent realization of the fact that he is working solely in the interests of Greece. When he is able to say that in September, 1914, he secured from the British Government an assurance that the Powers would not ask Greece to make any territorial cessions to Bulgaria, he testifies to the personal influence he had established over the British Government, but he pays a sorry tribute to British diplomacy. No such undertaking ought ever to have been given to Greece, for the reason that only these territorial concessions by Greece and Serbia could secure permanent peace in the Balkans. Months later the British Government learnt this elementary fact, known from the beginning to anyone with the most superficial acquaintance with Balkan affairs, and proceeded to offer territorial concessions to everybody in every direction. It was, of course, too late. The subsequent march of events in the Near East, the sacrifice of Gallipoli included, represents the penalty paid by the Empire for this particular piece of ignorance. Greece, however, is a sufferer, too, and the object of M. Venizelos's disclosures is to bring home to his countrymen the parlous plight in which they are placed. As things stand now, Greece is left without a friend in the world with the certain prospect of Bulgaria waiting for the moment when she can turn and rend her. If the Central Powers win the war, Bulgaria's opportunity will come at once. If the Allied Powers are victorious, Greece has done nothing to earn either their favour or respect, and ought not to be able to count on their support against the Bulgarians. Meanwhile the Greek Government keeps the army mobilized for no reason that can be justified by its present policy, and threatens to plunge the country in economic ruin. If only for the fact that the interests of the Central Powers in the Near East are diametrically opposed to those of the Balkan States themselves, while the interests of the Allied Powers require these States to be strong and united, Greece ought not to have hesitated to take sides in the war.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.

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A NIGHTMARE JOURNEY.

(Further Experiences in the Balkans of Dr. Lauwens, of the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee.)

On Thursday, July 29, I woke at three o'clock in the morning, to find it was very cold, with the moon and stars shining in a clear sky of deep blue. At four o'clock I was fully dressed and my baggage ready, and when Mikovitch, the interpreter who was to accompany me, came to call me, he was astonished at my opening the door to him myself. As we had been told that we should not be able to procure anything on the journey, I went out to get a few provisions to take with us. At five o'clock four horses were waiting in front of the inn for us: miserable-looking beasts, covered with sores, and with their bones sticking out painfully. I tried to comfort myself with the hope that they were better than they looked, trusting to the promise made me to give me good beasts. We were to be escorted also by a guide and a Montenegrin soldier, armed to the teeth. Our luggage was loaded on to two of the horses, while Mikovitch and I mounted the two other animals. Such saddles! The greater part of the harness was replaced by old string.

At last we were off!

We soon left the town behind, and immediately entered the valley, which rapidly becomes narrower as it approaches a narrow gorge, the entrance to the defile that leads to the Tcharok Pass. On the left we passed an Orthodox monastery, dating from the fifteenth century, and very soon we began to meet caravans returning "light" from Old Montenegro. After a very little way along the mule-path which took the place of the road, my horse began to shown signs of fatigue, and, in order to spare the poor beast, I decided to walk a part of the way. This was at half-past five in the morning, and from that hour I did not remount my horse.

The path, which was only a few feet wide, ran at first beside a torrent which roared and foamed along a bed of rocks fallen from above. The scenery was wild beyond description, without the smallest sign of vegetation. Presently the valley widened out a little, and tufts of shrubbery began to cover the ground, which still rose precipitately each side of us. We travelled slowly, and were passed by Arnauts, men and women, riding little horses that climbed the path with wonderful agility.

Nearly all the time our path lay along a precipice, and our horses particularly affected the dangerous side. I suppose it is a habit with them, to prevent the loads they are accustomed to carrying from knocking against the rocks on the other side of the path. The heat was very trying. Numerous small streams flowed across the path into the torrent below, and in some spots the ground had become soft and yielding. Great care was, therefore, necessary, as a false step might prove fatal.

After three and a-half hours' walking the valley widened a little, and we reached a plain, the name of which I have forgotten, but which is of evil fame. During that period of anarchy representing the Turkish régime a band of brigands infested this spot, massacring and holding travellers to ransom. It now boasts an inn, where beasts of burden may be refreshed, and where travellers, returning from Old Montenegro, arriving at nightfall and not desirous of continuing their journey immediately, may pass a night.

We took some Turkish coffee, while the horses were supplied with hay and oats; but both our mounts and the packhorses refused to eat—a bad sign. Indeed, we had hardly started off again when the packhorse collapsed completely. We were obliged to unload him and leave him behind on the road, with the conductor and my mount. I do not know what became of them. In continuing on our way, it was easy to see that this road was a veritable Calvary for beasts of burden, for it was literally strewn with the carcases of dead horses. It must be remembered that since the beginning of the war these poor beasts have been incredibly overburdened.

Our path ascended the mountain-side. The landscape changed gradually, beginning to resemble Alpine scenery, groups of tall pines covering some of the peaks, while higher still the snow of the Albanian Alps sparkled in the sun. About mid-day we stopped to lunch, off a box of preserves and some eggs, at a relay called Kueista. Two Albanians came and looked at us curiously. One of them was nearly blind, and wanted me to cure him when he learned that I was a doctor.

Our halt lasted only twenty-five minutes, and we started off again. My meal did not seem to have fortified me much. I began to feel very tired, and soon could only drag myself along with difficulty, wondering the while if I should be able to continue. Luckily we arrived at Bielouja, a place of three houses and a mill beside the torrent, and at one of the houses we obtained some coffee, which quite restored me. We were told that it would take us three hours to reach the crest (of Tcharok) and four hours to get to Andrievitza. Here, too, the news that I was a doctor drew the few inhabitants of the place, who pestered me with questions and detailed all their woes and maladies. I did the best I could for them all, and continued on my way quite cheered up.

About four o'clock we reached the peak of Tcharok, and the interminable descent commenced. Here and there were little Montenegrin houses. Rich vegetation and forests of fir-trees and oaks covered both sides of the valley. The heat was overpowering. Happily, the streams did not fail us, and we did not suffer from thirst. We passed numerous caravans with donkeys and little horses, returning unladen towards Ipek, driven for the most part by fierce-looking Albanians. At last, at seven o'clock in the evening, we reached the bottom of the valley.

We waded across a very wide river, along the banks of which stand the houses and farms forming the village of Velika. I got my interpreter to ask how far we were from Andrievitza, and we were told that it was a walk of from five to six hours. This completely discouraged us, for the end of our journey seemed to become farther off. We now followed the right bank of the river along an easy little path, walking quickly, in spite of the fourteen hours we had already done. The sun was sinking rapidly behind the mountains, and I began to get anxious. The valley seemed to be thickly populated, and there were a great many soldiers. At eight o'clock night fell. We were questioned by a peasant, and on replying that we were going to Andrievitza, he said that we were going the wrong way, that we must return and cross the river by a big wooden bridge and follow the left bank. I was furious, for the Montenegrin soldier was supposed to have acted also as guide. Through the intermediary of the interpreter I told him what I thought of him, and he confessed that he had never been to Andrievitza. That is just like a Montenegrin! The incident showed me that I had only myself to rely on.

We were now following the left bank of the river, in absolute darkness; there was no moon, the path was hardly discernible, and we were continually passing through little woods where we could no more see than if we were blind. Soon it was quite impossible to know where we were going, or if we were following the path at all. I took the course of making the horses walk before us. They, at least, guided by their instinct, would find the right path. The Montenegrin soldier could barely follow us any longer. He grumbled and groaned, and said that it would be better to sleep on the road. "Very well," I replied, "you may stay here, but you will stay alone," which forced him to drag along after us. We passed through swamps where we sank nearly up to the knees, and over rocky places where we stumbled at each step. The poor beasts were nearly done; but Mikovitch urged them forward with the help of a stick he had cut from a tree.

To add to our misery, the valley became narrower and the path again began to ascend and descend continually. No more houses. It was ten o'clock. In the darkness we passed a soldier on horseback. "Another hour," he told us. We summoned all our remaining energy. The valley twisted in and out in an incredible way and became narrower at each step. We were walking between jutting rocks and a precipice, at the bottom of which roared a torrent. At last the valley widened, and we saw lights shine in the distance. It was Andrievitza. Another spurt and we were there. It was eleven o'clock at night; we had been walking for seventeen hours, and had covered nearly seventy kilometres. Exhausted, we presented ourselves at the only inn in the place and asked for lodging. "Néma," replied the host. I asked for a glass of wine. "Néma," he replied again. A glass of water. "Néma," said he, shaking his head calmly. I became exasperated. . . .

An Italian took pity on me. He went knocking from door to door, and brought me back a litre of wine, which was comforting. He also found me a room in a little house at the bottom of the village. He spoke French correctly, and asked me if I were really Dr. Lauwens, of the English Mission. He had been waiting here two days for me with an automobile. We arranged to leave the next day at eight o'clock. At last, about midnight, I threw myself, fully dressed, on an old bed in a cottage and slept profoundly.

A Corfu telegram reports that a proclamation has been read at Elbasan from Prince William of Wied in which he calls upon the people to submit and show their loyalty, laying down their arms and enlisting in the Albanian Army.

For having welcomed the Serbians when they broke across the Hungarian frontier and entered Semlin in September, 1914, a chemist's widow, Bela Jenkov, and her three daughters have been sentenced by an Austrian court-martial to thirteen years' imprisonment of the severest kind. The women accompanied the Serbian soldiers when they returned to Serbia, and were lately captured in the interior by Austrian troops.

There was a scene of great enthusiasm at Holyhead on Sunday night on the arrival home of nine officers and forty members of the crew of the s.s. "Tara." Thousands of people had gathered in and around the railway station, and the men made their appearance to the accompaniment of frantic cheering. As the train steamed in, a choir assembled on the platform sang Welsh hymns and patriotic airs, but the music was drowned by the cheering.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.
HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
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KING GEORGE

KING OF SPAIN.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The Turk has not yet lost his knack of doing humorous things in a quite unconscious way. So much is clear from the message sent by Reuter's Copenhagen correspondent, who has been reading Turkish newspapers received there recently. These papers, he reports, "contain lists of names of prominent Arabs who have been hanged for treason or for absenting themselves from military service," and "overleaf is another list of well-known Arabs living in Great Britain and the British Colonies, who are cordially invited to return without delay." The only improvement on this that I can suggest would be to have the two lists printed in adjoining columns.

***

Some weeks ago I commented upon the number of aliens who have since become famous for their Hunnishness that it had been my ill fate to meet in Egypt and the Sudan. But, on the other hand, the same countries gave me acquaintances of quite another calibre, men whom it is a pride to know. Mahon was one, the genial Irishman who makes war with both gloves off, and a friend of every subordinate. Gorringe another—George Frederick Gorringe—one of our youngest generals and world-famous now as he batters against the Turkish lines which encircle Townshend at Kut. In the days when I first knew him he was a colonel in the Army, and was holding the administrative rank of Mudir in the Blue Nile Province. He had worked wonders even in those days, for during a comparatively short tenure of office he had almost doubled the revenue of his province. As a soldier and an administrator the natives stood greatly in awe of him, although this in no way interfered with his general popularity. There is, indeed, no man whom the Sudanese admires more than the one who knows his own mind and, given a position of authority, sees that he gets what he wants. I have frequently heard the kindly but rather weak official referred to as *magnoon* (insane) by the very people he has tried his hardest to befriend.

***

General Gorringe is only forty-eight, and twenty-eight years of his life have been passed in the Army; for he joined the Royal Engineers when he was twenty, and his career generally has been sufficiently successful to augur well for the result of his present enterprise. Both he and his younger brother Leonard, who was in the Slavery Repression Department of the Government, proved themselves to be keen sportsmen while they were in the Sudan, and they both held specimens of the most-sought-after heads when they left the country. In his rare intervals of leave in England General Gorringe resides at Southwick, close to his father's place, where he himself was born. The manner in which he obtained his present residence was characteristic of the man. Returning home after a protracted absence, he found a couple of large semi-detached houses built on some property adjacent to Mr. Gorringe's estate. He was furious, but within a week or so he had purchased the place lock, stock, and barrel, had knocked the two houses into one for his own use, and was building stables at the back and laying out a tennis court in the grounds. I fancy that if the worst happens and Kut falls, the fault will not lie at the door of George Frederick Gorringe.

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I could find it in my heart to wish that newspaper correspondents would be more sparing in their references to the former might and achievements of Greece in these sad days. For the appeal of those times when Greece was the pivot of the world is a very real thing to those who have walked over battlefields and visited the districts that are hallowed for all time by the memory of her heroes and her gods. It has taken me a long time to put aside the conviction that one day the spirit of the past would touch the heart of Greece and drive her people irresistibly up the blood-stained pathways to adventure and liberty. But I have done so now, and I had rather forget the rest. King Constantine may yet lead his people to the fray, but it would be in obedience to the call of expediency coldly analysed, with only a touch of the ancient fire here and there, sparks unnoticed in the general conflagration. At a time when half the world is immersed in Medea's cauldron Greece stands chilly and aloof. Subsequently in the councils of the war-regenerated nations she will have no place. West and east and south and north of her she will see new-born peoples working their way on to new-born heights of national accomplishment, while her slackening pulse beats on to the tune of memories dulled by the murmur of lost opportunities.

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In one way at least the Greeks should be grateful to us for our occupation of Salonika. Excavations for trenches and dug-outs have resulted in the finding of innumerable relics of the past, and, according to Mr. George Renwick, of the *Daily Chronicle*, quite an interesting little museum has already been formed, under the supervision of the Allied authorities. I cannot forbear quoting the inscription on one of the latest finds, a marble slab, which describes what Mr. Renwick calls the "ideal army contractor," it is so singularly apropos to events of the moment:—

The City (honours) Manius Salarius Sabinus, the Gymnasiarch and benefactor, who, in times of scarcity, often supplied grain at a price far below the current one; and at the passage of the troops of the Emperor supplied 600 measures of wheat, 100 measures of barley, 60 measures of beans, and 100 measures of wine at far below current prices; and gave 370 denarii for the repair of the Gymnasium, and at the festivals gave contributions for the tables of the senators and ex-magistrates and the citizens who were entertained with them, and in the needs of the city proved himself a useful citizen. The work was carried out under the direction of Pereitas, the son of Philas, also called Biesios, and Herod, the son of Beithys.

Year 269.

Our advertisements of the present day, while often no less emphatic, are, I hope, destined to be far less lasting.

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In writing the above I forgot to mention that the inscription is, of course, in Greek, and this reminds me how often a thrilling story may be robbed of its point by a slight error in its telling. I remember during the time of the Boer War, when our French neighbours were not so enthusiastically our Allies as they are to-day, a man returned to the Sudan from home, and was eagerly assailed with questions as to the feeling in Paris, through which he had passed. "Awful," he said. "You can't get served at a decent restaurant, and when I went at last to a small place near the Gare St. Lazare, the proprietress glared at me and said: 'Khollo Ingleese, zay zift,' to my face." Now, the above phrase is Arabic, and not French, for "All English are like pitch" (*i.e.*, black—horrible). It was a slight slip, but enough to destroy his story, for we then remembered that he could neither speak nor understand a word of French.

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In spite of all drawbacks, the spirits of our troops in Mesopotamia are wonderful. The *Morning Post* published a few days ago a letter from an officer which seems to me a little masterpiece of description. The writer says:—

I have rejoined the Brigade again now, and at the moment am on a sort of steam sardine tin with two other smaller sardine tins lashed alongside; the men are the sardines, and the so-called engine supplies the oil, and the whole outfit was built some time B.C. In this machine we are lurching and grinding our way up the ancient river of Tigris with many stops, owing to the fact of the skipper being in a continual state of inebriety, and so finding steering difficult; also the ancient kettle which is doing duty as a boiler frequently goes off the boil, and we have to stop to get it hot again. Everything passes us, including sailing barges, and about half an hour ago the Major came by in a contraption pushed from behind by a sort of millwheel at a most giddy speed. Our journey is supposed to last about five days, but at our present rate five years would be nearer the mark.

He goes on to poke fun at everything he sees, from Ezra's tomb, which he likens to "a dilapidated brick kiln, with a pair of piebald crows sitting on the top," to the famous Garden of Eden—the Kurnah one—itself, which is "all Eden and no garden." Even the dreaded mosquitoes afford him the chance of a smile, for, with a touch that Mark Twain himself might surely have envied, he refers to them airily as being "as big as starlings." As a matter of fact, I found the mosquitoes in Mesopotamia far less ferocious, persistent, and generally annoying than the common so-called "house fly." The mosquito stings and flies away (when he can); the "house-fly" (which seems to flourish anywhere) stings and *crawls* away, just far enough to escape your savage slap. He judges his distance, too, to the hundredth part of an inch, and displays an insolence in his leisurely crawl which is the last word in exasperation. Perhaps the letter writer I have quoted has never met this particular plague yet. On the other hand, he may have done so, and may feel that such a beast is no joking matter even to one who can write so flippantly of the progress of "the Major."

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By a slip of the pen, a ridiculous error crept into my note, published last week, on the German claim that the Hohenzollerns are "descended from a sister of Mohammed." In transcribing my correspondent's remarks regarding the descendants of the Prophet, I wrote that the unfortunate Hassan and Hussein were "the victims of Moawya and his son Bayazid," whereas the last name should, of course, have been Yazid (or Yezid).

CORSAIR.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Pan-German Plan.

Under the heading of "The Pan-German Plan and its Antidote," Mr. R. W. Seton-Watson, writing in the *Contemporary Review* (April), says that the Balkan campaign conducted by the Central Powers last autumn laid bare the "vast designs which underlie Germany's military operations."

Serbia is the gate of the East, and its warders had to be dispossessed, if Germany was to assure her command of Constantinople and the decaying Turkish heritage. There are three stages in the Pan-German plan—first, the creation of "Mitteleuropa," a great central European state-organism of 130-150,000,000 inhabitants—as an economic and military unit; second, the realisation of the dream of "Berlin-Bagdad," by the inclusion within the political and economic sphere of influence of the new Zollverein of all the territory lying between the Hungarian frontier and the Persian Gulf; and third, the achievement of naval supremacy and world-power. Britain is faced by the alternative of opposing this programme or accepting it as inevitable. There can be no half-measures in such a struggle: the answer must be "Yes" or "No."

He shows that no victory in the West would be sufficient to destroy the plans of our enemies if it were unaccompanied by the destruction of their designs in the East.

Prussia, Hungary, Turkey, and Bulgaria—each stands for racial domination in varying degrees of crudeness. The policy of Germanisation in Posen, and Magyarisation among the unhappy Slovaks and Rumanians, the Young Turkish policy of repression and extermination in Armenia, and the dream of Bulgarian hegemony in the Balkans on the most approved Prussian lines—all are based upon the same principle of brute force as the determining factor in human progress, and all stand or fall together. . . . In one of its main aspects this war is the decisive struggle of Slav and German, and upon it depends the final settlement of the Balkan and Austrian problems. On the manner of this settlement and on its completeness depends, in turn, the question whether this war is to be followed by stable peace in Europe or by the creation of an armed camp. Stated in another form, the main task which faces the Allies is that of releasing 35 million Slavs and Latins whom Germany is to-day ruthlessly exploiting as *Kanonenfutter*, and who are compelled to shed their blood in a quarrel which is not theirs, and against their closest friends and kinsmen. It is only by their emancipation that an effectual obstacle to the German *Drang nach Osten* can be created, and Germany restricted to those natural limits within which she would cease to be a danger to the peace of Europe.

Mr. Seton-Watson writes scathingly of the few Englishmen who have shown a tendency to coquet with Bulgaria at the expense of our Serbian Allies. Naming them traitors, he continues:—

If honour and good feeling mean nothing to them, they might at least realise that this country is tired of the feeble and disastrous policy of wooing our enemies at the expense of our friends, and that our interests demand unqualified support for Serbia as an Ally, and for Roumania and Greece as essentially loyal and friendly nations, whose friendship has survived the repeated blunders of our diplomacy.

The article concludes:—

The twentieth century is the century of the Slav, and it is one of the main tasks of the war to emancipate the hitherto despised, unknown, or forgotten Slavonic democracies of Central and Southern Europe. If the Poles, the Czecho-Slovaks, and the Jugoslavs succeed in reasserting their right to independent national development, and to that close and cordial intercourse with the West to which they have always aspired, they will become so many links between the West and their Russian kinsmen, and will restore to Europe that idealism which Prussian materialist doctrine was rapidly crushing out. Establish one nation supreme over the Continent, controlling the destinies of a whole group of its neighbours, and you must surely inaugurate a new era of armaments and racial strife, accentuated tenfold by revolution, bankruptcy, and social upheaval. The theory of racial domination, whether it be Prussian, Magyar, Turk, or Bulgarian, must be replaced by a programme of free and untrammelled development for every race. The supernation must follow the superman into the limbo of history.

A Plea for Turkey.

The following quotations are taken from an article entitled "Distracted Turkey," by Sir Edwin Pears, in the *Review of Reviews* (April). Sir Edwin, after analysing the men and circumstances which forced Turkey into war, expresses confidence that there will be a general desire to treat her with humanity as well as justice when the time comes for dictating the terms of peace. He concludes:—

Armenia must, of course, be lost to her. She has proved her incapacity to rule subject races, but that is no reason why we should treat the Turks with injustice. When the great issues of the war have been settled east and west of Germany, all the great schemes of the Kaiser of an Empire extending from Berlin to Bagdad will vanish into thin air. A number of questions will arise which it would be premature to treat now, but as indications point to the weakening of the Central Powers while those of their enemies are strengthening, men naturally discuss what shall be done when the greater issues have been decided. In such discussions I would plead for a fair and considerate treatment of the Turkish people. There is a large progressive element in its population which is worth cultivating, and which it will be just to protect. Turkey as the oppressor of Christian races will disappear; Turkey as a Mohammedan country working out its own salvation according to its own faith and the ideas of the knot of reformers who endeavoured to save the country in July, 1908, may yet become a valuable factor amongst the nations of the world.

Ireland and Serbia.

In a recent number of the *Tuam Herald*, Mr. R. J. Kelly, K.C., has an interesting article, "Ireland and the Serbian People." The writer shows how in many ways the Irish and Serbian characteristics are similar, and how the Serbian cause is Ireland's to-day.

The Irish soldiers will be with the Serbs in this holy cause for vengeance, and not many weeks will elapse before Europe will ring with the deathless deeds that will signalise their success. Serbia will be avenged and Ireland will have helped her and glory in having been privileged to strike a blow for not only Serbian but endangered European democratic freedom. To withhold praise from such efforts, to deny sympathy to such a glorious struggle would be to be cravens to our past, to forfeit our claim and privilege to be considered a freedom-loving people.

The writer then gives a brief historical outline of Serbia's history up to and including the time that she was overrun by the modern Huns. He concludes:—

Nothing can drive out of their minds the curse and infamy of this treatment, and well will they avenge the wrongs done to their cherished womenfolk. These are the brave, religious, moral, democratic, liberty-loving people we, Irish, with the Allied races are fighting to protect and to avenge, and as sure as God in His own good time will bring retribution and see His justice prevail, so surely will the sacred cause of liberty triumph and Serbia be free.

The National Idea.

Under the above heading the *Contemporary Review* (March) published an interesting article by Mr. J. Holland Rose, from which the following quotation is taken. Mr. Rose refers to the commercial ambition of the Central Empires, but thinks that in the final settlement commercial development will play far from a predominant part. He continues:—

What I wish to dwell upon is the necessity of solving the great national questions of Europe before there is a fair chance of handling successfully the social problems of the age. As to the importance of the latter there can be no doubt. On them turns the future of the race. But the political groupings of the nations touch instincts that are more primitive and fundamental. Racial feeling belongs to the savage side of human nature; and until it receives due satisfaction, mankind is always apt to reel back into the beast. No amount of reasoning will persuade an Albanian to obey a Serb, or a Greek a Bulgar. It was a fundamental error of the Young Turks (reared in Comtist traditions) to seek to Ottomanise all their Christian subjects. "We have passed a law" (said a Young Turk to Miss Edith Durham), "and now all the subjects of the empire are Ottomans." To which she replied, "You may pass a law that all cats are dogs, but they will remain cats."

There is, however, this much of difference in the human species. The more you leave the races alone, to be worked upon by trade and other uniting agencies, the more those races will assimilate. The sure way of perpetuating racial differences is to subject one race to another. Even if the Central Empires prevailed in this war, they would fail to Teutonise and Magyarise the Belgians, Poles, Letts, Serbs, and other Slavonic peoples. Only in the mad dreams of 1912-14, concerning the Teutonic

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super-race, could such an enterprise be attempted. And it concerns the future of mankind that such an attempt be rendered impossible. For, until it has failed, racial strife will persist in Europe; and experience shows that, while those strifes continue, no efforts for social betterment will have fair play.

In a later part of his article he expresses the opinion that "in the Balkans nationalism has displayed its incapacity to solve a political problem, and its capacity to entangle that problem almost past hope. But, as the excess of an evil brings a cure, we may hope that the present mad orgy of that sentiment will everywhere provoke a sense of disgust."

Montenegro.

To a recent issue of the *Western Press* the Consul-General for Montenegro, Sir J. Roper Parkington, contributed an interesting article on the characteristics and the sufferings of the Montenegrin people:—

Montenegro fought the Allies' battles with all its manhood, and, indeed, with all its womanhood, but, as all the world knows, their heroic stand with that of their neighbours, the Serbians, at last gave way before the might of Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, and Turkey. The Montenegrins deserve well of the goodwill of Europe, for their history is one unbroken story of heroic self-sacrifice.

The greater part of the article is historical and descriptive; the following quotations are from its latter portion:—

The Montenegrins had neither the time nor the money to prepare for war after the manner of the great nations that go to war. They had their own modest Red Cross organisation, it is true; but when the battle was over that tiny society of Montenegrin women was overwhelmed. Then, in their hour of misery, they turned their face towards the West, looking across to England for doctors and nurses and the medical comforts without which all Montenegro must become a land of mourning. They are poor, these Montenegrins, who for 500 years have had to shed their blood to keep the alien flag from their mountain home, and, in their uncomplaining, mute poverty, the noblest example of fortitude in Europe. . . . The poor of Montenegro to-day are very poor, so poor that they have not enough to eat. England sent them cargoes of maize, but that is soon exhausted, and to-morrow finds the same want in the land. With the cry for medical necessaries is linked the cry for bread, and the cry comes West to England as to a land that never turns a deaf ear to the voice of suffering.

Jews in Egypt.

The *Jewish Chronicle* (April 14) publishes an interview with Mr. D. Levontin, who before the war had succeeded in raising to a high level the credit of the Zionist financial institution in the Holy Land. Mr. Levontin is extremely grateful to the manner in which Jewish refugees have been treated in Egypt, and our quotation is from the portion of his interview which deals with this subject:—

The part played by the Egyptian Government has hitherto not received adequate recognition. The reception which they accorded to the refugees was most sympathetic, and deserves the grateful acknowledgment of the Jewish people all over the world. At the start, when the number of refugees was comparatively small, money for their assistance was collected locally. But when the number grew the Government was approached, and assumed responsibility for the care of the refugees; it established a camp for them in Alexandria, provided them with Kosher food and medical attendance, and helped to establish schools for the education of their children. . . . .

"Alexandria received altogether about 11,500 fugitives from Palestine. Of these, about 5,000 eventually remained, and 3,500 of them are in receipt of assistance. Of these, 2,500 are in the Government settlement, and the remainder are cared for by the Committee. The Committee has established special synagogues, a Yeshiva, and a Talmud Torah. It has also set up a Kosher kitchen. In short, everything has been done to satisfy the communal and religious needs of the refugees, who highly appreciate the care that has been bestowed on them."

The Tragedy of Serbia.

An article by Miss Elsie Inglis, which appears under the above heading in the *Englishwoman* (April) deals principally with the work of British hospital units in Serbia, and should be read without abridgment, for, interesting though it is, it does not lend itself to general quotation. The following paragraphs, however, taken from the concluding portion of the article, which tells of the time when the nurses and patients were no longer free, give a very gratifying picture of our Allies:—

It was the good fortune of some of us that we were able to work for Serbs in a Serbian hospital, as long as there were Serbs to work for. Others of us, who desired only the same lot, were fated to spend dreary weeks as prisoners in Austria.

If we had learnt to love the Serbs during the quiet summer days for their gentleness and courtesy, for their generosity towards us, and their idealism, in those hard, dark times that followed, we came to admire them still more for their grit and their pluck and their wonderful power of rebound. They have their very obvious faults—the faults of any people who have spent five hundred years under Turkish domination. But remember, during all those five hundred years, each year they kept as a fast day the anniversary of the Battle of Kossovo—that day on which they lost their independence. And when at last they threw off the Turkish yoke that day was still observed, no longer now with fasting, but with feasting. A people with such a vivid sense of nationality, with such unquestioned courage behind it, must ultimately win through. "What we are fighting for," they used to tell us, "is for liberty. Six millions of us are free now, but thirteen millions are not, and all Serbs must be free."

Articles to Note.

"What Italy is Doing," by Julius M. Price, in the *English Review* (April).

"Le potenze occidentali e la questione balcanica," by Francesco Evoli, in *La Vita Italiana*.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Position in Mesopotamia. April 26.

Lord ISLINGTON, replying to a question by Lord Strachie, said that in the absence of the representative of the War Office he had been asked to read the following statement:—"The position in Mesopotamia has been the subject of frequent communiqués issued to the Press, and there is nothing further in the present situation or probable future developments which can be fittingly made public at the present moment."

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mails for Mesopotamian Forces. April 19.

Mr. NIELD asked the Postmaster-General whether any special difficulties had been experienced in the delivery of letters and small parcels to the British Expeditionary Force in Mesopotamia, and whether he had received any complaints of the miscarriage or loss of mails to this force, and, if so, whether he could give an explanation with reference to the subject or make any statement.

Mr. PEASE said letters and parcels for the force in Mesopotamia were being sent out with the same regularity as the civil mails for India, and, apart from losses which had occurred through the sinking of ships on the Eastern mail service, he was not aware that any mails to the force had been lost or miscarried. Some complaints had been received about the non-delivery of correspondence for units recently sent out, but there must always be some unavoidable delay when units were being moved.

Prisoners in Bulgaria. April 25.

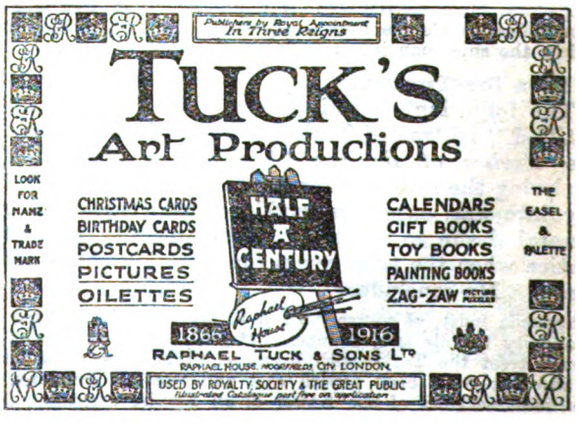
Mr. MALCOLM asked whether the Foreign Office was aware that information from various private sources had reached this country concerning the bad treatment of British prisoners of war in Bulgaria.

Lord R. CECIL said the reply to the first part of the question was in the affirmative. A suggestion that the American Government should be requested to publish the report on this subject recently received from the United States Minister at Sofia would not be overlooked.

No Peace Negotiations with Bulgaria. April 27.

Mr. RONALD MCNEILL asked if the Foreign Secretary's attention had been called to rumours which continue to be circulated in Rome of semi-official British negotiations with Bulgaria which were creating suspicion of Great Britain; whether he had any reason to believe that such rumours were circulated by German agencies; and whether he would make a declaration that no official or semi-official negotiations had been or would be entered into with Bulgaria by or with the approval of his Majesty's Government without the full knowledge and concurrence of all Allied Governments.

Lord ROBERT CECIL said the answer to the first part of the question was in the negative. It was possible that rumours of the notice referred to had been circulated by German agents throughout the neutral countries. In reply to the last part of the question, he thought it was quite clear that his Majesty's Government were precluded by the Declaration of September 5, 1914, from entering upon any peace negotiations with any of our common enemies without the consent of the other parties to the declaration.



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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

According to our Cairo Correspondent, coal is reported to have been found near Edfou. The Egyptian Press to hand states that the coal is said to be of good quality. Until the engineers who have been sent to report on the discovery have published their finding, no opinion can be expressed as to the value of the deposit. It is to be hoped that the field contains coal and not lignite, in which it would differ from many other sensational finds that have been chronicled in the land of the Pharaohs, and which have turned out to be unworkable. As I have frequently stated, a coal mine in Egypt would be a gold mine; it would be of the utmost economic importance to the country, so let us hope that the Edfou rumour will materialise.

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A message from Athens last Thursday stated that the postponed Budget will be introduced immediately on the reassembling of the Chamber. The newspapers estimate a deficit of 380,000,000 fr., the heavy cost of mobilisation (900,000 fr. per day) being largely responsible for this. Apart from this, it appears that a Greek internal loan has been definitely decided on.

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Money seems to be plentiful in Roumania, judging by the Bucharest correspondent of the *Morning Post*, who says that there is a shortage of everything except money, which seems to be a superfluity, for everything has a value there except money. "It has lost its purchasing power, for the things one wants to buy with it are not to be had." In other words, there is a tremendous shortage of manufactured goods—collars even costing 3s. each. According to the statement of the National Bank of Roumania, issued on April 8, the metallic reserves amount to 400,170,272 lei. The issue of paper money has increased by 14,000,000 lei, bringing the total in circulation up to 880,171,785 lei. The Treasury has withdrawn from the bank 363,142,000 lei of the 400,000,000 loan, and it has therefore been compelled to consider a new internal loan, as referred to in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST. The Chamber has since passed a Bill authorising a loan of 150,000,000 lei. The conditions are: The loan, guaranteed by the Customs, will be issued at 84, the rate of interest being 5 per cent, and coupons payable in April and October. Shares may be paid up on date of issue or payment be extended to September of this year. The loan is redeemable in forty years by six-monthly drawings of lots. Subscriptions will remain open for fifteen days, beginning on May 4, and it is expected that it will be over-subscribed by about 150,000,000 lei.

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The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has been busy with appeals from the Prize Court in Egypt. All decisions have now been given, a characteristic one having been published in THE NEAR EAST of last week. In practically all cases the main argument of the enemy owners has been that owing to Ottoman suzerainty Egyptian waters were neutral in the months of war before Turkey united her fortunes to those of the Central Powers. That contention has not been upheld, because our military occupation of the country negatived the idea of neutrality. Reliance was also placed by the enemy owners on the immunity given to the Suez Canal by international convention, but the Judicial Committee has affirmed the view of the Prize Court in Egypt that the right of undisturbed passage did not carry with it the right to use the waterway as a place of refuge. The change that has taken place by the declaration of the Protectorate in Egypt modifies the actual situation there, says the *Glasgow Herald*, although the decisions, as they affect the doctrine of neutrality, have a permanent importance in our case law on the subject.

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"W. J. C.," in *Blackwood's Magazine* (April), writes a picturesque article on the Black Sea coast, Asia Minor. "It is a seaboard of high mountains," he writes, "rising abruptly from the water, in latitude 41° N.—the same latitude as Sardinia and Southern Italy. On a sea voyage from the Bosphorus to Batoum, Ineboli is the first place of call. "It is a little town in the seaward opening of a narrow valley. There is no harbour. The mole of a former port has been washed away, and all that remains are a few half-submerged blocks. . . . A hundred miles beyond Ineboli comes Sinope, a decayed town, with no visible reminders of its long history as a Greek city, or that once it was mistress of the Euxine. It possesses the only good harbour between the Bosphorus and Batoum, an endowment to which it owed much of its earlier importance. A bold peninsula, rising several hundred feet, juts out here and there a few miles, and forms the anchorage. . . .

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"In the days of Sinope's greatness a rival came into being a hundred miles to the east. This was Amisus. . . . While Sinope declined, Amisus rose, became a great and wealthy city. . . . A few fragments on the hillside and some walls of the old harbour are all that remain of Amisus now. But hard by its site has risen Samsoun, a modern town, to which has fallen the same commercial importance that Amisus took from Sinope, and for the same reasons"—namely, that the road into the interior from Sinope and Amisus is more difficult than it is from Samsoun, which is the "port of all the rich country up to and around Sivas." A railway is being built from Samsoun to Sivas, which will traverse this district and also serve the extensive coal-area, fifty miles inland, "where seams ten feet thick may be seen in mountain sides, and coal is excavated like clay. A harbour, also, is projected, which shall make Samsoun a port in more than name. In a few years the town will be no longer the haunt of picturesque caravans, but the only possible outlet of a rich district, greater in area than Ireland; a city with quays and coal-shoots and heavy goods trains. This change will come, whoever the future rulers of the country may be."

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The eastern side of Samsoun Bay is formed by the triangular delta of the Yeshil Irmak, after which the sea-board grows finer. "Hitherto the coastal ranges has not exceeded 5,000 to 6,000 ft.; but now it rises, and becomes more irregular, and at the same time its main ridges draw away a little from the sea and allow greater diversity of coast line. . . . . Three small seaport towns come in the two hundred miles between Samsoun and Trebizond; they are idyllic places seen from afar, but less so on a visit. . . ." Unieh is the first. "From it, as from Samsoun, a road goes to Siras and thence to Erzeroum. Ondu comes next, forty or fifty miles away, and here is another road by which Erzinjan and Erzeroum may be reached. Kerasund is the last of these small ports, and the most important and interesting. It has two roads to Erzinjan and Erzeroum. The town still has fortifications belonging to Byzantine times.

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"Trebizond, which is five or six hours' steaming beyond Kerasund, has no equal in beauty or historical interest among cities on the Black Sea. It stands, with Constantinople, Smyrna, and Amasia, as one of the four cities in the Turkish Empire most favoured by nature." It has no harbour, and "therein lies one of its disadvantages as a commercial city. But a harbour is predicted, and, as at Samsoun, was to have been constructed by a British company. Some say Trebizond is the western port of Persia, and so in a sense it is, but with comparatively little traffic resulting. . . . Unlike Samsoun, there is no great fertile region behind Trebizond. Geographically, it is not only the port of Western Persia, but of wide areas in Eastern Asia Minor as well: the greater part, however, consists of mountains and highland capable of producing little. The future of Trebizond is not to be judged by the extent of country it serves."

***

I have passed Kut some four or five times when travelling between Busreh and Baghdad (says a writer in the *Church Family Newspaper*). It is a place of no importance, except as a stopping-place for the river steamers that ply between Busreh and Baghdad. In the small maps in the daily papers of the Mesopotamia operations, a liquorice factory is marked; the liquorice root is collected at the Kut depôt, and I believe subjected to compression by machinery preparatory to packing and exportation to Eurpoe and America. The name of the firm is McAndrews, Forbes and Co.: the representatives of the firm are mostly Scotch gentlemen. The population of Kut in ordinary times would be probably about 3,000. Many of the small towns and villages on the Euphrates and Tigris present a picturesque appearance from the presence of palm groves. Kut lacks even that charm—it is a most unattractive place from the river.

COMMENTATOR.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, CAIRO.

With reference to the communication originally made to the Press in September, 1914, the MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, Cairo, continues to FURNISH INFORMATION connected with EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS for EXPORT, and with reference to markets for imported products, acting as an intermediary between the producer and consumer. Samples of produce are prepared for submission to inquirers in all parts of the world, and information is supplied to producers, to enable them to prepare their produce in a manner suitable for foreign markets. All correspondence should be addressed to The BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE, Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo.

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Sudan Notes.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the visit of his Majesty the King and her Majesty the Queen to the Sudan, the Committee of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce considered it a fitting opportunity for an expression of the loyalty of the Chamber, and the following letter was addressed to the Governor-General :—

"We have the honour to inform your Excellency that at a meeting of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce held on the 8th inst., the following resolution was passed :—

"'The Sudan Chamber of Commerce, on the occasion of the anniversary of the visit of his Majesty the King and her Majesty the Queen, to the Sudan, wishes respectfully to tender to their Majesties, through his Excellency the Governor-General, humble expressions of its loyalty and of its earnest desire for the speedy victory of the Allied cause in the European war.'

"We beg that your Excellency will kindly see fit to submit to their Majesties the sentiments expressed in the above resolution, on the occasion named."

The message was forwarded to Lord Stamfordham, from whom the following reply was received :—

"I have laid before the King and Queen the resolution passed by the Sudan Chamber of Commerce at their meeting on January 8, and forwarded by your Excellency on the 17th of that month.

"In reply I am commanded to ask you to convey to the members of that body the high appreciation with which their Majesties have received the loyal sentiments to which this communication gives expression."

*** The seventh annual general meeting of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce was held at the National Bank of Egypt on Friday, March 24, and was fairly well attended.

The President welcomed the members present and made interesting report on the work of the Chamber for the year, expressing thanks for the consideration shown by the Government to any question brought forward by the Chamber, and giving details of the trade of the country for the past year.

After reading his report the President informed members that the accounts were at their disposal for examination, and pointed out the satisfactory financial position of the Chamber, having a balance of cash in hand of £E81,831 m/ms., or an excess over last year of £E46,543.

Votes of thanks were then passed to the honorary secretary and honorary treasurer for their services during the past year, and also to Mr. C. P. Lea Birch, who kindly audited the accounts.

Mr. H. S. Job then informed the meeting that in accordance with the statutes the committee retired, and it was necessary to appoint a new committee.

Before, however, proceeding to the election of the committee, Mr. Job informed the meeting that he had decided not to offer himself for re-election. He pointed out that he deeply appreciated the honour of having been elected president over a period of four and a-quarter years, but felt that having so little time to spare and being frequently absent from Khartoum, he would be unable to do justice to a place on the committee in the coming year.

The Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary expressed deep regret at the decision Mr. Job had come to, pointing out the keen interest he had always taken in the Chamber and the services he had rendered, and as it would be difficult to replace him it was hoped that he would reconsider his decision.

To the regret of the meeting, however, Mr. Job could not see his way to change his decision, but hoped that his absence from the Chamber might only be temporary, and he would always follow with interest the work of the Chamber. He also stated that although he was not offering himself for re-election, the National Bank of Egypt would still remain eligible for election, and should the bank be elected Mr. Norton would serve on the committee.

Mr. Job also stated that as in the past he would be pleased to place a room of the bank at the disposal of the Chamber for its meetings.

After the result of the voting was announced the meeting was brought to a close with a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Job for his many services to the Chamber and for so ably conducting te meeting, and expressions of regret were passed that the Chamber would not have the benefit of his services during the ensuing year.

EFFECTS OF THE WAR.

The current issue of *The African World* contains an article on "Business in the Sudan To-Day," by its special correspondent in Wad Medani, from which the ensuing extracts are reproduced :—

It would be interesting to know what has been the position of the Sudan since the outbreak of the European War, what has been the effect of this world-wide struggle on the country's economic situation, and to what extent its trade has been affected. The Sudan having been found at the outbreak of the European crisis at the very start of its economic development, every one would have expected it to undergo the sharpest crisis and to fall back into a period of commercial stagnation and social poverty. But it has, unlike many other countries, been favoured with exceptional conditions ever since the beginning of the war.

Ghezira Irrigation.

If there is a business, however, where the Sudan and its future have felt the detrimental influence of this war, this will undoubtedly be found in the abrupt suspension, almost a few days after the starting of hostilities in Europe, of the just started big dam and canalisation works in the Ghezira. These works had been projected for years, and everyone will remember the anxiety with which its various stages were followed both in technical and political circles until its financing in England under the guarantee of the British Government was finally voted in the House of Commons. The completion of this scheme was calculated to store sufficient quantities of water in a dam on the Blue Nile to irrigate the Ghezira Plain for cotton-growing purposes. It would have been the beginning of a brighter future for this colony, where trade had already begun to feel a gradual improvement. Unfortunately, owing to the very dark outlook which prevailed in the early days of the war, it was decided to postpone the grandiose operation.

Durra.

To a great extent the present favourable position of the country is due to the excellent crop of durra harvested in the year 1914-15, which is considered by the natives to have been one ot the best ever had. The effects of the crop on trade can be readily understood if it be stated that for over a year and a-half now the export of the durra to Arabia, Eritea and Malta has been unceasing, and that the stocks existing even now are far from being exhausted. The native is thus enabled to purchase better food and to increase his various supplies of clothing and house utensils ; hence the satisfactory position of the import trade, both wholesale and retail.

Gum.

Th gum trade, which in the early days of the British Government in the Sudan was in the hands of a few Greek and Syrian merchants, most of whom were established in the country ever since the time of the Mahdi, has almost entirely passed into the hands of German firms during the past seven or eight years. The export of gum to Germany increased in extraordinary proportion during the last decade, and this fact had induced a great number of German merchants and agents to establish themselves in the Sudan and to take up the business of supplying the much-demanded product to their own countrymen in Germany. In these circumstances it had been feared at the declaration of war, and later, when the deportation of German subjects from Egypt and Sudan had been decided, that the gum trade would have to suffer irreparably from the abrupt disestablishment of the German firms and the consequent absence of organised buyers. Fortunately, events proved that fear to have been wrong. Other firms of other nationalities took the place of the Germans that left, and new markets automatically replaced those of Germany and Austria, with the ultimate effect that the whole crop has been advantageously disposed of up to the last ton.

Sesame, Skins, etc.

Sesame and skins have likewise been in great demand. The U.K. markets have been very busy buying a great part of the skins and hides exported, as also Italy and the U.S. There is still a great demand for all sorts of skins produced in the various localities of the Sudan. On the other hand, the ivory and ostrich feather, as also the rhino horn trades have since the beginning of the crisis been hopelessly slack. Prices have gone down considerably, and in certain markets, such as Bahr-el-Ghazal and El Obeid, has caused considerable uneasiness. It is not even expected that the market for these three articles is likely to improve during the present state of affairs in Europe.

Cotton.

The cotton grown last season in the Sudan, though on a comparatively small scale has, however, been excellent, both as regards yield and quality. At first it had been seriously feared that the native cultivators in the Red Sea cotton fields would suffer fatally through the absence of buyers, but, as has been the case with the gum crop, arrangements were speedily made by the Government and local firms for the immediate financing of the crop in the Tokar district, and a serious local crisis has thus been averted. As to the other cotton crops of the Sudan, Zeidab, and the Blue Nile farms, which are run by the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, these have promptly been disposed of in Liverpool by the growers themselves. The best results were obtained from the experimental farms in Tayiba (fourth year) and Barakat (first year), on the Blue Nile. On a cultivated area of about 3,000 feddans an average of 5 kantars per feddan (about an acre) was obtained, the total of bales exported from these two stations being 3,940.

Shipping.

Two or three months after the outbreak of war, and still later, the Sudan met with a severe shipping difficulty, including scarcity of sailings from Port Sudan, both homewards and outwards. Huge quantities of various produce have been lying at Port Sudan awaiting shipment, while great difficulty was likewise experienced in re-stocking the import markets, some of which had nearly been exhausted. The state of affairs has, however, greatly improved through the steps taken by the Government in co-operation with local shipping agents. An adequate number of sailings took place in the past six months, relieving to a great extent the exporters. There is every reason to believe that a sufficient number of sailings will be provided for the next crops, which will mean a continuity to the favourable economic situation prevailing up to now in the Sudan.

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Cyprus and the War.

TRADE IN 1915.

The following trade returns for Cyprus imports and exports during the quarter ended December 31, 1915, are published in the *Cyprus Gazette* of March 24:—

Imports.

Total imports for the quarter amounted to £213,719 (including specie to the value of £3,346), as against £109,459 (£17,912 specie) for the corresponding period of last year.

Principal articles of import were:—

Article.	Quarter ended Dec. 31, 1914.		Quarter ended Dec. 31, 1915.	
	Q'ntity.	Value.	Q'ntity.	Value.
		£		£
Animals.....No.	—	—	6	128
Beans and peas cwt.	488	417	3,074	2,705
Beer and ale, in wood .....gal.	5,033	609	2,629	192
Beer and ale, in bottle .....doz.	920	253	1,981	564
Wheat ..... kile	2,585	615	85,881	30,589
Flour.....cwt.	3,382	2,023	28,995	25,414
Fish, dried, etc. cwt.	1,265	1,723	876	2,060
Olive oil .....cwt.	1,068	2,263	2,249	6,786
Provisions, tinned, dried, etc.....	—	1,405	—	3,279
Rice .....cwt.	6,646	3,315	7,498	5,293
Sesame.....cwt.	427	414	2,265	2,378
Sugar.....cwt.	6,051	6,136	6,580	10,719
Tea .....oke	1,258	156	1,886	359
Tobacco in leaf oke	34,585	4,500	27,006	3,455
Iron ... .cwt.	401	120	1,507	1,014
Chemical manure cwt.	5,000	1,125	754	597
Hides and skins No.	1,672	419	704	208
Petroleum ....gal.	15,934	816	185,672	11,536
Silk-worm eggs..oz.	6,940	1,428	5,654	1,219
Valonia .....cwt.	—	—	—	—
Wax .....cwt.	31	180	—	—
Other raw material	—	647	—	1,217
Iron and steel manufactures....	—	2,085	—	1,808
Cotton yarn and thread .....oke	75,086	7,847	67,188	7.348
Cotton piece goods cwt.	—	9,584	—	18,583
Haberdashery and millinery	—	1,201	—	1,154
Sacks .....No.	38,000	1,119	25,717	999
Silk manufactures	—	550	—	1,301
Woollen manufactures	—	8,002	—	7,088
Implements of agriculture	—	7	—	—
Indigo .....oke	—	9	1,809	1,349
Leather manufactures	—	1,338	—	4,926
Leather, sole..cwt.	321	2,915	1,059	9,178
Matches .....gross	14,508	891	20,838	1,869
Paper, cigarette ..	—	372	—	999
Soap .....cwt.	3,022	5,173	2,568	4,876
Stores, Government and military	—	7,227	—	14,564

Exports.

The total value of exports was £211,674 (specie, £1,791), as against £140,836 (specie, £2,250) for the corresponding period of last year. Principal articles of export were:—

Article.	Quarter ended Dec. 31, 1914.		Quarter ended, Dec. 31, 1915.	
	Q'ntity.	Value.	Q'ntity.	Value.
		£		£
Mules.....No.	11	250	237	4,115
Oxen .....No.	127	945	1,344	10,711
Poultry .....No.	1,007	71	1,102	89
Sheep.....No.	18	18	560	454
Swine.....No.	1,192	3,810	1,248	2,763
Barley .....kile	142,469	15,635	2,635	503
Oats .....kile	40,369	3,484	294	32
Lemons and Oranges No.	2,586,860	1,479	4,146,909	3,033
Pomegranates cwt.	69,123	8,656	88,455	15,629
Raisins.....cwt.	4,081	1,360	31,438	25,141
Spirits .....gal.	4,994	508	13,798	1,417
Commandaria..gal.	1,223	86	2,368	179
Other wines and Spirits .....gal.	203,269	4,819	1,101,445	14 896
Potatoes .....cwt.	17,845	3,942	18,942	7,523
Onions .....cwt.	7,044	1,260	7,349	1,768
Vegetables ....cwt.	131	31	2,005	278
Vinegar.....gal.	32,938	521	29,657	455
Beans and Peascwt.	2,394	1,251	931	1,537
Carobs ..... ton	17,848	63,356	12,405	57,520
Cotton .....cwt.	720	1,816	4	11
Silk cocoons....oke	7,435	4,716	43,527	30,732
Wool .....cwt.	1,315	4,433	300	1,013
Linseed.....cwt.	2,022	1,016	487	471
Hides and skins cwt.	30	187	382	1,764
Sponges .....oke	330	131	3,642	7,271
Sumac .....cwt.	269	79	1,600	337
Asbestos .....cwt.	—	—	4,924	2,175
Terra Umbra ..tons	2,050	2,233	—	—
Cordage and twine .....cwt.	151	264	613	1,614
Cotton manufactures.....	—	780	—	,750

SHIPPING RETURNS.

The number and tonnage of vessels which entered and cleared in the foreign trade of Cyprus for the quarter ended December 31, 1915, were as follows:—

Ports.	Entered. Total.		Cleared. Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Larnaca	35	1,292	38	2,327
Limassol	33	11,494	61	20,441
F'gusta.....	72	20,174	70	6,763
Carpass.....	—	—	—	—
Kyrenia	—	—	3	126
Paphos	—	—	11	6,163
Latchi	—	—	—	—
Levka	2	4,800	5	5,073
Total	142 (of which 115 were sailing vessels)	37,760	188 (of which 160 were sailing vessels)	40,893
3 months ended Dec. 31, 1914..	180 (147 sailing vessels)	43,500	195 (159 sailing vessels.)	49,850

GREEK LOTTERY.

The Kingdom of Greece (says the *Daily Graphic*) finds in the lottery a valuable means for augmenting public and semi-public funds. According to the official report recently issued, the Government received £645,000 from this source during the ten years 1905-1914.

The lottery is known as the Royal Greek Naval Lottery, and its gains are divided between the Greek Navy Department and the Grecian Archæological Society, the navy receiving 70 per cent. In the decade under review the lottery distributed £243,000 in prizes, and turned over to the navy £256,000 and to the Archæological Society £104,000. The lottery tickets, which are hawked about the streets by boys and men, are bought outright from the Government before being sold to individual purchasers.

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TRADE NOTES.

Egypt.

The Superintendent of Stores, Ministry of Education, invites tenders for the supply of clothing for the pupils of the Elementary Training Colleges for women teachers for the school year 1917. Date, May 27.

H.M. Consul at Cairo has forwarded conditions of contract in connection with a call for tenders by the Egyptian Ministry of Finance for the supply of stationery articles required for the use of the various Government Administrations during the year 1916-17, including pencils, penholders, pen wipers, pins, gum, paper clips, sealing wax, ink, etc. Copies of the conditions and form of tender may be obtained from the "Economat Central, Ministère des Finances," Cairo, at which address also sealed tenders, made out on the proper form and accompanied by samples (in duplicate) of the goods it is proposed to supply, will be received up to noon on June 1.

Tenders are invited by the Postmaster-General, Alexandria, for the supply of uniforms during one year (1917-18). Persons wishing to tender can see the specification and obtain all other information at the Central Stores, General Post Office, Alexandria, or, in England, at the offices of the Egyptian Government Representative, Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W. Date, June 1.

Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received, up to April 29, by the Director of the Technical School, Bulac, Cairo, for the supply of 560 sets of blue linen overalls (jackets and trousers) required for the school during the year 1916-17. Copies of the cahier des charges and form of tender may be obtained from the Model Workshops, Bulac, Cairo, where also samples may be seen. A copy of the cahier des charges, together with particulars of the overalls required, may be consulted at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., by firms in the United Kingdom.

Tenders are invited by the Ministry of War for the supply of (1) forty tons of coco-nut oil and (2) 100 tons arachis oil into the War Department Stores, Tura. Date, May 16.

Sudan.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Director, Steamers Department, Sudan Government, Khartoum Dockyard, Khartoum North, before noon, on May 10, 1916, for the supply of stores and material required by the above Department during the current year. Persons wishing to tender can obtain full particulars and conditions of the contract by application to the above office, the Agent, Sudan Government Railways, Alexandria, or to Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, London, S.W.

Morocco.

H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier reports a recent official announcement of the establishment of a parcel post service between the French Zone of Morocco and France, Corsica, Algeria, Tunis, French colonies and protectorates, and foreign countries which are parties to the International Convention of Rome of May 26, 1906. A system of telegraphic money orders between the post-offices of the French Zone and those of France and Algeria and the French post-office at Tangier has also been introduced.

We have received a copy of the *Agricultural Journal of Egypt* (Vol. V., Parts I. and II.), 1916, containing, among other articles, the following:—"Distribution of Cotton Seed," by A. Sydney Merton, Director of the Cotton Seed Section; "Cotton Breeding Report for 1914," by B. G. C. Bolland, Botanist to the Ministry of Agriculture; and "The Sheep in Egypt," by G. C. Dudgeon, Consulting Agriculturist, and Mohammad Askar Eff, Inspector, Veterinary Section, Ministry of Agriculture.

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The Egyptian Market.

The *Outfitter* publishes an interview with Mr. J. H. Perliman, of Messrs. Morum Brothers, on the above subject, from which the following extracts are reproduced :—

Though millions of pounds of British capital has been spent in the country, Mr. J. H. Perliman thinks it is a shame to see that out of nearly £30,000,000 imports of recent years the United Kingdom claims only about £8,000,000, and if the value of coal and proprietary articles is deducted, one can see how little the ordinary English manufacturer has participated towards the general import into the country, and if, after allowing the shares held by France, Italy, Russia, U.S.A., and Japan, a good portion of the import trade was in the hands of Germany and Austria.

The requirements of the natives were keenly studied by our enemies, by linguist travellers sent to the country, and supplied at prices and terms to suit the market. As a matter of fact, very few, if any, British manufacturers sought to compete. The duty on general goods being 8½ per cent. ad valorem, it was a very easy task for the Austro-German manufacturer to produce the articles at the prices to enable retailers to supply their customers with such articles and at such prices as to appeal to the native, who, after all, is the principal element with whom the bulk of the trade is done. Granted that the British manufacturers never enjoyed the same financial facilities from the banks as the Germans and Austrians have, which accounts to a great extent for their not having been able to fall in with the terms and ways of business in Egypt which could be secured before the war, how many firms are there who need not have recourse to financial assistance to extend their trade who have made the attempt?

The native, one must say, has always been an admirer of English-made goods, and the good-class natives are people who do not mind the expense so long as they get a good article.

However, under the present state of affairs, and the prohibition of imports from enemy countries, restrictions on imports from neutral countries, the field is entirely open to the Allies. France, unfortunately, on account of her industrial territory being invaded, can do little. Italy is exporting to the limit of her possibilities. There is therefore a vast opening for the British manufacturers. The merchant in Egypt, not being able to obtain the terms and cheaply produced articles he was accustomed to get so far, is compelled to have recourse to our goods and our terms, to which he seems gradually to adapt himself.

The gentlemen's clothing branch is very important, and the bulk of it was imported from Austria ; it is now entirely in our hands, and when one considers that one firm alone placed orders in this market with the manufacturing clothiers in England—who had hardly done a stroke of business in Egypt—for over £50,000 in the course of nine months, it is a certain proof that Egypt is a market worth cultivating systematically. The same firm also placed orders for general goods, such as shirts, collars, boots, shoes, ladies' wear, gentlemen's wear of all descriptions, leather goods, piece goods of all descriptions, etc., to the extent of over £100,000 during the same period.

The British manufacturers are, therefore, placed in that good position as to be able to sell the actual class of a good-made article and on the terms suitable to them.

DEVELOPING EGYPTIAN INDUSTRY.

New Commission.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture issues the following communiqués—

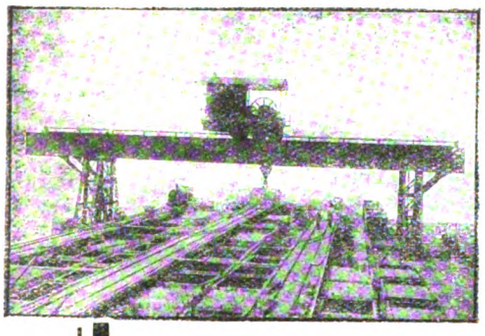
(1) The Ministry of Agriculture has decided to form a commission to be known as the "Commission of Agricultural Commerce," to study problems and advise the Ministry in connection with the creation of new markets for Egyptian agricultural produce, and more particularly the substitution of home-grown products or at least products coming from British, Allied and neutral countries for those previously imported from enemy countries.

The Commission is to consist of the following members :—

Messrs. G. C. Dudgeon, president, H. Naus Bey, Victor Mosséri, Bushra Hanna Bey, Mohamed Abul-Futuh Bey, H. E. Neguib Mansur Shakur Pasha, and Messrs. W. E. Kingsford and Pierre Arminjon.

Commercial Bureau.

(2) With reference to the communication originally made to the Press in September, 1914, the Ministry of Agriculture, continues to furnish information connected with Egyptian agricultural products for export, and with reference to markets for imported products, acting as an intermediary between the producer and consumer. Samples of produce are prepared for submission to inquirers in all parts of the world, and information is supplied to producers, to enable them to prepare their produce in a manner suitable for foreign markets. All correspondence should be addressed to the Bureau of Commercial Intelligence, Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo.



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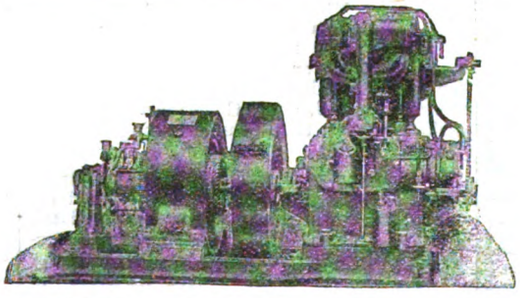

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Engineering Notes.

Deficiency of American Submarines.

The critical situation between the United States and Germany has stirred up again a serious discussion among experts in America, as well as here, regarding the efficiency of the existing type of American-built submarines now in service, and the type that should be adopted in the future. It appears that at present only thirty submarines are ready for service, whilst some ten or twelve others are undergoing repairs, and will not be ready before the lapse of four or five months. Last February the chief of the Submarine Department of the United States Navy, Rear-Admiral Grant, submitted to the Government a plan for fleet and coast defence submarine operation in the Atlantic and Pacific, embracing 188 submarines or submersibles of all types. According to this plan thirty divisions should be formed of six submarines each, three divisions to cruise with the Atlantic fleet and three with the Pacific fleet, the remainder working on shore bases distributed along the coast. Admiral Grant emphasised that no boats of less than 750 or 800 tons surface displacement should be built in the future, saying that he was certain that German boats from "U 39" to "U 58" inclusive claim 800 tons on the surface as against 450 tons of the "K" boats of the American Navy, which are at present the largest in service. He also stated that a few 1,200-ton boats are building in Europe, but he did not know whether any had been put into commission. Of interest also was the statement that three "U" boats, costing 2½ million dollars, are as effective as twenty-two "K" boats (the American type), costing 7,000,000 dollars. He was, however, strongly of opinion that no additional submarines of the 1,200-ton type should be built until the "Schley" had been tried out. At present, beside the number of submarines referred to at the beginning of these notes as ready for service, there are under construction or authorized thirty-five more, including three large ones of the fleet-cruising type, the completion of which is being hastened.

Treatment of Sewage.

Some account of the modern treatment of sewage has been given in these notes on previous occasions, and we are glad to hear that certain suggestions put forward have helped a municipal corporation in the East in its decision as to the system that should be adopted in that district. In cases, however, when our notes are of interest to municipal authorities or contractors, we shall be glad to receive inquiries for more particulars than those we briefly give in these notes, and shall put them in communication, when desired, with patentees, chemical manufacturers, or trustworthy contractors. The most common and, perhaps, the earliest method of treating sewage consisted in distributing it over an area of land upon which various root crops were grown, the assumption being that the roots of the growing plants had a special purifying effect. This method may be quite efficient if the required area of suitable land is available, and many towns still continue to treat their sewage in this way. But with the extension of the town and increase of population, such a system cannot be continued without being injurious. Then, again, when the soil is frozen it does not absorb the liquid, and in the case of a long spell of severe weather the consequences can be very serious. To overcome these difficulties chemical treatment was introduced, the aim being to precipitate the solids and to sterilize the effluent, the latter being filtered through a small area of land as a final precaution.

Chemical Treatment.

This system is adopted by a number of corporations, but the objections to it are the cost of the chemicals, the large amount of solid matter to be dealt with, and the quality of the effluent, which latter often carries in solution the most offensive portion of the crude sewage, and is liable to putrefaction after it has been discharged into a stream. The solid matter or sludge precipitated by the action of the chemicals is sometimes compressed into cakes, which were at first thought to possess a considerable value as manure, but, owing to the carrying off of the more important fertilising constituents in the effluent, this product commands a very low price. However, in spite of the before-mentioned drawbacks, the system may prove quite suitable and efficient where others have failed. At the same time, much depends on the knowledge and capabilities of the engineers in charge, and of this we were reminded the other day by Mr. Reginald Brown, M.Inst.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., who read a paper before the Society of Engineers entitled, "Sewage and its Precipitation: Facts and Fallacies from Laboratory and Practical Tests." Taking three of the best-known chemicals in general use—viz., ferric sulphate, sulphate of alumina, and lime—he pointed out that engineers had to be fully acquainted with the value of precipitants, and warned them not to expect that a precipitant which was suitable and economic for one sewage must be equally effective and economic for another, or under different working conditions. Mr. Brown laid down as an axiom that to compare the value of precipitants the purification figure for suspended solids should be calculated on settled sewage, and not on crude sewage, as was generally done, because some of these solids would deposit themselves by reason of their specific gravity, and did not absolutely require chemicals for precipitation when tanks of sufficient extent are provided.

DELTA SALINE DRAINAGE.

Towards the end of March M. Emile Catseflis, a well-known agricultural engineer, delivered a lecture before the Sultanieh Society of Political Economy (Cairo) on the drainage of saline waters in the Delta.

There are in Egypt, he said, about one million feddans of land, fitted with nearly all requirements of agriculture, but the yield of which is hardly sufficient to cover their expense. Large portions of these lands are, in addition, mortgaged at different banks at interest varying between 6 and 7 per cent., when their yield does not amount to 1 or 2 per cent. If, however, their condition is improved their yield will increase by eight or nine million pounds annually, which would serve to free them from their debts and increase the wealth of the country annually by this amount.

These lands contain an abundant quantity of humidity and salt owing to the fact that the layer of underground artificial water is near the surface, and the land consequently absorbs much of it. In order to remedy this state of things artificial open drains (masrafs) had been created in different places, but they have proved absolutely insufficient, as they were found to improve only a small portion of the land immediately close to them, leaving the rest of the land unaffected. Besides this, these masrafs cover a fairly large part of the land and render it unavailable for cultivation, and require in addition an average of 20 to 25 piastres per feddan annually for upkeep, which, taken together, mean a loss of 95 or 100 piastres per feddan annually.

A better process, however, for clearing the salty water would be to use covered underground sloping drains at a distance of 7 to 12 metres from the surface, and fit them with tubes made of pottery 5 to 10 cm. in diameter. These tubes would be connected together and fitted in such a way as to pour into a main tube of sufficient depth to allow all the water of the different drains to pour into it. The water thus collected would either be disposed of by absorption in the deep layers, or, if the nature of the land underground is not suitable for absorption, pumps could be erected for the purpose.

The advantages which this system offers are numerous. It allows the utilization of the whole surface of the land for agriculture, and then enables one to make these drains on a more general scale than would have been possible with the open masrafs, as in the latter case the parts of the lands used for the masrafs cannot be utilized.

By this system also the water filters into the drains perpendicularly, causing fissures in the land, and thus rendering it open for ventilation, which is very useful. It is used in all countries of Europe on a large scale, and the State Domains Administration in Egypt have lately carried out an experiment on a plot of 82 feddans at Bishbish (Gharbieh) by dividing it into three equal parts, one of which they left without any drains at all, the second with open masrafs, and the third with these covered underground pottery drains. The results were as follows:—

1. No yield at all.
2. Yielded ½ a kantar per feddan.
3. Yielded 4½ kantars per feddan.

Mr. Catseflis also tried the system himself at Surembay, in Behera, on a plot of land which was altogether unsuitable for cultivation. The results were excellent, and the land yielded last year a good crop of durrah which made the cultivators offer an annual rent of P.T.650 for it. This system costs about £7 per feddan, which, taking into account the fact that the annual cost of P.T.100 per feddan in the open drain system, means an interest of 14 per cent.—*Egyptian Gazette.*

ROUMANIAN OIL PRODUCTION.

The production of crude oil in Roumania during the latter half of March was estimated at about 4,000 tons per day, says *Oil News.* Prices for crude were extremely firm, and at the end of the month as much as 67 to 70 frs. per ton was paid by some refiners. Exports were on a fair scale, but the lack of tank wagons is being increasingly felt, as only those registered on the Roumanian railways are being returned, wagons owned in Germany being retained there after their arrival from Roumania.

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Near East Markets.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Locust War.

Gloomy forecasts are made in the Greek papers of the damage likely to be caused by swarms which have appeared in many places. While the Government has pinned its faith on the system of destruction by poisonous solutions, the natives persist in advocating a return to that of purchasing locusts by weight. They argue that the latter method, besides being far more effective, has the advantage of providing a much wider field for labour, now so much depressed. Numerous petitions from village communities have been submitted, asking for adoption of this mode of attack, and alleging that their bees as well as livestock, especially sheep, have died from the effects of sprayed vegetation. The Press as well as leading men strongly urge this course, advocating an exhaustive campaign, regardless of cost, in view of the extent and gravity of the danger. Government is no doubt in possession of records and figures which should furnish a basis for deciding which plan of action is most expedient. The official reports of recent years have left little doubt that destruction by poison has been both the cheapest and the best.

New Cheese Making Industry.

Amongst the signs of awakening enterprise may be mentioned the establishment of a cheese factory at Morphou, started by a Greek firm. It is under the direction of an expert manufacturer, and it is hoped that the products will compete with imported kinds. It has been inspected by the Director of Agriculture, Mr. W. Bevan, and the Greek overseer, M. Symeonides, who have promised support to the undertaking. Cyprus native cheese made from goat and sheep's milk, is chiefly of two kinds, one flat and much salted, the other in small cylinders. Both kinds are largely consumed in the island. It is hoped that the innovation will be successful.

General Outlook.

Weather conditions continue to be favourable, and harvest prospects are good in all districts. The barley crops are considered to be practically secured, and wheat should do equally well should there be rain on one or two more days. A recent rainfall in the Famagusta district has been remarkably heavy for this season.

The Neuchatel Asphalt Company were recently the successful tenderers to the Cairo Tanzim Department for the supply of fifty tons of natural asphalt.

PRODUCE REPORT.

London, April 27.

Currants.

Owing to the holidays, the market has been very quiet, whilst the few transactions that have taken place are hardly worth mentioning. The high rates of freight and insurance are evidently preventing shipments, and any prospects of new arrivals are at present doubtful. In the meantime, prices are fully maintained for Provincial, 41s. to 43s.; Amalias, 44s. to 46s.; Gulf, 48s. to 52s.; Patras, 46s. to 48s.; Vostizza, 48s. to 54s.; Islands, 44s. to 48s.; and Smalls, 44s. to 54s.

Sultanas.

There has been only a small demand, with little business done in Afghanistan fruit at full prices; whilst holders of other grades seem not inclined to sell, expecting a further advance in prices. Greeks are quoted 90s. to 110s.; other sultanas, 84s. to 102s.

Figs.

A steady demand continued, and a fair amount of business has taken place this week, principally in Greek fruit, a good selection of which is in the market. Prices are unchanged.

Seeds.

Linseed is firmer, Calcutta-London, spot, May-June and June-July, quoted 75s. 6d.; Bombay ordinary, May-June, 76s. 9d.; small grain, 75s. 9d.; La Plata, Hull, May-June,

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72s. Rapeseed is firm; Toria, April-May, Hull, 65s. Cotton-seed is firmer, London-Egyptian spot, £14 7s. 6d.

Oils.

Linseed oil is firm; spot pipes landed, sold at £39 10s.; barrels ditto, £40 10s. Rape-oil is rather quiet, ordinary brown naked offered at £49; English refined barrels, £54 to £55. Cotton-oil is firm, crude spot pipes selling at £44 10s.; refined pale pipes, £48 10s.; barrels, sweet, £53 to £54, as to make.

Various.

Egyptian onions are sparingly offered at sales, owing to the limited quantities that are discharged each time, but satisfactory prices are realised. Egyptian eggs are in better demand at 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. Beeswax, £6 5s. to £9 per cwt.; East Indian yellow, £6 to £6 10s.; and white, £8s. 17s. 6d. to £9 5s. Cream of Tartar, Greek, £9 15s.

AMERICAN FLOUR IN JERUSALEM.

The U.S. Consul in Jerusalem, writing on December 1, said:—

"Although Palestine is an agricultural country chiefly devoted to the cultivation of cereals, there has been an annual importation from Roumania, Bulgaria, France, and Russia. This importation has varied from year to year, as it was affected by the success of the crops. It must be said, however, that even in abundant years flour has not failed to be imported, which fact is accounted for by the exportation of the superior local hard grain against the cheaper flour imported.

"A few years ago, owing to the failure of the barley crop, a wheat shortage occurred, and as supplies could not then be obtained in the customary markets, new sources had to be sought. Australia solved the problem by establishing an entrepôt at Port Said, Egypt, as a central distributing point. This plan of distribution was laudable in many ways; it afforded the merchant of the East opportunity to examine the goods before purchase, permitted him to buy in quantities suited to his means, and saved both correspondence and expense.

"Conditions consequent upon the present war opened the way for the introduction of American flour. On account of the almost complete paralysis of all means of support, the people of Palestine were reduced to such a state of poverty as to make them worthy objects of charity. Relatives and friends in the United States sent a shipload of foodstuffs, principally American flour, to relieve the situation. The relief boat left the United States in the early part of 1915, arriving at Jaffa in April. The flour must have been milled in December, 1914, or January, 1915, and by the time it was landed and transported to the places of destination in Palestine—which transportation had to be made on mule and camel back—and ultimate distribution made among the needy, many months had elapsed.

"Consumers at first were ignorant of the way of preparing the flour on account of its fine grind, but before long they acquired the art, although the majority preferred to mix it with the coarser native flour. The quantity distributed per capita was enough to provide this entire community with flour for one month. A number of the very poor, in order to buy the native flour to mix with the fine American article, or to provide for other wants of their household, had to sell a portion of their supply, the prices obtained being 20 to 25 per cent. higher than for native flour."

EGYPTIAN TEXTILES.

Modern Egypt is going to make a big bid for the British Empire market after the war, says the *Draper*. Two large blocks have just been secured for Egyptian exhibits at the forthcoming Industries of the Empire Fair, which is to be held in London after the termination of the war. Cotton will, of course, figure prominently in the display, and especial interest will be taken in the show of woven materials. There will be an exceptionally fine exhibit of carpets, shawls, straw and reed mats and chairs, artistic wood and brass work, and specimens of many other native industries with which the British public are as yet comparatively unfamiliar.

It is interesting to note that the space secured for Egypt at the Industries of the Empire Fair has been taken by the Egyptian Government, as representing the trade of the country. Hitherto the State-supported German trader has had a tremendous advantage in competition with our own manufacturers and merchants, and it is evident that there must be a more intimate relationship between our own Government and British trade if we are to oust our resourceful and organised Teutonic rival in the struggle for trade supremacy. The fact that the Ministry of Education in Egypt has taken this step shows that in that far-off land of romance the Government is alive to the importance of backing the country's industries.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Ministry of Finance has decided to open a credit of £E56,000 for completing the drainage system of Cairo.

Five barges laden with lard and cheese for Germany arrived recently from Bulgaria in the port of Orshova. The cargo is said to consist of 300,000 kilos of lard and 100,000 kilos of cheese. This throws some light on the German economic situation, but is rather hard on the Bulgarians, who are already on the verge of starvation, says our Bucharest correspondent.

Messrs. Shohet, Selim David and Co., of Persia, are on the new list of firms in neutral countries with whom trade is prohibited.

Forty thousand Roumanian soldiers have been sent on leave to do agricultural work.

A Copenhagen message says that four Swedish officers in Persia have been made prisoners by the Russians near Shiraz.

Reports from Czernowitz to German newspapers say that 6,600 horses for the Roumanian cavalry have passed through Bessarabia.

Some forty prisoners from the Canal have arrived at Cairo. They are sturdy men, presenting the appearance of Regulars, and dressed in khaki.

According to a Constantinople message received in Amsterdam the Turkish *Official Gazette* has published the text of a Bill introducing a new Customs tariff and specifying the various duties. The new measure will come into operation on September 14, and will remain in force for three years.

EGYPTIAN FINANCES FOR JANUARY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 11.

The State accounts for January, published last night, show a further improvement in the position. The revenue during the month amounted to £E1,278,081, as against £E1,227,791 a year ago, and the expenditure to £E811,517, as against £E985,609. The total revenue for the ten months comes to £E14,540,018, and the total expenditure to £E12,668,226, as compared with £E13,168,752 and £E14,432,804 at the end of January, 1915. There is thus a surplus of £E1,871,792 instead of the deficit of £E1,264,052, which we had to face a year ago.

During the month the chief increases in revenue were, Customs, £E76,567; tobacco, £E19,888; railways, £E110,889; telegraphs, £E9,185; domains receipts, £E18,405; whilst direct taxes showed a diminution of £E180,495, and port dues one of £E15,950. The principal increases in expenditure were the Sultan's Civil List and Cabinet, £E8,766; Mecca caravan, £E23,507; public health, £E8,185; and War Office, £E7,208; but reductions were made in the central service of the Ministry of Finance of £E10,762, mixed courts of £E8,599, and railways of £E152,593,

It is to be noted that several heads of revenue have already exceeded the estimates. Thus Customs receipts show an excess of £E134,454, railways one of £E40,935, domains one of £E47,784, rent of land one of £E44,444, and extraordinary receipts, which include sale of land, one of £E36,345. It would appear that the final results will exceed very much the more recent expectations of the authorities, but a great deal will depend on the manner in which the expenditure has expanded during the two last months of the financial year. It is highly probable that the extra surplus that may be obtained will be found to coincide with a reduction in stock carried over the year end. For example, the railways must have had on the 1st inst. a much smaller stock of coal than usual, due not so much to the need for economy as to the difficulty in obtaining freights from abroad. Consequently, that extra surplus will in part be compensated by a corresponding increase in expenditure during the early part of the new financial year.

ENEMY PROPAGANDA IN ROUMANIA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, April 11.

In order to realize the full advantages of the clause in the agreement of the last sale of grain to Germany, whereby the latter provides Roumania with merchandise to the value of 150 million francs, the Central Commission of Imports has decided to found a special bureau in Berlin for the purpose of buying directly the articles of first necessity required by the Roumanian merchants and industrials.

Enemy Propaganda.

This very simple and reasonable arrangement has been wrongly regarded in some of the local papers as a commercial transaction of grave political importance, and interpreted

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as evidence that Roumania will not abandon her state of neutrality for a long time to come. Supplementary to this it was immediately reported by the Germanophile Press that the Russians had stopped all exports into Roumania. In order to remove erroneous impressions, M. Greceano asked for information in the Chamber. The Minister of Finance replied that there was not a shadow of truth in the rumour, and that the best proof of the truth of his declaration was that the Russian authorities were at present exporting into Roumania a large consignment of coal.

The exportation of the following goods is prohibited to all foreign countries in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas, other than France, Russia (except through Baltic ports), Italy, Spain, and Portugal: Asphalt and solid or liquid bitumen; fishing gear, except tackle for fishing by rod and line; petroleum and its products not already specifically prohibited; and soap, hard, containing 1 per cent. and less of glycerine.

THE GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to February 29, 1916 (New Style: January 14 to March 13, 1916):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Pirœus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Feb.,	1916	3,027,076	1,999,000
Do. do. do	1915	2,645,914	2,555,520
Estimated Receipts for 2 months (Law of Control)		4,816,666	1,783,333
Actual do. do.	1916	6,642,947	3,822,000
Do. do. do.	1915	7,059,660	4,707,057
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 2 months	1916	+ 1,826,281	+ 2,038,666
	1915	+ 2,242,999	+ 2,923,724

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

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Situation au 31 Janvier, 1916, publiée en conformité de l'Article 8 des Statuts.

SERVICE DE BANQUE.

	£E.
Titres d'Etat et Titres garantis par le Gouvernement Egyptien	2,626,450
Titres divers	403,653
Comptes-Courants	335,642
Avances sur Marchandises	1,435,096
Avances sur Titres	1,605,705
Avances sur d'autres garanties	1,217,296
Effets sur l'Etranger	3,728,741
Effets sur l'Egypte	180,973
Immeubles et mobilier	235,071
Placements à courte échéance	1,350,375
Comptes Banques	1,021,304
Gouvernement du Soudan	457,075
Divers	99,917
Encaisse:	
Billets de Banque £E.1,194,534	
Or £E.170,639	
Argent, nickel, etc. £E.48,173	1,413,346
	£E.16,110,644

	£E.
Capital	2,925,000
Réserve:—Statutaire	1,267,500
Comptes-Courants, Dépôts et autres	6,241,307
Tribunaux Mixtes	1,244,029
Gouvern. Egyptien	3,188,684
Do. Compte spécial	3,671
Comptes Banques	503,223
Chèques et effets à payer	416,353
Divers	320,877
	£E.16,110,644

SERVICE D'EMISSION DE BILLETS DE BANQUE.

Espèces	£E.7,259,123
Titres	5,390,877
	£E.12,650,000
Billets émis	£E.12,650,000
	£E.12,650,000

COMPANY RESULTS, Etc.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.—The number of shares required to pass the resolution at the meeting held in Cairo on April 20 having been insufficient, the adjourned meeting will be held in Cairo on May 9.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.—Gemsah production for the week, 387 tons (last week 21 tons). Hurgada production for the week, 517 tons (last week 547 tons).

EUROPEAN OILFIELDS CORPORATION.—Production for week ended 23rd inst., 109,900 poods.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Receipts for the eleven days ended March 31 amount to £E5,376, as against £E4,698 for the same period of last year. Total receipts for the year:—March 31, 1915, to April 1, 1916, amount to £E187,735, as against £E188,992 for the year ended April 1, 1915, or a decrease of £E1,257.

SUEZ CANAL.—Receipts for the 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd inst. amounted to 1,070,000 fr., as compared with 1,130,000 fr. for the corresponding days last year.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The necessary number of Shares required to pass the Resolutions at the Thirteenth Ordinary General Meeting of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt held in Cairo on Thursday, the 20th April, 1916, not having been represented thereat, notice is hereby given that the THIRTEENTH (ADJOURNED) ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the said Bank will be HELD at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo on Tuesday, the 9th May, 1916, at 4 o'clock p.m., for the purpose among other things of:—

Receiving the Directors' Report;
Receiving the Auditors' Report;
Approving the Accounts for the period ended 31st January, 1916;
Declaration of Dividends;
Election of Directors;
Election of Auditors and fixing their remuneration;
And the transaction of the general business of the Ordinary General Meeting.

Every Shareholder holding a minimum of Five Shares has the right to attend the General Meeting provided the Shares are deposited at least five days before the day of the Meeting (the last day for depositing the shares in London is the 27th April, 1916) when Cards of Admission and Proxy Forms will be handed to them at one of the following places:—

In Egypt.—At the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo.
At the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria.
In London.—At the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.

F. T. ROWLATT, President.

Cairo, 25th April, 1916.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

Côtes du 11 Avril, 1916.

National Bank of Egypt		11½ @ ex coupon		
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	88	to	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	£	11	,,	—
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	5	,,	—
priv.	L.E.	2⅞	,,	—
Lots Turcs, oblig	Frs.	128	,,	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	93½	,,	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio Nouvelle	Frs.	49	,,	
Privilégiée	Frs.	92	,,	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	74	,,	75
Urbaines et Rurales	£	2 5/16	,,	—
Comptoir Financier and Commercial d'Egypte	£	11/32	,,	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	1/16	,,	—
Union Foncièr d'Egypte	L.E.	⅞	,,	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	3⅜	ex coupon	
Bonded Warehouse	L.E.	4⅜	,,	—
Unifiée	L.E.	79⅞	,,	—
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4⅜	,,	—
Fondateur	£	18	,,	—
Pressage et dépôts	£	27	,,	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	1 1/16	,,	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	3⅜	,,	—
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	3 7/16	,,	—
Ord.	£	14/6	,,	—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	3¼	,,	3⅜
Egypt. Delta Light Railway	£	5	,,	—
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	£	108	,,	—
Jouissance	£	158	,,	160
Egyptian Markets		22/9	,,	—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	160	,,	—
Div.	Frs.	108	,,	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Div.	Frs.	87	,,	88
Egyptian Salt and Soda		15/-	,,	15/3
Crédit Foncier d'Egypte	Frs.	575	,,	—
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	316	,,	—
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	259	,,	—
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	252	,,	252½
Delta Land	£	⅜	,,	—
Port Said Salt		28/6	ex coupon	
Cotton Ginners	£	5/16	,,	11/32
New Egyptian	£	6/-	,,	—
United Land	P.T.	4	,,	—
Levant S.S. Co.		24/6	,,	25/-
	Fondateur	85/-	,,	90/-

Marché nul.

LONDON EXCHANGE.

—	Mean Price. July 27.	Min. Price. Mar. 20.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
Bulgarian Mt. Bd., 1892	99	—	89½xd
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1907	82	—	—
Do. 4½% do. Bonds, 1909	80	—	66
City of Alexandria 4%, 1909	99	—	80
City of Constantinople 5% Bnds	96	—	—
Egypt. Gov. 3% Guar. Loan	93½	87½	87⅝
Egyptian 4% Unified Debt	98	85	77⅝
Do. Pref. Rd. 5%, 1890	88	78	64½xd
Do. Ins. Stk., 1890	82½	73½	63xd
Do. 4½% State Domain, 1878	—	—	—
Greek Guar. Gov. Loan 1898 (2½%)	80½	75	75⅛
Greek 5%, 1881	57	52	55
Do. 5%, 1884	56	52	52½
Do. 4% Monopoly, 1887	49	45	46⅜
Do. 4% Rentes, 1889	45	40	41½
Do. 5%, 1890	56	52	52
Do. 5% Fndg. Ln., 1893	54	—	49
Do. 4% Rails. Loan, 1902	77	—	65
Do. 5% Nat. Ln., 1907	94	—	90
Do. 5% Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	—	76½
Montenegro 5% Loan	82½	—	—
Persian 5% Loan (1911)	91	—	80
Roumania 4½% Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	—	85
Servian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish Guar. 4% Loan, 1855	103	97	—
Do. 4%, 1891	94½	—	76½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	67xd
Do. 4% Loan, 1902	82½	—	—
Do. 4% Unified	79	—	54
Do. 4% Loan, 1908	65½	—	49
Do. 4%, 1909	69	—	47 1/16
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅛	—	4⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	—	6⅜
Do. 3½% Bonds Red.	80	—	69xd
Do. 3½% Guar. Bonds Red.	83	—	71xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	—	10¾
Bank of Abyssinia	¼	—	—
Bank of Athens	£2	—	2
Bank of Roumania	8¼	—	—
Eastern Bank	5	—	82/6
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	—	6
Imperial Ottoman Bank	11	—	—
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	—	3½
Land Bank of Egypt Ord.	6¼	—	4¼
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	—	11¾
RAILWAYS.			
Egyptian Delta Light 5½% C.P.	8	—	—
Do. do. Warrants to Bearer	8¼	—	5 3/16
Do. do. 5% Debs., Red.	98	—	87½
Ottoman of Anatolia 4½% Debs., Ser. I.	89½	—	—
Do. do. do. Ser. II.	88½	—	—
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	—	12
Do do. 6% Cum. Pref.	22	—	13⅜
Do. do. 4% 1st Deb.	87	—	57
Do. do. 5% 2nd Deb.	101	—	69
Ottoman Smyrna and Cassaba and Ext. Ry. 4%	80	—	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	—	—
Do. do. 3% Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	—	1 1/16
Do. 5% 1st Deb. Bonds Red.	—	—	95
Anglo-Belgian Co. of Egypt	¼	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	—	2¼
Do. Do. Def.	¼	—	—
Béhéra Co.	8¼	—	5¾
Do. Pref.	4⅜	—	3⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	—	2/-
Do. Def.	⅞	—	7/8
Egyptian Agr. 5% 1 Mt. Db. Rd.	—	—	—
Do. Delta Land and Inves.	9/-	—	8/6
Do. Gov. 4% Irr. Tst.	98	—	83½
Do and Foreign Trust	5/-	—	3/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	—	⅞
,, ,, Founders	¼	—	—
Land & Mortgage Co. of Egypt	—	—	—
Do. 5% Debs. Red.	—	—	—
Mortgage Co. of Egypt 5% Cum. Pref.	9⅜	—	6⅜
Do. 4½% 1st Chge. Debs. Rd.	97	—	70⅜
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	—	6/9
Sidi Salem Co.	1/16	—	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	—	¾
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	—	-/7½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	—	11
Assoc. Cotton Ginners, Egypt	97	—	—
Cook (Thos.) & Son (Egypt) Dbs.	102	—	100
Egyptian Hotels	1½	—	⅞
Do. 4½% 1st Mtg. Deb.	—	—	—
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	—	24/-
Do. do. 5% Debs. Red.	99½	—	95
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1½	—	15/9
Do. 5% 1st Mtg. Debs. Red.	96	—	95
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	—	16/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	—	3⅜
Do. do. 4½% 1st Mt.	90	—	89
Suez Canal, Ord. Shares (fr. 500)	£179½	—	81/6
Upper Egypt Hotels	2¼	—	1⅜

OIL.	Price on April 18.	April 26.
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/-	7/6
Anglo-Persian	19/3	19/9
European Oilfields	3/7½	3/9
Roumanian	13/-	13/3

PARIS BOURSE.

	Mar. 27.	April 5.
Banque Imperiale Ottomane	445	445
Canal de Suez	4050	4035
Credit Foncier Egyptien	605	—
Turkish Unified 4%	57	57
Egyptian Unified 4%	88.60	88.50
Serbian, 1895	60.70	—

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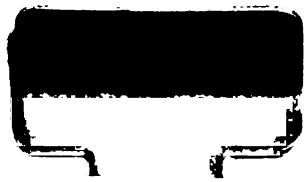

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