American Chamber of Commerce for the Levant, Inc.

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The Greek Currency Reform

By Dr. Albert Porges

Manager, The American Express Co. Inc., Piræus.

The Decree stabilising legally the Greek Drachme, which as a matter of fact was not subject to any important fluctuations during the past 18 months, has been published on May 12th, 1928, and represents an important step towards completion of the reconstruction work undertaken by the Greek Government with the assistance of the League of Nations.

The stabilisation is based on the Geneva Agreement which provided the floating of a new loan of £9,000,000 of which one third was to serve for the Refugee Settlement, one third for balancing the budget and one third for reduction of the Government debt towards the National Bank of Greece, thus strengthening the gold exchange reserve of the latter, the establishment of a new Bank of Issue and the appointment of a foreign Advisor to same by the League of Nations.

The loan, which was floated in January, obtained, notwithstanding the conditions which were very favorable for the Greek Government i.e. interest at 6 % and issue at 92, a full success and was covered several times.

This provided the material basis for the stabilisation of the Drachme for which a combined gold and gold exchange standard was chosen.

Article 1 of the stabilisation Decree of May 12th, 1928, is fixing the value of the Drachme at Drs. 51,212,87 for each 1,000 grammes of fine gold so that one Drachme contains 0.01952634 grammes of fine gold. This gives a parity of Drs. 375 to the Pound Sterling and of Drs. 77.05 to the U.S. Dollar.

The new Bank of Greece, which started operations on May

14th, is not obliged to buy or sell gold, but only gold exchange i.e. Pounds Sterling. Such obligation has been established on the basis of the two gold points and inasmuch as the present expense for gold shipments between Athens and London amounts to 6.67 %, the Bank of Greece will be obliged to buy Pounds Sterling at not less than 372.50 and to sell same at not more than 377.50. In the free market Pounds Sterling have been dealt with since the stabilisation at 374 buying and 375 selling rate and Dollars at 76.60 buying and 76.70 selling rate.

From the opening of the Bank of Greece the privilege of the National Bank of Greece to issue Banknotes has ceased to exist. The decision to transfer the Issuing Privilege to a new Bank has no doubt been prompted by the fact that the National Bank of Greece is a strong competitor to the other Banks and virtually controls the greater part of the economic activities of the nation. It was, therefore, advisable to transfer the Banknote circulation to a new Bank without commercial and industrial interests so as to be completely independent in the control of the currency. The National Bank of Greece will continue, exactly as the Ionian Bank in the past, to exist as an ordinary Bank.

The new Bank of Greece has a share capital of Drs.400,000,000 of which half will be offered to the present shareholders of the National Bank of Greece, whereas the remaining half will remain for at least two years in the possession of the National Bank of Greece. In addition to the issue of Banknotes and trading in Exchange, the Bank will also, to a limited extent, discount commercial bills and advance money on securities, up to 60 % of the market value. The official rate has been established at 10 % for discounts and at 11 % for advances on securities.

The Bank of Greece will issue in the near future new Banknotes of 20, 1,000 and 5,000 Drachmes. For the other denominations the present Banknotes of the National Bank of Greece may remain in circulation for not more than 5 years, but will be stamped "Bank of Greece".

The statutes of the new Bank provide a cover of the circulation in gold and gold exchange of not less than 50 %, but the actual ration is today as follows:

Less Liabilities in Gold Dr. 103,383,316.— = 3,087,697,849.12

Total cover Dr. 3,964,004,110.09

The actual cover amounts therefore to 81.5 % of the Banknote circulation and is even for international conditions an exceptionally high one.

The Assets and Liabilities which have been transferred by the National Bank of Greece to the new Bank of Greece are the following:

A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	Assets: Gold (Bullion & Gold Exchange Other Exchange		Dr. 876,306,260.97 3,191,081,165.12 9,827,589.72 49,999,308.60 3,759,525,381.32 42,938,226.45
			Dr. 7,929,677,932.18
B.)	Liabilities: Share Capital Banknote Circulation Deposits and Current According Government Dr. Banks	ounts: . 666,738,253	4,863,352,807.61 3.69 3.41
	Other :	891,430,858	3.98 2,522,756,836.08
	Liabilities in Foreign Curi	rencies:	
olidi	Gold Dr. Other	The state of the s	AND AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF
	Other Liabilities		30,357,382.77
	Schalle ou Aprolessing conte	merican	Dr. 7,929,677,932.18

Mr. A. Diomidis, heretofore Governor of the National Bank of Greece, has been appointed Governor of the Bank of Greece. His place at the National Bank of Greece has been taken by Mr. Drossopoulos, former Assistant Governor of the National Bank of Greece. Advisor of the League of Nations is Mr. Finlayson, who has been working for two years as British Delegate in connection with the Dawes plan at Berlin.

The question as to whether the Greek Currency reform will be followed by a stabilisation crisis as in other countries, may be answered with "no".

Neither the Greek Banks nor the manufacturing and commercial circles have followed any inflation policy in the past. The Greek Banks, during the 18 months of a practically stable currency, have had the necessary time to make such reductions in staff as have become necessary on account of the elimination of

profits on trading in foreign exchange. The few firms who have not done any productive work but made their profits on the fluctuations of the exchange have disappeared from the market without leading to any alarming increase in the number of failures. The retail prices in Greece have closely followed the fluctuations of the exchange, as the wholesale dealers were accustomed to calculate in Pounds sterling. The index of cost of living is little less than 2000 (1914-100), which equals a gold index of about 133 % and which is therefore about the same as in most of the other European countries.

Notwithstanding the rapid absorption of many hundred thousands of Refugees from Asia Minor, there is no actual unemployment in Greece. The industries are protected by very high Customs duties and as they are by far not yet in a position to cover the home consumption, they have not to be afraid of the consequences of the stabilisation as in other countries where the manufacturers, after a period of forced exports based on exchange dumping, have been faced by a serious crisis.

The Greek Currency Reform can, therefore, have only the most beneficial effects on the rapid reconstruction of the country.

Treaty Relations Between the Turkish Republic and the United States

The action of the American Senate on April 6th in confirming the nomination of the Hon. J. C. Grew as Ambassador to Turkey gives great satisfaction in the American community in Turkey and among all persons interested in the re-establishment of entirely normal diplomatic relations between the two countries. While the treaty negotiated at Lausanne has not been finely ratified by the Senate, its recent action further strengthens the friendly political and economic relations which already exist.

It is further officially reported from Angora that the Turkish Council of Ministers has decided to extend until April 10, 1929, the "modus vivendi" negotiated in February, 1927, by Admiral Bristol. Among other advantages this action means that the most favored basis will continue to be applied in customs matters on the merchandise of the respective countries.

Tobacco Production in Yugoslavia

A recent report of the American Trade Commissioner B. D. Hill gives a resumé of the production of tobacco in Yugoslavia during recent years and information concerning the outlook for the future. Up to 1923 the annual production was about 20,000,000 pounds, all of which was consumed within the country. Beginning with that year the output increased so that there was a surplus for export of from 8 to 11 million pounds.

In 1924, a crop of 78,671,371 pounds created an unwieldy surplus, which had to be sold at reduced prices, this affecting the price of low grade competing tobaccos on the European markets. Since 1924, the crop has never been more than 33,000,000 pounds. No definite data is yet available as to the volume of the 1927 crop, but advance reports indicate a reduction.

The principal regions of tobacco cultivation in Yugoslavia are southern Serbia, Herzegovina and Voivodina. Southern Serbia situated in the proximity of the Bulgarian and Greek frontiers, possesses favorable soil qualities and climatic conditions for the cultivation of tobacco, especially for the aromatic types with small leaves, light in color. The yield of these tobaccos varies from five hundred to eight hundred pounds per acre. On the other hand, in the northern part of this region, dark, large leaf tobacco is chiefly cultivated.

In the mountainous zone of Herzegovina, a special quality of tobacco is cultivated: aromatic, light in color, with large, thin, silky, and elastic leaves. This tobacco is sold in packages, but it is much less aromatic than the type produced in southern Serbia. Its yield amounts to nine hundred or one thousand pounds per acre.

Voivodina (Banat and Batchka) produces a darker tobacco, stronger and with large leaves, somewhat similar to Virginia tobacco. The climate is colder in this region, and, therefore, but a small quantity of aromatic cigarette tobacco is produced there, the principal production consisting of pipe tobacco and lower grade cigar tobacco. The yield varies from 1,300 to 1,800 pounds per acre.

The tobaccos designed for export in Herzegovina are packed and tied in bales, well packed and wrapped, are easily transported. Exports are free

from any export taxes.

Due to the fact that Yugoslavian tobaccos are susceptible to improvement, the Management of the Yugoslavian Monopoly is studying an extensive program for the institution of a selection expert's central, which will sort and purify the various types of tobacco, and facilitate its cultivation. Tobacco "Nurseries" will be continuous and permanent. These "nurseries" will be interested in the production of tobacco seeds, and will have a permanent control over the purity of quality, especially in southern Serbia. Moreover, the Management of the Monopoly will study the problems of tobacco sales.

The following table shows the production of tobacco in Yugoslavia for the years 1920 to 1926:

Pounds

1920	 17,195,660
1921	 20,562,304
1922	 20,704,060
1923	 38,231,071
1924	 78,671,371
1925	 26,590,122
1926	 32,681,211

U.S. Rug Imports Go Up

An idea of the tremendous purchasing power of the American public, can be gleamed from a study of the U.S. Customs statistics for the past eight months, which reveal that the United States have absorbed over a million dollars a month worth of imported carpets and rugs. And that amount accounts only for wool carpets and rugs. It does not include inlaid and other linoleums, fibre, rush and cotton fabrics, which also run into high totals.

Furthermore, it represents only a small part of the floor coverings that are absorbed by the American people, the annual domestic production

being estimated at close to two hundred million dollars.

June 1927, was the peak month with a total yardage of 248,978 square yards valued at \$2,107,016. October totals were but slightly less, totaling 243,035 square yards valued at \$2,024,992. January 1928 was the poorest month as far as totals go, imports to the value of \$1,057,902 being received.

Persia continues to lead the import lists, but she has some healthy rivals in Turkey, China, British India and Greece, the latter country having

made rapid strides as a rug producing center.

Persian rug imports amounted to 509,720 square yards valued at \$3,890,454 for the period from June, 1927, to January, 1928, with September as the peak month when 100,570 square yards valued at \$891,534 were admitted, most of them at the Port of New York.

China accounted for a total of 335,071 square yards valued at \$2,550,178 in the past eight months, and this in spite of the fact that a depression had set in. Perhaps, previous totals represented abnormal levels, and present day imports and sales are the true or normal levels. Importers report a steady movement of goods and reports from the retail trade show that the Chinese rug, particularly in the better qualities, is still enjoying a steady demand. Small sizes in some stores have outsold other types of hand-knotted rugs.

The peak month for Chinese rug imports was July when 52,629 square yards, valued at \$441,202 were received. The month following, August, 1927, marked the lowest totals when imports to the value of \$196,171 came in. But September, October and November showed imports averaging \$350,000. There was a slight decline in December when 33,434 square yards valued at \$243,240 were received and these figures were increased in January when carpets and rugs to the value of \$301,200 were imported.

Turkey in Europe and Asia, combined, sent us carpets and rugs to the value of approximately \$1,860,422 during the period from June 1927 to January 1928 inclusive. While British India was close behind with a total

of 86,896 square yards valued at \$1,001,377.

Much has been said of the new rug manufacturing industry of Greece from which the United States has imported 83,211 square yards valued at \$823,447 during the period of June to January. July was the peak month in Grecian rug imports when carpets and rugs to the value of \$161,686 were received in the United States. September was also a good month with a total of \$150,201, but since that time the totals have dropped off, January 1928 being the low month with imports of 6,613 square yards valued at \$63,938. However, it is anticipated that imports from January to May will show a healthy increase which will bring the totals of Greece well over a million dollars.

Many other countries figured in the total imports for the eight months from June 1927 to January 1928, the figures for which were 1,598,594 square yards, valued at \$12,821,971.

The Carpet and Rug World - April 1928

Cape - Cairo - Constantinople - Stockholm Endurance Trip

A 10,000-mile trail-blazing, endurance run from the Southernmost point of Africa — at Cape Town — over a desert-wilderness trail to Cairo, thence through the Near East and Europe to London, ending up at Stokholm, was begun March 7 by a party of four adventurers in a stock model Chevrolet sedan car, followed by a Chevrolet truck, under the sponsorship of General Motors (South African) Ltd. The equipment was built in the General Motors plant at Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

A wireless sending outfit, carried on the journey, will make it possible ror the motorists to keep the world informed regarding their whereabouts and will be a means of flashing distress signals in an emergency.

None of the members of the party is a professional driver. The expedition was started without even a preliminary survey of road conditions through Equatorial Africa. The endurance of the modern automobile is elied upon to take the party through all road difficulties. Along the Africane route there is about 1000 miles of trail through swamps and deserts. Few frivers are bridged by permanent structures and where they are too wid and deep, improvised pontoons have to be made to take cars over. These pontoons consist of native canoes hollowed out of tree trunks supporting a platform built of native bamboo, lashed together with «Chingwa».

Each member of the party has been inoculated against jungle fever. They carry a medical chest prepared by physicians. The chest contains surgical and medical first aid requirements including a supply of antivenom serum.

The run was originally planned to end at Cairo, but interest in it became so keen that it was decided to extend it to include visits to the General Motors plants at Alexandria, Berlin, Antwerp, London and Stockholm. The expedition also will be heralded by General Motors dealers along the route through Syria, Turkey, Bulgaria, Rumania, Yugo-Slavia, Italy, France, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Belgium and England.

This party is expected to arrive in Constantinople during June, after an overland trip across Asia Minor.

Since the end of January the Chamber has been without the services of an Executive Secretary giving his entire time to its activities and has been obliged to depend upon the voluntary services of various members of the Board of Directors who have at the same time their own business activities which require their attention. For this reason there has been delay in the publication of recent issues but it is hoped that after the publication of the May issue there will be no further delays of this sort.

TURKEY

Speech of Minister of Finance.— Speaking before the National Assembly in support of the Budget Bill, Sarajoglu Shukri Bey, Minister of Finance, emphasized the following points:

The following figures show the estimated and actual receipts for the

past four years:

e almost surdes our amount	Estimates	Receipts
1924	129,214,610	135,751,334
1925	152,146,854	151,304,288
1926	190,158,851	191,277,886
1927	194,580,554	

Figures for the first ten months of the current fiscal year amounted to 167,189.805 liras, and if the receipts are equal during the remaining two months to the receipts of the last two months in the preceding year, receipts for this year should also be above original estimates.

The budget which is being proposed this year amounts to 207,101,388 liras for expenditures and 207,173,199 of receipts, an increase of approximately 12,500,000 liras over the preceding year. This increase has been allocated as follows: 7,000,000 liras to public works, 3,600,000 liras to the Public Debt, 1,500,000 to old debts and 700,000 to interest.

During the past five years the Government has made payments for debts amounting to 50,000,000 liras.

As regards the foundation of a State Bank, the Minister of Finance stated that a project of a law for the foundation of such a bank had been prepared and would be submitted to the National Assembly for its approval during the present session. This bank would replace the Turkish State Treasury and would be of use in accomplishing the stabilization of the lira as well as performing a number of other important financial functions. The Minister added that such a bank could be formed without foreign aid and said that the State could appropriate a million gold liras for the purpose as well as the unused surplus of paper money remaining after the completion of present exchange operations. He also said that a number of the jewels formerly belonging to the sultans, but now the property of the State, might be sold for the purpose of obtaining capital for the new bank, it being understood, however, that articles of especial historical importance would not be so used

Sarajoglu Shukri Bey concluded his speech by stating that the high cost of living was one of the most important problems facing the Government at the present time. He stated that it was his opinion that this situation could be remedied to a large extent, however, by the stabilization of the value of the lira.

Minister of Interior Points to Concrete Achievements.— In speaking in behalf of the Ministry of the Interior, during the Budget discussion Shukri Kaya Bey pointed especially to the benefits due to the passing of the law for the reorganization of the administration of Turkish villages which was put into effect a year and a half ago. As a result of this law the Minister stated that the new system had been made effective in 21,000 out of the total number of 40,921 Turkish villages with the following results:

12,748 kilometers of new roadway have been constructed which make it possible to reach villages by automobile which could formerly be reached only on horseback during certain seasons of the year.

427 bridges have been built.

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834 schools have been established.

212 villages have installed water systems.

2000 square kilometers of marsh land have been drained.

2,000,000 trees have been planted.

Final Decision not yet Reached on Public Debt Settlement.

A despatch from Angora on April 21 which appeared in the REPUBLIQUE on the following day stated that Sarajoglu Shukri Bey, Minister of Finance, had announced that an agreement had been reached on six of eight points concerning which certain differences of opinion had arisen in negotiations concerning the Ottoman Public Debt, and that an early settlement of the question might therefore be expected.

Exchange of New Paper Currency Practically Finished.— According to the Aksham of April 19, the commission charged with the exchange of the new paper currency of replacement has practically finished its work. It was announced that the total which had been exchanged up to April 18 was 106,979,363 liras out of a total amount of 153,000,000 liras which was turned over to the commission originally. It is expected that about 20 million liras worth of the new currency will remain at the time of the close of exchange operations, which will take place on June 5 in Constantinople but at a later date in the interior of the country due to the fact that exchange was not begun there as soon as in Constantinople.

Business Bank Holds Annual Meeting.— A general meeting of the Business Bank was held at Angora on April 22. In the course of the meeting a report of the activity of the bank during the preceding year was made. The following is an extract from this report comparing the business done during the past two years:

Cash on hand and bank credit	
1926 4,936,682.3	88
1927	35
Stocks and Bonds	
1926	57
1927	
Commercial Paper	
1926 2,055,184	20
1926 3,777,878.	38
Loans	
1926	07
1927	36
Deposits	
1926	26
1927 23,907,202.	64
Total Business	
1926 30,076,1	73
1927 53,723,0	21

Turkish Foreign Trade During January 1927. — According to statistics released by the Customs Administration during April, the total amount of the import in Turkey during January, 1927, was 17,770,227 liras

and the total amount of exports 15,419,619 liras. The following countries led in the import trade in the order named:

Germany	2,889,090	liras
France	2,649,659))
England	1,871,182))
Czechoslovakia	1,726,194))
Italy	1.721.111))

Countries which imported the greatest amounts of Turkish goods during the same period were:

Italy		liras
Germany))
England		0
United States	1,636,892))
Russia	1,404,340))
Greece	930,970	36

Numerals.— On the 22nd of May the Grand National Assembly passed a law providing for the compulsory adoption as of January 1st, 1929, and immediate voluntary adoption of international numerals — which we know as Arabic numerals. In the Parliamentary debate on the matter the Minister of Finance is quoted as saying that the visible field of the Turkish nation is increasing from day to day and bringing the nation to its desired aim, namely: to reach the same level as the greatest civilized state of modern times and even to surpass it some day thanks to the innate capacity of the nation which is trying to catch up for lost time.

This is only the forerunner of the adoption of Latin characters, which will, however, need a delay of probably ten years before their use will be compulsory in the country.

Turkish Match Monopoly Negotiations.— The Constantinople press has of late made numerous references to a Swedish-American company which is said to have bought out the Belgian interests in the Turkish Match Monopoly. The London Economist of April 28th published a long article on the Swedish Match Co., which with its affiliated concerns controls the greater part of the world's trade in matches, and is perhaps the one single company which has the widest ramifications all over the world.

The Swedish Match Co. is a holding company with a share capital of 270,000,000 Swedish kroner. Through its subsidiaries in Sweden it has 20 factories in that country, with 120,000 acres of timber lands. Its world interests outside of Sweden are controlled through the International Match Corporation of New York, the Swedish company holding 99 % of the one million common shares of the International Match Corporation.

With the exception of about 50 % of the Belgian match exports, there are practically no matches for export which are not sold through the agency of the Swedish Match Co. This state of affairs and this domination of the world market have come about through quiet and unobtrusive buying for control and by patient negotiations for state monopolies, as well as by agreements concluded with competitors.

In the U.S.A. through the International Match Corporation it controls about 75 % of the total production, and by agreements with other concerns all of the Canadian Match industry. In Near Eastern countries it secured the state monopoly in Greece in 1926, and in 1927 purchased a controlling interest in the largest concern in Yugoslavia. It has interests in numerous factories in Bulgaria and Rumania, and is now apparently about to secure a substantial interest in the Turkish state monopoly.

GREECE

An Ottoman Bank Branch in Athens. — For some time the creation of a branch at Athens has been contemplated by the Ottoman Bank. Its establishment now appears to be assured, in fact a building has already been selected and is being reconditioned for this purpose.

This branch is to be known as the Anglo-French Discount Bank and to have a fixed capital of £250,000 to be entirely subscribed and paid in by the Anglo-French group of the Ottoman Bank. This group is headed by the Westminster Bank of London and the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas of Paris, as well as by Miltiades and Alexander Siniossoglou, two financiers of Constantinople. It is reported that the new Bank's statutes had been signed at London on March 12th.

Its officers will be: Mr. Felix Bellet, director of the Ottoman Bank Branch at Paris, to be governor; Mr. S. Chebert, director of the Banque Franco-Serbe at Paris, and Mr. N. Criezis, administrator of the Banque d'Economie Nationale at Athens, to be Director General and Assistant Director, respectively. Its founders are said to be:

E. W. H. Barry, Administrator of the Bank of Rumania;

Felix Bellet, Director of the Ottoman Bank Branch at Paris, and Administrator of the Franco-Serbian Bank;

Sir John Hewett, Administrator of the National Bank of India;

Baron Holtinger, Administrator of the "Compagnie des Chemins de Fer du Midi";

Raoul Mallet, Admfnistrator of the "Compagnie des Chemins de Fer de Paris-Lyon Méditerranée";

Count F. Pillet-Will, Administrator of the Bank of Paris and of the Bank of Netherlands;

Sir Albert Stern, Banker of the firm Stern. Bros., London;

Alexander S. Siniossoglou, Banker in Constantinople;

Miltiades S. Siniossoglou,

A New Italian Bank.—Another foreign bank is on the point of being founded in Athens. The Banca Commerciale Italiana is reported to be planning the establishment of a branch in Athens as well as one in Saloniki.

In local circles it is believed that this project is in line with the Italian Government's plan to develop closer economic relations with Greece.

Crop Conditions. — From reports received by the Ministry of Agriculture covering crop conditions during March, the impression is gained that less damage was caused than originally expected from the inclement weather prevailing during the first fortnight of March.

In the Peloponnesus both heavy rainfall and low temperature adversely affected agricultural development: in some regions the cereals, planted in the river plains were inundated but in general, although retarded, crop conditions are satisfactory.

In Central Greece both snow and cold rains arrested development. Some of the low-lands were flooded and the sowing of late crops had to be postponed. In Actolia and Acarrania damages caused to the almond crop is said to be as high as 50 per cent; besides, hail is said to have injured many grape vines.

The northern provinces especially suffered from the inclement weather, snow rain and cold winds causing considerable damage to tobacco and other local crops. Agricultural activity was interrupted in many sections due to the overflow of the rivers. The actual extent of the damages has not yet been ascertained.

On the other hand the abundant rainfall was beneficial to the island crops although in many of them all agricultural activity was stopped for a

short period of time.

Import Restrictions on Cottonseed and Unginned Cotton.— By a decree published in the Official Greek Gazette of January 21, 1928, the importation into Greece of cottonseed and unginned cotton is prohibited with the following exceptions for cottonseed.

The importation from foreign countries of seed by scientific agricultural organizations for the purpose of improving the domestic cotton crop varieties, or by manufacturers of cottonseed oil established in the departments of Attica and Bœotiais permitted only through the Piræus customhouse, and on special permit to be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture. The quantity of seed imported by scientific agricultural organizations shall not exceed 10 kilos each time.

The application for permit must show the country in which the seed was produced, the port from which it is to be exported, the quantity needed, and whether the seed will be disinfected at the port of shipment. The seed must be accompanied by a certificate of the phytopathological service of the port of exit, if there is one, duly visaed by the Greek Consul. If the seed is not disinfected at the port of exit, this must be done by the warehouse of phytopathology in the Piræus customhouse at the expense of the importer.

Merchandise for Saloniki to be Landed in Free Zone.—According to an order from the Greek free zone committee, merchandise both in transit and for consumption in Saloniki must be landed and warehoused within the free zone, with the exception, until further notice, of petroleum products, lumber, electric batteries, fish in brine, bacalao (cod), earthenware piping, empty bottles, cotton, hemp seed and industrial alcohol. In order to obtain authorization to warehouse the above products outside the zone, a tax of 4 drachmas per ton must be paid, except on wheat and coal, which are assessed at 2 drachmas per ton. Merchandise transhipped from one steamer to another is liable to a tax of 2 drachmas per ton.

Shipments intended for the military authorities are exempted from the payment of the above taxes, although contractors importing for the account of the military authorities must pay the assessed taxes.

Samples of marchandise weighing up to one kilo per lot may be withdrawn from the zone free of import duty.

WE BUY ANY CHOICE RUGS IN SQUARE SIZES AND LARGE SIZES OVER 25 FEET LONG. SEND SPECIFICATIONS OF SUCH RUGS, GIVING EXACT SIZE, COLOR, TYPE OF WEAVE, AND WHETHER ALL-OVER OR MEDALLION PATTERN TO KENT-COSTIKYAN, 485 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY.

BULGARIA

Treasury Receipts During the Financial Year 1927-1928.—
Receipts from direct taxes and excise during the financial year 1927-1928 amounted to 1,176,958,406 leva, as against 998,928,336 leva during the previous year (1926-1927). or an increase of 183,030,070 leva.

Cost of Living.—According to information published by the Banque Nationale de Bulgarie, wholesale prices of 39 various articles reached in December 1927 the index figure 2,943 (basic year 1914=100), as against 2,887 in November of the same year and 2,795 in December 1926. Prices in general increased gradually during the second half of 1927. The articles which prices increased the most are: foodstuffs, textiles, fuel, sheepskins and building material. The index figure of foodstuffs of animal origin was 3,047 in January 1927 and 2,663 in April and it went up to 3,306 in December. The index figure of foodstuffs of vegetable origin was from 3,273 in January to 3,557 in September, and decreased gradually to 3,517 in December.

Extraction of Coal in 1927.— During the year 1927 Bulgarian mines belonging to the State and to individuals produced the following quantities of different kinds of coal:

During the same year the following quantities were sold in Bulgaria:

Construction of Aqueduct to Procure Drinking Water from Mont Rila to Sofia.— Engineer Galinelli, who was charged by the Italian company holding the concession for the construction of this aqueduct, to supervise this work has arrived at Sofia. All the necessary material for this construction has already been received at Sofia and construction will begin during the second half of May.

Consumption of Salt in Bulgaria.— During the financial year 1927-1928 37,400,250 kilos of salt were consumed for which the Treasury cashed 40 million leva excise. During the financial year 1926-1927 consumption of salt was 33,888,650 kilos and the excise reached only the figure of 39 million leva.

The Chamber has received an inquiry from a firm in New York asking for the name and address of any manufacturer in Constantinople of carved bone beads in various sizes from four millimeter graduating up to sixteen millimeter. It will be pleased to supply the name and address of the inquiring firm to any interested parties in Constantinople.

SEE PAGE Nº 128

RUMANIA

Rumanian-Turkish Treaty Extended. — The Rumanian-Turkish Treaty, concluded at Lausanne in 1923, under which Rumanian goods enjoy the minimum rates of the Turkish tariff and which expired February 12, 1928, has been extended for six months, or until August 12, 1928.

Exports During February, 1928. In general exports during the month of February were inferior to those of the corresponding period of last year. The decrease was considerable in cereals which accounts for the inferiority of the total exports over those of 1927 in spite of the slight increases on petroleum and wood. We give below the figures of the February exports in tons:

Cereals:	February 1927	February 1928	two months 1928
Wheat	10,497	349	5,165
Rye	2.734	1,706	3,806
Maize	147,750	57,141	109,746
Barley	47.219	5,338	17,510
Oats	9,323	29	1,007
Millet	1,041	130	470
Flour	6,929	2.847	4,943
Bran	9,280	4,650	9,502
Total	234,773	72,190	152,149
Wood:			
Firewood	31,889	40,887	89,914
Fir trunks	637mc.	8o5mc.	955mc.
Lumber (Oak)	1,210	1,194	2,951
» (Leafy species	3,878	6,275	11,039
Planks and other			Mont Kile to So
resinous species	54,073	51,879	100,995
Total tons	91,050	100,235	204,899
» mc	637	805	955
Petroleum Products:			noisenaumno)
Motorine)	24 272	7,654	18,811
Residue	34,273	27,670	65,649
Refined Oil	36,199	65,311	94,895
Benzine	40,415	30,951	45,261
Mineral Oils	1,437	2,848	6,589
Total	112,324	134,434	231,205
Cattle:			for the name and
Bulls	berg and 7 althor	189	357
Cows	69	126	279
Oxen	148	7,128	13,173
Rams	3,699	212	245
Sheep	9	12	421
Pigs	9,040	17,661	50,418
Total	12,972	25,328	64.893

Increasing Cost of Living in Rumania. - The general average of increase in the prices of commodities during the month of March was 53.58 in comparison with the month of August, 1916. By categories the index figures were as follows:

Basic month August 1916..... 100 per cent March 1928: Foodstuffs 5383 » Clothing 7024 » Others 3669 »

Production and Exploitation of Rumanian Oil During 1927.-The production of crude petroleum in 1927 amounted to 3,661,360 tons as against 3,244,415 tons in 1926. The average production per day was 1,003 wagons in 1927. By departments, the production (in tons) was distributed as follows:

o edu sertifica ressent ties p	1927	1926	Dif. for 1927
Prahova	2.470,394	2,267,965	+ 202,429
Dambovita	1,008,838	801,310	+ 207,528
Buzan	115,685	120,891	5,206
Bacau,	66,437	54,221	+ 12,216
Maramures	6	28	
Total	3,661,360	3,244,415.	+ 416.946

Exports of petroleum products amounted to 1,912,982 tons as against 1,492,953 tons in 1926, or an increase of 420,029 tons:

The Sales State of the Sales of the Sales	1927	1926	Dif. for 1927		
Benzine	543,502	424.967	+	118.535	
Kerosene & Refined Oil	610,634	527,069	+	83.565	
Mineral Oils	64,097	42,396	but I	21,701	
Gas Oil	215.510	199,808	+	15,702	
Residue	479,259	298.713	+	180,526	
Total	1,912,982	1,492,953	+	420,029	

Rumanian Oil Market.

Crude Oil Prices - Moreni - non paraffineous Lei 16,600-16,900 per car 13,500-13,800 paraffineous 3)

Baicoi

Export prices fob Constantza:

10 % cents per gallon Light Naphtha 60 Baumé » 10 0 Heavy » » 81/4 5 43/ . Market : Strong

Domestic Prices:

Light Naphtha .74	Lei	5.80	per	kilo
Heavy Benzine	>	4.15	D))
Refined Oil		3.40))	D.
Gas Oil	>>	2.00))))
Fuel Oil	****	1.30))))

(Prices f.o.b. Refinery)

Rate of Exchange -- Lei 160 to the \$. Figures are of April 3, 1928.

PALESTINE

Government Finances. — The financial position of the Palestine Government has shown improvement during the period 1922-1927. A balanced budget has been achieved, and the accumulated surplus is estimated

at £E 500,000 (\$ 7,500,000).

In 1926 a loan of £E 4,500,000 (\$ 22,500,000) for Palestine was approved by the British Government, and was floated in London in 1927. A part of the proceeds of the loan was designated for liquidating indebtedness to the British Government for railways and other property taken over by the Palestine Government, the expenditure of £E 1,000,000 was authorized for improving the port of Haifa, and the balance was to be used to repay advances made by the Palestine Government in anticipation of the loan.

The following tables show the receipts and expenditures of the Pales-

tine Government, by principal items, during the past five fiscal years:

[In thousands of Fgyptian pounds']

Item of an income	1922-23	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27
RECEIPTS		100 A		Sept. Minut	Carl E
Customs	594	482	626	864	784
Licenses and taxes	493	518	612	783	704
Fees of court, office, etc	151	141	182	293	240
Posts and telegraphs	106	114	125	154	152
Railways	382	347	332	392	370
Other	39	32	224	253	140
Total	1,765	1,634	2,101	2,739	2,390
EXPENDITURES					
Public debt and loan charges	41	62	127	143	31
Legal and judicial departments.	71	73	73	73	77
Customs, excise, and trade	107	44	. 36	44	52 89
Health	114	91	82	83	89
Education	89	97	100	IOI	114
Police, prisons, gendarmerie	309	265	465	479	325
Posts, and telegraphs	100	99	84	99	126
Railways	411	405	324	423	371
Other	595	497	514	595	918
Total	1,837	1,633	1,807	2,040	2,103

Modification of Certain Customs Duty Exemptions.—A notification recently published in the Palestine Commercial Bulletin announces the deletion of tools and implements used in handicrafts from the list of articles which are exempted from customs duty on importation into Palestine.

The item drugs, raw and prepared, has also been deleted from this list and the following items substituted therefor: Drugs, raw and prepared, other than the following articles, which are capable of use for industrial purposes, provided that where the director of customs, excise, and trade is satisfied that any consignment of the said articles is so prepared that they will be used exclusively for medicinal purposes, the consignment shall be entitled to exemption:

Acid sulphuric, acid muriatic, acid nitric, acid citric, acid tartaric, acid carbonic, acid acetic, carbonate or bicarbonate of soda, chlorate of potassium, castor oil, vaseline, glycerin, hyposulphate of soda, Epsom salts, hydrogen peroxide (oxygenated water,) almond oil, starch powder, talc powder, paraffin oil, nitroglycerin, essence of turpentine, chloride of lime, gum Arabic, ammonia (liquid or solid), extracts and essence of fruit and

flowers, methyl violet, alum.

[Tools and implements used in handicrafts are now subject to the general tariff rate of 12 per cent ad valorem.] Commerce Reports

EGYPT

1928 Egyptian Cotton Crop Outlook.— The acreage planted this year appears to be about the same as in 1927, or perhaps a little less in the Delta, the law restricting the area planted being as strictly applied as is possible. It is reported that there is less Sakellarides planted this year than last, in the proportion of some 5%. The varieties called "Zagora", "Pilion" and "Nahda" have been increased, and there are two new sorts called "Coconi" and "Hilal". The efforts of the Government to improve the seed planted appear to be successful.

In Upper Egypt the area planted will probably be about the same as in 1927, although there may by some increase. Here also the law restricting the planting of cotton is being strictly applied. Weather conditions in general are favorable.

Egypt's 1927 Foreign Trade.—The Director-General of Customs in Egypt recently presented his report for 1927 on Egypt's foreign trade. We cull below some items from this interesting collection of data.

The value, in round figures, of imports and exports is not far from one hundred millions of pounds, namely, L. E. 98,396,000 as compared with L. E. 95,530,000 in 1926, and represents L. E. 48,685,000 for imports (L. E. 52,400,000 in 1926), L. E. 48,341,000 for exports (L. E. 41,759,000 in 1926) and L. E. 1,370,000 for re-exports (L. E. 1,370,000 in 1926.) It will be seen that imports and exports very nearly balanced in 1927.

The main reasons given for the decrease in imports are:

- (1) Persistent weakness in the buying capacity of the country owing to the low cotton prices of 1926.
- (2) The reduction of the importation of flour, cereals, rice and barley, through the abundance of the harvests locally, due to the limiting of the cotton acreage to a third.
- (3) The lowered prices of certain important articles by about 13 per cent.
- (4) The abstention of certain houses from increasing their imports from France and Italy owing to the stability of exchange in those two countries.

Besides cereals, the chief articles of which a diminution of importation is noticeable are iron goods, wood for building purposes and woollen goods. The Government imported goods to the value of L. E. 3,062,000 (of which L. E. 2,478,000 was for the railways) as against L. E. 3,507,000 in 1926.

Egyptian Customs Revenue Increases.— During the financial year which ended on April 30 last, the Egyptian Customs receipts amounted to L.E.11,548,196 as compared with L.E.11,281,275 the previous financial year.

Egypt and Transjordania Linked by Telephone.— The first telephonic communication between Egypt and Transjordania was inaugurated at 4 p. m. on May 10, the Egyptian Minister of Communications being the first to hold a conversation over the new line.

EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS

	CONS	TANTIN Turkey	THE CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF	ATH	reece		
DATE	NEW YORK Cents per LTQ.	LONDON LTQ. per £	CROSS RATE N.Y./LONDON	NEW YORK DRACHMAS per DOLLAR	LONDON DRACHMAS per £	COSPOLI DRACHMAS per LTQ.	
and the same	50.06	973.75	4 889	75.90	369.75	38.10	
2		UL DEVILLE	Doeil Doeil	75.85	369.50	37.95	
3	50.06	974 25	4.876	75 90	369.25	37.95	
4	50.06	975.50	4.876	MINE PLAN			
5	50.06	974.50	4.878	75.80	369.25	37.95	
6	50.06	973.75	4.878	75.75	368.75	38.—	
7	50.37	968.25	4.879	75 70	368.50	38. —	
8	50 93	957.50	4.878	75.70	368.50	38.35	
9	porting to	portite on	r-stort	75.70	368.75	38.30	
10	50.81	960	4.880	75.70	368.75	38.30	
11	50.56	965.50	4 879	tol prent a	moti-smo	nwin <u>las</u> i	
12	50.50	966.—	4.879	- 75.70	368.50	38.30	
13	50 62	963	4 879	75.65	368.50	38.30	
14	50.75	960	4.878	75.65	368.50	38.40	
15	50.62	963	4.878	75.70	368 50	38.35	
16	HIVERL LOS	er nillen	acta_H_2	75.70	368.50	38.40	
17	50.75	960.50	4.879	75.70	368.75	38.40	
18	50 56	964.50	4.879	सक्षेत्र हो।	oano Luine	Loff_	
19	50.68	963.50	4 879	75.70	368.75	38.35	
20	50.68	962.50	4.881	75.65	368.50	38.30	
21	50.62	964.50	4.882	75.70	368.75	38.35	
22	50.68	962.50	4.882	75.80	369.50	38.40	
23		_		75.85	369 50	38.40	
24		_		75.85	369.50	38.45	
25	CI CANDELLE IN	ming souls	HARDERS	My Child		1000	
26	50.56	964.—	4.882	75.85	369.50	38.45	
27	50 56	964.50	4.881	75.80	369.25	38.45	
28	50.50	966.25	4.881	75.85	369 25	38 35	
29	50.56	965 —	4.881	75 80	369.50	38.35	
30	A Interior	The state of the s	The sens than	75.85	369.50	38.40	
31	50.56	965.50	4.881	75.90	369.75	38.45	
High	50.93	975.50	4.889	75.90	369.75	38.45	
Low	50.06	957.50	4.876	75.65	368.50	37.95	
Average	50.50	965.76	4.878	75.76	369.01	38.27	
	50.68	977	4.886	75.95	369.75	38.50	
Previous High	49.87	962	4.871	75.80	368.50	38.00	
Month LOW		965.87	4.872	75.86	369.60	2-470	
Average						38.34	
Year High	51.93	977.—	4.889	76.05	369.75	39.50	
to Date	49.87	938.—	4.871	75.30	367.50	37.95	
Average	50.81	959.25	4.875	75.78	368.92	38.56	

FOR MARCH 1928

	SOFIA	, Bulgar	ia	usitgA	BE	RUT, S	yria
NEW YORK LEVAS per DOLLAR	COSPOLI LEVAS per LTQ	LONDON LEVAS per £	BUCHAREST LEVAS per 100 LEI	DOLLARS PER LTG. GOLD	NEW YORK SYRIAN PIASTRES per DOLLAR	COSPOLI SYRIAN PIASTRES perLTQ.GOLD	FRENCH FRANCS per DOLLAI 5 S. P. per Fr
139.62	70 25	677.45	85.65	4 286	127 50	548.50	25.50
139.62	70 30	677.45	85 60	4 282	127.50	549 00	25.50
The state of the s	THE STREET	TROV B	displaying 5	4 290	127.50	549.00	25.50
THE REAL PROPERTY.	MESCHILLE X	110-2100	TI - Seitt			SHIP SH	
139.62	70.20	677.45	85.55	4.288	127.50	549.00	25.50
139.62	70.20	677.45	85.60	4.288	127.50	549.00	25.50
139.62	70.20	677.45	85.70	4.286	127.50	549.00	25.50
139.62	70 95	677 45	86. —	4.286	127.50	549.00	25.50
139.62	70.95	677 45	86. —	4.282	127.50	548.50	25.50
139.62	70.95	677 45	86.50	4.277	127.50	548.00	25.50
			d entenie	1.20	SOL DED	110.00	or will a
139.62	70.95	677.45	86.55	4.275	127.50	548.00	25.50
139 62	70.70	677.45	86 35	4.275	127.50	548.00	25.50
1.,9.62	70.70	677.45	86.35	4.275	127.50	548.00	25 50
139 62	70.90	677 45	86 35	4.279	127.50	548.00	25 50
139.62	70.90	677.45	86.45	4.284	127.50	548.00	25 50
139.62	70.90	677 45	86.50	4 295	127.50	549 00	25.50
100.02	_		00.00	4 200	127.50	040 00	20.00
139.62	70.95	677.45	86.60	1 200	127 50	549.00	25.50
139.62	70.95	677.45	86 90	1.299	127 50	550.00	25.50
139.62	70.95	677.45	86.90	4.302	127 50		
139.62	70.80	677.45	86.90	4.312	127 30	551.00	25 50
139.62	70.80	677.45	86.90	1 20-	107 50	EE9 00	05 50
Maria Salara	70.85	677.45	1-12-1332	4.325	127.50	552.00	25 50
139 62	70.0	077.43	87.00	4.327	127.50	553.00	25.30
120 60	70. 95	657 15	97 15	4 207	197.50	EE9 00	25 50
139.62	70.85	677 45	87.15	4.327	127.50	552.00	25 50
139.62	70.85	677.45	87.10	4.327	127.50	551.00	25.50
139.62	70.85	677.45	87.75	4.306	127.50	550.00	25.50
139.62	70 85	677 45	87.00	4.306	127.50	550.00	25.50
139.62	70 85	677.45	87.00	4.299	127 50	549.00	25.50
139.62	70.85	677 45	87.00	4 301	127 50	549.00	25.50
139.62	70,95	677.45	87.15	4.327	127.50	553.00	25.50
139.62	70.20	677.45	85.60	4.275	127.50	548 00	25.50
139.62	70.74	677 45	86.85	4.295	127.50	549.00	25.50
139.62	71.80	677.45	85.60	4.288	127.50	548 50	25.50
139.62	70.15	677.45	85.45	4.262	127.50	546.00	25.50
139.62	70.81	677.45	85.56	4.277	127.50	547.38	25.50
139 62	72.85	677.45	87.15	4.327	127.50	553.00	25,50
139.62	70.15	677.45	85.45	4 262	127.25	546.00	25.45
139.62	71.31	677.45	86.14	4.289	127.45	548.87	25.49
	12.01	0.7.40	00.11	1.200	127.10	010.07	20.10

THE MONTH IN REVIEW

Russian Imports of Agricultural Implements.—There have been some significant changes in Russia's purchases of implements from the various countries. Germany is the largest supplier, furnishing more than twice as much in 1925-26 as in the preceding year. The United States in 1924-25 was the second largest supplier, by quantity, imports in that year amounting to 9,297 metric tons valued at 3,948,000 rubles*. In 1925-26 imports from the United States were about 40 per cent in weight and 50 per cent in value of what they had been in the preceding year, amounting to 3,938 metric tons valued at 1,905,000 rubles. In 1925-26 Czechoslovakia had replaced the United States as the second largest country of origin, sending 10,225 metric tons valued at 4,006,000 rubles. In that year Sweden ranked third, by quantity, contributing 5,362 metric tons valued at 5,835,000 rubles. Sweden occupied second place in both years by value of implements imported.

The following table shows imports of implements, except hand tools,

for the years 1924-25 and 1925-26.

Country of avisin	192	4-25	1925-26			
Country of origin	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value		
10 10 W W W W	Metric tons	Rubles	Metric tons	Rubles		
Austria	4.739	2,119,000	3,952	2,384,000		
Great Britain	97	43,000	478	303,000		
Germany	16,700	6,143,000	35,168	13,778,000		
Denmark	5	4,000	36	65,000		
Latvia	205	100,000	35	21,000		
Poland	83	32,000	690	164,000		
United States	- 9,297	3,948,000	3,938	1,905,000		
Finland	486	286,000	554	366,000		
France	63	129,000	185	100,000		
Czechoslovakia	4,468	1,794,000	10,225	4,006,000		
Sweden	3,852	4,144,000	5,362	5,835,000		

Construction of Railway from Persian Gulf to Caspian Sea.—
It is reported that negotiations are under way for the construction of a railway from the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea, a distance of about 1,000 miles, and that the contract will be awarded to a consortium composed of Ulen & Co., the J. G. White Engineering Corporation of New York; of Stewart & McDonnell, London; and of 3 German and one French companies. A great deal of preliminary engineering work will be required before any final estimate can be made of the cost of construction, but it is believed to be about \$80,000,000.

^{*} One gold ruble equals \$0.514567 and has been stable since 1924.

MARKET REPORT of the IONIAN BANK LIMITED, Constantinople Branch,

for March, 1928.

For daily rates on the Dollar see Pages 106-107

Sterling Rates

Opening	March	1st	Piastres	9721/2
Lowest	»	7th	»	955
Highest	»	1st	»	974%
Closing	D	31st	»	9621/2

There has been more than sufficient money available throughout March to meet all requirements, while the demand for accommodation was rather less. On the other hand the suspension of payment by several firms, one of considerable magnitude, and uncertainty as to the consequent position of certain smaller concerns, has caused financial houses to be very circumspect in some directions, though, generally speaking, there are ample facilities in connection with the export trades and the import of primary necessities.

The exchange market opened quite firm with an upward tendency. Subsequently, however, under the influence of important offers by tobacco, opium and mohair exporters, coupled with the liquidation of certain long positions, sterling exchange showed a marked easiness, and there was a sharp fall to 955 on March 7th, though the same day it closed at 961½. During the remainder of the month sterling fluctuated between 960 and 964, touching 965¼ at the opening on the 28th.

There was apparently a speculative element operating for a fall but any effect this may have had was largely counteracted by considerable purchases of exchange by banks for account of third parties. Sterling closed fairly firm at 962½.

Flour and Wheat.

Fair activity was witnessed in the wheat market during the month, follow-

ing which prices were maintained and showed intermittent improvement.

With reports from Anatolia and Thrace showing a deficient and badly conditioned new crop, it is expected, should these reports be confirmed that wheat quotations will soon attain higher levels. Arrivals from the Interior were greatly hindered by the severe weather and heavy snow, and stocks at the close were so low as to fully justify the appreciation of prices.

Good quality is still in great demand, but holders show no anxiety to dispose of their stocks, hoping for price levels to reach around 20-21 piastres.

The market closed very firm.

Arrivals from February 26th, to March 28th, 1928:

From:							Tons:
Anatolia.							1,600
Thrace .				800			4,000
Black Sea	P	or	ts		11		or In other
		7	201	-1			5 600

Prices as on March 28th, 1928. Country of Origin: Piastres

per oke in bulk.

Anatolia, 1st quality				17	-1914
Anatolia, 2nd quality		(5)	7	15	-163/
Thrace, 1st quality				15 1	-173
Thrace. 2nd quality.	1			14	-151/

Locally Milled Flour:

Extra-Extra LT. 16.25 per sack of 72 kgs.

Extra . . LT. 14.50 » » » 72 kgs.

Integral, 1st quality: LT. 14.30 per sack of 72 kgs.

Integral, 2nd quality: LT. 12.70 per sack of 72 kgs.

N.B.: 1 oke = 2.8264 lbs. = 1.28 kgr.

1 lb. = 0.3538 oke = 0.4536 kgr.

1 kgr.=2.2046 lbs.=0.78 oke.

MARKET REPORT OF THE IONIAN BANK LIMITED. Continued)

Barley.

Unfavorable reports were received from Thrace towards the close of the month stating that the new crop had suffered considerably, and in various districts had been seriously damaged as a result of the severe weather which persisted during March. Figures regarding the damage sustained are not yet available and it would be premature at present to express any opinion as to the immediate effect of these conditions on the barley market.

Arrivals during the month were not important, but the market has not suffered therefrom, as the sales were also on the low side owing to the weak demand.

Prices showed slight signs of improvement during the latter part of the month, and with the advent of good weather business should tend to improve.

Prices as on March 28th, 1928.

expansion a boundaries!	Ptrs. per	roke
Thrace, delivered in sacks a		
Sirkedji Station	. 11.	
Anatolia, delivered in bulk at		
Haidar-Pacha Station	12.	3/4
Tea.		

No appreciable change occurred in markets at origin with the exception of Ceylon, where a decline in prices was reported at the close of the month.

India.

As customary, the Calcutta market closed until June and the appended prices are nominal quotations from London.

Ceylon

The improved tone manifested at the close of last month was of short duration. Consequent upon the irregular quality which was offered, prices started gradually to subside and casiness is reported all round at the close of this month

Java & Sumatra

There has been sustained activity in Java and Sumatra teas of all grades, purchases being facilitated by the easy tone of the market during the month, thus presenting good opportunities for business.

China

The market maintained last month's characteristics, ruling firm for good qualities and weaker for common and commonest sorts.

Local Market

The local market has been dull throughout the month owing to Ramazan and the Feast of Bairam. This slackness may also be partly attributed to the severe weather, which impeded all forms of transit operations and caused many cancellations and delays in sailings between Constantinople and Anatolian Black Sea ports.

Notwithstanding the scarcity of transactions, prices were firmly maintained, in sympathy with those ruling at origin. Stocks at the close of the month were much heavier than at the close of February, owing to continual arrivals and lack of sales.

The market closed quiet.

		Price per id
Latest quotati	Pence	
Ceylon Orange Pekoe	Common Medium Fine	18-19 19-21 22-23
Java Orange Pel Java Pekoe		17½-19½ 16-17
Indian Orange	Medium	19 -21
Indian Orange Pekoe	Flowery	23-26
Indian Pekoe		18-19
China	Common .	11-14 1/4
China	Fine	28-33
Coffee.		

Notwithstanding the slight slackening of the demand from consuming centers and the easiness in prices which resulted therefrom, origin maintained quite a good tone throughout the month. A steadier demand is expected shortly, possibly during April, and with it a sustained improvement in market conditions.

Stocks of good qualities were very limited at the ports of shipment, and holders were so confident of a better market in April that they showed some reluctance to sell.

MARKET REPORT OF THE IONIAN BANK LIMITED. (Continued)

The local transactions were not as numerous and important as last month's, hampered as they were by bad weather which prevented shipments to the Interior. Consequent upon this situation, a sensible decline was registered on coffee prices.

Origin quotations, prompt shipment cif Cons/ple:

Good bean greenish

Rio	No	3				86 -	per	cwt.
))))	4				84/-))))
))))	5			101	79/-))))
))))	7				74/-	n))

Local quotations in transit.

Good qualities are quoted from 80/to 85/- but without buyers.

Sugar.

Despite the apparent activity reported on the New York Sugar Exchange prices quoted at origin remain at last month's level.

Locally, the market opened comparatively quiet and little has been done in the course of March. Business was very slack towards the close and prices decreased in consequence.

Quotations from origin:

Russian, Rumanian, Bulgarian

russium, rumummi, Duigui		100		
Crystals	£	14	10	0
Hungarian Crystals	2)	14	10	0
Czechoslovakian »				
» Cubes from Hamburg.	2)	18	0	0
» » Trieste))	18	10	0
Locally : Same prices.				

Rice.

The news received from origin indicates a firmer market resulting from the brisk European demand. If this firmness continues, prices may be expected to stiffen further.

In sympathy with origin, the local market also enjoyed better business but prices ruled almost the same as during

February.

Latest quotations:	per ton.
Rangoon (Alexandria) No. 3 double bags prompt shipment £	15 15 0
Egyptian rice « glacé » »	
» » «mat»»	
Moulmein £ 20 10 0-	-21 10 0
Italian " 16 10 0-	

Cotton Sheetings.

In sympathy with cotton, which was firm throughout the month, sheetings maintained a very strong tone at origin, April shipment being quoted at 16/5

The local market, however, has not benefitted by the same advantages, but has displayed such weakness that sheetings sold at the LT. equivalent of 16, against 16,5 at origin as quoted above.

The cause of this decline may be attributed to the abnormally bad weather which greatly hindered supplies to the Interior. It is expected that market conditions will improve with the weather. Stocks at the close of the month were not so important, but a shipment of about 1,400 bales is due in our port during April.

American Sheetings:

« A » (3 yds. equal 1 lb.) 12¾ cents per yard cif. Constantinople. Local market price per piece of 40 yards (duty paid) LT. 12.

Japanese Sheetings:

Lion « CCC » (13 ½ lb.) 16/5 per piece of 40 yds., shipment April. Duty paid LT. 10.10.

13 lb. cheaper sheetings 15/7 shipment March. Duty paid LT. 9.60-9.70.

Carpets.

As foreseen in our last report, the presence of numerous American and European buyers promoted considerable business, which might have been far more important but for Ramazan, which hindered operations, Custom Houses being open for only three hours daily. Nevertheless the turnover in March shows a marked increase in comparison with that of February.

Although a further rise of the Kran and an advance in carpet prices for April are reported from Persia, the local market has so far shown no appreciable movement in sympathy, the tendency being to liquidate stocks, an accumulation of which has been created latterly by continual arrivals.

Arrivals:

About 700 bales from Persia, containing principally Gioravans, Heriz, Tabriz, Mossuls, Runners, Beloutch, etc. About 1000 bales are expected during the beginning of April.

MARKET REPORT OF THE IONIAN BANK LIMITED. (Continued)

Sales:

Chiefly effected in old Mossuls all grades of Hamadan, Mossuls, Sarouks, Kemeres, Runners, Heriz, Gioravans, Tabriz, Beloutch, etc.

Tabiliz, Deloutell, etc.		
Description. Price.	per	Stocks
Gioravans £T. 13-14 14	sq. m	. Small
Heriz I & II . » 16-25	»	Medium
Tabriz » 14-19	. 0	Small
Tabriz fine » 25-50	»	Medium
Saruk & Maharadja		
high piled 35-40	»	Small
Meshed high piled 131/2-2	5 »	"
Kirman high piled		
& Medallion 23-45))	»
Keshan high piled 60-65	» '	Very »
Pre-war Heriz &		
Pesh-Meshed 25-60	»	Medium
Kelleys mixed 65-135	piece	D
Kelleys fine200-500	»	Sma'l
Strips Medium 45-55	»	Large
Mossul Zendjian. 141/4-18))	n
Shiraz Rugs &		
Kelleys Sh. 32-45	sq. m.	Medium
Gendje-Karabaghs		
mixed with long & narrowLT. 40-55	pieceVe	erv small
Shirvans fine. » 75-120	The second	Small
Shirvans II » 40-45		ery small
Cabistans » 75-150		Small
Sumaks » 13-18	sq. m	t. »
Afghans Sh 2/4-5/6		
Bokhara mixed sizes 7/6-15		
Nidge new rugs LT. 91/4-10		
Nidge new mats » 13/4-2		Medium
		200

The persistent slackness which has for so long characterized the local tobacco market shows no signs of alleviation. A few sales only were made during March, producing no effect on the general situation.

Kelims » 32-75

Tobacco.

With the approach of the new crop anxiety is increasing regarding the liquidation of existing stocks and though some holders express the hope of better business in April it is difficult to find any substantial basis for such optimism. It has, however, been reported that the Italian Regie have sent a representative to Samsoun to make purchases of crop but that their requirements will not exceed Kg. 500,000.

Nominal quotations remain unchanged.

Market quotations:

From	Piastres per Kg
Samsoun	185-250
Baffra	150-250
Trebizond	90-190
Broussa	80 - 130
Hendek	90 - 140
Ismidt	90-130
Sinop	85-155
Duzdje	100-160
Gunen	90-125
Adrianople	80-100
Ak-Hissar	90-120
Bigha	85-115
Smyrna	85-175
Ada-Bazar	85-115
Cartal	60-135
Guevzeh	60 - 90

Opium.

Small

Business was slack at the beginning of the month, the low prices offered being unacceptable to holders. In the absence of business, however, they were induced to reduce quotations, and brisk activity ensued at low prices, Karahissar being quoted as low as Ltqs. $25-25\frac{1}{2}$ per oke.

Soft qualities fell considerably less than other descriptions as rumors were current alleging damage by frost to the autumn crops in the producing districts.

As the month progressed and following the severe weather in Anatolia it was confirmed that the autumn crop of all qualities had suffered considerably and that frost was impeding the sowing of the spring crop. The effect of these reports was reflected in the sharp rise which occurred about the middle of the month.

This strong tone was maintained up to the end of the month, when the market closed very firm with good prospects.

MARKET REPORT OF THE IONIAN BANK LIMITED (Continued)

Stocks at the end of	the r	nonth were	District: Cases LT. per oke
not very important.	daup	Tomation()	Bolavaddin-Karahissar 7 28.50
Sales from March	1st to	28th, 1928.	Zilé 1 30
District:		LT. per oke	» 3 32.25
Balikesser	2	25	» (old)
Dankesser	4	27.35	Broussa
»	5	26	Mihalitch
Inferior	2	16	» 2 26
» · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1 2	17.50	Karagatch 2 27.50
) many in the Head	_	18 19	Erba 2 32
	1.00	20	Inegueul 2 25
» · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		21	» 1 26
	1	19.50	Eskichehir 5 27.60
)	1	10	Amassia
white the same of	1	22.50	Muhadjir e
Hadjikeuy	8	32	
» ··· · · ·	1	30	Mohair.
Demail	17	34	As foreseen in our last issue, business
	2 2	33	during the month has been very limited,
Urgup	í	31	owing to the paucity of stocks available
Kutahia	3	22	for sale.
Simav (telquel)	12	22	There was, however, a demand for
Beybazar	9	23	low qualities, which sold at good
Narlihan	1	25	prices.
Yalovatch (telquel)	2	20	The market closed very firm, and
» ······	7	21.10	stocks at the end of the month had
)	1	25	been reduced to about 1,500 bales.
mean matter of the control of	2	26	Reports from the various producing
Angora (telquel)	1	18	centers state that considerable mortality
Tokat	4	31 26	had occurred among the animals and
Ak Chehir	3	25.25	had occurred among the aminate than
» ·····	5	28	that the clip is likely to be less than
The a section of the	1	28.50	last year's. Reliable information as to
w drange). de pre	14	30	the extent of the mortality is at present
» (telquel)	6	27.60	lacking.
»	1	26	Sales during the month totalled
Akchehir-Yalovatch	17	26	about 1,400 bales.
Malatia	1	29	Sales:
	3 25	30	District Bales Ptrs. per oke
»	1	31	Fine 124 280-290
Herman (mixture)	10	26.50	» 41 276
) »	1	29	• 290 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
(11 1/2 % morphine)	_		» 60 270
(113/4 % morphine)	1	30	* 43 275
Karahissar	13	28	20 240 33 267 ½
»	3	26	" oc 16t
a Statistical	17	27	5Kiii
D.1	5	30 27.75	» 57 180 » 51 185
Bolavaddin	5 9	27	9 6 207 V
The same that the same	13	28	» 28 205
" abbiliona	8	28.10	18 182
»	3	28.50	» 36 217½
»	3	29	» 25 205
	6	30	, 30 190

MARKET REPORT OF THE IONIAN BANK LIMITED. (Concluded)

District	Bales	Ptrs per oke
Beybazar	17	214
»	200	225
Guerede	25	215
D	10	218
Angora	96	220
)	88	215-224
n	122	224
»	11	215
Zaframol	27	2221/4
Tchoroum	10	214
»	9	194
Ayach	70	215
Kara-Hissar	27	225
Eskilip	30	212
Kastambol	51	208 14
»	100	209
	-00	

Wool.

Business transacted during March was, without being as heavy as February's very satisfactory.

The following sales took place:

300 bales for America at 89 piasters per oke.

750 bales for local requirements and carpets manufacturing at 87-88-89 Pts. per oke.

250 bales for Hamburg at 89 piasters per oke.

The new clip is expected to be abundant and it is therefore anticipated that prices will drop to around 85 piasters per oke,

Stocks locally are very limited, ranging round about 1,200 bales.

Business in the Interior was quiet, and such operations as took place were to provide supplies for Smyrna manufacturers.

Skin wools attracted the usual brisk lemand and important business ensued.

Vax.

The demand continued steadily during March, chiefly for good qualities, prices of which consequently improved.

Stocks are not very large, but are considered sufficient to cope with all eventual requirements.

The market closed firm, with prices showing an upward tendency.

Ouotations:

Ordinary qualities around Piasters 197 per oke.

Good qualities around Piasters 210-215 per oke.

Hazel Nuts.

Owing to bad weather and the consequent difficulties in the transport of merchandise from the Black Sea ports, cargoes expected failed to arrive here and an abnormal shortage was The effects of created in local stocks. this lack of merchandise has not been greatly felt, the demand for abroad having been insignificant throughout the month.

As a result for the poor demand, prices ruled weaker.

Local quotations:

Trebizond 80 pastres per oke Kerassund 79)) D

Persian Sweet Almonds.

The scarcity of the available stocks, coupled with a rather pronounced demand from abroad, occasioned a steady rise in prices, which, at the end of the month, ranged around 175 to 178 piasters per oke.

Furs & Skins.

The market was favored by a particularly strong demand from abroad for all kinds of furs and skins, and the resultant sales reached a very respectable figure.

It is stated that business during this season has been exceptionally good and has vielded a very good margin of profit for fur merchants. The market closed very firm.

Prices at the end of the month were as follows:

LT. 16 to 37 per pair according Fox: to quality and districts.

Marten: LT. 62 to 74 per pair according to quality and districts.

Beaver: LT. 36 to 44 per pair according to quality and districts.

Wolf: LT. 14 per pair.

Piastres 72 to 76 per piece. Hare:

Hyena: LT 7 per pair.

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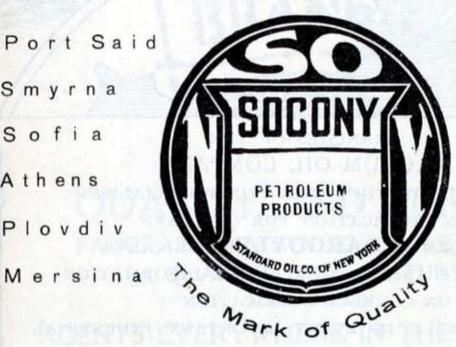
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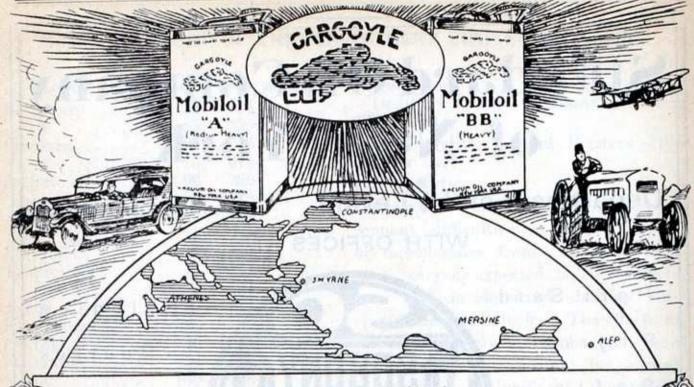
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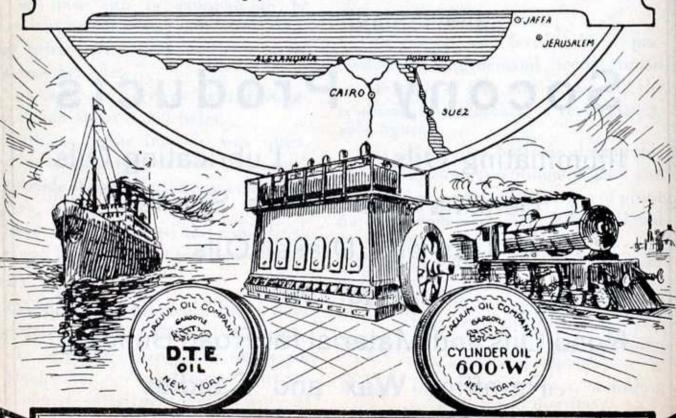
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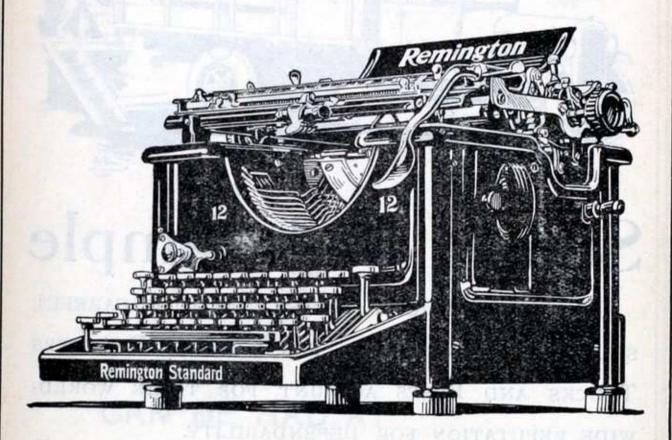
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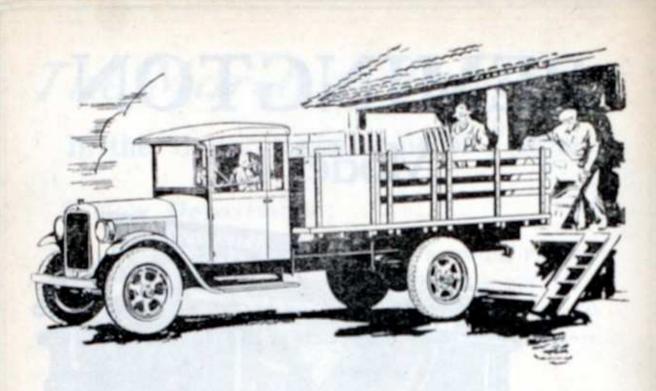
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Danon & Danon, Kendros Han, Stamboul.

Darr, M., & Co., Ralli Han 3-10, Sirkedji, Stamboul.

Eskenazi, S., Djelal Bey Han No. 36, Bagtché Kapou, Stamboul.

Halil Kiamil, Gumuchlu Han, Galata.

La Fontaine's, Edward, Sons Games & Richard La Fontaine, Mehmed Ali Pacha Han, No. 56 & 57, Galata.

Lagopoulo, Fettel & Co., 8-9 Ananiadi Han, Stamboul.

Nemli Zadé Fils, Birindji Vacouf Han, Stamboul,

Pervanides C., & L. Hazapis, Arslan Han No. 1-2, 3 rd floor, Perchembé Bazar, Galata.

Stern, Henry, Allalemdji Han 3-4, Stamboul.

Touloukian, S. A. & H., Kaissari Han 20, Stamboul.

Zellich, Henri, & Fils, 21 Rue de la Douane, Galata.

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Hatschadourian, Jeghia, Exp., Boîte Postale 292, Pera.

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Taranto, Nissim, Kenadjian Han, Stamboul.

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Danon & Danon, Importers, Kendros Han, Stamboul.

Ehrenstein & Toledo, Altiparmak Han 1/3, Stamboul.

Eskenazi, S., Djelal Bey Han No. 36, Bagtché Kapou, Stamboul.

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Lagopoulo, Fettel & Co., 8-9 Ananiadi Han, Stamboul.

Tripo, C. N., & Fils, Exp., 11 rue de la Quarantaine, Galata.

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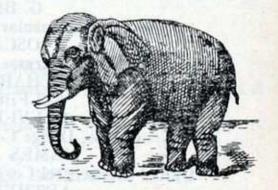
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Patrianakos & Co., Syggrou Blvd. 37. Motor Cars, Tires and Accessories.

The Standard Commercial Trading Corporation, Carapanou Building. Tobacco. Standard Oil Company of New York, Paparigopoulou, 9.

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The American Express Company Inc., 44 Philonos Street. Bankers.

S. & E. & A. Metaxa, Successors to A. Metaxa Heirs. Manufacturers of Cognac.

The Michalinos Maritime & Commercial Co., Ltd., 37 Philonos Street.

Ath. Xanthopoulo Sons & Co., 6^B Loudovicou Street. Commission Agents for Flour, Coffee and Sugar; Importers of these Articles; Coal; Shipping.

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The American Tobacco Company of the Orient.

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Haim & Albert Benvenisté. General Importers and Exporters.

Danon & Danon, Rue Tsimiski, Immeuble Koffa. General Importers and Exporters,
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Salomon J. Sarfati, Rue Thassou. Exporter of Furskins, Hideskins, Lambskins, etc.

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Fils de Jacob Scialom, Rue Franque. Leather; Nuts; Seed; Opium.
Standard Oil Company of New York.

MESOPOTAMIA

T. Korevaar, Oppenheimer Casing Co., Ltd., P. O. Box 102, Bagdad.

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Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd., Jerusalem, P. O. Box 593, Telephone 65. General Passenger, Forwarding and Insurance Agents and Bankers. Established 1841. Office also at Haifa.

Jona Kuebler, Rue de la Marine, P. O. Box No. 549, Jaffa. Shipping, Insurance, General Commission and Representation.

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BUCHAREST

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Jacques Paucker, Strada Smardan 27. Importer of Machinery of all kinds.

Henry J. Présenté, Strada Halelor No. 41. Importer of Colonials.

«Romano-Americana», Societate Anonima pentru Industria, Commerciul si

Exportul Petrolului, 126, Calea Victoriei. Petroleum.

Société Générale d'Exportation, S. A., Rue Lipscani 18. Paid up capital 70,000,000. Export of Cereals and all other Roumanian Products; Import of Colonials; Banking. Telegraphic Address: GENEREX. Branches at Braila, Constantza and Galatz. Agencies at Bazargic, Bechet, Calafat, Calarasi, Cetate, Chilia, Corabia, Graiova, Giurgiu, Ismail, Ramnicu-Sarat, Reni, Silistra, Turnu-Magurele and Turtucaia.

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rages and Workshop.

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Association des Importateurs d'Automobiles.

S. Audi & Frères.

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M. Sirgi & Co. Importation-Exportation.

Standard Oil Company of New York.

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Lorenzo Y. Manachy. Cotton Goods; Cotton Seed Oil; Gum Tragacanth; Hardware, Tools; Wool, Mohair.

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Shuep & Co., General Agents, Cotton, Woollens, Silk Goods, Yarn, Hosiery,

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The A. J. Alsdorf Corp.,
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The American Tobacco Company,
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Manufacturers of cigars and cigarettes. Buyers of Turkish tobacco.

Bank of Athens,
25 Pine Street, New York City.
Bankers.

Banca Chrissoveloni, S. A. R. of Bucharest, Rumania,
115 Broadway, New Nork City.
Bankers.

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Warran Obio

Warren, Ohio

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Saloniki house, P. Doptoglou, 37 Rue Egypte.
General Importers and Exporters.

quitable Trust Company,
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Trust organized under the laws of the state of New York having foreign connections throughout the Near East.

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General Motors Export Co., (through their Alexandria Branch).

224 W. 57th Street, New York City.

Manufacturers and exporters of automobiles.

Georgian Manganese Co., Ltd., 39 Broadway, New York City. Importers of Manganese.

Gillette Safety Razor Co., Boston, Mass.

The Globe-Wernicke Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

Manufacturers of office furniture and equipment.

The Goulds Mfg. Co.,
16 Murray Street, New York City.
Manufacturers of pumps of all descriptions.

Howard Heinz, H. J. Heinz Co., Pittsburgh, Pa. Food products,

Hills Bros. Company,
375 Washington St., New York City.
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Kent-Costikyan Trading Company, Inc. 485 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Oriental Carpets and Rugs.

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Oriental Carpets & Rugs — wholesale only.

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The Lucy Manufacturing Co.,
233 Broadway, New York City.
Manufacturers and dealers in oil well supplies of all kinds. Branch at Polest, Rumania.

McAndrews & Forbes Co., 200 5th Avenue, New York City. Importers of licorice.

Importers of licorice.

A. C. Mac Kusick,

6 Beacon St., Boston Mass,
Lawyer, U. S. Representative of American Levant Agency.

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Manufacturers of cotton textiles, specializing in three yard grey sheetings.

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General banking business with correspondents throughout the Near East.

Pacific Mills,

24 Thomas St., New York City.

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Perkins & Company,

30 State Street, Boston, Mass. Bankers.

Persian Carpet Company,
Textile Building, 295 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Oriental Carpets and Rugs.

The Persian Trading Corp.,

254 4th Avenue, New York City.

Exporters and importers of general merchandise, dealing principally with Persia.

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120 Broadway, New York City. Tobacco merchant.

Reo Motor Car Company,

Lansing, Michigan.

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100 East 42nd St., New York City. General exporters and importers.

Standard Commercial Tobacco Company, Inc.,

100 East 42nd St., New York City.

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Standard Oil Company of New Jersey,

26 Broadway, New York City.

Manufacturers of petroleum products.

Standard Oil Company of New York, 26 Broadway, New York City. Manufacturers and distributors of petroleum and all its products. Representations. sentatives in all of the important cities of the Levant.

Albert W. Staub, Robert College and American University of Beirut.

18 East 41st Street, New York City.

Leon Nissim Taranto,

280 Broadway, New York City.

Exporter and importer, specializing in Turkish markets.

U. S. Steel Products Company, 30 Church Street, New York City.

Exporters of iron and steel products of the United States Steel Corp.

Vacuum Oil Company, 61 Broadway, New York City.

Exporters of petroleum products

Wellington, Sears & Company.

93 Franklin Street, Boston, Mass.

Manufacturers and exporters of cotton textiles

Woodward Baldwin & Company,

43 Worth Street, New York City.

Merchants and exporters of cotton textiles.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

April, 1928

	Page
The Greek Currency Reform	135
Treaty Relations Between the Turkish Republic and the United States	138
Tobacco Production in Yugoslavia	139
U. S. Rug Imports Go Up	140
Cape-Cairo-Constantinople-Stockholm Endurance Trip	141
Turkey	142
Greece	145
Bulgaria	147
Rumania	148
Palestine	150
Egypt	151
Exchange Quotations for March 1928	152
The Month in Review	154
Market Report of the Ionian Bank Limited, Constantinople Branch,	
for March 1928	155

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