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A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

No. 642—Vol. XXIV.
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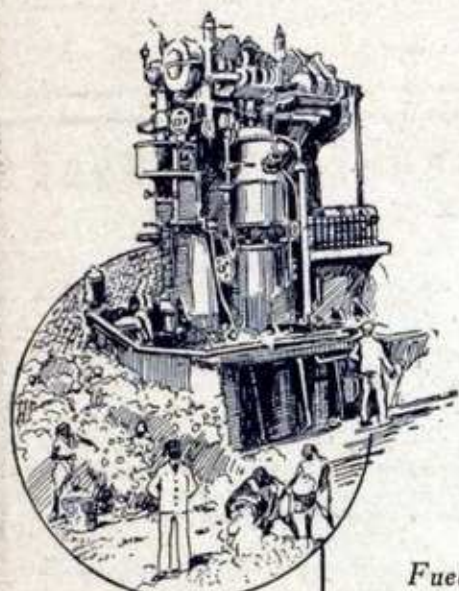
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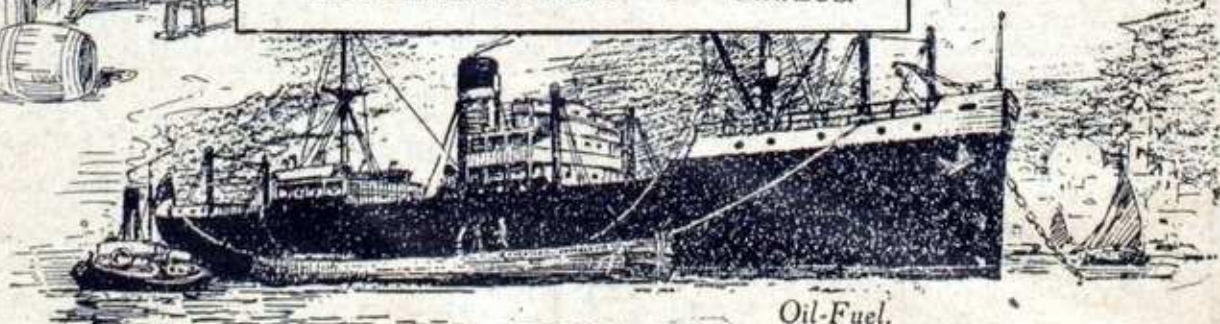
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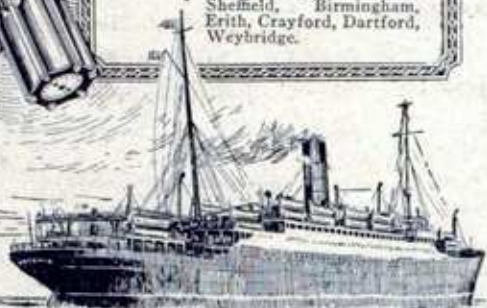
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 642—Vol. XXIV.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Ratification of the Treaty.

Little or no exception can be taken to the course of the debate in the Angora Assembly on the Treaty of Lausanne. Fire-eating deputies had to have their say, and in turn those who represented frontier constituencies denounced the arrangements made in regard to Thrace, Syria, and Iraq. When it came to the voting, however, the weight of opinion behind these extremist utterances was revealed by the preponderating vote—213 for and 14 against—in favour of ratification. In replying to the debate on behalf of the Government, Ismet Pasha appears to have been more in his element than he was at any time at Lausanne. He made a strong point in comparing the foreign policy of the Ottoman Empire, which had combined absolutism at home with unlimited confidence in some foreign Power, with that of the Grand Assembly, which aimed at giving the people as much control as possible over their own affairs and in their relations with other Powers adopted a position of complete independence. Not the least interesting part of the speech was the emphasis laid on the renewal of friendly relations with Great Britain, and Ismet Pasha coupled with it the hope that a satisfactory solution of the Mosul question would eventually be achieved.

Britain and the Peace Terms.

Lord Birkenhead, we may hope, will live long enough to regret his strange outburst on the Lausanne Treaty, and will have opportunity to consider the whole question more carefully before he indulges in further rhodomontades in the Autumn Session. His close study of the Treaty's provisions he will find far less helpful than a consideration of its antecedent conditions. He ignores the essence of the situation when he exclaims that "never in the history of this country has a defeated enemy wrested such terms from the conqueror." The statement may be true, but it does not apply to the present case, for the reason that never in the history of this or probably any other country has an overwhelming force, after inflicting defeat on an enemy, abandoned all that gave it superiority and deliberately encour-

aged its smallest unit to seek defeat at the hands of that beaten enemy. Lord Birkenhead writes as if he had not been a member of the Government that deliberately galvanised into life the defeated Turks and allowed them, in effect, to snatch victory out of defeat by leaving the issue between Turks and Allies in the hands of Greece as the Allies' only available champion. If Great Britain has made sacrifices in the Treaty of Lausanne, it is by way of amend for a former Government's handling of the Turkish question. The moral equation has now been restored in the Near East as far as Great Britain is concerned, and the least that ex-Ministers who had a share in the post-Armistice blunders can do is to accept the vindication of Britain's honour with the best grace they can muster.

The Evacuation of Constantinople.

Almost on the day that saw the ratification of the Lausanne Treaty by the Angora Assembly the evacuation of Constantinople by the Allied troops began. Their departure will be viewed with mixed feelings. The troops themselves, certainly the British contingents, will have no regrets at abandoning an incongruous position. It will be the foreign community on whom the chief loss falls, as they look forward with some misgivings to the uncertainties that the future has in store. We could wish that the occupation of Constantinople had meant more for the city and its inhabitants than merely a sense of security. Owing, perhaps, to the international character of the occupying force it did not avail itself of such opportunity as it had of exerting a salutary influence upon the life of the city. Apart from training a few individual policemen, who showed a special aptitude for their work, the Allies, as far as we are aware, made no attempt to reorganise the Turkish police and to make it an efficient force. The Turkish fire brigade continued to use its primitive methods side by side with the latest appliances of the British military fire brigade, and all that the latter can claim to have achieved for the future of the city is that they showed the way to better things and finally sold to an untrained body of men, when they left, their up-to-date equipment. As for the moral sphere, Constantinople threatened at one time, it is to be feared, to set its own seal upon its foreign guardians

rather than to absorb a new atmosphere from them.

Strikes in Greece.

The Labour Party in Greece chose a wrong moment for a trial of strength with the State when supreme power is in the hands of a military committee. It has received short shrift, and the strike movement, for which widespread support among the trades unions had been secured, has rapidly collapsed. The Greek Labour Party has tried to advance too quickly, and it may well be that it has been led astray by an exotic communism. There is no greater individualist than the Greek, who indulges this characteristic to such an extent that business partnerships are the exception and single-man businesses the rule. Trade unionism in Greece owes its political existence to M. Venizelos; but owing to the latter's prolonged absence from the country after the Armistice, it mapped out for itself a political path that he can hardly have foreseen or desired, at the most impressionable period of its existence. It is, indeed, one of the charges brought against M. Venizelos by his political opponents that he encouraged Labour and endowed it with the power to become the problem or, as they would say, the nuisance that it has since proved. It is reported that the Greek Government has suspended the trade union law. This measure may help to break the strike, but it can hardly be intended as a permanent step. Although Bolshevist theories may have corrupted a number of Greek workmen, there can be little doubt that they have their grievances, which it is the duty of the Government to investigate patiently and sympathetically. Greek labour appears to have no recognised leader who can plead its cause with authority, and for this reason it is the more at the mercy of communist tactics.

The Late M. Daskaloff.

The murder of M. Daskaloff in Prague is a further reminder of the stormy setting in which Balkan politics are staged. M. Stambolisky's Minister of the Interior was at one time the best hated man in Bulgaria. Acting for the Prime Minister during the latter's frequent absences, M. Daskaloff contrived to stamp his own policy on Bulgaria. He was responsible for the persecution and prosecution of the Bourgeois politicians, and, if left to himself, would undoubtedly have driven his country far along the Bolshevist road. The precise relations between him and M. Stambolisky are largely a matter of conjecture. At first forming together a powerful combination, they drifted apart in regard to their political principles, as M. Daskaloff inclined more and more to the extreme left, and M. Stambolisky had his socialism tempered by contact with Western peoples. Towards the end of the Stambolisky régime there was almost an open breach between the two men, and it was recognised that M. Daskaloff's acceptance of the Prague diplomatic post was a face-saving device to cover his exclusion from the Ministry. In the opinion of many he had played the rôle of Stambolisky's evil genius too long. A man of violent methods, he has met a violent death, which can in no way be condoned, but which, it may be hoped, will play its part in warning Balkan politicians of the unwisdom of the abuse of political power.

The Irak Desert Route.

Prominence given to the misfortunes of a party of Arabs who attempted to motor from Damascus to Baghdad may create a wrong impression regarding the prospects of the weekly motor service that is expected to carry the Irak mails between Baghdad and Haifa from October 1. The Arabs

were new to the route, were inadequately provisioned and trusted to the guidance of a chance native, who lost his way. The company which will be responsible for the weekly service is a British company employing British drivers; its cars have already performed the journey several times and it is to inaugurate the mail and passenger service with a fleet of new powerful cars, fitted with refrigerators and carrying an ample supply of provisions and water. The value to Irak of weekly communication with Europe cannot be overestimated. For mail matter it has had, thanks to the enterprise of the Royal Air Force, a fortnightly service by air; but the air service was never intended for civilian traffic and would in any case have been of restricted utility for the purpose owing to the limited passenger accommodation and the cost of the trip. It is an essential part of the mail service between Haifa and Baghdad that the desert stretch between Damascus and Ramadie should, at first, be covered in the hours of daylight, and to ensure this, organisation, good cars, and reliable drivers are necessary. The majority of people going to and from Irak will be attracted by the saving of at least a fortnight between Egypt and Baghdad, but although the desert can be shown to offer little danger or difficulty to a properly organised service travellers should be warned against lightly undertaking the desert journey "on their own," and against trusting themselves to unknown transport agents.

Safeguarding the Majority.

The most suggestive items of the recent news from India relate to the organisation of the Hindu Mahasabha, or, as we might say, super-society, designed to unite two-thirds of the population of the country for its own protection. At first sight the need for such a society is not very obvious, for in other countries it is usually minorities which feel the need for such distinctive organisations, but, judging from the extracts from speeches which have reached us, its bias, though not its declared object, is definitely anti-Moslem, and its appearance is one more indication of the exacerbation of religious feeling on which we have had to comment so frequently of late. It is, of course, conceivable that an organisation of the kind might accomplish much useful work, provided that its management was marked by sagacity and restraint, but, unfortunately, those qualities have not hitherto been conspicuous among the men who are at present in charge of the movement, and we must confess that we regard it with some apprehension, as being more likely to retard than accelerate India's painful progress towards national unification.

The Strength of a Nation.

From time to time facts and figures come from India which suggest that the educated classes, in their praiseworthy zeal to shoulder new burdens, have been overlooking the relation between burden and shoulder imposed by stern natural laws. A striking instance is furnished by the record of the last two examinations for the Civil Service which have been held in India. It was hoped that the candidates at these examinations would be picked men in every sense of the word, but two out of every seven have had to be rejected by the doctors as unfit for the work for which they were so eager. One can readily imagine the consternation which would be aroused by a similar proportion of rejections in this country, but there is as yet nothing to show that the Indian Universities are seriously perturbed. The test is by no means severe, and it may fairly be said that the men who fail to pass it are unfit for ordinary civil life. In many parts of India the colleges are overcrowded to an

extent which seriously impairs their efficiency. Would it not be worth while for the authorities to weed out of the crowd the lads who will never be fit to give the country fair value for the education they have received?

Protection and Publicity.

There is a great deal of interest in the working of the new Tariff Board, which has just begun to hold its public sittings in India. Putting the expert economists on one side, ordinary people dislike protective tariffs chiefly because of the very unpleasant odour, which suggests that corruption is going on unseen, and India is now attempting to avoid this evil by using the antiseptic of publicity. The men who want their industry protected have to state their case formally before the Board in the presence of the reporters, and their opponents can meet them in the same way; the Legislature, in fact, is to be approached by the front door, and not by the kitchen staircase. It is probably a fortunate occurrence that the steel industry is the first to come before the Board. The steel-makers aver that they must either be protected or close down, the steel users retort that protection will involve their ruin, and, whatever may be the result of the clash of interests, it appears to be certain that the proceedings of the Board will have a very great educative value for the Indian public, which desires to get both steel and steel products cheap, and is inclined to distribute its distrust impartially among the sellers.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

A Slow-Moving Time.

Reparations still hang most heavily over us, and are weighing on Europe's soul almost like lead. It is a somewhat dismal and trying time. Other countries, which have a definite policy on this question of Reparations, are happier than we, who wearily chafe at our impotence. There is, one feels, a growing feeling in this country—by no means as yet a conviction—that our Government has not an adequate grip of the situation; certainly this policy, or rather, practice, of inaction suits very ill the minds of the electors. It was once sufficient, but it is not now sufficient, to point to the terrible legacy left to Mr. Baldwin's Administration by the Coalition Government, but people will not indefinitely consent to see Great Britain withholding her power to act. It may be sound, but it gets you little distance, to deprecate the use of the words "pro-French" or "pro-German"; for in this crisis it would appear that if you are not for France you are against her. Several politicians, we know, are against her; but the mass of the people is still solid against the German State. Perhaps it is a sad pass to which the world has come when the British principles of chivalry and generosity to a beaten foe are inadmissible or inapplicable; but at the moment it is quite certain that we and our intentions are well out in the cold. Nothing is being done, and nothing can be done, it appears, for at least some weeks; some in despair have gone even so far as to believe that nothing will be done until the demise of M. Poincaré—to such depths of unintelligence can impatience move us!

The "Daily Herald."

There is little doubt that we are turning more and more to domestic affairs, and that all our knowledge, political and particularly geographical, that we gained of foreign countries during the War, is fast vanishing. In the days when we knew where, for instance, Kharkov and Przemysl were,

we should have noted the disappearance of the *Daily Herald* with a shrug, but the recent news of this impending event has assumed a certain, although undeserved, significance. It is now stated that unless the *Herald* can by September 30 next increase its 300,000 readers to half a million it will cease to exist. Now one is not quite so optimistic about Great Britain to suppose that it does not contain half a million enemies to itself, but one can still hope that the aims of the *Herald*, which, so admirable an organ in the beginning, has in later times become a journal which from any patriotic point of view was almost, although never quite, nefarious, will be unfulfilled. The *Herald* has recently been a supporter of many causes—all of them by no means lost causes—and the virtues of the Zaghlools, the Gandhis, and the Lenins of this wicked world have in its eyes appeared monotonously complete. We shall in some ways regret the passing of a journal the literary pages of which could often be read and the betting advice acted upon, but, taken all in all, its disappearance will be a good thing for the working-man, who may not find truth in the capitalistic press, but will surely find more interesting things.

The Changed Face of London.

One of the strangest experiences to those who know London well is to travel through it in the deserted hours, say, early on a Sunday morning; the most familiar effects then assume almost eerie prominence, and in any case to be in the presence of a mighty soul in repose is moving. But, instead of this seeing London owned by Londoners asleep, you can now see London owned by non-Londoners very much awake. Hundreds of American visitors have returned home, but there is still a sufficient leaven of them among the thousands of provincial Britons to make the capital seem and sound strange. It is a little amusing to find in the hardy Cockneys who yet survive in London (having chosen a better time than the present for their holidays) a faint sense of patronage towards these urgent sons of Durham, Somerset, or Massachusetts. But they ask such simple questions (although at times their questions are unanswerable except by the learned Londoner—an oxymoron, by the way), they put such incredible faith in their guide-books, they enjoy everything so very much, that London takes them all to its kind and indiscriminating heart. Only the very poor or unfortunate can feel lonely in London.

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The "Laurentic's" Gold.

An extraordinarily good piece of work has been done by the Navy in salvaging almost all the gold from the wrecked White Star liner "Laurentic," which was torpedoed in 1917 with five millions bullion aboard. For years divers have been at work on the wreck, which lies in twenty fathoms of water, and a very horrible duty it must have been. It is right that publicity should be given to so patient and successful an effort, if only because of the tendency at the moment to appreciate the work of the Air Force at the expense of the Navy. Perhaps our islanders, who go into raptures at the sound of an aeroplane, do not esteem as they should the strength of their more silent guardians, but unless the future defence of Great Britain is proved indisputably to rest in the air, there is no doubt that the people of this country will soon revert to its traditional pride and confidence in the Navy.

The Price of Meat.

I never did like butchers, and if there is any class of men less lofty than dealers in frozen meat I have yet to meet them. Therefore, I always knew that the price of meat was ridiculously high, and now comes the Departmental Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture to confirm one's intuitive knowledge. This committee states that the retailer's net percentage profit is larger than it was pre-War, and the control of prices during the War has been maintained in the post-control period. Profits vary from 13 per cent. on pork to 48 per cent. on frozen beef. This, of course, has been "wangled" by the creation of a ring. The elimination of competition has meant that the consumer in this country has to pay, for instance, 9d. a pound for Australian chilled meat which in cold storage in this same country is 3½d. a pound.

Gross profiteering in some trades may ennoble a man or those with whom he comes into contact, but not profiteering in meat. The sort of thing frozen-meat millionaires do is to buy up property in the West Country and endeavour to create a monopoly there, stopping up common rights-of-way as if they were some despicable butcher rivals.

Angling.

The increased popularity of angling is, one supposes, one of the minor psychological results of the War; but there is no doubt that far more indulge in this gentle pastime than before 1914. Every

week-end you can see leaving London for places like Cookham, Staines, or Marlow placid men with rod, line, and basket. Crowds, literally, of fresh-water fishermen there seem to be now, whereas before the War angling was the most aristocratic of pursuits.

The issue between sea angling and fresh-water fishing will never be settled, like the issue between sea and fresh-water sailing. But it seems pretty certain that there is more sport in the one and more art in the other, though the sea people rightly look down on their dilettante brethren of the fresh water. And there are not many men who know thoroughly both the sea and, say, the Broads, who do not prefer the sea.

But wherever there is water, in land or off the coast, you can see the unlikeliest people pulling up the fish. Angling is, even if one is not skilled, a beautiful relaxation from the "care and money and trouble" of ordinary life, and that—the escape to simplicity from the wearing complexity of normal living—is, of course, the note of modern life.

Dinner and Tea.

Of all the differences that divide nations from one another, and, in a nation, classes from one another, none is more harassing or confusing than that relating to meals. Few Englishmen get really used to the ordinary Continental breakfast, any more than Americans appreciate our own scant breakfast. Again, there are people in this country who like to call the meal before tea dinner, and others who call it lunch; and there is much in a name. (One does not think of the lazy people who have but one meal before tea and call it "brunch.") To this staunch mid-day dinner class the Labour Party belongs; it has recently declared itself in favour of a high tea in the House of Commons, cutting out the dinner.

There is something to be said for the Labour members. Dinner of late years has been a rather arbitrary affair, with an obvious tendency to grow later and later. The "Nine o'Clock Revue," for instance, was expressly timed in the belief that it was impossible decently to finish dinner much before nine, though, in truth, there was nothing in this, because some people will always take longer than they ought over dinner, no matter at what time they begin. Democracy and the late dinner, in fact, do not seem to go hand in hand, and, since nothing can withstand the progress of democracy, it would appear that the end of the late dinner for other than the very well-to-do is at hand.

Regional Loyalty.

A pretty war is now being carried on between representatives of the State and of different localities in England. The public services, civil and military, have been marking out various sites for the development of their various schemes, and have threatened to take control of such places as Holmbury Hill, Lulworth Cove, and Avebury. Now, all these places are either of rare beauty or interest, and one is not quite so committed to the desecration of England as to allow the unintelligent State official blindly to encroach in the name of efficiency. That the public's feeling is against official encroachment on such places is beyond doubt; the Press alone is witness to that fact. No one would wish to deny to the public services room to develop, but they must be told where they can do so without destroying the yet fair face of the country. In the long run, beauty is more than efficiency and peace more than business, and Englishmen are slowly finding this out.

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The Near and Middle East.

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, August 17.

L'Affaire Moheb.

Accustomed as we are to sensations, seldom have we had a week such as this. The "affaire Moheb" will long linger in the minds of local editors as a very succulent journalistic tit-bit. It all began with the Government's decision to buy cotton. The official announcement was made on the Alexandria Bourse at 12.30 p.m. on August 1. But from the time the Bourse had opened, two and a half hours earlier, there had been heavy buying by speculators, so much so that the price had been forced up a dollar in the course of the morning. When the Government's decision was announced it was obvious that once again the early bird had got the worm. Immediately there arose a demand for an inquiry as to how the news of the Government's intention had leaked out. The Minister of Finance was made the object of every kind of insinuation. His resignation a few days later merely added fuel to the fire.

Subjected to the bombardment of the whole Egyptian Press—for once united—Moheb Pasha last Monday gave an interview to a local newspaper. His statement consisted almost exclusively of accusations of the gravest nature against everybody whom he had occasion to mention. The principal charges were:—

(1) That the Prime Minister himself informed a local journalist of the Government's decision to buy cotton some two hours before the official announcement was issued.

(2) That the Prime Minister and the other Ministers were simply tools in the hand of the High Commissioner, and had agreed to legislation destructive of Egypt's rights, rather than offend Viscount Allenby.

(3) That the Prime Minister had consistently refused to agree to the many desirable projects, of great benefit to the country, put forward by Moheb Pasha.

(4) That he—Moheb Pasha—had only remained in the Cabinet in the hope of being able to act as a check on his colleagues' apparent determination to drag the country down to speedy ruin.

(5) That he eventually resigned because the Hon. E. Scott, Acting High Commissioner, ordered him to do so.

The effect of these statements may be imagined. If the local Press had been excited before, it was now delirious. Above all else did the alleged intervention of the Residency provoke the scribes.

Meanwhile, there had become generally known and accepted as true a version of the Acting-High Commissioner's remarks to Moheb Pasha, and his reason for taking any part in the affair, which re-

flected badly on the part played by the ex-Minister of Finance. This story was known to thousands of people throughout the country, and the general expectation was that it would be confirmed by an official statement from either the Ministry or the Residency. Pending official confirmation, every newspaper hinted that it knew all there was to be known about this mysterious affair, but none dared be the first to put into print what was in every man's mouth.

The next move was the issuing by the Residency of the following statement to a native paper:—

We have been for some time past *au courant* with intrigues directed at bringing about a Ministerial crisis. As a result of the numerous declarations that Moheb Pasha had recently made to us of friendship and loyalty towards us, Mr. Scott, when these incidents occurred last week, gave friendly advice to Moheb Pasha to resign. Mr. Scott even went to Moheb Pasha's house. He did all this without the knowledge of the Prime Minister. Moheb has rendered us many services, notably in defending our interests in connection with the compensation of foreign officials. Recently he has particularly tried to maintain amicable relations with us, and it was this that has led Mr. Scott to tell him, in friendly fashion, that all the rumours attaching to his name, in connection with the Government's intervention in the cotton market, were very regrettable, and to advise him to resign. So far as we are concerned, Moheb certainly did not embarrass us, but it seemed to us deplorable that a member of the Government should be accused of very many things, and Mr. Scott told him so. All this was done without the knowledge of the Prime Minister.

Press Comment on the Statement.

The general opinion of the statement may be represented by two quotations, the first from *Al Akhbar*: " . . . Moheb, they say, has rendered us many services. Is it for that reason that they have asked him to resign? . . . The example of Moheb should show to all those who think of following his footsteps that the British are never faithful in their friendships, and that, after having got all they can out of a man they abandon him to his fate." The second quotation is from the *Journal du Caire*: " . . . The Residency has attempted to explain, but in fact it has explained nothing. In the insinuations published yesterday the malice towards Moheb Pasha is very clear, but they are only insinuations, and we take the liberty of telling the distinguished diplomatists at the head of the Residency that these insinuations are unworthy of them. Either Moheb is guilty of all that he is accused of or he is not. If he is, why not have the frankness to tell the public that this man, who poses as a victim, has abused the advantages of his official position and can no longer figure worthily among Egyptian Ministers? But if Moheb, on the other hand, is innocent, why then resort to underhand and mean methods of attacking him? "

The *Journal du Caire* goes on to specify exactly what it is of which rumour accuses Moheb Pasha. " Moheb is accused of having made a certain proposal to the director of an Alexandria bank. The enemies of the ex-Minister affirm that it is as a result of this that Mr. Scott advised Moheb to resign. If

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this is true why not say so? The country has the right to know. Is it, then, so difficult to tell the whole truth?"

The Prime Minister Speaks.

All that, it might have been thought, was enough to go on with, but a new sensation was provided yesterday, in the form of an interview given by the Prime Minister to *Al Mahroussa*. After saying that it was not in the general interest to publish the entire truth about the Moheb affair, Yehia Pasha went on to remark that the whole of Moheb Pasha's statement was untrue. Moheb Pasha, while a Minister, had constantly interfered with matters not concerning him, to the great irritation of his colleagues, for which reason the Prime Minister had asked Moheb Pasha to resign. Moheb Pasha had replied that he was a poor man and could not afford to give up his portfolio. Yehia Pasha, therefore, arranged to transfer Moheb to the Ministry of Education, but the other Ministers held a meeting and afterwards told the Prime Minister that they could not remain in a Cabinet of which Moheb Pasha was a member.

Yehia Pasha denied that he had given any journalist advance information of the Government's decision to buy cotton, and, with regard to the interference of Mr. Scott, which, said Yehia Pasha, he much disliked, Moheb Pasha had never said to the Prime Minister that Mr. Scott had ordered him to resign. What Moheb Pasha told Yehia Pasha was that Mr. Scott had advised him to resign, to which Yehia Pasha replied that, much as he disliked this interference, it had nothing to do with the Cabinet's decision to ask Moheb to resign. The Prime Minister declared that, so far from his having refused to agree to proposals beneficial to the country which had been put forward

by Moheb Pasha, the latter had never evolved any scheme of benefit to anyone.

So there the matter stands. Everybody has had his say, and nobody has spared anybody's feelings. On the Prime Minister's own admission, the whole truth has not been told, but, since everybody thinks that he knows the whole truth, this does not make much difference. Possible further developments are suggested by Yehia Pasha's having summoned Moheb Pasha from Cairo to Alexandria on Tuesday, and by a lengthy Cabinet meeting yesterday, to which the Procureur-General was summoned, and regarding whose proceedings nothing has been disclosed.



Constantinople, August 21.

The New Ministry.

The epoch-making session of the new Grand National Assembly has begun, but the Assembly has not yet got into its stride, it has formed its various commissions, which are doing the preliminary work in preparation for the legislation which is to be introduced later.

Apart from the urgent question of the ratification of the Peace Treaty, which is to be the first important act, interest has been concentrated more upon personalities than upon measures. The constitution of the new Ministry provided no great surprises. The chief feature is the exclusion of Reouf Bey, the late Premier; he is succeeded by Fethi Bey, who retains his portfolio of the Interior. Fevzi Pasha remains Chief of the General Staff, and Ismet Pasha continues to be Foreign Minister. This Cabinet would appear to have been formed on a narrow basis, and to suffer from the exclusion of a number of prominent men whose presence in the Ministry might have been expected on the strength of their recognised ability regardless of their political predilections.

The Press opinions upon the new Government are generally negligible, except those of the *Tanin*, which has long been a voice calling in the wilderness for moderation and sanity. The *Tanin* has now been joined by the *Techid*, and both criticise the new Ministry. The *Tanin* mocks at the Premier's declaration that his new Cabinet is a Business Cabinet; it says that, if the new Ministers had been strangers, it would feel inclined to "wait and see"; but, having seen them at work, it has its unfavourable opinions already formed. The *Techid* strikes a different and more fundamental note when it points out that the object of the new Cabinet is to bring about a vast social evolution in the country. The country is unanimous in longing for such an evolution, but where differences have arisen is in the method of carrying these schemes into execution.

Mustapha Kemal Pasha's Speech.

The inaugural address of the President of the National Assembly was somewhat disappointing. Mustapha Kemal Pasha traversed a great deal of old ground about the rise and success of the National movement, and poured out a moult of honest indignation at the atrocities to which the Turkish nation had been subjected; but when one looks for some ideas concerning the peaceful de-

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velopment of the future, there is nothing to be had but some very stony bread. Pride of place in the plans for the future is accorded to the organisation of an efficient army. Such an attitude may well be regarded as a bad omen. After the experiences of the military adventures of the last eleven years, one would really have thought that for a space at least the Turks would consider the advisability of turning their swords into ploughshares and devoting their main energies to the works of peace.

Greek Refugees.

There is one question which is pressing for immediate solution—namely, the disposal of the thousands of refugees, the balance of those who have been uprooted from their secular homes in Anatolia and whose final destination has not been settled. In and around Constantinople, in Selimie Barracks at San Stefano, and on Prinkipo there are about 14,000, while at Samsoun there still remain some 16,000, for whom no provision has been made after September 15. Two ships have been sent from Greece to Constantinople to embark 7,500 of those who are quartered here for Salonika and Kavalla, and it is hoped that arrangements will be made as soon as possible for the balance remaining here; but what will happen to those who are left at Samsoun after the American Near East Relief has closed down in the middle of September is dreadful to contemplate. Six thousand of them are said to be destitute, and unless they are removed to Greece or elsewhere before the winter sets in they are doomed to perish.

The Evacuation.

Preparations for evacuation are proceeding methodically. The Allied Police, as a civil organisation, have ceased to function; a collection of transports has arrived in the harbour; the Turkish exchange is rapidly depreciating; the curio and carpet shops are advertising a fresh supply of bargains in souvenirs, and the police are trying to disarm the civil population now that they alone are responsible for public order and security. The odds against the infliction of prohibition in this city are growing steadily higher. That is the budget of local news.

The Constantinople Golf Club.

The British Colony, although it looks at the future with some excusable anxiety, is already beginning to make arrangements to provide itself with some means of relaxation on the dull days that are coming after the evacuation of the troops. The military have since the Armistice constructed an excellent golf course at Mashlak, about two and a-half miles from the north edge of the city, and now a civilian golf club has been formed to take over this 18-hole course, which is 5,325 yards long, and is provided with a good club house with all facilities. The provisional committee has shown commendable enterprise in arranging for transport to and from the course, always one of the principal difficulties in this city, which covers an enormous area and is so poorly supplied with means of communication.

August 14.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, August 20.

The Little Entente and Poland.

Parliament is closed, and most of the Ministers are absent from Bucharest on holiday this month. The chief event of political interest has been the meeting at Sinaia of representatives of the Little Entente and of Poland, whose discussions appear to have been fully recorded in the English daily Press. Commercial treaties have already been concluded with Roumania by Czecho-Slovakia and Poland, and at Sinaia questions relating to trade and transport facilities were further discussed with the representatives of these two countries. One of the results of these discussions appears to have been that the Roumanian Government (according to the Bucharest Press) has promised to begin at once to pay off its debt to the Skoda locomotive factory in Czecho-Slovakia. This factory has had large orders, chiefly for the repair of locomotives for the Roumanian State Railways, and has a large outstanding account to its credit.

M. Duca is said to have made every effort to bring Poland into the Little Entente, but without success so far, partly on account of the political disagreements which still exist between that country and Czecho-Slovakia, and partly because Poland demanded, as a condition of her joining, that the other signatories of the Entente should undertake to come to her aid in case of an attack upon her on the part of Russia. This was felt to be too heavy a charge in view of the other responsibilities of the Little Entente, and Czecho-Slovakia was particularly decided in her refusal of this condition. Very little seems to have been definitely settled at Sinaia, and the conference is to be continued in the autumn at Belgrade or Prague.

Other news from Roumania will be found on page 224.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, August 16.

The Oil Question.

Captain Shearme, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's representative, arrived back in Tirana from England on Sunday, there being a few outstanding points requiring settlement before the concession goes before Parliament next week. The Government appear to be a little nervous as to the attitude Parliament will take with regard to the concession, mainly because of the counter-proposals put forward by the Standard Oil Company. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company, however, holds the field, as they were granted the concession two years ago, subject only to ratification by Parliament.

Islam in Albania.

Not long since, following on the example of the Orthodox Church, a Congress of Moslems of both the Sunni and Bektashi persuasions was convoked and the complete independence of the Mohammedan religion in Albania was proclaimed. The Khalif has been altogether repudiated. Where prayers are said in Albanian no reference is made to him

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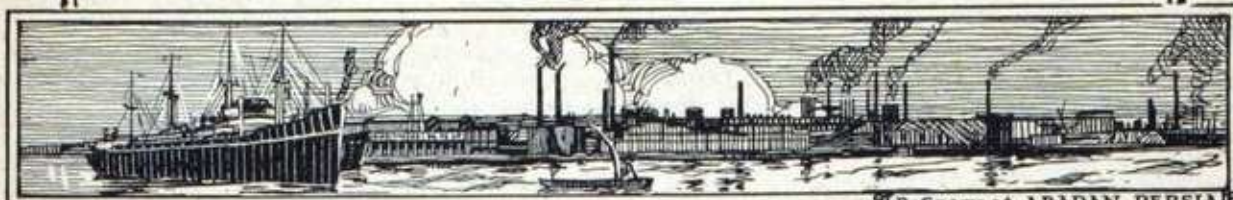
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any longer, and only in certain passages of the Arabic text where this is used does he appear to be still mentioned. The question of the form of prayer to be used in the Mosques is now under consideration.

The Government have not only approved of the decisions taken by the Congress, but have formally recognised the Mussulman High Council, appointed by the Congress, as the supreme Mohammedan authority in Albania. One of the first acts of this Council has been to give definite permission for women to go about unveiled in public. Not many women, however, have as yet taken advantage of this permission, which applies in practice only to the towns; for in the mountain districts it has long been the custom for Albanian Moslem women to uncover their faces.

The Orthodox Church.

The future of the Orthodox Church in Albania depends on more complicated factors. Autocephalism has been formally demanded; but the delegation which waited on the Patriarch of Constantinople to obtain his sanction has returned without having achieved its object. The Patriarch is not prepared to do more than sanction "autonomy," and the extent of this has not been clearly defined. It remains to be seen what steps will now be taken by the Orthodox Churchmen in Albania. There is said to be a strong current of opinion, mainly among the women, in favour of remaining under the headship of the Patriarch. On the other hand, most of the clergy seem to stand for complete autocephalism, while there is a small but (so say its adherents) growing movement in favour of union with Rome. Such a solution, it is urged, would unite the Christians of Albania into one body and procure for the State the interested support of the Vatican. It must be said, however, that public opinion at present would, on the whole, be opposed to such a step.

PERSIA.

Teheran, July 21.

Persia and Irak.

In spite of the British Minister's untiring efforts during the past fortnight to arrive at a settlement of the situation which has arisen from the arrival of the Persian priests at Kermanshah from Nejed and Kerbela as a protest against the action of the Irak Government in deporting a leading Persian high priest for interfering with the elections, as mentioned in my last letter, no solution has yet been found to enable the priests to return to Irak. Feeling against the British continues to run high, and numerous telegrams of protest reach the Persian Government from all parts of the country. On Wednesday some 6,000 people assembled outside the telegraph office in Kazvin as a demonstration on behalf of the priests, but the incident passed quietly.

Sir Percy Loraine, therefore, in order to expedite a settlement, suggested to the Irak authorities that he should proceed to Baghdad by air to discuss matters on the spot, and attempt to reach a settlement. This being agreed to, the Royal Air Force placed two aeroplanes at Sir Percy's disposal, and the machines, with the approval of the

Persian Government, which is naturally as anxious as the British to arrive at a satisfactory solution, landed here yesterday. They are the ordinary service battle biplanes, D.H.9 A type, and for this occasion they were, of course, unarmed. They left Baghdad at about 5.45 yesterday morning under Squadron-Leader Bowman, D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C., and arrived here on the landing ground prepared some two miles to the south of the town at mid-day, thus taking about six hours and a quarter to cover the distance of some 500 miles, rather a slow rate owing to bad visibility between Hamadan and Teheran.

They were the first aeroplanes to effect a non-stop flight from Baghdad to Teheran. They return to Baghdad to-morrow with Sir Percy Loraine, who was anxious to waste no time, and will bring the Minister back when his visit to Baghdad is satisfactorily concluded.

Meanwhile the Mullahs remain in Kermanshah, whither the Shah has sent Prince Azad es-Saltaneh and Hakim ed-Dowleh, Minister of Public Instruction, to welcome them on his behalf.

General News.

M. Shumyatski, who has been acting as Chargé d'Affaires at the Russian Legation since the departure of M. Rothstein, has been appointed Minister Plenipotentiary, and has presented his credentials as such to the Shah. The conferring of the honour was made the occasion of a reception at the Russian Legation.

Khoshtaria, who was much in the public eye last year as being the "concessionaire" of the original Northern Oil Concession before the War, has returned to Persia from Russia, and is now back in Teheran. It is reported that he intends to open a private banking concern as representative of a Russo-Persian commercial company, with branches in the provinces.

Dr. Ryan, the American municipal expert, who recently proceeded to Turbat-i-Haidari to report on the extent of the damage caused by the recent earthquake, has returned, and states that the original reports were much exaggerated. He estimates the death-roll at some 900, and the damage caused at some 60,000 tomans (about £12,000).

July 22.

The aeroplanes with Sir Percy Loraine reached Baghdad before noon to-day; they left here at 5.30, and stopped a short time in Kazvin.

July 12.

The Service of Foreigners.

The engagement of another American adviser was approved in place of Dr. Bogart, who is relinquishing his appointment at the Bank of Persia (late Russian Bank) very shortly, and returning to America. On the other hand, the Mejliss has made drastic reductions in the number of European employees in the service of the Government, and the services of many Belgians, Russians, Swedes, and two British subjects, who have been employed in different Government departments for some years past have been dispensed with, and their contracts terminated. The principal exceptions were the Swedish Chief Organiser of the Police and the Belgian Administrator-General of Customs, and Director-General of Posts, whose contracts were renewed for further short periods. The dismissal of these European employees at very short notice was most unexpected, and most of them are in great distress owing to the non-receipt of any gratuity or pension and their inability to find employment in other directions in this country.

Relief for Turbat.

The Mejliss has authorised a credit of 50,000 tomans (over £10,000) for the relief of the people

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rendered homeless and otherwise affected by the recent earthquake in the neighbourhood of Turbat-i-Haidari. Subscriptions have been started throughout the country for the same purpose, and the American Red Cross Society has sent a donation of 50,000 dollars through the Persian Minister at Washington. In this connection, Dr. Ryan, the American expert engaged for the Teheran Municipality, has proceeded to Turbat to investigate the extent of the damage caused, and to draw up plans for rebuilding and repairing the devastated parts. He told me that there was a question of opening an international relief fund, and that therefore an authoritative report was necessary before inviting subscriptions.

The situation round Turbat has recently been further aggravated by extensive floods following a severe rainfall, which are reported to have washed away much property and to have caused a certain number of deaths. A village near Nishapur, to the west of Meshed, has also been the scene of a flood which has washed away most of the houses.

Pen and Sword in Persia.

The newspaper *Vatan* the other day published an article attacking the military and criticising the Minister of War. The next day, acting presumably under the latter's instructions, two officers and a number of men entered the office of the editor, dragged him out, and, after beating him nearly to death, left him in the street, whence he was removed to hospital, where he now lies in a critical state. In this country, apparently, the pen is not mightier than the sword.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

LANDS OF THE THUNDERBOLT.

"LANDS OF THE THUNDERBOLT: SIKHIM, CHUMBI AND BHUTAN." By Lord Ronaldshay. (London: Constable and Co. 16s. net).

This is no ordinary book of travels, for it contains a record not only of the distinguished author's travels in Sikhim, Chumbi and Bhutan, but some important chapters on Buddhism and special mention of Lamaism (a comparatively modern development of Buddhism), which are so admirably clear and free from all semblance of pedantry as to appeal to scholars, to students, and, in fact, to all readers. For the origin of the title the reader is referred to the Preface, where it is explained that one of the chief emblems of Guru Rimpoché, the founder of Lamaism, was the *vajrah* or *dorje*, or symbol of the thunderbolt of Indra: here it may be explained that Rimpoché is regarded in those countries as a more important person than even Buddha himself.

The book commences with two chapters which deal with Bengal, an essentially flat country, which are introduced doubtless by way of contrast to what is to follow, i.e., a description of the highlands which include the Everest and Kanchinjunga groups. Similarly the description of the coming of summer in the torrid clime of the Gangetic delta is inserted skilfully by way of offset to the subsequent pages, which contain an account of life in a country that lies often above the limit of the snow-line. Several very valuable chapters, descriptive of Buddhism, follow, which cannot be even summarised, much less given adequate treatment, within the limits of a brief review.

Chapter VIII. tells of the author's journey into Sikhim by the path via Sandakphu Phillut, across the Singalela Pass to Pemiongechi: the description of the last mentioned and its celebrated monastery, with a most glorious view from its portico of Kanchinjunga, also those of Tashiding and Sanga Chelling, are admirably done. In these monas-

teries, as, indeed, elsewhere in the neighbourhood, are to be seen images that show the extent of the "wave of eroticism," which, starting possibly from Kamakhya, where is the great Tantric shrine, passed over this corner of India centuries after the founding of the Buddhist faith, and which may have helped in causing its disappearance from the plains of India. But the author went much farther afield than Sikhim, for Chapter XIII. describes his *trek* to the far-off Chumbi valley (a name familiar to us in the Tibet Expedition of 1904), and Chapter XVIII. the journey to the Gochak La (16,430 ft.). One of the most interesting chapters is that dealing with the author's extended tour through Bhutan, which before was, to Europeans, a practically unknown country; there is also an account of the events which led up to the Bhutan War of 1864-65, and of the subsequent rise to power of the present ruler Sir Ugyen Wangchuk, under whose capable and enlightened administration what was formerly a State inhabited by barbarous savages now sends its sons to Darjeeling and Kalimpong to be educated in our schools. The present Maharaja is a fast friend of the British Government and seconded by the late Bhutanese agent to Great Britain, Ugyen Kazi, has shown himself most anxious to develop the resources of his country and to extend trade between Bhutan and British India.

Lord Ronaldshay has on pp. 185-186 some remarks descriptive of his feelings on leaving Darjeeling for the last time which will appeal to many of us who have served in India, specially those who have resided in that queen of Indian hill stations.

The book contains some very beautiful photographs, which are the work of the distinguished author; it has an excellent index, and is moderately priced.

BOOKS RECEIVED

"Heber's Journal: A Selection." With an Introduction by P. R. Krishnaswami. (London: Humphrey Millford. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Josh Jennings at Luxor." By Captain R. W. Campbell. (London: Nash and Grayson. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Official Medical History of the War. Pathology." Edited by Major-General Sir W. G. Macpherson, K.C.M.G., C.B., LL.D.; Major-General Sir W. B. Leishman, K.C.M.G., C.B., F.R.S., LL.D., and Colonel S. L. Cummins, C.B., C.M.G., LL.D. (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 21s. net.)

"Studies in Palestinian Customs and Folklore. III. Modern Palestinian Parallels to the Song of Songs." By St. H. Stephan. 5 piastres; "The Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society." Vol. III, No. 1 and Vol. II, No. 4. (Jerusalem: The Palestine Oriental Society.)

The *Times* Riga correspondent says that it is reported in the Soviet Press that the Yugoslav Government has expressed its readiness to renew trade with Soviet Russia even before the establishment of official diplomatic intercourse.

The Palestine Arab Delegation made a further application on August 22 to the Cabinet Committee on Palestine for a hearing to enable it to put before it the views of the Palestine Arabs on the future Government of the mandated territory.

As a result of the post-mortem examination and the inquest on the death at Alexandria of "Princess" Abbas Halim, who was found shot on August 24, a verdict of "Accidental death" was given. It was presumed that the deceased accidentally shot herself while cleaning an automatic pistol.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

August 30 (New Style).
August 17 (Old Style).
Moharrem 17, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ellul 18, 5683 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Persian Minister left London on August 26 for Aix-les-Bains.

The Rajah and Rani of Pudukota have arrived at Aix-les-Bains from Deauville.

Samy Pasha, of Cairo, has arrived in London, and is staying at the Ritz Hotel.

The Aga Khan, who is touring in France, will return to London on September 30.

Lord Headley, who went on a pilgrimage to Mecca, will return to London in a fortnight.

Mr. F. A. Burlumi has returned to London from Greece.

Miss Gertrude Bell, Oriental Secretary to the Government of Irak, left for Baghdad last Thursday.

The Bulgarian Government has appointed M. Popoff Bulgarian Consul-General in Alexandria in place of M. Doriff, who is returning to Sofia.

Count Ignazio della Croce-Dojola arrived in Alexandria early in August from Cairo, and assumed his duties as Consul-General of Italy.

M. Yanapoulos, formerly First Secretary at the Greek Legation, who has been appointed Consul at Malta, left London on August 22 to take up his post.

General Sir Charles Monro, Governor of Gibraltar, expects to leave England early in September to take up his new post.

The King of Roumania arrived in Venice a week ago, where he was joined by the Crown Prince and the Crown Princess of Roumania, who had been paying a short visit to the Grand Duke and the Grand Duchess Cyril of Russia at their villa at St. Briac.

The following are the names of the successful candidates for the Sudan Political Service who were selected by the Sudan Selection Board, which met in London last June: E. D. M. Batty, E. A. V. de Candole (Worcester College, Oxford), B. V. Marwood, H. A. Nicholson (Trinity College, Oxford), A. S. Oakley (C. C. C., Oxford), E. W. Thomas (Cambridge), and E. J. N. Wallis (University College, Oxford).

Admiral Sir John de Robeck, Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet, and formerly Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean and British High Commissioner in Constantinople, met with a serious accident on August 24 when motoring in Lanarkshire. He was conveyed in an unconscious condition to the Lockhart Hospital, Lanark, where he has since been lying. The latest bulletin states that he has received severe injuries to the head, but the improvement in his condition has been maintained. On Monday he was reported to be partially conscious.

On the occasion of the fifty-eighth anniversary of the birthday of King Ferdinand of Roumania, on August 24, Sir John Hanbury-Williams, on

behalf of King George, conveyed to M. Radu T. Djuvara, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, a cordial message of congratulation, which was subsequently telegraphed to the King of Roumania at his summer palace at Sinaia. Cards were left at the Roumanian Legation on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the Lord Chamberlain, and the State Chamberlain. The Roumanian flag was flown throughout the day at the Legation, the Consulate, and the Roumanian Bank in London.

NEW POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR TURKEY.

The Postmaster-General announces that on the evacuation of Constantinople by the Allied troops, the British Post Office in Turkey will be closed, and postal packets (including parcels) addressed to that country will thereafter reach the addresses through the Turkish Post Office.

On and from the 30th inst., the dispatch of parcels for Turkey by the direct sea route to Constantinople will be suspended until arrangements can be considered with the Turkish Post Office. Parcels for Constantinople and other places in Turkey will, however, be dispatched via Switzerland and Constanza. The postage by this route will be 4s. 3d. for a parcel not exceeding 2 lb.; 5s. 6d. for a parcel between 2 lb. and 7 lb., and 6s. for a parcel between 7 lb. and 11 lb., with additional postage of 6d. on any parcel addressed to a place in Turkey-in-Asia. Parcels may be insured up to £40. It is advisable that parcels should not be dispatched to British troops in Turkey during the period of evacuation.

There will be no change, for the present, as regards parcels for H.M. ships in Turkish waters. These will continue to be accepted for dispatch via Malta at present rates of postage, namely, 1s. 3d. up to 3 lb.; 2s. 6d. between 3 lb. and 7 lb., and 3s. 3d. between 7 lb. and 11 lb.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1923.

GREEK POLITICS.

A statement by M. Venizelos on Greek politics inevitably commands attention. When, therefore, he urges that the most pressing need of Greece at the present time is a cessation of civil strife and restoration of the normal functioning of the Constitution, it may be taken for granted that in his opinion Greek internal feuds have assumed serious proportions, while he recognises that constitutional government is entirely in abeyance. Independent evidence of the seriousness of the quarrel between Greek political parties is given by the Athens correspondent of *The Times*, who states that the feud between Royalist and Venizelist "is no mere matter of words; it is something vital, responsible for the wrecking of many Greek homes, for the breaking off of betrothals, and for the dissolution of business partnerships." He adds that it is difficult for an Englishman to conceive the intensity of this feeling which divides the whole of Greece into two hostile camps; and to illustrate it he cites a Royalist who claims that there are "thousands of others" who, like himself, have sworn that the mourning they now wear will one day be dyed red "with the blood of the Venizelists." To anyone who has made an impartial examination of the position in Greece it is well known that the picture is not overdrawn. The feud dates from 1916. Four years ago, when M. Venizelos was in power and King Constantine an exile, the cessation of civil strife, for which the former now pleads, was urged in the columns of *THE NEAR EAST*, and it was suggested that, unless M. Venizelos elected to bring back King Constantine on terms, the latter's return might take place in his despite and lead to the driving of Greece's greatest statesman into the political wilderness. In those days M. Venizelos or his advisers—for owing to his prolonged absence from the country he was compelled to rely upon others for his reading of the trend of Greek affairs—affected to regard the Royalist following as negligible, and the need for the cessation of civil strife, so obvious to the onlooker, was not appreciated. The pendulum has swung violently in Greece since then; King Constantine was brought back, and M. Venizelos left the country—never, in all probability, to return; even the revolution that deprived the King of his throne a second time failed to make Greece safe for M. Venizelos. It did, however, as a result of the execution of M. Gounaris and his fellow Ministers, fan the flames of hatred to a white heat and produce a condition of things which, if prolonged indefinitely, might involve the country in complete ruin.

Where passions are easily aroused, they can usually be relied upon to die down with almost equal

rapidity, and with the exercise of tact by those now in authority or prominent in Greece, the situation need not have been regarded as hopeless. It is, however, unfortunate that M. Venizelos has chosen to couple his appeal for a cessation of civil strife with a statement of modified support for a republican movement in Greece. Nothing is more calculated to cause the Royalists to raise their standard high and close their ranks, for they know that the Venizelist party cannot be relied upon to show the reasoned moderation and dispassionate caution of which its leader is capable. M. Venizelos denounces any idea of enforcing by violence a republic on Greece, but he does not consider the Greek people as still immature for a purely republican régime. He finds that "the creation of a republican party destined gradually to enlighten the people on the real meaning of a pure republic, and to constitute an oppositional force, looming in the mind of the existing régime and restraining it from constitutional trespasses, is quite natural." Unless they feel deterred by the Royalist's oath, this pronouncement might well prove sufficient to transform the Venizelist extremists into an avowed republican party, which, if it could claim any considerable numbers, would intensify and perpetuate the political bitterness in the country.

It remains to be seen, however, how many Greeks will be content to follow an absent leader for all time, and to commit themselves to the uncharted seas of republicanism without any prospect of his immediate guidance. In its early stages Venizelism represented a movement for which there was undoubtedly room in Greece. There had been a tendency previously to restrict social position and political power within the narrowest limits. For a long time an increasing number of people who felt themselves qualified for a place in the sun in a democratic State had been knocking at the gate of caste privilege. On the arrival of a new man in M. Venizelos they rallied instinctively to his banner, and his political wisdom and statesmanship gave promise that his followers would play an important part in winning Greece to a policy of Liberalism. The Imperial aspirations and foreign cares with which M. Venizelos allowed himself to be overwhelmed as a result of the Great War left no time for the elaboration of a Liberal policy. Venizelism in the hands of hurriedly selected subordinates became, during the absence of M. Venizelos, in no way distinguishable from any previous phase of Greek politics, except possibly for a greater abuse of power. When M. Venizelos returned to Athens the mischief had passed beyond his control. It is time now that the country rid itself of its seven years' curse. We had hoped that the Revolutionary Committee, by maintaining itself above parties and politics, would spare the Venizelists the odium of the execution of the Ministers, and by withdrawing into private life with their responsibilities on their own heads, would leave Royalists and Venizelists to realise that only by an end being put to their vendetta could Greece rise superior to the ills that had come upon her. But the Committee is also concerned to make Greece safe for itself, and M. Zaimis has probably hit upon the only possible solution of the problem by appealing to the Venizelists to abstain from taking part in the elections as a party and to submerge themselves in his own Party of Reconciliation until Greek politics can be remodelled on healthier and more profitable lines. If M. Venizelos could have endorsed this appeal, it might have proved better for Greece than to have a further ingredient in the form of republican doctrines thrown into the cauldron of civil strife, which, in the history of Greece, will always be associated with the name of Venizelos.

CONDITIONS IN ABYSSINIA.

Our Correspondent in Addis Abeba writes, under date July 20 :—

The Internal Situation.

The rainy season has set in, with the usual result that, to the outward eye, the internal politics of the country are in suspense. The rains begin to slacken about the middle of September, and by the Feast of the Cross (*Maskal*), which occurs during the last week of that month, they are usually over. In former days the Government viewed the approach of *Maskal* with a certain amount of apprehension, and with reason. In Abyssinia there is a season for going to war, just as there is a hunting season in England. This season begins immediately after the rains, when the wells and water-courses are full, forage and grain are abundant, and man and beast can subsist on the countryside. Moreover, it is the custom, as part of the ceremonial attaching to the celebration of the feast, to hold parades of large bodies of troops. It follows, therefore, that, if trouble is brewing against the Government, it is more likely to show itself at *Maskal* than at any other time.

No trouble, however, is to be expected this year. The Shoan Government are probably in a stronger position at the present time than they have been since the death of the Emperor Menelik. Lij Eyassu, the lad appointed by Menelik to succeed him, was deposed in 1916, but at that time the Central Government were unable to lay him by the heels. So long as he remained at liberty he was a cause of unrest and a source of anxiety to the Government. Fortunately, the chiefs of Tigre, in the North, with whom Lij Eyassu had taken refuge, were induced two years ago to surrender him to the Government, and his confinement has removed the chief danger to the peace of the country.

But though the Government are safe from attack, it is not to be supposed that there are no clouds on the horizon. To be safe from attack does not imply, for example, that the Government can with safety attempt to administer the country in a manner contrary to tradition or to the ideas of their followers. And yet this is exactly the hazardous experiment which they are likely to be driven to make.

The Slavery Question.

The pressure comes from without. The interest taken in Abyssinia by the outside world, the growth of which was arrested by the outbreak of the War, is being rapidly reawakened. Abyssinia is being rediscovered, with the result that people in Europe and America are seriously concerned at the misgovernment of the country which has been thereby revealed. There is a demand for investigation and reform which the Powers and the League of Nations, whose attention has been drawn in particular to the question of slavery, cannot ignore. The Abyssinian Government are aware of this, and would willingly try to set matters right if they knew how. But this is not a case of "Where there's a will there's a way." The difficulties are enormous. Abyssinia never has

been administered in the sense understood in civilised countries. If the Government tries to interfere with the customs of centuries, they may raise a storm beyond their power to quell. The lesser chiefs and the priests, who form the backbone of the community and whose hold on the common people can only be maintained by resistance to all progress, are, and always will be, against reform of any sort. It follows, therefore, that the introduction of any reforms imposed upon the Abyssinian Government by the pressure of public opinion abroad will be resented bitterly by that section of their people whose support it is essential for them to retain. An unpleasant prospect!

Attention abroad has been concentrated chiefly on the question of slavery. For months past the English Press has been signalling a recrudescence of slavery in Africa, and pointing to Abyssinia as the source of the evil. These statements have recently received substantial confirmation at the hands of the French Government. The Assembly of the League of Nations is to consider reports on the matter in September next.

Abyssinia and the League of Nations.

The Abyssinian Government are dealing with the situation thus created with considerable address. Their attitude was defined by the Regent, Ras Tafari, a few weeks ago, in a statement made for publication in *The Times*. Briefly, the Abyssinian Government recognise the gravity of the question, and are taking their own measures independently to suppress the slave traffic in the countries under their own control. Although they have received no communication from the League of Nations, they wish it to be known that they are prepared to assist the investigations of the Assembly by supplying such information as is in their possession. They will co-operate in measures taken by the League to suppress the traffic in the Red Sea and other African territories, but they will resent any action taken by the League which would tend to fix responsibility for the present state of affairs on the Abyssinian Government alone. For this reason a Commission of Enquiry sent by the League to Abyssinia alone would not be acceptable. They point out that the information available shows that slaves are captured as often in British territory as within the boundaries of Abyssinia; that the slave raiders concerned are as often British subjects as Abyssinians; that slaves pass through French Somaliland as well as Abyssinia on their way to the coast; and that the men who deliver the slaves to the waiting dhows are almost always Arabs, who are certainly not Abyssinian subjects, but are sometimes British or French subjects. They argue, therefore, that responsibility for the existence of the slave traffic, wherever it lies, must be shared by the British and French Governments.

It must be admitted that the Abyssinian Government have acted correctly, and by so doing have gone a long way towards putting themselves right in the eyes of the world. Moreover, my information goes to show that they are really doing their best to stop the traffic in their own country. Whether their efforts will be successful and will



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be sustained remains to be seen. In any case, the League might well help with encouragement and advice, and by arranging for the co-ordination of the measures which are being taken independently by the British, French, and Abyssinian Governments.

The Administration of Justice.

It is to be hoped that the Abyssinian Government will have the wisdom to deal betimes with another question, which otherwise will assuredly give them a great deal of trouble, and that is the question of the administration of justice in suits between Abyssinians and foreign subjects. The procedure in these cases is governed by the provisions of what is known as the Klobokowsky Treaty, a treaty made between the French and the Emperor Menelik some fifteen years ago. It was therein agreed that in the hearing of suits between Abyssinians and French subjects the Abyssinian judge should be assisted by the French Consul, and that judgment should be given in accordance with the law of the country to which the defendant in each suit belonged. In the case of disagreement between the Abyssinian judge and the French Consul, the suit was to be sent for trial before the Court of the Emperor himself. This procedure was accepted in practice by Great Britain and the other Powers concerned in the case of their respective subjects. The machinery thus provided worked moderately well until a year ago, when, with the laudable intention of facilitating and expediting procedure, the Abyssinian Government created a new and permanent tribunal, under the name of the "Special Court," to deal solely with these cases. The foreign Consuls, as before, sat in this Court. Unfortunately, from lack of experience and lack of authority, the Court has not proved equal to its task. Many complaints are levelled against it, of which the most serious is that whereas the execution of decrees passed by the Court against foreign subjects is promptly enforced by the Consul concerned, foreign subjects find it impossible to obtain execution of decrees passed in their favour against Abyssinians. It is doubtful whether the Abyssinian Government realises the extent of the irritation felt by foreign residents over this matter, or the concern which it is causing in the foreign Legations.

Belgium and Abyssinia.

An event of diplomatic interest is the arrival of M. Gérard, the newly appointed Belgian Minister. Hitherto the Belgian Government has not been represented diplomatically in this country, and some speculation has been caused over the new move, more especially as it is understood that M. Gérard has come from the important post of Director of the African Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Brussels. It is thought that the recent acquisition of an alcohol monopoly in this country can hardly account for the bringing up of such heavy artillery.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The appointment of Colonel Leslie Wilson to be Governor of Bombay is gazetted.

The Athens strike has come to an end, the men having submitted unconditionally.

It is understood that Aziz Izzet Pasha has declined the position of Egyptian Minister in London.

The Rev. W. H. C. Johnson, of Meiktila, Burma, has been appointed Archdeacon of Rangoon.

A message from Tashkend (Turkestan), received in Riga, states that an earthquake shock lasting four minutes and accompanied by subterranean rumblings was felt there on the night of the 20th inst. The centre of the disturbance was 150 miles distant.

The retirement of Major-General Sir C. C. Manifold, Indian Medical Service, was announced in the *London Gazette* of August 24.

A raid by the Calcutta police has resulted in a big haul of counterfeit hundred-rupee and ten-rupee notes. Several Bengalis were arrested.

It is announced that M. G. Japy, Second Secretary of the French Embassy in London, has been appointed French Chargé d'Affaires in Bucharest.

Former officials of the Bokhara Government and members of the commercial classes have been deprived of their votes by the Soviet administration of the State.

An Exchange message from Athens says that General Tricoupis, two other generals, and about three hundred officers, who were prisoners of war in Asia Minor, have arrived there.

Miss Augusta Mary Rachel Dobson, Mus.Bac., whose death occurred at Ealing on August 22, was formerly Warden of the Missionary Settlement for University Women, Bombay.

Greece will be represented at the Assembly of the League of Nations by M. Nicholas Politis and M. André Michelakopoulos. General Alexandre Mazarakis and M. Jean Politis will act as technical advisers.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald has been invited by the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party to pay a visit to Sofia on his way to Constantinople, but he has replied that it is not possible for him to accept the invitation.

The epidemic of dengue fever continues in Calcutta, and is causing much inconvenience to business houses. A doctor at the School of Tropical Medicine estimates that 40 per cent. of the population of the city is suffering.

There are no more cholera cases at Baghdad, but Basra reports thirty cases daily. Enough anti-cholera serum is available at Baghdad to vaccinate the whole population. The troops have been already vaccinated and isolated at Hinaidi. The cholera was brought to Abadan from India by pilgrims.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

The European Situation.

It cannot be said that the position with regard to the European problem has been vitally altered by M. Poincaré's Note. As I forecasted, it was distinctly conciliatory in tone; it was none the less indicative of France's resolution to pursue the course that she has mapped out. "The brokers have been put in; they will remain until Germany has paid" sums up the situation. From France's point of view that may be all right; from ours it is all wrong, but then our Ally has not felt the effects of the *impasse*. Unfortunately, the fact has to be admitted that there is little or nothing we can do at the moment to modify the position. Those who would counsel cutting ourselves adrift from the European problem are hopelessly beside the point. For good or ill, events have made us a part of Europe, and in no conceivable circumstances could we remain unmoved by developments across the water. We are now linked to Europe, and a recognition of that fact is essential to an understanding of the problem with which we are confronted and on the solution of which the future of our trade endeavour and the unemployment question depend. One imagines that matters are likely to remain as they are at present for some time at any rate. It can only be hoped that by the time the Imperial Conference meets events will have taken a more favourable turn, and that then the Prime Minister will be able to intervene to better effect.

The Turkish Market.

Discussion is naturally rife as to the difference that peace with Turkey will make to our trade. Disappointments since the Armistice have been so many and various that it is only natural that commercial circles should wax hopeful over the ratification, more especially in view of the problematic European situation. The question which is discussed in detail in an article on another page, is one which cannot now be answered, as it might have been if peace had come reasonably soon after the Armistice. In that event it would have been possible to anticipate an immediate and direct influence on trade, but the long years that have elapsed have simply exhausted Turkey's resources, and have crippled her capacity for trade. Commercial developments in the immediate future depend on Turkey's capacity to export, and that, so far as my information goes, is at present limited, consisting largely of the product of this season's yield of dried fruits. As pointed out in the article in question, a loan is an essential preliminary to Turkey's economic recovery. The rest must depend upon the Turks themselves. If they show themselves capable of applying to industry the qualities that they undoubtedly possess, the future of the country should be bright, and it should not be long before the Turkish market comes to assume a very considerable importance.

The Coming Egyptian Season.

In a very short time the Egyptian season will have commenced, and there is considerable hope in regard to the prospects of the tourist traffic, and justifiably so, for the recent discoveries have given Egypt an advertisement of a unique order. If only the world were making real progress towards reconstruction, it would be possible to be very optimistic on the subject, for it is certain that in anything approaching normal times there would be a rush to the valley of the Pharaohs with which the existing hotels could scarcely cope. As it is, the attraction of the late lamented Tutankhamen may suffice even in existing circumstances to draw quite a considerable crowd out to Egypt, and if the country does not have the "bumper" season that it might reasonably expect, it will have the satisfaction of knowing that it is but a deferred event. The fascination that Egypt exercised before the War has been more than renewed, and if only the attractions of the country are judiciously kept in the foreground, there need be no question of the failure of any subsequent season.

Rupee Exchange Weakness.

The weakness of the rupee exchange has been a noticeable feature of late. The rate has been down to 1s. 3 15-16d., and at the time of writing is only fractionally above that figure. The main reason is, of course, to be found in the weakness of India's export trade, and it has to be remembered that this is the period of the year when exports naturally decline and the exchange weakens. I am inclined, however, to regard the present development as to some extent a reflection of the obscure commercial outlook generally.

Irak and the Exhibition.

An Irak contemporary very appositely raises the question why arrangements have not been made for that country to be represented at the British Empire Exhibition. Palestine is, of course, to be represented, and there would seem to be no good reason why Irak should not play an equally prominent part at the exhibition, which offers an admirable opportunity for displaying the potentialities of the country. If it is not yet too late, the authorities would be well advised to take the necessary steps.

COMMENTATOR.

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A general Banking business with Roumania is conducted, and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, August 20.

The Petroleum Industry.

A delegation from the Petroleum Industries Association was recently received by M. Sassu, Minister of Industry and Commerce, and presented to him two important petitions. The first asked for a prompt decision regarding applications made in accordance with the law of June, 1920, for authorisations, transactions, concessions, and the prolongation of concessions. Many such applications have been held over by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for more than a year in view of the Government's intention to include in the new Constitution a law for the nationalisation of the sub-soil. The new Constitution has now been adopted, and it authorises the passing of such a law; but the law itself and the regulations for its administration are still in the drafting stage, so that the Ministry of Industry and Commerce is apparently still unable to come to any decision as to how the said applications are to be dealt with. This state of affairs is, of course, a serious hindrance to the development of the petroleum industry, and the petition strongly urges that some decision be taken without further delay. M. Sassu's reply was not very satisfactory, as he merely promised that after the vote had been taken on the mining law at the September session of Parliament a committee should be appointed to settle the outstanding questions of concessions, etc.

The second petition asked that the petroleum industry should be represented on the commission which has been appointed to draw up the law regarding the future régime of the petroleum pipe lines. The large pipe lines leading to the ports are, and will probably remain, a State monopoly. This is said to have been found necessary in order to avoid private monopolies and so to protect the interests of the small petroleum enterprises. The small pipe lines from the wells to the refineries, etc., are in private hands, and it is not proposed that the State should interfere with the ownership of these. It is felt, however, by the petroleum producers that their experience and convenience should be consulted in the drafting of a new régime for the pipes, and this M. Sassu willingly agreed to, inviting the delegation to appoint representatives to sit on the pipe-line commission.

The writer of an article on this subject published in the *Moniteur du Pétrole Roumain* for this month, while expressing gratification at M. Sassu's helpful attitude in this regard, remarks how regrettable it is that the Roumanian Government has not yet adopted as a governing principle the method so long practised in England, of consulting the industries concerned when new laws are being drawn up which directly affect their interests. This method naturally tends to give the laws a permanent character, seeing that the experience of those best acquainted with the working conditions of the industry has been used to make them cover all important points.

Exports for Half Year.

The total exports of petroleum products during the first six months of this year has been as follows, according to the *Moniteur du Pétrole Roumain* (the figures representing metric tons):—January, 19,389; February, 19,764; March, 34,810; April, 41,768; May, 23,879; June, 37,717;

total, 177,308. This figure is about a thousand tons less than that for the corresponding period of last year. The exports for the second half of the year, however, generally exceed those for the first half, and it is to be hoped that conditions will have so improved by the end of the year that this year will prove no exception to the rule. The fixed prices for the home market have recently been raised to the satisfaction of the producers, and this will probably give a fresh impetus to the internal trade, so that any increase of exports will depend upon an increase of production, and this again is dependent upon the attitude of the Government towards the first petition mentioned in this article.

Vegetable Oils.

The production of vegetable oil is a favourite industry of the inhabitants of Bessarabia, mostly in the towns, and it is reported that in 1922 3,220,000 kilograms of vegetable oil were produced in that province. At the price of about 28 lei per kilogram this represents a value of over 90 million lei.

GREECE.

Athens, August 4.

The Drachma.

Instead of causing an appreciation of the drachma the announcement that peace had been signed at Lausanne had an entirely opposite effect. On the very same day that the news came through the pound sterling made an extraordinary jump, gaining about 40 points in less than three hours. The fall of the drachma continued until yesterday, when it reached a maximum of 320 to the pound, subsequently improving to 270.

This new depreciation of Greek currency is attributed mainly to the gambling on the exchange, which has recommenced with renewed vigour, also to the future financial uncertainty.

There is a rumour here to-day that M. Diomede, Governor of the National Bank of Greece, now in London, has secured one million sterling out of the six million refugee loan authorised by the League of Nations. If this rumour proves correct, the drachma should once again improve.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

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

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

Egypt.

Steam Launches.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of three steam launches required for the Upper White Nile Division, Sudan. October 1.

Roumania.

Cotton Linings for Carriage Upholstery, etc.—The Roumanian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of:—10,000 metres of cotton linings for carriage upholstery (width, 1 metre), 10,000 metres cushion cloth (width, 1 metre), 12,000 metres ticking ("coutil") for coverings (width, 0.90 metre), 10,000 metres hemp linings (width, 1 metre), 5,000 metres cloth for cleaning floors of carriages (width, 0.50 metre). September 12. (D.O.T.)

Lead Tubes.—The Roumanian State Railways are inviting tenders for the supply of 8,000 kilos lead tubes, assorted; 2,000 kilos each of 8 by 13, 20 by 25, 24 by 30, 30 by 20. Delivery of half the quantity is required to be made in two months and the balance in three months from the date of the receipt of the order. The Railway Administration reserves the right to reduce by half the quantities called for. September 29. (D.O.T.)

TRADE WITH TURKEY.

The Need for Confidence.

The ratification of the Treaty of Lausanne by the Angora Assembly formally ushers in an era of peace in the Near East, for the first time practically for twelve years. The question at once arises: Of what use is the new Turkey likely to be to the British manufacturer and trader? As far as can be judged, the answer is at present almost invariably determined by the personal or political feelings of the individual, according as he labels himself Turcophobe or Turcophil, the outlook is for him gloomy or the reverse. There are, however, a large number of business people who are neither one nor the other, and they would prefer to have an answer to the question based on something more reliable than propaganda or emotions. If the Turks are going to adopt for all time the attitude that the Nationalists have affected since the Armistice, the outlook is admittedly a poor one. Many of those who claim to have knowledge of the Turk are convinced that in these last four years he has been showing his true colours, and that he will always remain what he has been. In other words, the Turk, it is argued, is instinctively anti-foreign, and now that he is at liberty to indulge his predilections, life and business in Turkey for the foreigner will be impossible. This lugubrious prognostication labours under the mistake that the Angora Turk himself has been inclined to fall into. He has imagined, in his ignorance of world conditions, and under the glamour of what has been achieved in or from Angora, that henceforth Turkey can live entirely to herself in a beautiful, nation-tight compartment where the foreigners cease from troubling and the Faithful take their rest. Before the ink of the Lausanne Treaty was dry, however, the majority of thinking Turks knew that this could not be the case. No nation lives to itself nowadays; least of all can Turkey, impoverished by a dozen years of war—the Turko-Italian war was in 1911—denuded of many of the necessities of life, and, above all, fired with new ideas of Turkey's rôle in the world that will call for the satisfying of numerous material wants, if the ideas are to be lived up to.

There cannot be the least doubt that the demand for goods will be there in Turkey—for everything, from boots to motor-cars, conditioned, of course, by certain obvious facts, the numerical strength of the market and the habits and customs of the people. A foreign loan, it goes without saying, is an essential preliminary. Turkey can have little money of her own to spend at the present time; but she has the natural resources and an industrious people. No less important, she has most certainly the will to make good. Given a loan, which it is to be hoped will be earmarked for definite reproductive purposes, the one uncertain factor that must be conceded to the pessimist who "knows the Turk" is the capacity for sustained effort of those who now supply the nation's motive power. It has to be admitted that in the past the Turk has frequently displayed great zeal for this or that reform, or even for reforms in general, but the zeal has a knack of evaporating in a comparatively short time. Will this particular weakness of the Turk continue to repeat itself? The future alone can tell. The past is no guide, although it may be a warning. To-day what has been termed the will to make good is much more widely distributed among the people than it has ever been before; again, a younger generation of Turks is coming to the front.

These circumstances may safeguard the country from one of its besetting sins. If they do not, the value of Turkey as a market for British goods will remain unaffected at the outset, for the original demand will still be there. The worst that has to be feared is the possibility of a gradual diminution of the value of the market; but before that takes place other factors may well have arisen to administer a further check to the tendency to slackening of effort.

But, says the pessimist, although the demand may be there, the conditions with which it is hedged round make the market an impossible one to cater for. It is difficult to believe that this is a serious complaint on the part of a British business man. The position of England in the world of commerce could never have been built up on such weak-kneed principles. Trade with China from sixty to eighty years ago was carried out under conditions far more onerous and dangerous than any that Turkey can reproduce to-day. If the timid drop out of the running now, there will be plenty to take their place.

What is most desirable, however, is that fears about the Turkish market should not gain currency as the considered attitude of the British manufacturer and trader. The surest way of demoralising that market is to let the Turks get it into their heads that they cannot look for honest business deals with firms of standing, but must turn to the men who are out only to make money quickly, and for this reason are prepared to take risks, provided that the possible profits are large enough, and to bribe if necessary to gain their end. Adventurers of this type may be useful in certain circumstances, but Turkish resources deserve a better fate, and what is required is that British trade with new Turkey should be gradually built up on a sound and permanent basis. To this end a little confidence is necessary at this juncture. Instead of settling down to the conviction that Turkey and the Turks can never improve, let British firms proceed tentatively by showing themselves ready to give the Turks credit for better intentions, now that they have reached their nationalist goal of complete independence, and to trade for reasonable profit if the Turks show themselves anxious to treat foreign interests rationally.

That these are not altogether the counsels of perfection of those who have not had to do with the Turks can be shown by extracts from a letter from an English business man long resident in Turkey. He writes:—

England should be advised to lend a hand to Turkey. She should have done it four years ago; let her do it now at least. England complains of lack of markets for her goods. She is also fearful of entering the Turkish market at present, and is inclined to wait and see. Our merchants in the past built up her greatness by courage, and entered worse fields than Turkey now offers, and made good. If there is a universal "wait and see" attitude adopted towards Turkey, troubles will follow and perhaps Bolshevism. If life is not immediately put into this place by trade, there will be lack of work and lack of food; and it is on the empty stomach that revolution marches. The present decent element in Turkey needs to be encouraged and helped through her early needs, and our Government should, if necessary, guarantee traders to come in. This would, in the long run, be cheaper than to face a second Russia. If the right big British Man wants a fair deal with the Turk, and comes out himself and asks for it, he will get it. The Turk still likes us best.

The word to Turkey is this: You are poor and your country impoverished through the strain of the past twelve years. You must lean on some country both for your financial needs and for technical experience. Look around and choose this country. You had a man who misrepresented your nation and brought about enmity between our two countries—Enver Pasha. We had a man who misrepresented our country and accentuated this enmity—Lloyd George. Offset one against the other and resume where we left off. There may even be some other country you may wish to choose, but think well and do not experi-

ment unwisely. You must not now try and administer your country from taxes on its present reduced trade. This is now but a small, delicate plant that needs careful cultivation. You must engender a feeling of confidence and obtain a loan, which must be wisely used in developing Asia Minor and its products. When such development begins, still tax lightly; let it grow, and then you will have an assured revenue to the benefit of the individuals and the greatness of your country. Do not be afraid to be humble and acknowledge your present commercial unpreparedness. Take advice and take assistance and await the assured results.

PREPARING FOR THE EXHIBITION.

Wembley To-day.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Though so far as one could judge in a casual tour round the site of the British Empire Exhibition a great part of the work of construction still remains to be done, the buildings already on the site have gone far to change the face of the landscape of North-West London. The Stadium, which dwarfs the other buildings, and yet promises to blend so beautifully into the completed scheme, is to that region something of what the Crystal Palace is to the South. Possibly, I might even say probably, it is viewed with a jaundiced eye from the famous Hill, for the landmark is a very visible portent of the time when Harrow, too, will be numbered among the suburbs. That development, inevitable in any case, has been greatly hastened by the decision to hold the Exhibition at Wembley, and I have no doubt that in a very few years that hamlet will be the centre of a very populous region.

Already a great change has been effected in the appearance of Wembley, which has lost the atmosphere of rural peace that lay so pleasantly upon it. Its roads have been modernised, its railway communications extended, there is to be an arcade, while all that remains of the park which forms the site of the Exhibition are those of the trees that it has been found possible to preserve. These will add immensely to the picturesqueness of the setting of the Exhibition. While, as I have said, much has still to be accomplished, sufficient has been done to enable one to form a very good idea of the grandeur of the conception of the scheme. On the side of the main entrance there is a semi-circular colonnade, and from within one has a straight view to the Stadium, which rises a massive, impressive edifice,

also of concrete, in the distance several hundred yards away. The idea of spaciousness has been well realised, and it would be difficult to imagine a more noble or more suitable approach to the Exhibition halls than is presented by that broad expanse, which is flanked on the one side by the Hall of Engineering and on the other by the Palace of Industry, both of which are rapidly approaching completion.

In the intervening space between the approach and the Stadium there is to be a lake, crossed by a bridge which is in process of construction, and between the lake and the Stadium there is an avenue of trees which will give the last finishing touch to a spacious idea. If the other sections of the Exhibition are in keeping with the promise presented by this part of the scheme, then the City of Concrete will be a marvelous spectacle fully worthy of the high object of demonstrating the economic potentialities of the British Empire.

The buildings of the various parts of the Empire will stand behind or adjacent to the Palaces of Industry and Engineering, and considerable progress has already been made in regard to some of them, notably the Indian section and the Canadian pavilion, though others have not yet been commenced. There is also to be an Amusement Park, for while the purpose of the Exhibition is to promote commercial relations within the Empire, it is naturally essential to provide diversions for the multitudes who will visit it next year. This Park is situated well to the left between the Stadium and the railway line, and is quite away from the Exhibition proper.

It is difficult in mere words to give a real idea of the vastness of the Exhibition, but some idea of it may be gained by pointing out that the Palace of Industry alone covers eight acres, while the Hall of Engineering is larger still. Certainly the Exhibition will not be an event than can be looked over in an hour or so. I should think it probable, indeed, that several visits will be required to see all the wealth of the resources of the Empire that will be displayed. Certain it is that the Exhibition will be a comprehensive and dignified presentation of our capabilities, and it will be strange if the result is not an invaluable contribution towards the solution of the vexed problem with which this country is now confronted in regard to the development of overseas trade.

TURKISH TRADE IN SCHOOL SUPPLIES

There are at present between 80,000 and 100,000 students in the various schools in Turkey. Supplies for the schools are not bought by the Turkish Government, but are purchased by the individual schools and institutions (says an American Consular report). Each of these has its own budget for expenditures, and one member of the school board usually acts as purchasing agent, buying all the supplies needed in the local market.

Paints are rarely used in the schools. What little art instruction is given is limited practically to conventionalised forms with little or no colour work. It is believed, however, that water-colour painting will be taken up more and more as time goes on.

Chalk and crayon are in considerable demand in the Turkish schools. Germany leads in this trade, except in coloured chalks, which are supplied as well by France, England, and in a smaller degree by the United States. Coloured chalk costs about 20 piastres for a box of 100 pieces, while white chalk costs about 17 piastres for a small-size box. Germany also controls the trade in pencils. Copying pencils and No. 2 in graphite are most in demand.

The specific rates of the so-called "one-half per cent." Port Tax applied to goods imported and exported through the Danube and seaports of Roumania have been increased.

The Department of Overseas Trade announces that Col. Harold Woods, O.B.E., has taken up the duties of Commercial Secretary (Grade II.) for Turkey, in succession to Captain C. H. Courthope Monroe, resigned.

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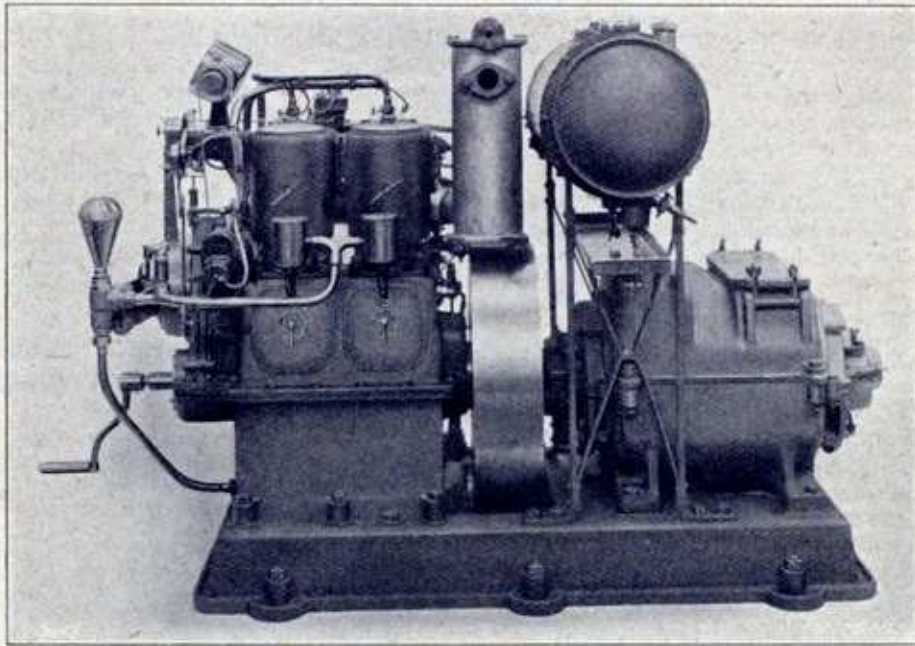
Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative).

A New Electric Lighting Set.

Some brief particulars of a new oil-engine-driven electric lighting set, for which Messrs. A. G. Mumford, Ltd., are responsible, may be of interest to my readers, particularly those in the Near East and India. The engine is of the two-cylinder type, and the capacity of the set is 10 kilowatts at 105 volts. The cylinders are 5 in. in bore by 6½ in. stroke, and the running rate is 900 revolutions per minute. The dynamo is by Messrs. Crompton and Co., Ltd., and the engine and the dynamo rest on a bed plate on which are also the fuel tanks,

the cam shaft. Oil is supplied to the crank pin and to the gudgeon pin of the pump by a centrifugal oiling arrangement. Two magnetos effect the ignition of the charge, each cylinder being fitted with two plugs. An impulse coupling is fitted to one of the magnetos, which with the special type of relief valve fitted to the cylinder renders particularly easy the starting of the engine. To facilitate starting a simple compression release arrangement is fitted, comprising a non-return valve, which is so arranged that it can make a tight joint on the cylinder when screwed up by a sleeve. This valve, when it is slightly unscrewed, relieves the pressure on the compression stroke, but closes during the



TWO-CYLINDER PARAFFIN LIGHTING SET.

silencer, and circulating pump. The advantage of this is obvious, for all that is required for the set to be ready for operation is to connect up with a water supply and an exhaust pipe. The crank chamber is made of cast iron, and in the lower half of it are the crank shaft bearings, which are of gunmetal, lined with white metal, and are adjustable. In order to reduce vibration, four steel balance weights are fitted to the crank shaft, while the utilisation of a special fibre for the construction of the cam shaft gear wheel assures almost silent running. On each side of the crank case are inspection doors, which permit the ready removal of the connecting rods and pistons. The forced lubrication of the bearings is accomplished by a plunger pump, which is attached to a lower oil sump bolted on the crank chamber. On the under side of the oil sump is a water jacket, and the circulating water is drawn through it on the way to the main cylinders.

The firm's patented type of vaporiser is used. The fuel is drawn in with a small quantity of air to the exhaust-heated vaporiser, and an automatic air valve of a special type regulates the extra cold air. A needle valve coupled with the throttle regulates the fuel, and adjustments are provided, enabling the easy regulation of the fuel. The plunger type of circulating water pump is used, this being due to the high suction lift that is required, and it is driven from a crank disc on the end of

suction stroke, and prevents the addition to the mixture of any additional air. These engines have a special arrangement of exhaust by-pass and throttle fitted, enabling the heat of the vaporiser to be regulated. The capacity of the paraffin tank is sufficient for six hours' running.

A Powder Mixer Sifter Mixer.

Those of my readers who are interested in mixing machines may like to have some particulars of Young's Powder Mixer Sifter Mixer, the manufacturers of which are Messrs. Young's Patent Hygienic Bin Company. The machine is fitted with a hopper over its whole length, and this enables the base to be laid in the hopper and the ingredients to be sprinkled on top. The batch is fed through a grid, which pulverises any lumps of chemical, on to the brush, and is then brushed through a sieve which can be fitted with any desired type of mesh. The sifted material falls into the mixing chamber, where it is thoroughly mixed by a specially designed helical gear and beater arms, and it can be entirely discharged through a simply operated flap. Special advantages of the machine are that the hopper hinging allows the removal of both sieve and brush in a vertical position, and that when the brush has completed its function it can instantaneously be released and by means of a handle a sluice can be closed, permitting the hopper to be recharged whilst the mixing chamber is in operation.

Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Firm and Active.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended August 17, state:—

The futures market has been fairly active, and has secured a substantial advance during the week. The firmness of our market must be attributed to speculative purchases induced by the strength of the American markets and by the Government purchases; commercial houses have taken very little interest. The Government have continued their purchases, buying 300 to 400 bales daily, for which they have paid \$2 below November for Fully Good Fair Sakellarides and the price of November contracts for Fully Good Fair to Good Sakellarides. Owing to the existing trade depression, the advance has so far left spinners apathetic; the demand from abroad, for either old or new crops, has been poor. This week's receipts amount to 1,742 krs., and the total since September 1 now stands at 6,637,196 krs. Exports have this week amounted to 49,542 krs., and the stock stands at 903,919 krs., against 951,719 krs. a week ago and 1,524,801 krs. a year ago.

Spot.—The Minet el Bassal Market has continued quiet this week, and no improvement in the demand is to be noted as yet from spinners. Sales amount to about 3,800 bales, of which we estimate 2,700 bales Sakellarides, 1,100 bales Uppers, and a few odd bales of White, but of the Sakellarides the Government has bought about 1,150 B/s from Fully Good Fair to Fully Good Fair to Good. The first arrivals of Upper Egypt cotton have been put on the market. The cotton is, of course, high-grade and of quite good staple for such early picked cotton, but it is not possible to form an opinion on a few early lots.

Sakellarides.—The medium and good grades have been in most demand, low qualities being still neglected. Prices of spot against contracts are generally easier.

Uppers.—All styles have been dealt in. Spot prices generally are considerably easier, especially in high grades, and there is more disposition to sell what remains of the old crop in view of the new cotton which is beginning to arrive.

Brown and White are neglected, and only a few bales of White are reported. Spot prices are generally easier for both growths, but markedly so in Brown in sympathy with Uppers. The demand for these growths is at present very small.

The Crop.—Nothing of note is reported. Water supply is ample. In certain districts of Lower Egypt the crop is said to be slightly backward. The Government issued on the 11th inst. its second report of this year's acreage, showing 1,194,000 feddans for Lower Egypt and 394,100 feddans for Upper Egypt, making a total of 1,588,100 feddans for the whole of Egypt; this is an increase of 128,078 feddans over its first estimate.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Inquiry Improving.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 22:—

A fair inquiry has been maintained during the past week, and some slight hardening in the basis of all qualities has taken place, the quotations of all grades of Sakel being raised 15 points, and those of upper and brown 10 points. The medium Sakel grades have furnished the greater portion of the demand, cotton ranging from 70 to 100 on November contracts being much sought after. As pointed out last week, the local selection of the above-mentioned style is now poor, and spinners are beginning to be faced with the alternative of either buying higher grades or sending orders out to Alexandria for c.i.f. cotton.

A moderate amount of business has been done in uppers, but spinners naturally limit their takings in this growth to the lowest possible extent in view of the comparatively cheap offers for new crop shipments. Sudan varieties have been in rather better request, and several lots of Tokar Sakel have been placed at prices ranging from 17½d. to 18½d. The estimated sales for the week amount to 2,500 bales, against 4,700 previously reported. Sudan sales total 730 bales. Fully good fair Sakel to-day 16.45d.

An industrial exhibition, comprising the products and manufactures of various Turkish provinces, is to be held at Broussa under the auspices of the Turkish Government from September 11 to the end of October.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Market Position Unchanged.

The Manchester cotton trade review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended August 25 states:—

Once again there is no change to report with regard to this market. Operations remain limited and the tone weak. Most of the offers received from abroad are on a price basis which is far too low, and negotiations fail to raise them to the point at which business can be done.

Yarn.—Prices continue very irregular, but without quotable change on the week. There has been no increase in the amount of business passing either in American or Egyptian, and the market for the former remains in a very depressed state. Some relief is anticipated from the annual Oldham holidays which commence next week; many firms will close down for a fortnight in addition to the usual half-time working during the rest of the month.

Cloth.—A very poor week has been experienced in practically all sections. Shippers to Turkey and the Levant have been quietly picking up stock lots at cheap prices, but these are usually only small quantities. The principal foreign outlets have been very disappointing, and dealers abroad are undoubtedly only purchasing to meet immediate requirements.

Raw Cotton.—Prices have fluctuated somewhat, and the market, generally speaking, is unsettled. The weather reports from the United States have been a little more favourable, but there appears small prospect of the total crop exceeding the estimates. The news from Egypt continues favourable. Closing prices are as follows:—American Fully Middling, 15.49; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 16.45.

CONSTANTINOPLE MARKET FOR PARAFFIN WAX.

The annual consumption of paraffin wax in Constantinople is between 1,000 and 2,000 sacks, of which 75 per cent. is supplied by American firms and the remainder by Roumania. Paraffin is used here (says an American Consular report) mainly in the manufacture of wax tapers for religious purposes, very little being taken by ship chandlers for supplying vessels touching at this port.

The trade in paraffin wax on the Constantinople market has declined greatly since 1921. During 1920 and 1921 approximately 600 tons of this article were shipped to Russia by way of Constantinople, while during the same period Roumania and Bulgaria took a total of 700 tons. However, Russia and Roumania are now again able to supply their own requirements for paraffin. In Bulgaria an American company has established warehouses and stocks at the seaport of Bourgas, whence paraffin is distributed to the rest of the country.

The prospects for the future development of the trade in paraffin in Turkey appear to be good. The new tariff regulations, recently promulgated by the Turkish authorities, subject candles to an import duty of 60 piastres per kilo. It is believed that under the protection of this high duty a Turkish candle industry will develop, which in turn will cause an increased demand for paraffin wax. With regard to candles, it is worthy of note that there is a preference locally for the French type, which are manufactured from a mixture of paraffin and ceresin.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97½-97¾
Athens	Drachmae to £....	25.22½	240-245
Belgrade	Dinars to £.....	25.22½	420-440
Berlin	Marks to £.....	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £.....	25.22½	25.17-25.20
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3½-1.4
Brussels	Francs to £.....	25.22½	96.85
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	1,010
Budapest	Kronen to £.....	24.02	75-100,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3½-1.4
Constantinople	Piastres to £.....	110	855
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.54½-4.54¾
Paris	Francs to £.....	25.22½	79.75
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	154½
Rome	Lire to £.....	25.22½	104¼-105
Sofia	Leva to £.....	25.22½	485-55
Teheran	Kranes to £.....	50	47½
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	322-326,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	1,125,000*

Nominal.

THE GREEK STATE RAILWAY POSITION.

A Serious Outlook.

The physical and financial conditions of the Government-owned railways of Greece are a matter of considerable concern to the State, as revealed by discussions in the Greek Press during recent months (says an American commerce report). Track and equipment are in poor condition and the traffic is insignificant compared with what it should be. Shortage of labour and repair material, added to intensive traffic during and immediately after the war, left Greece, like other nations involved in the war, with a demoralised railway system.

The poverty of the Greek State has prohibited any except emergency remedies, and replacements have been almost out of the question. Earnings in pre-war years have been replaced by deficits that have resulted from costly working of inefficient locomotives, from increased wages, from higher repair costs, and from expensive track maintenance on low roadbeds that are subject to frequent washout or overflow.

Cost of Reconstruction.

Makeshift repairs have been made to roadbed and track, but extensive permanent repairs are greatly needed, particularly in elevation of roadbed. Many bridges should be strengthened or replaced; decayed sleepers are also in need of replacement. Greece does not produce rolling stock or other equipment, and imports have been delayed. Urgent temporary repairs needed to bring the lines and rolling stock up to date are estimated to cost 80,000,000 drachmæ.

The State railways, having 1.44-metre gauge and a total length of 1,275 kilometres, comprise the following lines: Piræus-Athens-Salonika-Ghevveli (Yugoslav frontier), 598 kilometres; branch lines, 46 kilometres; Salonika-Monastir, 183 kilometres; and Salonika-Dedeagatch, 448 kilometres. The roadbed on both the Salonika-Monastir line and the Piræus-Ghevveli line is too low in many places; this is particularly true of the Athens-Salonika and the Salonika-Ghevveli sections, over which runs the Orient Express that links Athens with Western Europe. There are frequent washouts, at times occasioning interruptions to traffic of ten days' duration and necessitating repairs involving considerable expense. It has been said that the only remedy for this condition is to change the route of the line.

The reinforcement of the Athens-Salonika-Ghevveli line by replacing the worn rails of 34 kilos weight per metre with new 40-kilo rails and by replacing the decayed wooden sleepers with steel sleepers weighing 70 kilos each has been projected, thus allowing the use of heavier engines and more economical maintenance of way. Steel sleepers in use on the lines from Salonika to Monastir and Dedeagatch show a saving of 20 per cent. in labour alone on upkeep, and are expected to last 50 years, compared with seven years for wooden sleepers. It is estimated that 600,000 steel sleepers would be necessary for the line from Athens to Ghevveli; the estimated cost of these improvements is 125,000,000 drachmæ.

Inadequate Rolling Stock.

In the autumn of 1922 there were 152 locomotives, 116 tenders, 242 passenger cars, 1,682 closed freight cars, 870 open freight cars, and three cranes in use. Nine of these locomotives, however, were left in Asia Minor, and 20 per cent. of the remainder and 30 per cent. of the passenger cars were under repair. The locomotives are small and of old design, except a few bought in the United States and some "armistice" engines turned over to Greece out of the deliveries from Bulgaria and Germany. The cars are small and badly worn.

This rolling stock is insufficient for the carriage of articles of prime necessity. Merchandise worth approximately 15,000,000 drachmæ was reported to be waiting for transportation near railroad warehouses, exposed to the weather in November, 1922. An added burden is put on the railroads by the need of supplies for the enormous and increasing numbers of refugees; some cars have been turned over exclusively for the carriage of refugee supplies from Salonika. Some efforts have been made to secure new equipment, but the results have been of little consequence. New and larger locomotives and cars are needed, provided tracks and bridges are strengthened.

Freight rates and passenger fares were increased several times during 1922; in October of that year rates were raised 75 per cent. and fares 50 per cent., the purpose being to increase rates in proportion to operating costs. In spite of this great advance, the returns have not produced sufficient income, and the operation of the Government railroads continues to be a heavy burden on the State Treasury, although the deficit for 1922 was expected to be smaller than in 1921. The deficit for the latter year was 10,824,000 drachmæ, in comparison with a deficit of 2,180,298

drachmæ in 1919 and a net surplus of 250,736 drachmæ in 1914.

Various efforts have been made to secure a loan for railway rehabilitation. To this end, a legislative decree was published on April 3, providing for the contracting of a loan. Under its provisions, the State railways must deposit a portion of their gross income from fares and freight each month with the National Bank of Greece. The portion may be as much as 15 per cent., and is to be fixed in each case by the Cabinet. The money is solely for the service of a loan to be contracted for indispensable technical works, materials, improvements of lines, and renewal of rolling stock. All details of the loan are subject to the approval of the Minister of Communications.

In addition to the foregoing measures, the Greek Government for a year or more has been negotiating with various English, French, and American capitalists for the taking over of all the State railways, either by purchase or by concession for operation, with a view to improving existing lines and building new ones. No definite results have been announced as yet.

Proposed Reforms.

The collapse of the Greek State railways can be avoided only by extensive administrative, labour, financial, and operating reforms, according to the *Economist* of Athens of May 26. In order to accomplish this most quickly, effectively, and with least expense, the *Economist* suggests that the greatest efforts and funds be concentrated on the Salonika-Ghevveli section as the shortest and most usable route for traffic from Central Europe to the Levant and to the Orient, via Port Said.

At present this traffic has the choice of three main rail routes to the Mediterranean—via Italy to Brindisi; via Serbia and Greece to Piræus or to Salonika; or via Bulgaria and Turkey to Constantinople. Of the three peninsular routes, that by way of Greece offers the shortest sea passage to Port Said.

When the Larissa Line (Thessaly) was started in 1890, Greek and other experts believed it would be an important link in the trans-European railroad system to the Levant and, via Port Said, to the Orient (the Constantinople-Baghdad railroad had not then been built)—involving less time than the Italian route. This belief was based on a supposed average railway speed of 50 kilometres per hour by rail and of 20 kilometres by ship. The actual Greek train speed, however, has proved to be only 26 kilometres, and the Greek passenger-boat service does not compare with the Italian. The dream for Piræus as an outlet for Central European trade was not realisable.

The *Economist* proposes: (1) That the same plans be now transferred to Salonika, which is only 80 kilometres from the Serbian border and nearer to Port Said by 353 kilometres than is Brindisi; (2) that the Salonika-Ghevveli railway be improved to permit greater train speed—the Serbian trains already maintain a speed of 28 kilometres per hour, and would probably increase it if co-operation from the Greek line were effective; (3) that the other Greek railroads, existing or to be constructed, be organised as subsidiaries of the Salonika-Ghevveli line and as feeders to the port of Salonika; (4) that the port itself be developed to take care of practically all maritime traffic in Northern Greece, and particularly of the transit traffic to and from Central Europe; (5) finally, that Greek shipowners be encouraged to co-operate by making their service from Salonika to Port Said equal or superior to that of the Italian fleet from Brindisi. It is hoped, by these measures, to secure and hold the greater part of Central European transit traffic with the Orient and reduce the danger of its loss to Italy through Brindisi or through the projected outlet ports on the Albanian coast.

The foregoing résumé has been confined to those railways now actually owned by the Greek Government. There is a possibility, however, that the State may shortly be further burdened with the operation of the Spas line (Société Pirée-Athènes-Peloponèse)—a privately owned railway system on the Peloponnesian Peninsula, whose privilege of exploitation expires in September, 1923. The line was taken over for operation by the Government as a war emergency and afterwards returned to the owners.

AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION AT ADANA.

The Acting British High Commissioner at Constantinople reports that an "International Exhibition for the Sale of Agricultural Products" will be held at Adana during the month of November. Both agricultural produce and farming implements are to be shown, and foreign interests are invited to exhibit agricultural machinery and farming implements, and space is being reserved to enable them to do so. Further details may be obtained by United Kingdom firms interested on application to the Department of Overseas Trade (Exhibitions and Fairs Division), 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1.

BRITISH CLAIMS AGAINST TURKEY.

Prime Minister's Statement.

Sir Edwin Stockton, M.P., questioned the Government during the past session in regard to the settlement of British claims against Turkey under the Lausanne Treaty. Just before the House rose, the Prime Minister indicated, in the course of a statement, that the sum of £25,000,000 had been placed at the disposal of the Allies for the purpose of meeting claims. This answer, however, left some points uncertain; and Sir Edwin wrote to the Prime Minister asking what other Allies participated in this sum, what was the British share, and whether claims against Turkey were the only ones which could be put forward in respect of our share of this £25,000,000. Sir Edwin has now received the following letter:—

Dear Sir Edwin Stockton,—The Prime Minister has asked me to write to you in order to give you the information for which you asked in your letter of the 4th inst.

The Allies who will participate in the sum of £5,000,000 Turkish in gold are Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, and Roumania. It is anticipated that the claims of Japan and Roumania will be exceedingly small. The Allies concerned are discussing an agreement whereby a Commission will be set up to distribute the sums available between the claimants in proportion to their claims as assessed by the Commission.

The Commission would consider all reparation claims against Turkey for direct loss and damage during the war (i.e., from August 1, 1914, up to the coming into force of the Treaty with Turkey) and also similar claims for loss and damage caused by the fire at Smyrna, in respect of which compensation has not been received from insurance companies.

It is quite true that the sums available will only enable the Commission to pay a percentage of the claims received, but the British Government were strongly impressed with the futility of trying to obtain promises on paper to pay large sums which the poverty-stricken Government of present-day Turkey would certainly be unable to carry out. On the opinion of the Government the claimants will be far better off by having a large sum, which is definitely available and in the hands of the Allies, set aside for their claims, than they would have been if they had received a theoretical right to obtain full compensation from Turkey. Past experience with Austria, Hungary, and Bulgaria, not to mention Germany, seems to show conclusively that in such cases from the point of view of the claimants a bird in the hand is worth any number of birds in the bush.—Yours truly (signed) R. P. H. GOWERS.

GOOD CYPRUS HARVEST.

A report received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank from Nicosia, dated July 28, states:—

The 1923 harvest is one of the best on record, with the exception of the carob crop, which is estimated at 25 to 30 per cent. below that of last year. The commercial situation shows no signs of improvement.

This year's wheat harvest in Algeria is estimated at 10,000,000 quintals, compared with nearly 5,000,000 quintals last year.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar Lower.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair request. Tate's cubes have come to business at 58s., at which they are 1s. 6d. lower; London granulated has been done at 54s. 7½d., also 1s. 6d. below last week's price; while Lyle's granulated has shed 1s. 6d. at 54s. 10½d. Foreign descriptions have been easier. White Java is 2s. down at 49s. 9d., while Czech granulated is 1s. lower at 53s. 6d. Futures:—November, 21s. 1½d.; December, 21s. 3d.

Coffee.—A very steady tone has prevailed, and prices are unchanged, East Indian being 108s., Costa Rica 102s., Nairobi 90s., and Santos 65s.

Dried Fruit.—The position with regard to currants is about the same. As will be seen from a report which appears elsewhere on this page, the Greek crop is relatively poor.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been variable, Indian being 1½d. down at 19s. 4½d., while La Plata has gained 3d. at 18s. 4½d. Rapeseed has been rather easier. Toria is 3d. lower at 15s. 9d., while real bold Ferozepore is also 3d. down at 15s. 9d. Cottonseed has been firm. Indian is 9s. 4½d., at which it is 3d. up. Egyptian black is unchanged at 10s. 10½d., while Sakellarides at 10s. 6d. has gained 7½d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed is 6d. down at 40s. 6d. Rape oil is unchanged, with crude at 38s. and technical refined at 41s. Cotton oil is steady. Refined common edible is unchanged at 42s., Egyptian crude is the same at 36s., technical remains at 38s., while deodorised is 44s.

Oil Cakes.—The market is without change. Linseed cake is 220s., coconut cake is 170s., while cottonseed cake is 155s.

THE ROUMANIAN HARVEST.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 20.

The harvest of wheat, rye, and barley was practically finished by the end of July, and the crops have been, generally speaking, fairly good, both as regards quality and quantity. In the Banat it is said that the wheat gave an average of 4,000 kilogrammes per hectare, a figure which has not been reached since 1886. The maize crop in the Old Kingdom is expected to be good, but in Transylvania it is suffering from drought. There has been no rain in that province for five weeks. The potato and beetroot crops are good, but the tree fruit crops are not up to the average.

The export tax on maize has been reduced by a law published on August 5 from 30,000 to 20,000 lei per waggon of 10 tons.

SMYRNA FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows under date August 11:—

The estimated arrivals of sultanas in the Smyrna market since the opening of the season amount to 125 tons, and the sales to date are 88 tons. Quotations f.o.b. Smyrna are: "Beta," 53s. cwt.; "Gamma," 49s. cwt. The market has opened quietly. Arrivals are not expected to become general until towards the end of the month, when slightly lower prices are likely to rule. First arrivals of figs are due on the market on the 20th inst.

A later report, dated August 20, states that the arrivals of sultanas on the Smyrna market up to August 18 amounted to 600 tons. Prices are: 1, 49s. cwt.; 2, 46s.; 3, 43s. Arrivals from Yerli districts started coming forward this week. The fruit is of very bright colour, but this will not be maintained in the case of later arrivals. Per contra, fruit should show better development. The market is quiet. Consuming countries are slow in passing orders, probably relying on the usual volume of unsold consignments. Shippers, however, are few in number, and show a disposition to act with considerable reserve, calculating on consuming markets being bound to come in to buy sooner or later. Prices are reaching an attractive level from which a reaction may follow.

POOR GREEK CURRANT CROP.

The yield of this year's Greek currant crop is expected to be considerably below the normal. Mr. P. A. Burlumi, of Messrs. Burlumi and Co., in an interview with a representative of THE NEAR EAST, stated that the crop is estimated at 85-90,000 tons, or about 20 per cent. less than last year. "Fortunately for the consumer," he added, "the exchange is so greatly in favour of this country, and prices, in spite of the insufficient crop, are much lower than last year. While at the beginning of last season the quotation for the provincial growth was 55s. per cwt. f.o.b. Greece, the price recorded to-day for the same growth of new crop is only 43s. f.o.b."

"Stocks in this country are very small at the present time, and, of course, the growers, having such a reduced crop, will insist on higher prices as soon as they cover their immediate needs by the sale of part of their crop. Shipments will be later than usual this year, the crop being rather late. The reason for the indifferent crop is that *peronosporos* has done considerable damage in the vineyards."

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for June:—

Dura and Dukhn.

Blue Nile Province.—Dura brought into Meradas during May and June in ardebs of 300 rotls (155 kilos): Wad Medani, 17,235; Hassa Heissa, 19,794. A good deal of propaganda work has been done calling the attention of cultivators to the necessity of keeping smutty heads out of their dura and a large number of trial plots will be sown with dura treated with copper sulphate to prevent smut. Very good progress has been made with the erection of the new cleaning plants at Hassa Heissa and Wad Medani; the former is now ready and the latter is expected to be finished before the end of July.

White Nile Province.—707 ardebs of 384 rotls (173 kilos.) were exported from Dueim during the month and 35 ardebs from Kosti.

Kordofan Province.—132 ardebs of 420 rotls (189 kilos) were sold in El Obeid market during the month, the average price being £E1.200 m/ms. per ardeb.

Sesame.

Fung Province.—May and June: 226 tons of sesame were exported by rail from Makwar River siding during May.

Kordofan Province.—Red sesame sold in El Obeid market for £E1.450 m/ms. per ardeb of 330 rotls (149 kilos).

Ground Nuts.

Kordofan Province.—161 ardebs of ground nuts were sold in El Obeid Market at an average price of 650 m/ms. per ardeb of 210 rotls (94 kilos).

Upper Nile Province.—129 tons of ground nuts were exported during the month.

Dates.

Dongola Province.—There is every prospect of an excellent date crop this year as the trees throughout the province are bearing well. The chief fear now is damage by heavy rains. Average price of Barakawi dates per 100 kilos was £E1.400 m/ms.

Halfa Province.—The crops are reported most excellent and abundant. Market prices were as follows (per sack of 140-145 kilos):—Barakawi, £E2.200; Gondeila, £E3.000; Gargoda, £E1.900.

Reuter's Athens correspondent reports that a contract for the Piræus harbour works has been practically concluded with a group of French firms, including that of the famous steel works Schneider and Co. and the Régie Générale des Chemins de Fer.

Shipping Intelligence.

THE EGYPTIAN TOURIST TRAFFIC.

Suez Harbour Works.

Although it is difficult to form more than an approximate idea of the total number of tourists who come to Egypt for, or during, the winter season (says Mr. E. Homan Mulock, British Commercial Agent for Egypt, in a review of Egyptian shipping), it is estimated that, thanks partly to the efforts of the Egypt Promotion Association, and partly to the attraction afforded by the wonderful discoveries at Luxor, the total for the 1922-23 season will amount to about 12,000, and constitute an increase on the 1921-22 numbers. These figures are, however, very much below those of pre-war seasons, owing partly to the absence of tourists from Austria, Germany and Russia, and partly to the fact that those from the United Kingdom and the United States of America are not favoured by the exchange in Egypt. Tourist traffic has been considerably facilitated and fostered by the enterprise shown by the White Star and Cunard Lines in establishing their own agencies in this country for the duration of the current season, and by arranging for giant liners such as the *Mauretania*, *Homer*, and others, to call at Alexandria.

Since the cancellation in June, 1922, of the original contract awarded to a Dutch firm in October, 1918, for the extension of Suez harbour, including an oiling basin to accommodate seven oil-tankers simultaneously, the completion of the scheme has been in abeyance. The Government has now decided to carry out a large part of the works *en regie*, with its own staff and material.

GERMANY AND TRADE ROUTES TO THE EAST.

The possible orientation of Germany towards the East is discussed in an article in the "Journal of Commerce," which points out that while Germany continues feverishly to reconstruct her mercantile marine, "there are many people in Germany who no longer accept the theory that the future of the country 'lies on the water,' but that it is to be sought rather in the Near East, which is the gateway to the Far East, and that, therefore, the trend of German policy must follow that direction. The same applies to all the Central European States. There is a close economic connection between Central Europe and the Near East, the one, in fact, complementing the other.

"From the economic point of view, the Near East offers many advantages to Central Europe, and not the least important are those afforded by the Black Sea district. . . . At present the whole of the Black Sea district is suffering from the effects of the war, but these will be overcome, and when the normal processes of trade are resumed Russia will be exporting instead of importing, as at present, the surplus of her agricultural produce, and Asia Minor, to say nothing of Bulgaria and Roumania, will be deriving the benefits of the methods of intensive cultivation which are now gradually being adopted. This increased production will very largely find its market in Central Europe in exchange for manufactured goods.

"The natural route along which this exchange of commodities will take place is the Danube and the Black Sea. Already improvements are being made on the Danube with these developments in view. River craft with a larger carrying capacity are being built, and as soon as the volume of traffic increases, transportation facilities on sea-going lighters will be arranged from the mouth of the Danube to Bulgarian ports, Constantinople, and Odessa. Plans are in contemplation, and even in progress, for making the larger tributaries of the Danube,—the Save, Drave, Theiss, and Moldau—navigable over long stretches, and the Rhine-Danube and Elbe-Danube canals will contribute their respective quotas of traffic. This Danube-Black Sea water-way will provide Central Europe with an East means of access to the Near East, and the facilities could be increased by a canal connection between the Black Sea and the Caspian, whence the heart of Asia could be reached."

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FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

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

Anchor Line.—S.s. *Circassia* for Bombay (Liverpool, September 8).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. *Magdapur* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 1); s.s. *Manaar* for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 8); s.s. *Mangalore* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 11); s.s. *Maihar* for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 20).

Bibby Line.—S.s. *Oxfordshire* for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 12); s.s. *Rialto* for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, September 15).

British India Line.—S.s. *Mantola* for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 31); s.s. *Merkara* for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 1); s.s. *Morvada* for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 14).

Clan Line.—S.s. *Clan Mackinnon* for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, September 4).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. *Dido* for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 15).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. *City of Cairo* (Birkenhead, September 4).

Ellerman, Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. *Bulgarian* for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, September 8); s.s. *Castilian* for Malta and Alexandria (London, September 8).

Johnston Line.—S.s. *Incemore* for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1); s.s. *Avimore* for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 8); s.s. *Kenmore* for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, September 26).

Moss Line.—S.s. *Esnah* for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta, Port Said, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Liverpool, September 4).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. *City of Oxford* for Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, September 1); s.s. *Flaminian* for Oran, Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, August 25).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. *Plassy* for Bombay (London, September 7); s.s. *Novara* for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 8); s.s. *Morea* for Bombay (London, September 21).

Prince Line.—S.s. *Merchant Prince* for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, August 29).

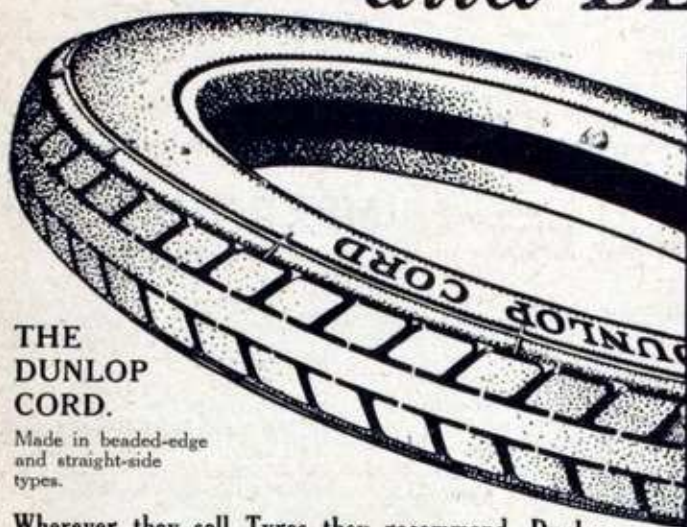
COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

African and Eastern Trade Corporation.

The report of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd., for the year 1922 states that the profit was £739,774, after taking into account the adjustment of excess profits duty so far accomplished, and after allowing for the usual depreciation on property and the writing down of all stocks to current market values. Buildings, steamers and boats, etc., have, as usual, been kept up out of revenue. After payment of the preference dividends for the year and the provision of £200,000 for further depreciation on stocks, the credit balance remaining is £452,456. In April last an interim dividend of 4 per cent. was paid on the ordinary shares, thus leaving available for further distribution £347,425.

During the past year trade conditions in the world generally have been disappointing, and the immediate outlook continues to be uncertain. The directors have consequently deemed it prudent to transfer £300,000 from the reserve fund, in order to make what they believe to be ample provision for further contingencies. The general depression during 1922 has affected adversely the trading results of some of the subsidiary companies belonging to the corporation, and consequent upon this the directors have thought it desirable to reduce further the book values of the investments in those companies, and for this purpose have appropriated £670,000 from the general reserve. In the accounts provision has also been made of £250,000 to meet the claims on the corporation during the next three years for income-tax on the excess profits duty repayments, so far received by the corporation and credited to the subsidiary companies. After adjusting these amounts the reserve fund, including insurance and depreciation funds, now stands at £2,547,684. The directors now recommend a final dividend for the year of 4 per cent., less tax, payable October 1, making 8 per cent., leaving to be carried forward £242,394.

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches at Ahwas, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdab, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshab, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Shuhstar, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yeze. Agencies at Busreh, Bagdad and Bombay.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office : 25, ABCHURCH LANE, E.C.4 ; Chief Office in Persia : TEHERAN.

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For information as to terms of business, etc., apply to the HEAD OFFICE:

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Authorised Capital - - - - - £600,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - - £485,580
Reserve - - - - - £150,000

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Managing Governors in India:—

Sir ROBERT AITKEN
Sir BERNARD HUNTER

London Manager:—

Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.

Authorised Capital - - - - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - - - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - - Rs. 4.22.50.000

BANKERS in INDIA to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA.

Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£4,000,000	Paid-up Capital	£2,000,000
Subscribed Capital	£4,000,000	Reserve Fund	£2,700,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ROBERT CAMPBELL, Esq., Chairman.	SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.	ROBERT WILLIAMSON, Esq., Deputy Chairman.	ROBERT MILLER, Esq.
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HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

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Bombay	Lahore	Cochin (S. India)	Aden	Newera Eliya	Nairobi		Kampala	
Madras	Amritsar	Chittagong	Aden, Steamer Point	Zanzibar	Nakuru	Jinja		
Karachi	Delhi	Rangoon	Colombo		Kaiumu			

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The Bank purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.

The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.

The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

Banque Générale de Bulgarie.

Capital

12,000,000 Leva

Fully Paid.

Head Office:—SOFIA.

Branches:

BOURGAS, PHILIPPOLIS,
ROUSTCHUK, VARNA.

BANQUE COMMERCIALE ITALIENNE & BULGARE, SOFIA.

Capital - Leva 12 millions.

Reserves - Leva 556,000.

FILIATION DE LA BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA, MILANO.

Capital - L.it. 400 millions.

Reserves - 176 millions.

SUCCURSALE A VARNA.

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Capital - 60,000,000 Levas

Head Office - SOFIA

Branches at Varna, Rustchuk,
— Philippopolis and Sliven —

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The Bank has extensive connections in the principal Cities of the World. It conducts every kind of Banking operations, and undertakes the collection of Bills on moderate terms throughout Bulgaria.

BANQUE COMMERCIALE ROUMAINE

PAID-UP CAPITAL Lei 50,000,000
 RESERVES 12,865,588.78
 DEPOSITS AND CURRENT ACCOUNTS 273,629,395.47
 (At the date of June 30, 1920).

Head Office: BUCHAREST, Str. Smardan, 3.
 Branches: BRAILA, CHISINAU (Bessarabia).

Agencies: Galatz, Constantza, Bazargic (New Dobroudja), Craiova and Ploesti.

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FOUNDED 1895.

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 Amounts insured of Life Branch exceed 150,000,000

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HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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 THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
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 LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.
 JAMES MAXWELL GRANT PROPHIT, Esq.

Chief Manager—W. E. PRESTON.

Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER.

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AMRITSAR	HAIPHONG	MANILA	SHANGHAI
BANGKOK	HANKOW	MEDAN	SINGAPORE
BATAVIA	HONGKONG	NEW YORK	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	ILOILO	PEKING	TAIPEING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	IPOH	PENANG	TAYOY
CANTON	KARACHI	PUKET	(Lower Burma)
CAWNPORE	KLANG	BANGOOK	TIENTSIN
CEBU	KOBE	SAIGON	YOKOHAMA
COLOMBO	KUALA KUALA	SAMARANG	ZAMBOANGA
	LUMPUR	(Java)	(Philippine Islands)

Bankers.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
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 WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.
 THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL & UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, Ltd.
 THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general business connected with the East. DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) £2,000,000
 Reserve Liability of Shareholders £1,000,000
 Paid up Capital £1,000,000
 Reserve Fund £320,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN, KARACHI.

Board of Directors:

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 SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (Deputy Chairman).
 G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq. (Chairman).
 J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCOU, Esq.
 MEYER SASSOON, Esq.
 SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt., M.P.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for 1 year and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application. On Current Accounts interest is allowed at two per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON, Manager.

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 Reserve £720,000
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The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

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MALWA	11,000	Aug. 31	Sept. 7	Bombay, China, Japan
KALYAN	9,000	—	—	Straits, China, Japan
PLASSY	7,000	Sept. 7	Sept. 14	Bombay & Karachi
NOVANA	7,000	—	—	Colombo & Calcutta
CALEDONIA	8,000	Sept. 14	Sept. 21	Bombay, China, Japan
NYANZA	7,000	—	—	Straits, China, Japan

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MANIOLA	8,963	—	—	Bombay & Karachi
MERKARA	7,235	—	—	Madras & Calcutta
MORVADA	8,195	—	—	Bombay & Karachi
DUMANA	8,600	—	—	Madras & Calcutta
HATARANA	7,522	—	—	Bombay & Karachi
MANELA	8,303	—	—	Madras & Calcutta
MODASA	8,986	—	—	Bombay and Karachi
MALDA	8,920	—	—	Colombo & Calcutta
NEURALIA	9,082	—	—	East African Ports

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City of York	7,844	Sept. 17	Bombay & Karachi.
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*Via Naples. Calls Madras. *Via Naples. Calls Port Sudan.

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City of Paris	10,902	Oct. 20	Kong, Shanghai,
City of Canterbury	8,421	Dec. 1	Kobe, Yokohama.

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City of Alexandria	4,695	Sept. 7	Cape Town, Algas
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