CAIRO AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

In spite of the absence of any exhibits of animals, owing to the persistence of bovine typhus, albeit with greatly diminished virulence, in Egypt, the Agricultural Show will be held on a scale far exceeding any previous exhibitions. We have so often referred in our columns to the value of the work done by the Khedivial Agricultural Society that, were our comments on the approaching show addressed only to residents in Egypt who have had constant opportunities of observing for themselves what H.H. Prince Hussein Pasha Kamel, Mr. G. P. Foaden, and their indefatigable coadjutors are doing for Egypt, we might content ourselves with saying that "good wine needs no bush." But at Cairo there are visitors innumerable who have not, perhaps, all realised the importance of what they will see—if they are wise—during the first four days of next week. They may not, all be interested in steam diggers, or rice decorticators, but we imagine that the majority of them take some interest in the development of Egypt, in the prosperity of its people, and the economic stability of the country whose shares they many of them hold. They will see evidences of the progress made by Egyptian agriculture—the industry by which Egypt stands and falls—and cannot fail to be amazed at the rapidity of the transition from the primitive machinery employed even by considerable land-owners less than a generation ago, to the highly specialised and scientific machines which are coming everywhere into use in the Egypt of to-day. They will see every species of appliance employed in the agriculture of twentieth century Egypt. Steam diggers and ploughs, pumps, wind-wheels, light railways, grain and cotton seed cleaners, threshing machines, oil engines, and decorticators, exhibits of phosphates and other manures, and the results of all these agencies, fine exhibits of cotton, sugar, cereals,—in a word the chief products of the country.

These things will enable them to understand in part why it is that Egypt has so rapidly recovered from the ghastly results of financial waste and oppressive maladministration, and will convince them of the potentialities of the Valley of the Nile under skilled direction. The state of a country's agriculture is one of the most important indices of its general condition, and the most superficial study of the exhibits of the coming show will convince everyone that in this direction, at least, Egypt is making rapid and steady progress.

It is not our purpose in this article to furnish a list of exhibits or to give very lengthy and technical descriptions of machinery which only experts could write or understand. But, considering the importance of the exhibition and the ever-increasing prosperity and influence of the Khedivial Agricultural Society, we feel that some sort of preliminary description of its arrangements and some notice of the exhibits that will serve as a guide to those who wish to find out in which shed a certain type of machine, or the exhibit of a particular firm is to be found, is necessary. To begin then, with a general statement, we may say that the machinery exhibits are more than twice as large as last year, and that not a little difficulty has been found in getting covered space to accommodate all, despite the new machinery halls on the east side of the building.

Now for the details. After entering from the canal road we turn to the left to get a sight of the machinery exhibits in the old sheds on the west side of the central building. In the first of these are housed the British Engineering Co.'s machines, pumping machinery and steam and oil engines by Gwynne's, Ltd., Messrs. Turner's mills and portable and fixed steam engines, Hall's refrigerating apparatus, Mr. Dick Kerr's motors and dynamos, Calendar and Co's. exhibit—all to be shown in motion, which should delight those who know little about machinery but like "to see the wheels go round." Then there is the exhibit of the Midland Engineering Works, Messrs. Ransom, Sims and Jeffries' fixed and portable engines, boilers, mills and what not, with agricultural implements by the same makers, as well as locally-made machines, which include a collection of very useful pumps. Messrs. Allen and Alderson are showing Ruston and Proctor's 120 I.H.P. tandem engine, three oil engines, portable condensing machines, small hand machinery, etc. Dell and Son's cotton seed cleaner is an interesting exhibit, and then we come to the windmill and tower exhibited by Hasaba, Mohamed and Co., nearly all of whose machinery has been made at Alexandria. Davey, Paxman and Co.'s new gas-producing engine is of importance, and so are all the exhibits of A. J. Mayne and Co., who have furnished the K.A.S. with all their sheds.

In the next shed are Messrs. Cook's exhibits, among these a new rice decorticator, oil engines by Messrs. Tangye, pumps, and the like, with Messrs. R. Garrett & Co.'s productions. Steinemann and Malaroli are well represented too. Messrs. Buzlache have exhibited a small threshing machine of Italian and Swiss make.

Passing the paddock—now, alas! empty of cattle for exhibition, we get to the new machinery halls, containing a host of celebrated names. Messrs. Monson & Co. will exhibit raw phosphates and nitrate shale, Messrs. Maestro pumps and dynamos, oil engines are shown by Messrs. Townsend and Northcote of Cairo, and American ploughing machinery by Messrs. Sarruf & Co., also of Cairo.

And here we must digress to refer to the important official trials of steam ploughing machinery to be held at Shoubra on the 24th inst. A new steam plough, the invention of Boghos Pasha Nubar, ploughs by Fowler, the Cooper Digger, Messrs. Darby's steam plough, new ploughing tackle by Messrs. Steinemann, Malaroli & Co., Messrs. J. & H. Maclaren of Leeds and by Messrs. Brearley, another English firm with American ploughing tackle, will all be tried and we imagine that a large expert attendance will be there.

But to return to the machinery halls. The Singer Manufacturing Co. are, of course, represented. M. Moroni has a good exhibit, including Messrs. Tosi's boilers, and engines are between the sheds and the main building. Running in a circle before the entrance to the central hall are light railway lines on which little locomotives, trucks, and trolleys are standing. Messrs. Ornstein and Koppel and Co. are represented here. The Sucrerie and Raffineries exhibit, though not competing, is among the best of all, and we leave unmentioned the poultry, cotton, and cereals which will be shown in the central hall till the awards of the judges have been made.

To conclude, we urge the visitors staying in Cairo to see the exhibition, and if they are not to be drawn by our description, let us add that H. H. the Khedive has promised to inaugurate the Show, that the Ministers and the foreign Diplomatic Agents and all Cairo society will be there, and that they will have bands and tea and—let us piously hope—good weather.

We will now deal with just one or two exhibits in detail:—

Messrs. Allen, Alderson & Co., Limited, have a large and varied exhibit of machinery at their stand, amongst which the following struck us as specially worthy of attention. A direct traction set of ploughing tackle by Messrs. John Fowler & Co., Limited, of Leeds, consisting of a compound traction engine and seven Tyne cultivators with outfit. This set, we understand, is the property of the Société Anonyme du Béhéra, who have kindly lent it to the exhibitors for the Show. This system has been made and supplied by Messrs. Fowler for some years (where a double set, for various reasons, was not suitable), and in this connection we may mention that the exhibitors show a splendid series of photographs of this class of tackle at work in England. There is nothing in the nature of an experiment in Messrs. Fowler's tackle, which has stood the test of years of hard work, and anyone wanting this class of machinery can purchase what a firm of their standing recommends, without fear. We are informed that the demand for double engine tackles is such that Messrs. Allen, Alderson & Co., Limited, simply cannot procure a set for the Show. The compound tandem drop valve engine by Messrs. Ruston, Proctor & Co., Limited, is really a splendid example of British work, and we invite the attention of those, who may think that British makers are not still to the fore in design and workmanship, to this handsome little engine. The flue and tube boiler with removable dome shown is a good sample of the boiler work for which Messrs. Ruston, Proctor & Co., Limited, are so well known. This type of boiler, in moderate-sized plants, has practically driven all others out of the field, owing to its many advantages, great power in proportion to weight, facility with which it will burn any class of fuel, and finally its evaporative efficiency, which is only equalled by the best types of locomotive boilers. We are informed that every hole in these boilers is drilled after the plates have been bent and placed in position, and we were shown a sample of a rivetted joint cut in two, to show how perfect was the union of rivets and surfaces. We believe that with possibly one exception Messrs. Ruston, Proctor & Co., Limited turn out more boilers per annum than any other makers in Great Britain. New type Helical pumps shown on this stand are specially interesting. We understand that a mechanical efficiency of 80 % of the power applied to the shaft is guaranteed by the makers, and that in some cases 84 % has been obtained. This disposes of the notion that Continental—made pumps are superior to British, and shows that where first-class makers are concerned the latter have nothing to fear in comparison with the best the Continent can produce. The compound condensing portables shown, 16 H.P. and 10 H.P., are beautiful specimens of Lincoln work and design. We are informed that since this design of condenser and air pump was brought out a large demand for them has arisen. The air pumps are of the new pattern marine type *without suction valves*—an immense advantage which anyone acquainted with this class of machinery will appreciate. That the trade in steam engines is extending all over the world may be gathered from the fact that last year these makers turned out and delivered no less than 1,400 engines. The two tibbin making threshing machines of Messrs. Ruston's latest models are similar (but with some improvements) to the machine which obtained the silver medal of the society in 1902, as being the best threshing machine for Egypt. The oil engines of 55, 30, and 3 B. H.P. shown are well worth examination, they are simple and easily managed, as the fact that hundreds of them are giving complete satisfaction in native hands proves. The one great advantage they have over all others, is that no lamp or electric ignition is required, as by a patented device when the engines are started each explosion generates the heat to explode the next charge.

We notice also a very interesting collection of photographs of producer gas plants and engines, usually known here as "Gaz pauvre installations," and were told that 2 years Allen, Alderson & Co., Limited, were doing a large and increasing trade in these, having put down several plants of 25 to 100 H.P. and having now in hand an order for one of nearly 300. H.P. for a large cotton factory. The economy in fuel in these plants is surprising, as we understand that the guarantee in the case of this large installation is 390 grams, or very little over ⅘th. per brake horse power per hour, which is about half the amount on which the best steam engine could develop the same power. It would appear from this that these plants are likely to largely supersede steam engines in many cases, where purchasers are prepared to pay the cost of a really first class plant.

TWO JAPANESE PUBLICATIONS.

A NOVEL AND A JOURNAL.

The book under review is admittedly a novel with a purpose—that purpose being the strengthening of the national cause by the publication of a tale designed to increase the dislike of Russia so generally entertained in England.

The cleverness of the attempt is apparent throughout. The style in which the book is got up is especially to be noticed, for it is emphatically a work of art, and the printing, illustrations and above all the binding at once arrest and compel the admiration of the reader. Beautifully printed as it is on plate paper, and illustrated throughout by delicately executed wood-cuts in mono and bi-chrome, with a few elaborate coloured plates requiring from twenty to thirty-three different printings, the binding is the most remarkable of all. The leaves are cut to a uniform size, and covers of a fine silk like material are tastefully ornamented with colored drawings of Irisflowers sown with white silk on back and front. The whole is enclosed in a loose cover fastened with ivory pegs.

The title of this book is "Hana", a daughter of Japan." It is written by Genzai Murai, of whom a very interesting biographical sketch is given. This occupies 40 pages and is the most interesting part of the work. For the story of Hana is commonplace in the extreme, and not at all what one would expect after reading the biography. We fail to discover the literary ability that one would naturally look for from an author with such a reputation, and one who has, at the age of 41, written 38 works which comprise 59 volumes. His great work extends to twelve volumes, the concluding one not yet written, said is to comprise the history of the present war.

Possibly the tameness of the story may be due to the translator, as perhaps the Japanese language is not easily rendered into English. We must remember that many French novels, sparkling and full of wit in the language in which they are written, read like very poor stuff when translated. It is rightly considered to be a very poor compliment to an artist to admire the frame in which his picture is set off, but our praise for this book is certainly limited to the exquisite method of its get-up.

The second publication under notice is "The Excursion Journal," published by Minami and Sons' Tourist Agency—a sort of Japanese Cook & Sons. The founder of the agency having himself made three tours of the world, in which he had ample opportunity of studying how a tourist agency should be conducted in order to prove a success, conceived the idea of issuing a quarterly journal giving the latest information as to the economy, resources and progress of the country, with a view of making Japan and its condition known to Europe and America. Judging by the number before us, Japan possesses very great attractions for the tourist, and in these days of extended travel will soon be familiar to the travelling public who can afford the necessary time and money to investigate for themselves its beauties of natural scenery, as well as its quaint and interesting people and buildings.

* Hana a daughter of Japan. By Genzai Murai. Tokio: The Hokii Shimsha, 1904.

The Excursion Journal. I Minami and Sons' Tourist Agency, Tokio. London: Anglo-Japanese Gazette, Reading Lane, E.C.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

We do not hold ourselves for the responsible opinions expressed by our correspondents, but we wish, in a spirit of fair play to all, to permit—within certain necessary limits—free discussion.

MISSIONS TO MOHAMEDANS.

To the Editor of the Egyptian Gazette.

Sir,—In reading the leading article of the 7th inst. on missions to Mohamedans, I was glad to find the writer holds the *dogma* that "Christianity is capable of supplying to the full man's spiritual needs," and that he sought to bring your readers to leave their own opinions and come to his way of thinking, which after all is a form of proselytising. But I do not agree with him that missions to Mohamedans cannot be defended according to law and right reason (justified). If the Mohamedan is a creation of God, then it must be the 'divine purpose' that he and his children should hear the good news of the way in which God forgives sin, imparts to the soul eternal life, purifies the character, and prepares man for the higher service when the earthly life ends. Inasmuch as the author of Christianity himself said "Preach the Gospel to every creature."

And if we, with the writer, believe that (the) Christianity (of the New Testament) is capable of supplying to the full man's spiritual needs, it seems to me that we fail in our duty if we withhold from our Mohamedan friends and neighbours the source of that supply.

Again, history has proved clearly that vital Christianity when received lifts up its recipients to a higher moral level, and leads them to unite together for the bettering of their sanitary and other conditions of life. I know, for example, a young Mohamedan who several years ago received Christ as his Saviour and began reading the New Testament as a believer. To-day, compared with his brother, who remained a Moslem, there is to say the least a very great difference in character, in the wife of his choice, in their homes, and in the influence they are exerting for the public good. What Christianity has done for some whom I know, I believe it would do for multitudes, if only public opinion allowed a man to serve God freely according to the light of his own conscience when it has been enlightened by the teaching of the Gospel.

I trust the time may soon come when the rulers of this country will realise that it lies within the scope of their functions to see that any law-abiding subject of this land shall be allowed to change his religious environment without suffering harm in body or estate, when once his convictions are changed; and full liberty given to use his influence to bring about a change of opinion when there are reasonable grounds for belief that such a change would mean general progress.

Therefore I am of opinion that missions to Mohamedans should be encouraged as long as they are conducted with respect and love.—

Your obedient servant,

A Reader.

Cairo, February 8.

PROPOSED CHURCH HOUSE.

To the Editor of the Egyptian Gazette.

Sir,—If the state of the church funds is such as to enable another church house to be built in town, I think they might spare a few pounds first to put the fence round Ramleh Parsonage in order. At present it is disgraceful, and a terrible eyesore to the donor of both land and parsonage: half the gate is off and half hanging on its hinges, as if it was the entrance to an old ruin. In fact, all one side now is open to the public. There is no fence at all. The donor used to get all these repairs done at his own expense, but last year the members, at their annual meeting, showed clearly that they did not want any more of him, by giving him 2 votes out of 11, and that after his having headed the poll for 14 years! He was presented with a certificate afterwards which stated that the congregation only disliked him because of his prodigality (with his own money). He therefore felt he had better retire. If they cannot keep the parsonage in repair it must really be a white elephant.—I am, etc.,

Geo. B. Alderson.

Bulkeley, Ramleh, February 10.

ALEXANDRIA MUNICIPALITY.

To the Editor of the Egyptian Gazette.

Sir,—I was disagreeably surprised to find on reading the official statement of the proceedings of yesterday's meeting of the Municipality, that there was not the slightest allusion to the grave charges brought against the conduct of the Municipal Delegation by one of the councillors of the Municipality. I could understand the Commission failing to allude to Press criticism, but when one of the chief members of the Municipal Commission writes to a local newspaper and accuses the Delegation of such conduct towards the Commission and the public I think that these charges should be repudiated, otherwise we must consider that silence gives consent, and that the statement made by Mr. Alderson in Tuesday's "Egyptian Gazette" is unanswerable and therefore true in substance and in fact. In Mr. Alderson's letter he remarks,—"The Commission, on which I have the honor to sit, is only vouchsafed such information on Municipal affairs as the Delegation deems fit to put before it, and the information is generally so effectively 'cooked' that it throws little light on the subject concerned." Mr. Alderson in this sentence roundly accuses the Delegation of *fabricating* in its official capacity information, for that is what the term "cooked" means in plain English. For my part I cannot conceive a more serious charge to bring against a public institution, especially when it is made by one of the members of the institution in question. Mr. Alderson has been long enough in the Alexandria Municipality to obtain an insight into the inner workings and his statement was evidently inspired by what he knows to be going on behind the scenes. Ought the Municipality to swallow this accusation without saying a word? Surely such a policy must leave a very nasty impression on the public mind. Either Mr. Alderson's accusation is true or false, and he would not have dared to make it in a newspaper unless he had good evidence to go upon. The only conclusion that I can come to is that the Municipality must be held to be guilty of the grave irregularities imputed to it by Mr. Alderson, unless it publicly and clearly proves that his statements are false or exaggerated.—I am, Sir, truly yours,

"Public Spirit."

Alexandria, February 9.

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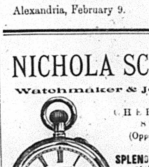

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